

THE TRUMPET

St. Michael's of the Valley...making an eternal difference in each other's lives and in the world

St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, PO Box 336, Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 724-238-9411 Church office hrs. Monday – Friday 9 AM until noon

June, 2023

Communion (from the Oxford Dictionary)

1. *the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.*
2. *the service of Christian worship at which bread and wine are consecrated and shared.*

I'm sure there are more definitions that are more theological, but I am using this one. What it says in the first place and then what it says in the 2nd place play well together.

Communion is something we share with one another, people we have prayed for, been in meetings with, led ministries with, exchanged thoughts, feelings, struggles, Bible Studies, grief and joy. It is in this life shared with one another that we come to communion in the form of worship and sacrament.

When I ministered full time with my community, I could take visual attendance “Hmm, I wonder where Bob is today?” “When was the last time I saw Priscilla?” Sometimes people would think I was judging them, but I wasn't, I just felt like the community was incomplete without their presence. In short, I rejoiced at seeing them, it felt more whole.

Of the two definitions at the top, I like to think of the first, as a state of our hearts and minds to receive the second. There have been days when gluten-free wafers were not available, so a communicant would receive only wine; and it “counted” as communion. Of course, there are many people who don't receive wine for a variety of reasons, but they are still making a full communion, it counts.

Communion isn't just about what “I get” it is about what Jesus gives, to us and to whole the Body of Christ.

I understand that it's different and difficult to not receive the wine because of the no-intinction rule. But, I would encourage you to try sharing the common cup. Although I don't follow the workings of other denominations, I don't think intinction is being restored in most. It may never be. . . I don't know. But in the meantime, sharing the cup within your own community is the way Jesus and the early church did it, and generations upon generations since then. You are always welcome.

Blessings on you this day,

Cat+

A NOTE FROM NANCY ROST, SR. WARDEN

The Bishop is coming! The Bishop is coming! You won't be seeing red coats though; you will be seeing purple. On Sunday, June 18th, The Right Rev. Ketlen A. Solak will be at both services. The Vestry will do Punch on the Porch that day. I hope to see you all there to welcome Bishop Ketlen and enjoy some summertime fellowship!

REPORT FROM MAY 22nd VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry held its monthly meeting on Monday, May 22. It was a straightforward meeting of approving minutes and finance reports. The Vestry also approved an Agreement between Woodbridge Preschool and St. Michael's outlining the expectations and understandings between them.

Ms. Purnell reported that she is looking into cleaning the reredos (which is the facing on the wall at the back of the altar). Rev. Munz noted that Bishop Solak will visit on June 18. The Vestry will join her and Rev. Munz for dinner on June 17th and will host the punch on the porch after the 10:00 AM service.

Ms. Laskow reported that Julie Follansbee has taken over management of the website and the Facebook page and that both are much more up to date and better. She then led a discussion on summer hours. The Vestry noted that the service hours will change to 8:00 and 10:00 AM during the summer from June 4 to September 3. It was also decided to have a joint service one Sunday a month on the second Sunday of the months of June, July and August in order to hopefully enjoy the company of those parishioners that are usually at different services. Then there was a discussion on name tags for the congregation and the possibility of restarting Sunday School in the fall.

Ms. Purnell reported on Building and Grounds matters including a work day to be scheduled to clean out various rooms in Smith House and items relating to the Sexton position. In anticipation of a new Rector, Ms. Rost will draft a clergy job description. Finally, Ms. Payne reported on the request from the Neighborhood Academy for St. Michael's to continue the Backpack Project. Ms. Bush has agreed to chair this effort this year and Ms. Seifert agreed to continue the project in future years.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Parish Family,

Your discernment committee is making progress in our rector search and is on target to make a recommendation to the vestry soon. The face-to-face candidate interview process is complete. The discernment process continues to move forward and we are hopeful that we will be able to share more with you in the coming weeks.

Please keep the committee, those who are discerning a call to St. Michael's and the vestry in your prayers.

Faithfully,

The Discernment Committee

NOTES

Departed: Marsha Beeman, wife of Richard Beeman

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Beginning Sunday, June 4th through Sunday, September 3, St. Michael's worship hours will be as follows:

Rite I ~ 8 AM
Rite II ~ 10:00 AM

Community Worship one combined service to worship together on the following dates:

Sunday, June 11th ~ 9 AM
Sunday, July 9th ~ 9 AM
Sunday, August 13th ~ 9 AM

Let's get together and be one congregation!

SCHEDULE OF SERVERS FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 4th, 8 AM

Lay Reader: Mary Walton Whittemore
Usher: Ray Speicher

Sunday, June 4th, 10 AM

Lay Reader: Cindy Pompelia
Usher: Mick Pompelia

Sunday, June 11th one combined service @ 9 AM

Lay Reader: Laura Fisher
Usher: Rex Ashbrook

Sunday, June 18th, 8 AM

(Bishop will be visiting at both services)
Lay Reader: Lisa Laskow
Usher: *still needed*

Sunday, June 18th, 10 AM

Lay Reader: Sean Murphy
Usher: Rex Ashbrook

Sunday, June 25th, 8 AM

Lay Reader: *still needed*
Usher: Jim Beck

Sunday, June 25th, 10 AM

Lay Reader: Janet Seifert
Usher: Carl Campbell



OPEN ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIAL DATES

The following dates are available for anyone wishing to have altar flowers in memory or honor of someone on Sunday morning.

June 11th, June 25th, July 2nd, July 16th, and July 30th.

The cost is \$55.00/Sunday. If you are interested, please call the church office to secure the date you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 4th

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Supply Minister: Rev. Jerry Nuernberger

Sunday, June 11th

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

Psalm 33: 1-12

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Interim Rev. Catherine Munz

Sunday, June 18th

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Bishop Ketlen Solak and Interim Rev. Catherine Munz

Sunday, June 25th

First Reading: Genesis 21:8-21

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

Supply Minister: Dr. Charles Starr

FRESH EXPRESS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There will be a Fresh Express in the parking lot at St. Michael's on Monday, June 12th @ 3 PM. We need volunteers for that day to help pass out the food. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Smith House if you can help that day, please sign up.

CHECK OUT ST. MICHAEL'S BEAUTIFUL UPDATED WEBSITE

Thank you to Julie Follansbee who continues to work on making improvements to St. Michael's website. Check out the beautiful work she has done. You can visit the website @ (<https://stmichaelsligonier.org>).

THANK YOU TO ANNI KENYON FOR VISITING ST. MICHAEL'S

When you think of missions, Austria does not usually come to mind. Normally we associate Austria with the Sound of Music, skiing, or even the Alps and rolling hills. So “why would Austria need missionaries?”, you might wonder. While Austria does have a rich religious background and history, this post-modern, post-Christian culture finds itself in immense darkness, with a profound sense of hopelessness, and with a longing for belonging and purpose.

So many people are searching for answers in things and areas that will not deliver or satisfy long-term, and it breaks my heart to see them on this quest that will only end up empty. Among the refugee population in Austria, these needs are accentuated as most are coming from war-torn countries and in this new context, they are usually isolated, lonely, and long for community and connection.

Even Christians face challenges as their churches tend to be small, isolated, and under-resourced. They desire to reach their communities, but due to the immenseness of this task as well as the lack of support and encouragement, over time many become discouraged, burn-out, and even turn bitter and resentful - ultimately walking away from their faith.

In my three years serving on Reach Global's Innsbruck City Team, I have been privileged to see God working in Austria as he builds and grows his Kingdom and I desire to continue to follow his direction as there is still much to be done. Particularly through relational ministry both in the church and out of it, I will continue serving Austrians and the local churches through discipleship and mentoring young women, assisting in youth programs throughout the year, English Camps, and outreach amongst the Muslim refugee population in Innsbruck.

Currently I am stateside support raising with the goal of returning in late August for the start of the school year – however I cannot return until I am fully-funded. So as this immense task of ministering is something I cannot do myself, I am looking for people to join with me in this work, staying connected with what is happening, and partnering in sincere prayer for the Austrian people. One of the biggest areas of partnership need is individuals who are willing to partner financially in this ministry – especially on a consistent basis. If you are interested in hearing more details or stories about the ministry and God at work or in partnership, I would love to meet to share and talk through what that might look like.



UPDATE FROM DR. JOHN ABRAHAM **ON THE VICTORY FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

Dear Friends & Partners,

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Pardon us for the long gap in keeping in touch.

Things have been a bit overwhelming on all fronts however we have been able to see through our commitment and service to the Lord.

This year we had opportunities to be part of many activities that gave us immense joy to share our Lords love. Victory Clinic is continuing to provide medical assistance and supply of medicines to the less fortunate.

Children supported by the Victory Initiatives have done well in their exams and have been promoted to next grade. It's their holidays now and they are eagerly waiting for the new school year to begin in June. Work with the differently abled children is also in progress. Our activities with these children are ongoing and we are trying to find more opportunities to be able to spread the love of Jesus.

We are greatly thankful for your love, Prayer and support without which this wouldn't have been possible. We pray for Gods richest blessings to you and your loved ones.

With Love and Prayers.

In His Service,

Dr. John Abraham



**EXHIBITION MADE BY THE
QUARY CHILDREN**