

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.
Our **worship begins** at the Prelude, as we hear God's word in music.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand if you are able

GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* **ELW 504**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE *Pastor Sings Verses, Congregation Sings Refrain* **ELW pg 184**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

² Therefore we will not fear, though the ¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths ¹ of the sea;

**⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- y of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

**⁶ The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

**⁸ Come now, regard the works ¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- ¹ on the earth;**

¹⁰ “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

Pentecost 21 + October 18, 2026

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-36

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand if you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

ELW 517

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Response sung to ACS 1075 (below); words in bold italic*
Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.



As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

**O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering *especially*.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

**O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

THANKSGIVING AND MEAL

We give in grateful response for all God's gifts; God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*We offer the convenience of **secure online giving** on our website through [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com). Please see the back page for more information about online giving. Offering plates are currently located at each door for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.*

Please Stand

OFFERING SONG

God Bless Us to Our Bread

ACS 1056



Ben - di - ce, Se-ñor, nues-tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
 God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham-bre de jus - ti - cia, a los que tien - en
 hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.
 fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg 190

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

PRAYER V, pg 65

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg 191

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ, who confess their sins, and seek forgiveness. For those who are able, an usher will instruct the congregation when to come forward using the center aisle; please return to your pew using the side aisles. Wine, juice (white), and gluten-free wafers are available. Please alert an usher if you require assistance so communion can be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONGS

Just As I Am

ELW 592

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

Please Stand if you are able

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.** The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The Church of Christ, In Every Age

ELW 729

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: The Goegelines

Lector: Kate Brighton

Sacristans: Judith Nevergoll, Pam Metz

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mabry Williams by Harry & Pam Metz.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL 4:55 pm M/F Update Calls from Pastor Frank!

TODAY, Sunday, Oct 25th

Reformation Day—Wear Red!

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Tuesday, Oct 27th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Oct 28th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, Exodus -- Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Oct 29th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Oct 30th

10:00 a.m.

AA Meeting (*Mid Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, Oct 31st

9-10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

10-Noon

Af Am Clean Up

Next Sunday, November 1st *All Saints Sunday*

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

African American Cemetery Celebration begins at 2 pm! See flyer below.

SAINT MICHAEL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY CELEBRATION



Featuring Organist
Chuck Wilson



Windward Pt. Rd.

ALL ARE WELCOME + FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1st

2 pm Service at Cemetery
3 pm Concert in Sanctuary

Windward Pt. Rd + Arwen
400 River Road + Columbia 29212

Reception Follows



LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

FOR FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING AND/OR ILL

#Ken & Dot Black

*Alma Paulson

Joy Gunter

Harry O'Quinn

*Don & Gwen Buff

#Diana Riley

Susan Herndon

Jane Potts

#Bill Colley

*Tommae Sligh

Vicky Huggins

Marlene Stirewalt

#Barbara DeVore

#Ed Thomas

Jill Lee

Bruce Whelchel

*Virgie Dreher

#Dean Whitecotton

Patrick Lindler

#Sabrina Whitecotton

*Barbara Fowler

#Marie Derrick

Angie Matlosz

#Julie Goegeline Lucas

Lisa Gillespie

Deacon McManus

#Terry Matlosz

Douglas Gourley

Gary McManus

MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri Spangler's grandson

Samantha Davis, USA-Europe; Gene & Diana Riley's niece

Zachary Davis, USN-HOME!; Carolyn Cook's grandson

Grant Frick, SCNG-deployed; Linda Frick's grandson

Liam Maloney, SCNG; Mike & Karla Maloney's son



SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome!

Please ask an usher for a blue Connections Card and drop it in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave today, be sure to introduce yourself to the pastor. If you would like to learn about membership or have other questions, please call the church office. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Tithe.ly online giving available in the app store or

www.stmichael1814.com/online-giving. One-time or recurring gifts

can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, secure, and funds are deposited immediately. Designations for memorials or special gifts are available. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms are located in both the Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but for those who desire it, a nursery is located in the Administrative Building with the worship service available via Facebook Live.

Large Print and Kids Celebrate bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

WiFi: StMichaels_Guest PW: Sunday!!