

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thomas Family

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Psalm 96 (Sung responsively, Pastor is leader)



- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peo- | ples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

LESSONS & CAROLS

“For unto you is born a *Savior*, who is Christ, the Lord”

LESSON 1: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295

LESSON 2: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

ELW 269

LESSON 3: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

LESSON 4: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CAROL

Away in a Manger

ELW 278

LESSON 5: Luke 2: 8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone

around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

LESSON 6: Matthew 2: 1-11

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt

down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

What Child is This

ELW 296

LESSON 7: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Love Has Come

ELW 292

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MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy especially.... God of grace,

receive our prayer.

A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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** through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Please see the back page for more information about online giving. Offering plates are currently located at each entrance/exit for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thomas Family

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, living and loving God, that you have sent your Son to this world. Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation, our Lawgiver, burning with justice, the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots, the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

We beg you, mighty and merciful God: send us the Spirit of your Son. Dwell in this food and in all who share it, that the earth may rejoice in your presence. In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world, reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples, and live among us, Emmanuel, our deepest desire now and forever.

And let the people cry, O come and save us: **O come and save us.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

And let the people pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blest be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

THE 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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Please Sit

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 MUSIC

Reflections for Christmas

Thomas Family

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.

Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.



The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

*1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Sacristans: Kristi Kunar & Rita Anderson

Lectors: Rita Anderson, Paul Nevergoll, Kris Esgar

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll and Steve Evans



ALTAR FLOWERS given today to the glory of God, in honor of Caroline's Christmas birthday and in loving memory of Scott, by the McCauley Family.

THANK YOU to all of our talented musicians, Cantor Karen Shevenell, Frank & Laura Thomas, Austin Thomas, Richard Thomas and Henry McLeod for sharing their gifts with us today.

Thank You

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR FRANK, JUDITH, KAREN & KRIS! A very special thank you to all who have remembered us this holiday season with gifts, cards, and special recognitions. We are so truly blessed to be part of this loving congregation. Wishing you the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years to all!

THE GOOD GIFTS TREE will be in the narthex through January 12th. Choose an ornament, make a donation to Saint Michael for that amount (or just a general gift), and indicate “Good Gifts”. The ELCA program will provide much needed essentials to those in need and in underdeveloped parts of the world. Many thanks to all who contribute.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the service. Thank you to all who made a donation to beautify our sanctuary today.



THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL *4:55 pm Mon & Fri Update Calls from Pastor Frank!*

TODAY, December 24 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH
3:30 p.m. Concert with the Thomas Family
4:00 p.m. *Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship*

Wednesday, Dec 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS—No activities**
OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 – JANUARY 1

Thursday, Dec 26 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Dec 27 10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Mid-Morning Meeting*) ChEd

Next Sunday, Dec 29 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup
Lessons & Songs 10:30 a.m. *—also streaming*

**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS:
FOR FRIENDS--HOME, REHAB, SENIOR LIVING* AND/OR ILL**

*Dot Black	*Miriam Shealy	Alice King	Paul Nevergoll
*Bob Bowers	*Tommae Sligh	Jill Lee	Harry O'Quinn
*Don & Gwen Buff	-----	Mickey Lindler	Brooke Pittman
*Rose Colley	Kristin Belusko	Crosby Livingston	Jane Potts
*Helen Derrick	Donny Day	Sharon Lundy	Grady Sharpe
*Virgie Dreher	Lisa Gillespie	Angie Matlosz	Melinda Sharpe
*Barbara Fowler	Douglas Gourley	Terry Matlosz	Richard Starnes
*Bob Michelsen	Joy Gunter	Caroline McCauley	Marlene Stirewalt
*Alma Paulson	David Heinrich	Gary McManus	Bruce Whelchel



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

Tyler Alexander, USMC; Sherri S's grandson
 Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana's niece
 Zachary Davis, USN; Carolyn's grandson
 Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda F's grandson
 Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla's son
 Griffin McLeod, SCNG; Mandy's son
 Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl's SIL



*Poinsettias Gracing the Chancel
Are Given by...*

*Bob & Rita Anderson in loving memory of our parents,
Bror & Eileen Anderson and Alfred & Marina Monsalvatge*

*Pastors Frank W. & Mary Anderson to the Glory of God and in loving
memory of our parents, Dorothy Shuler & Emory Williams and Harriet
& Merl "Andy" Anderson; Ila & Wayne Cousins, and Ty Anderson*

*Pastors Frank W. & Mary Anderson in honor of
our Saint Michael and Pilgrim families*

Carolyn Cook to the Glory of God and in honor of my family and friends

Joe Cousins & Pam Dunleavy in loving memory of our parents

*Kris Esgar in loving memory of my grandparents, Betty & Al and Louise
& Eddie and in appreciation for my Saint Michael family*

Linda Frick in loving memory of my husband Ted Frick

*Pattie Fulmer to the Glory of God and in honor of Edward Fulmer
and in loving memory of Marjorie Fulmer*

*Bobbie Derrick Hartley in honor of Helen S. Derrick and in loving
memory of Wilbur Derrick*

Alice L. King & family in loving memory of Gary D. King

Bob & Sandra Michelsen to the Glory of God

*Larry Slice in loving memory of my parents, Roscoe & Ludell Slice,
and my step-grandson William Tedder Russell*

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 direct via the ONLINE GIVING tab at www.stmichael1814.com and

available in the app store, www.tithe.ly/give. One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited immediately. Personal information is secure, and you can change your giving profile at any time. Designations for memorial or special gifts are available on the drop down fund menu. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms 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. We stream via Facebook Live.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and **children's books** available from an usher.

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Karen Shevenell, Cantor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator