

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



## **The First Sunday of Christmas**

**December 26, 2021**

*400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212*

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**. Please speak the responses **gently**. As a courtesy, it is asked that masks are worn while moving about. For those who are vaccinated, please sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary or the front pews on the lectern side. The rear lectern-side pews are for those who prefer or need to mask & physically distance.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Please Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**

**that all we do, in word or deed,**

**may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✝ In Christ your sins  
are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**Amen.**

## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

ELW 284

*HOP for Advent- Leaders sing vs. 1&3; Congregation sings vs. 2&4*



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that  
2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a  
3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as  
4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



\*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -  
rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but  
was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The  
ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:  
as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:  
chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.  
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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

## **Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**      *Sung by Leader*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

### **Gospel: Luke 2:41-52**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been

searching for you in great anxiety.”<sup>49</sup> He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them.<sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Sung by All*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Please Sit*

**SERMON**

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Of the Father’s Love Begotten**

**ELW 295**

*Leaders sing vs. 1&4; Congregation sings vs. 3&5*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an

imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day especially... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever. We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

*Please Sit*

## THANKSGIVING

*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

*Please Stand*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer to us and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### LITANY FOR PEACE

*By Joe Wadsworth*

Gracious God; timeless and Ageless God; you have commanded us to love our enemies. You yourself gave your life for those who were motivated by hatred.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....**

You have watched humanity fight and scrap. You have watched with sadness as your creation is hoarded and divided for spoil under the guise of dominion. Help us seek your will in our lives. Make us your ambassadors as well as your disciples.

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven....**

You sent your only Son so that your people; All your people, might truly know of your love and of your peace. That we might fully understand your AGAPE, your SHALOM. In a time of war, our hearts need your assurance and your presence confirmed. Our leaders need to sense your power is the strengths they employ.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...**

It is so easy to reap a harvest of anger and revenge. Our hearts so easily fill with rage and discord. When war rages, sometimes our patriotism supersedes our mandate for peace and reconciliation. Forgive us our anger and grant us hearts of renewing peace. Help us be mirrors of your life even in times of discord.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

And so, Lord God of Creation, Savior of the World, we pray for a new chapter of peace to open. Before the momentum of hatred eclipses our strength to control it, grant us peace within. Create in us a clean heart and peaceful mind. This is the nature of your Kingdom; this is the basis of your power, and this is the joy of your Glory. Give us peace.

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

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**ELW 275**

*Congregation sings vs. 1&3; Leaders sings vs. 2&4; all sing refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**





## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Musician: Harold “Hoss” Jefferies  
Lectors: Rita Anderson  
Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Bo Harris, Gerry Goegeline, Dean Whitecotton

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my parents, Sam & Emma Thomas, by Jo Ann Smoak.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, December 26     *First Sunday of Christmas*  
9:15 a.m.     Sunday School  
**10:30 a.m.**     **Worship**—also streaming  
4:00 p.m.     Wedding—Jennifer Black & Randy Burton

Tuesday, Dec 28     12:00 p.m.     AA Meeting, (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Dec 29     NO Bible Study

Thursday, Dec 30     12:00 p.m.     AA Meeting, (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, Dec 31     *New Year’s Eve—Office closes early*

Next Sunday, Jan 2     *Second Sunday of Christmas (No Holy Communion)*  
9:15 a.m.     Sunday School  
**10:30 a.m.**     **Lessons & Carols**—also streaming

*4:55 pm Monday and Friday Update Calls from Pastor Frank!*

***Safe Worship***-We urge everyone to follow the CDC guidelines in terms of appropriate activities and precautions based on transmission levels and your status as a vaccinated or unvaccinated individual or household. **We strongly encourage you to wear masks when inside church buildings due to rising transmission levels in the Midlands.** Sanitizer & masks are available at the doors. The rear lectern-side pews remain reserved for those who prefer to **physically distance and wear masks.** We will leave offering plates at the doors.

***Holy Communion:*** Holy Communion continues to be offered on the first Sunday each month from your pew. Quiet Communion following worship will be offered on remaining Sundays. We continue to use individual “pods” with wine, juice or gluten free (wine) options!

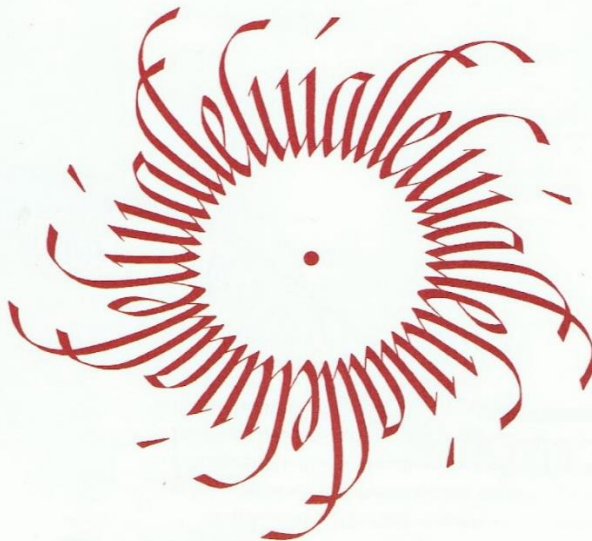
**END OF YEAR CHARITABLE TITHES & DONATIONS** should be in the offering plate or dropped by the office by December 29<sup>th</sup> to be sure it is counted for 2021. Please note that the goal for the Organ Fund has now been met! Thank you for all you do for our church.

**PASTOR FRANK** will be taking leave from December 27-January 3 to enjoy some quality family time. He is available via phone or text in the event of a pastoral care emergency. For other matters, or if you require a pastoral visit, please phone the office and we will arrange to have our on-call pastor visit.

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered during worship on January 9<sup>th</sup> as we have Lessons & Carols on the first Sunday in January.

**LESSONS & CAROLS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Please join us for Lessons and Carols led by Interim Cantor Harold Jefferies. Worship begins at 10:30 am. This will also be Harold's final worship as our music leader.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2022 are available in the narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like some, please contact the office. A few numbers above 100 have been reassigned to *lower* numbers to make better use of our resources. Remaining boxes will be sent via the postal service after January 31<sup>st</sup>.



**LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS  
FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND\* OR ILL**



Roy Adams  
John Martin Areheart  
Leslie Berkley  
Dot Black  
Joyce Bowers  
Don Buff  
Jamie Coleman  
Carolyn Cook  
Donny Day  
\*Helen Derrick  
\*Virgie Dreher

Jackie Dunning  
\*Betty Flinsch  
June Fulmer  
Lisa Gillespie  
Gayle Goodrich  
Douglas Gourley  
Bobbie Hartley  
David Hermanson  
Jeanette Jacobs  
Jim Johnston  
Susie Kerstad

Jill Lee  
Mickey Lindler  
Caroline McCauley  
Linda Miller  
Susan Norcutt  
Jane Potts  
\*Billie Schnabel  
\*Olene Sons  
Richard Starnes  
Ed Thomas  
Bruce William

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

Tyler Alexander, grandson of Sherri Spangler, USMC  
Samantha Davis, niece of Gene & Diana Riley, US Army  
Zachary Davis, grandson of Carolyn Cook, US Navy  
Grant Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, SC National Guard  
Victor Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, US Army  
Phil Lake, husband of Bridgett (Sloan) Lake, US Naval Reserve  
Collin Maloney, son of Mike & Karla Maloney, US Army OTS  
George McArthur, son of Judith Tolhurst, USMC in Japan  
Griffin McLeod, son of Amanda McLeod, SC National Guard  
Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard  
William Woodruff, son of Jeff & Libby Woodruff, US Army



***HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!***

# 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.tithe.ly/give](http://www.tithe.ly/give). Set up a secure profile, search "St. Michael Lutheran" and click on our church. 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. 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 audio.

**Large Print** bulletins and **KID ACTIVITY PACKS** available from an usher

## *The People of Saint Michael, Ministers*

*The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor*

*Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator*

*WiFi: StMichaels\_Guest PW: Sunday!!*

[stmichael1814@gmail.com](mailto:stmichael1814@gmail.com)

803.781.0229

[www.stmichael1814.com](http://www.stmichael1814.com)