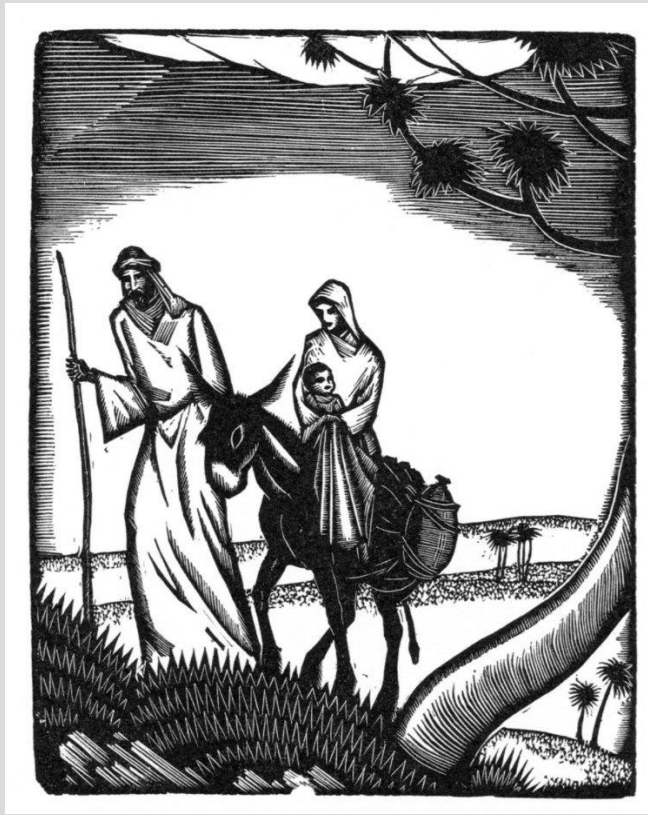


# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



## *Lessons & Songs of Christmas*

December 29, 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*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Please Stand*

### SONG

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**ELW 282**

### 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. 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 2:18-20,6

*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 loan 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 (Read Responsively)**

- <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 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.**

*Please Stand*

**SONG**

*Joy to the World*

**ELW 267**

**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's] 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 were unaware of this. <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? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." <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, and 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.**

*Please Sit*

**MESSAGE**

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

**SONG**

*Amen, Amen*

Spiritual

*Pastor sings verses, congregation sings refrain*

**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.*

For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of pangolins and porcupines, penguins and parrots, and all wild animals and creeping things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all lands. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill especially.... Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. 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

*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.*

### SONG

*Silent Night*

**ELW 281**

*Please Stand*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## SENDING

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

## 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.**

## SONG

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

**ELW 290**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

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## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector: Kate Brighton

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll and Steve Evans

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today to the glory of God and for all the blessings of 2024 by Pastor Frank Anderson.

**OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** through New Year's Day and will reopen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kris will be checking messages and email while out of town. Pastor Frank will be available via phone or email for pastoral care and emergencies.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2024 are available in the narthex! Please pick your packet up today.

**FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2024 is in the flower book now! Please sign up for special dates as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.

**THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL** *Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm*

<u>TODAY, Dec 29<sup>th</sup></u>	<i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School—Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m.	Choir Warmup—Choir Room
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Lessons and Carols for Christmas</i></b>
<u>Tuesday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup></u>	12:00 p.m. AA Meeting ( <i>Back to Basics Group</i> ) FH
<u>Wednesday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup></u>	NO ACTIVITIES— <i>Bible Study resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>!</i>
<u>Thursday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	12:00 p.m. AA Meeting ( <i>Back to Basics Group</i> ) FH
<u>Next Sunday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup></u>	<i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School—Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m.	Choir Warmup—Choir Room
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Worship with Holy Communion</i></b>



**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 Wheelchel

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

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

# 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](http://www.stmichael1814.com) and

available in the app store, [www.tithe.ly/give](http://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 & activities 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!!*