

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 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

All Creation Sings Setting 12

Please Stand if you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives our sin in ✙ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW 532

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or

of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

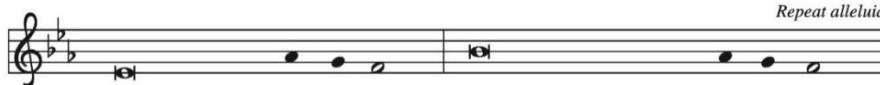
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God’s commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Sarah Bowers

Please Stand if you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving *especially*.... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **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 **secure online giving** through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Please see the back page for more. Offering plates located at each entrance/exit. If you need an envelope or assistance, please ask an usher.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Piano Offertory

Please Stand if you are able

OFFERING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302, vs. 4

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembers with thanksgiving that "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.”
This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our
community of faith, are here given for you.*

With joy we tell our story: Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food,
the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us
with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in
our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious
crown, our never-ending love.

And so we pray and praise: Amen, amen. **Amen, 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.

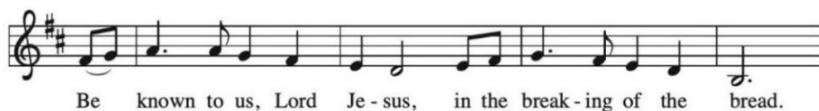
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD



ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Rita & Bob Anderson.

WE WELCOME SARAH BOWERS today as our guest preacher. Deacon Sarah Bowers, a 2017 graduate of LTSS, lives on a farm in Pomaria, SC with her husband and daughter. Sarah has served at the congregational and synodical levels as well as in the non-profit world, but is currently on leave from call focusing on the work of their farm and homeschooling the coolest free range farm kid you've ever met.

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

TODAY, February 8th

Epiphany 5

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:35 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup **10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**
SOUPer Bowl Luncheon!!

Tuesday, February 10th

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

Wednesday, February 11th

10:00 a.m. NO Bible Study—Red Letter Jesus—Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 12th

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

Friday, February 13th

10:00 a.m. AA Meeting (*Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, February 14th

9-10 a.m. Choir Rehearsal--Choir Room



Next Sun, February 15th

Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

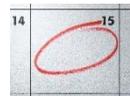
10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup **10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**



Souper Bowl of Caring—following worship TODAY. “Vote” for your favorite with dollar bills or make a general donation for our local food banks.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/Ash Wednesday Feb 17-18th

Lenten Wednesdays – SMLC/Dutch Fork Cluster begins February 25th



LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS: FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING

Ken & #Dot Black

**Alma Paulson*

Bo Harris

Judith Nevergoll

**Don & Gwen Buff*

Grady & #Melinda Sharpe

David Heinrich

Harry O’Quinn

**Rose Colley*

**Tommae Sligh*

Vicky Huggins

Jane Potts

#Barbara DeVore

Donny Day

Alice King

Marlene Stirewalt

#Virgie Dreher

Jackie Dunning

Jill Lee

Ed Thomas

**Barbara Fowler*

Lisa Gillespie

Patrick Lindler

Bruce Wheelchel

#Terry Matlosz

Douglas Gourley

Angie Matlosz

Dean Whitecotton

^Mitzi McTeer

Joy Gunter

Gary McManus

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

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri Spangler’s grandson

Samantha Davis, USA; Gene & Diana Riley’s niece

Zachary Davis, USN-deployed; Carolyn Cook’s grandson

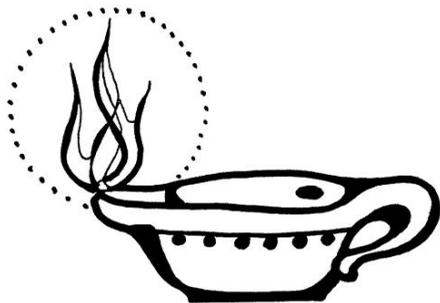
Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda Frick’s grandson

Hunter Purvis USA-deployed; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter’s son-in-law



SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome! Ushers have *Connections Card* to drop in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave, be sure to introduce yourself to the pastor. If you would like to learn about membership or have any questions, please call the church office. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Tithe.ly online giving 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.

The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited immediately.

Restrooms located in both Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but a nursery is located in the Administrative Building, if needed. 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

Join us on Lenten Wednesdays for soup, fellowship & worship.

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* PW: *Sundays!!*