

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 22, 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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

When Morning Gilds the Skies HOP for August

ELW 853

*1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*2 When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"*

*3 No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"*

*There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!*

*4 Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*5 Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ^{14c}Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in

sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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

PSALM 34:15-22 (Responsively)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

**¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

**¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of

peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter

answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.*

Please Sit

SERMON

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Holy, Holy God Almighty

ELW 413

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain all who are navigating life

changes due to illness, surgery or disease, especially.... Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us especially Scott McCauley. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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. 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

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

LITANY FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES *Based on Psalm 88*

By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other,

God of peace, hear us and help us.

Calm us, quiet us, settle us,

to hear the cry of those who are hurting,

Steady us, balance us, ground us,

let us listen to the troubles around us,

God of peace, hear us and help us.

Root us in patience, embed your love within us,

Plant us in the soil of sorrow, and re-create us in empathy,
Forgive us, pardon us, free us from bigotry and blindness,
God of peace, hear us and help us.

Support us, sustain us, protect us,
as we find words to begin dialogue,
Restore us in charity, refresh us with hope,
Enfold us with unity, enrich us in love,
Embrace us with courage, temper us with gentleness,
God of peace, hear us and help us.

Help us see You in those around us,
Help us build communities of unity and justice,
So that someday we may rejoice in your welcome, and enter your Kingdom
singing your praise, for ever and ever. **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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, **✝** be upon us
now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Here I am Lord

ELW 514

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. We are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Musician: Harold “Hoss” Jefferies

Lector: Rita Anderson

Ushers: Gerry Goegeline, Paul Nevergoll, Dean Whitecotton, Bo Harris

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God, in honor of their 43rd wedding anniversary and in honor of Colleen Anderson Dishman’s 40th birthday, by Pastors Frank & Mary Anderson.



***Safe Worship-**We urge everyone to follow the CDC guidelines in terms of appropriate activities and precautions based on rising transmission levels and your status as a vaccinated or unvaccinated individual or household. Please advise Pastor Frank, ushers, or council members if you have an accommodation or concern that has not yet been addressed and we will do our best to assist.*

***General:** 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!*

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, Aug 22

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday School

Worship—also streaming

Tuesday, Aug 24

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

Wednesday, Aug 25

10:00 a.m. Bible Study, FH, studying the Books of Kings

Thursday, Aug 26

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

Next Sunday, Aug 29

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday School

Worship—also streaming

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



Organ Fund

We are accepting donations to the organ fund in hopes of securing a replacement in the coming months due to the increasing failure of parts of our current well-loved and well used instrument!

Please indicate “organ fund” in the memo line on your check or envelope.

All support is greatly appreciated.



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

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Bill Adams | Lisa Gillespie | Karen Meier |
| Roy Adams | Gerry Goegeline | Linda Miller |
| John Martin Areheart | Myrna Goegeline | Susan Norcutt |
| Dot Black | Douglas Gourley | Jane Potts |
| Don Buff | David Hermanson | *Billie Schnabel |
| Gwen Buff | Jeanette Jacobs | *Olene Sons |
| Mary Catherine | Jim Johnston | Richard Starnes |
| *Helen Derrick | Jill Lee | Ed Thomas |
| *Virgie Dreher | Richard Lesnieski | Valerie Waites |
| *Betty Flinsch | Mickey Lindler | Bruce William |
| June Fulmer | Caroline McCauley | |

FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF SCOTT MCCAULEY

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
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



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. 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!!

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