

# SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

**August 25, 2024**

*400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212*

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Please Stand*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

**ELW 853**

### 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.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

based on *Down to the River to Pray*

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O sinners, let's go down, Let's go down, come on down,  
O sinners, let's go down, Down in the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray, Studyin' about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way.*

God of truth and justice,

**we know too well how our feet get muddy, our hearts get hurt and hardened,  
our hands are slow to reach out when we or others are in need.**

As we await the rains of spring, **wash us and make us new.**

As we recognize our own mistakes, **wash us and make us new.**

As we face sickness, sorrow, and death, **wash us and make us new.**

As we follow Christ in proclaiming a power-challenging message of love,  
**wash us and make us new.**

God whose mercy is without end did not leave us lonely and broken.

**In Christ, God became one with us, meeting us in our brokenness and pain.**

In Christ, God declares our sin uncounted, our muddiness washed clean in the river of new life. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Then 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.

<sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>15</sup>Now 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.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for 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; <sup>18</sup>and 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 (Read Responsively)**

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

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

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

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

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

**<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

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

**<sup>22</sup>O 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.*

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray 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. <sup>19</sup>Pray 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, <sup>20</sup>for 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** (*Sung Twice*)

***Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me;***

***Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me;***

***Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh do remember me;***

***'way beyond the blue.***

## **GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 6<sup>th</sup> 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,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This 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.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But 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. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

*Please Sit*

## **MESSAGE**

Frank W. Anderson

*Please Stand*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*You Are the Way*

**ELW 758**

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts especially.... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**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

Piano, Karen Shevenell

*Please Stand*

### OFFERING HYMN

*We Place Upon Your Table, Lord*

**ELW 467**

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

### “AN UNBROKEN CIRCLE”

*An Unbroken Circle © 2017 Grace Lutheran Church Northeast.*

Words of Institution: *based on Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

*(Chorus and tune copyright: Public Domain. Verse text by Rev. Emmy R. Kegler.)*

*This “bluegrass liturgy” was originally designed to accompany the season of Lent at Grace Lutheran Church in Northeast Minneapolis. It was cooperatively produced by Rev. Emmy Kegler (pastor), Kristi MacKay (worship & music director), and Grace Alworth (musician & congregational leader).*

*The majority of the bluegrass liturgy pairs well-known folk and bluegrass music with the rhythm of liturgical worship: gathering, confession and forgiveness, Scripture, offering, and sending. Only the communion song has original text; the others all keep with the musicians who produced them and who are credited as such.*

***Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?  
There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

*Jesus took bread, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and foes;  
Said to them "Where I am going, you cannot yet go."*

***Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?***

***There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

*Took the chalice, and he blessed it, said "Do this; remember me;*

*When I'm gone you won't be lonesome, for the Spirit will make you free."*

***Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?***

***There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

*When we gather at this table, we are with those who have gone;*

*In the promised resurrection in Christ we'll be made one.*

***Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?***

***There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

*(slower) Will the circle be unbroken by and by, Lord, by and by?*

***There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky, Lord, in the sky.***

## **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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*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 HYMN**

***Lamb of God***

**ELW 195**

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***



*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*Here is Bread*

**ELW 483**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**COMMISSION**

As you go forth from this worship, may your life be fed with good things.  
May you fast from worry and feast on trust.  
May you fast from haste and feast on patience.  
May you fast from judgment and feast on kindness.  
May you fast from gossip and feast on service.  
May you fast from resentment and feast on forgiveness.  
May you fast from fear and feast on love, finding your power for compassion in the life of Jesus our Lord.  
**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 you now and forever. **Amen.**

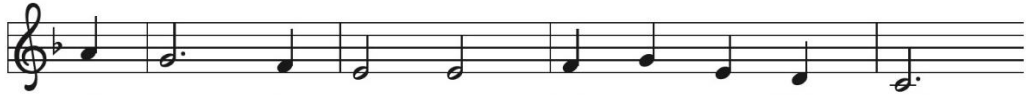
**SENDING HYMN**

*Go to the World*

**ACS 991**



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

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## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Sacristans: Karla Maloney & Deborah Heinrich  
 Lector: Karla Maloney  
 Ushers: Dean & Sabrina Whitecotton

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today to the glory of God and in celebration of Alma Paulson's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, by Barbara Cooper. Happy Birthday Amazing!

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

TODAY, August 25 9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
*Pentecost 14* 9:45 a.m. Choir warmup  
 10:30 a.m. **Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming**

Tuesday, Aug 27 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, Aug 28 10:00 a.m. NO Bible Study – studying Ecclesiastes - Fellowship H.  
 11:45 a.m. **Ladies Birthday Brunch—1<sup>st</sup> Watch on Harbison**

Thursday, Aug 29            12:00 p.m.    AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH  
Friday, Aug 30            10:00 a.m.    AA Meeting (*Mid-Morning Meeting*) ChEd  
Next Sunday, Sept 1        9:15 a.m.     Sunday School  
Pentecost 14                9:45 a.m.     Choir Warmup  
   10:30 a.m.    *Worship with Holy Communion—also streaming*  
*Monday, September 2—Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday*

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**BABY CARE KITS:** We plan to create as many baby care kits as possible to be assembled **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** after Bible Study. These kits will go to Lutheran World Relief who help people coping with poverty, disaster and conflict worldwide. Baby kits are designed for newborns to 24 months old. Items can be different sizes and can include handmade blankets for any crafty folks! See narthex for more information.

Want to purchase from the Amazon Baby Registry? Gifts ship directly to the church! Click on the “Baby Registry” tab under the white search bar on Amazon.com then search “Kris EsGAR” and you should find our page. Monetary donations also appreciated!



**ADULT NIGHT OUT!** Join us in fellowship on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** from 5-7:30 at the Ale House on Columbiana Drive. We’ll catch up, share some good food and drink and talk trash about football season! Wear your favorite team colors or apparel!!

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



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

**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; Carolyn Cook’s grandson  
 Grant Frick, SCNG; Linda Frick’s grandson  
 Collin Maloney, USAOTS; Mike & Karla Maloney’s son  
 Griffin McLeod, SCNG; Mandy McLeod’s son  
 Hunter Purvis USA; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter’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 available from an usher.

## *The People of Saint Michael, Ministers*

*The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor*

*Karen Shevenell, Cantor*

*Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator*