

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 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

Please Stand if you are able

GATHERING SONG *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death* **ELW 452**

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.**

KYRIE *Pastor Sings Verses, Congregation Sings Refrain* **ELW pg 184**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your

father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM 103:8-13 Sung Responsively



- ⁸ LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not al- | ways accuse us,**
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion | for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those

who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

Please Stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to

settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand if you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come With Joy

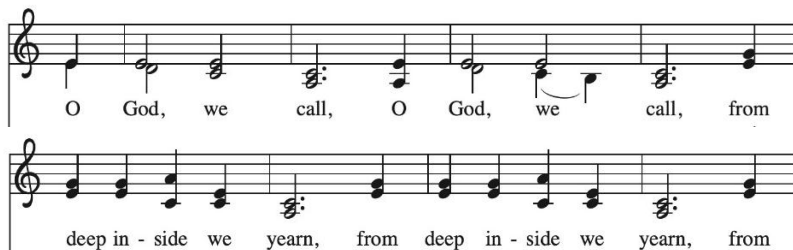
ELW 482

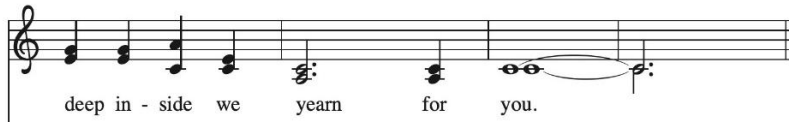
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Response sung to ACS 1075 (below); words in bold italic*
Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.





The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

***O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.***

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need *especially*.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(See music above)

***O God, we call, O God, we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.***

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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** on our website 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 door for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING SONG

God Bless Us to Our Bread

ACS 1056



Ben - di - ce, Se-ñor, nues-tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham-bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

ELW pg 190

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 invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg 191

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 SONGS

***Goodness is Stronger Than Evil
Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us***

ELW 721

ELW 707

Please Stand if you are able

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✙ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

In Thee is Gladness

ELW 867

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: The Metz's

Lector: Karla Maloney

Sacristans: Karla Maloney, Judith Nevergoll

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary by John & Pam Corbacho.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL 4:55 pm M/F Update Calls from Pastor Frank!

TODAY, Sunday, Sept 13th **Pentecost 16**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Choir Warmup

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Luncheon follows worship in Fellowship Hall—all are welcome. Please join us.

Tuesday, Sept 15th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (Back to Basics Group) FH

6:00 p.m.

LMM District Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Sept 16th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, Exodus -- Fellowship Hall

<u>Thursday, Sept 17th</u>	12:00 p.m.	AA Meeting (<i>Back to Basics Group</i>) FH
<u>Friday, Sept 18th</u>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting (<i>Mid Morning Group</i>) ChEd
<u>Saturday, Sept 19th</u>	9-10 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
<u>Next Sunday, Sept 20th</u>	<i>Pentecost 17</i>	
9:15 a.m. Sunday School	10:00 a.m.	Choir Warmup
	10:30 a.m.	<i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>
		<i>Potluck after Worship—Fellowship Hall</i>

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

FOR FRIENDS--#HOME, ^REHAB, *SENIOR LIVING AND/OR ILL

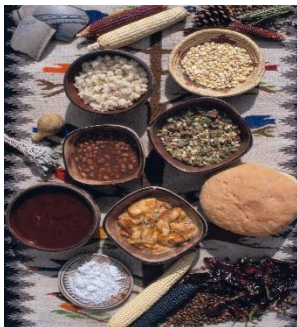
#Ken & Dot Black
 *Don & Gwen Buff
 #Bill Colley
 #Barbara DeVore
 #Virgie Dreher
 *Barbara Fowler
 #Terry Matlosz
 *Alma Paulson
 *Tommae Sligh

#Ed Thomas
 Marie Derrick
 Lisa Gillespie
 Douglas Gourley
 Joy Gunter
 Susan Herndon
 Vicky Huggins
 Jill Lee
 Patrick Lindler

^Julie Goegeline Lucas
 Angie Matlosz
 Deacon McManus
 Gary McManus
 Harry O'Quinn
 Jane Potts
 Marlene Stirewalt
 Bruce Wheelchel
 Dean Whitecotton

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

Tyler Alexander, USMC: Sherri Spangler's grandson
 Samantha Davis, USA-Europe; Gene & Diana Riley's niece
 Zachary Davis, USN-deployed; Carolyn Cook's grandson
 Grant Frick, SCNG-deployed; Linda Frick's grandson
 Liam Maloney, SCNG; Mike & Karla Maloney's son



TODAY!
Potluck Luncheon
After Worship



Tuesday, September 15th @ 6:00 p.m.

Hosting the SC LMM Midlands Conference Meeting

Guest Speaker will be Irina Roof, Bishop Roof's wife.



Ladies Wine & Whimsy—Sunday, September 20 at 4 pm

Home of Rita & Bob Anderson

Bring Wine & a Food Pantry Donation (cash or nonperishables)

September-October

Lutheran Disaster Relief-monetary donations

Transitions-Cold Weather Clothing

- *Outerwear-gently used or new*
- *New underwear*



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.stmichael1814.com/online-giving. One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, secure, and funds are deposited immediately. Designations for memorials 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 Facebook Live.

Large Print and Kids Celebrate bulletins 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!!