

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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

TEMPLE TALK

Holy Land Christians

Bethlehem Family

PRELUDE

ELW SETTING ONE

pages 97-113

Please Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

ELW pg. 97

GATHERING HYMN

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

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 (*Sung Responsively*) *In Peace Let Us Pray to the Lord*

ELW pg. 98

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast

ELW pg. 101

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

PSALM 113 (*Sung Responsively*)



¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;
praise the name | of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

⁶ **but stoops | to behold**

the heavens | and the earth?

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia with Verse

ELW Pg. 102

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to

himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.’⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

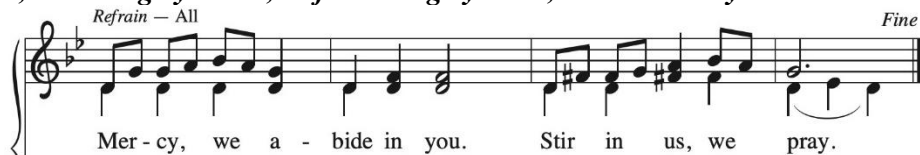
Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

ACS 1077, vs. 1 sung by Choir; Refrain sung by choir, second time by ALL



O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion.

ACS 1077, vs. 2 sung by Choir; Refrain 1st by choir, 2nd by ALL

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones *especially*.... May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care.

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life.

ACS 1077, vs. 3 sung by Choir; Refrain 1st by choir, 2nd by ALL

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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. 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

I Surrender All

Choir

Please Stand

OFFERING HYMN

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 107

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 108

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW pg. 108-109

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Please Sit

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg. 112-113

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 HYMNS

*Be Thou My Vision
Day By Day*

ELW 793

ELW 790

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Rise Up, O Saints of God

ELW 669

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Dean & Sabrina Whitecotton

Lector: Rita Anderson

Sacristans: Sabrina Whitecotton, Judith Nevergoll

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marjorie Fulmer by her devoted husband Ed Fulmer.

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

TODAY, September 21st

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Pentecost 15

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Worship with Holy Communion

Tuesday, September 23rd

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Wednesday, September 24th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study—James, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 25th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, September 26th

10:00 a.m.

AA Meeting (Morning Group) ChEd

4:00 p.m.

Float decoration

Saturday, September 27th

8:15 a.m.

Parade Group! Meet at CrossHill School; park at St. Andrews Presbyterian or Irmo Wellness

9-10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

Next Sun, September 28th

Pentecost 16

9:15 a.m.

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m.

Choir Warmup—Choir Room

10:30 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion



*We're riding in the 50th Anniversary Okra Strut Parade!
9:00 am start -- Saturday, September 27, 2025*

Smiling faces & grandkids needed on site by 8:30 am!!

The Golden Strut: Fifty Years of Struttin'

SEPTEMBER 26 6PM-11 PM

SEPTEMBER 27 9AM-5 PM

**MOORE PARK + 7473 Church Street
+ Irmo, SC 29063**



TEMPLE TALK

We will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after worship, a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem will be available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war for the past twenty months. Tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land . This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings. It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

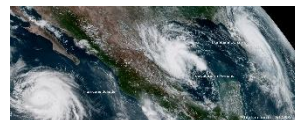
Let us carefully tend to our roots, Christian children of God in the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the land where our Savior once walked to tell the world the good news of salvation. Thank you for your support.



Save-the-Date!
Animal Blessing
Sunday, October 5th
4:00 p.m.



LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF has boots-on-the-ground when mother nature strikes as well as in times of war and strife. Please consider a donation before the end of September, as we are in the midst of Hurricane Season. Your gift and compassion are appreciated.



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

Ken & ^Dot Black
*Don & Gwen Buff
*Rose Colley
*Helen Derrick
#Barbara DeVore
#Virgie Dreher
*Barbara Fowler
*Alma Paulson

Grady & #Melinda
Sharpe
#Miriam Shealy
#Larry Slice
*Tommae Sligh

Dea Baughman
Kristin Belusko
Donny Day

Lisa Gillespie
Douglas Gourley
Joy Gunter
Bo Harris
David Heinrich
Vicky Huggins
Jill Lee
Angie Matlosz
Terry Matlosz

Gary McManus
Judy Olson
Harry O'Quinn
Brooke Pittman
Jane Potts
Reggie Price
Marlene Stirewalt
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-*deployed*; Linda Frick's grandson
Hunter Purvis USA-*deployed*; Jerry & Cheryl Baxter's son-in-law
2-17 Air Combat Squadron-*deployed*



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 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 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!!