

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 7, 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

PRELUDE

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS+

TFF 148

1 Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! since I laid my
2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I laid my
3 Feel like shout - ing, "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I laid my

bur - den down. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -
bur - den down. I feel bet - ter, so much
bur - den down. Feel like shout - ing. "Hal - le -

lu - jah! since I laid my bur - den down.
bet - ter, since I laid my bur - den down.
lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - den down.

Let us pray. We come before you with heavy hearts, burdened by our sin. We confess that we have been trying to carry this alone, and realize that we cannot. We choose to lay our burdens down at your feet, trusting in your infinite wisdom and love. Fill us with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us release this worry and find rest in your presence. Guide me, Lord, and show me the path forward. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

ELW 880

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please sit.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead**

ELW 614

PSALM 1 (*Read Responsively*)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves

that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

HYMN

*When Peace Like a River**

ELW 785

SECOND READING: Philemon 1:1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ.

⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even

your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION+ *Lead Me, Guide Me (Refrain Only)*

ELW 768

GOSPEL: Luke 14:125-33

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Jeff Dugger

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Will You Come and Follow Me?**

ELW 798

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely *especially*.... May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

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.

Please Sit

THANKSGIVING

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://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

Please Stand

OFFERING HYMN+ ***We Plow the Fields and Scatter, vs. 1*** **ELW 680**

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.**

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.

Please Sit

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 ***Lift High the Cross**** **ELW 660**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Dean & Sabrina Whitecotton

Lector: Linda Frick

Sacristans: N/A

*+ indicates a musical selection to be sung throughout the Summer * indicates a Choir Boys Favorite*

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary (September 2) by John & Pam Corbacho.



THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

Mon & Fri Update Calls from PFA at 4:55 pm

TODAY, September 7th

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Pentecost 13

Sunday School—Fellowship Hall

Worship with Jeff Dugger, preaching

Tuesday, September 9th

12:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Council Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 10th

10:00 a.m.

Bible Study—Proverbs, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 11th

12:00 p.m.

AA Meeting (*Back to Basics Group*) FH

Friday, September 12th

10:00 a.m.

AA Meeting (*Morning Group*) ChEd

Saturday, September 13th

9-10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

9-Noon

Af-Am Cemetery Work Day

Next Sun, September 14th

Pentecost 14

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 on Saturday, September 27, 2025

*CrossRoads Intermediate to Lake Murry Blvd on St. Andrews—
traffic closed at 8:45 am*

Smiling faces & grandkids needed!!

*We'll sing a couple well known songs along the way and wave at
our friends, new and well known.*

Truck, driver, and hayrack/trailer needed. Talk to Kris.

*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

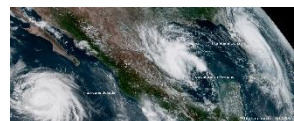


AF-AM CEMETERY WORK DAY! Many hands make light work! If you can help with some “yardwork” at the Af-Am Cemetery on September 13th, please join us at 9 am. We’ll rake and haul debris until noon. Bring work gloves, yard implements, wagons to haul debris, etc. The Af-Am Cemetery is located on Windward Point Road (left), just before the intersection with Hollywood Road.



We need to clear the additional area that the ground penetrating radar will scan in November! Another workday is scheduled for October 25th.

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.






Picnic in the Park

Bethlehem and Mt. Hermon Lutheran are sponsoring a Dutch Fork Lutheran Church Cluster Gathering in Peak.



*** Saturday, November 15, 2025**

- * Gathering: 11:30 a.m.
- * Short outdoor service: 11:45 a.m.
- * Picnic: 12:00 p.m. in Peak Town Park (across from Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church)
- * Hike, walk or bike: 12:30 p.m., the Palmetto Trail at your own pleasure.





- Please bring your lawn chair(s); enough for your family, or picnic blanket and your picnic lunch and drink.
- Disability access to the trail is in the town of Peak
- Parking: Parking is available at the Peak Park, and down by the Palmetto Trail a very short distance from the Peak Town Park.
- Restroom access will be at Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church.

Come enjoy God's wonderful creation in the great outdoors!



LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS:

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

Ken & #Dot Black	#Larry Slice	Joy Gunter	Harry O'Quinn
*Don & Gwen Buff	*Tommae Sligh	Bo Harris	Brooke Pittman
*Rose Colley	-----	David Heinrich	Jane Potts
*Helen Derrick	Dea Baughman	Vicky Huggins	Reggie Price
#Barbara DeVore	Kristin Belusko	Jill Lee	Marlene Stirewalt
#Virgie Dreher	Cathy C.	Angie Matlosz	Bruce Whelchel
*Barbara Fowler	Donny Day	Terry Matlosz	
*Alma Paulson	Lisa Gillespie	Linda May	
Grady & #Melinda Sharpe	Douglas Gourley	Gary McManus	
#Miriam Shealy	Darlene Griffin	Judy Olson	

THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MICHAEL DOUGLAS LAKE, COUSIN OF LINDA MAY & PHYLLIS RUTTONSHA

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!!