

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Joyce Whitman Bowers
November 25, 1935 – June 5, 2024

Celebration of Life
June 19, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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

GATHERING

The Paschal Candle is burning to signify the Christian's assurance of eternal life through the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

PRELUDE

Please Stand

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister, Joyce, to give thanks for her life, to recommend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

GATHERING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A pall is placed in remembrance of Joyce's baptism—a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism.

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

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. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Joyce. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 3:1-18

¹My child, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments;

²for length of days and years of life
and abundant welfare they will give you.

³Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴So you will find favor and good repute
in the sight of God and of people.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be a healing for your flesh
and a refreshment for your body.

⁹Honor the LORD with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;

¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine.
¹¹My child, do not despise the LORD's discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
¹²for the LORD reproves the one he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.
¹³Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
¹⁴for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
¹⁵She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called happy.

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

SOLO *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* Frank W. Anderson

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 5th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

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

Please Sit

MEDITATION

Pastor Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 597

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Hear us, Lord.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Hear us, Lord.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

Hear us, Lord.

Grant us grace to entrust Joyce to your never-failing love which sustained her in this life. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favor you bear for your people. **Hear us, Lord.**

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Joyce to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Joyce. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

SONG

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

*The family will follow the pastor to the cemetery for the Committal.
All friends are welcome to join them.*

COMMITTAL

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our sister, Joyce, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise her up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The bell tolls 88 times for each year of Joyce's life on earth.

A reading from John:

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. (John 12:23-26)

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our sister, Joyce, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless her and keep her.

The Lord's face shine on her with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon her with favor and + give her peace.

Amen.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears.

In Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our sister Joyce.

Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

The God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,

working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight;

through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Let us go in peace.

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Thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to our family.

All friends & family are invited for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.



*Love is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud...
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.*

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
400 RIVER ROAD + COLUMBIA SC + 29212

OFFICIATING MINISTER The Rev'd Frank W. Anderson
Pastor, Saint Michael Lutheran Church

CANTOR Karen Shevenell
Cantor, Saint Michael Lutheran Church

+ + + + + + + +



Joyce Whitman Bowers

NOVEMBER 25, 1935 – JUNE 5, 2024



Joyce was born in Wilmington, NC on November 25, 1935, the daughter of Ollie Pope Whitman and Perry Whitman, Sr. Joyce was the wife of Robert “Bob” Bowers, Sr. They were married on May 2, 1954. Joyce and Bob had 70 years of marriage, raising a family, traveling, camping, and family reunions in Lexington, NC, Wilmington, NC, and Alabama.

Joyce was active in her church and she loved boating, fishing, and exploring the intercostal waterways with her brother. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, “Nana.” Friends and family were always welcome in their home and their lives together. She never met a stranger and hated to miss out on anything interesting or fun.

Her enthusiasm, beauty, and youthfulness made you want to meet her and spend time playing at whatever card or board game. She knew how to have a good time.

Along with her parents, she joins in heaven all of her siblings: Muriel Kelly (Milton), Betty Riday (Joe), Marie Wardenfelt (Steve), Perry “Buddy” Whitman (Sandra), as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and all her loving ancestors.

Surviving are her three children: Deborah Wyatt (Doug), Robert Bowers, Jr. (Patsy), and Cindy Bostic (Mark); five grandchildren: Michael Wyatt (Katie), Nicholas Wyatt (Jessie), Matthew Bostic (Kensey), Meagan Bostic, and Bryan Clontz (Eury); and two great-grandchildren: Eleanor Wyatt and Harper Bostic.

The family thanks all of the physicians and support staff in our community.

A service will be held on June 19, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Saint Michael Lutheran Church, 400 River Road, Columbia, SC. The family will see friends from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity of your choice or a donation to Saint Michael Lutheran Church, 400 River Road, Columbia, SC 29212.