



1921 Sanctuary Centennial

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

November 14, 2021

Two o'clock in the Afternoon

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**. Please speak the responses **gently**. As a courtesy, it is asked that masks are worn while moving about. For those who are vaccinated, please sit on the pulpit side of the sanctuary or the front pews on the lectern side. The rear lectern-side pews are for those who prefer or need to mask & physically distance.*

Gathering

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.

Sisters and brothers: With gratitude for the third worship building of Saint Michael Lutheran Church, our 1921 Sanctuary, we are gathered to rededicate it for the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. As it has been for one hundred years, may it continue from this day forward to be a place for the gathering of the people of God, a place for proclaiming the gospel through word and sacrament, a place for bringing life and hope to us and to this community.

Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Pour out your Holy Spirit,
so that new life may be given to all those who are baptized in this pool/font,
which today we set apart.

Let us give thanks for the gift of God's word.

We give you thanks, O God, for you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

You called your people Israel to proclaim freedom from captivity,
a pathway home from exile, and wisdom for life with you.
Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to proclaim forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death, and the way of your self-giving love.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;
from the pulpit that we set apart today,
rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love,
for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

**Let us give thanks for the gift of the Lord's supper
which is celebrated in this place.**

We give you thanks, O God, that in holy communion
you refresh us through the bread of life in Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in faith toward you,
and nourish us in fervent love for one another.

Bless all who come to this table of the Lord,
and sanctify all who receive the body and blood of Christ at this altar,
which today we set apart.
Give all who taste this holy feast
grace to live in faith and love throughout our lives,
until at last we all behold you face to face at the heavenly banquet
where your saints and angels praise you forever.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain,
we give you thanks for the gifts of those
who have built this house of prayer to your glory;
we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use will make it holy;
and we pray that all who seek you here may find you
and be filled with joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

Psalm 84 *How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.*

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Selah

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Selah

⁹Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

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

1 Peter 2:1-9 *A house of living stones.*

¹Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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

Gospel

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 10:22-30 *Hearing the Shepherd's voice.*

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

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

The Prayers are taken from:

The Common Service Book of the Lutheran Church, 1917

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, Whom the heavens cannot contain, but Whose will it is to have a house upon earth wherein prayer and praise to Thy Name may continually be made: Look graciously toward this place; and as Thou didst move Thine ancient people to build for Thee a house of worship, do Thou fulfill also the desire of our hearts, and bless and prosper what we have undertaken in Thy Name.

Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Living God, Who art the elect and precious Corner-stone and the immutable Foundation of Thy Church: We pray Thee, let the stone which we here lay in Thy Name be a firm foundation; and as Thou art Thyself the Beginning and the Ending, be also the beginning, continuance, and completion of what we here commence for Thine honor and glory.

Amen.

O Lord God, Holy Ghost, Who makest the assembly of Thy saints Thy dwelling-place: Bless and prosper the building of this edifice, and grant that in like manner we also, as living stones, may be built up into a spiritual house and an abiding temple of Thy Glory; Who with the Father and the Son livest and reignest, One God, world without end.

Amen.

In the faith of Jesus Christ, I do now lay this Corner-stone: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; that here true faith, the fear of God and brotherly love may abide; and that this place may be set apart to the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and the invocation and praise of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever One God, world without end.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Sending

Prayer of Rededication

Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones.

We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time,
yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.

We are the temple of your presence, and this building is the house of your church.

Gather us in this place to share with others the promise of baptism,
to hear your word, to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son,

and to praise your name with all the company of heaven.
Send us from this place to be the body of Christ in the world,
to proclaim your love in word and deed,
to invite others into the promise of baptism,
and to glorify your name in our daily living.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on this place,
which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessing

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
Almighty God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.



The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

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1814 + HISTORICAL SUMMARY + 2021



At a school house in the Pleasant Spring Community of the Dutch Fork in South Carolina, members from Bethel, High Hill and Zion, Twelve Mile Creek gathered to worship starting in 1812. By 1813 they understood their need for an English-speaking congregation and founded Saint Michael Lutheran Congregation. Within a year, a Church was constructed and they affiliated with the North Carolina Synod, on October 18, 1814.



German settlers arrived in South Carolina, bringing with them their evangelical Lutheran faith from the Palatine area of the Prussian Empire (now Switzerland) in the 1740's, settling in the Orangeburg District and the Saxe Gotha Community near the fork of the Broad and Saluda Rivers. This area became known as the "Dutch Fork" because of its deep attachment to its German roots. The first building on the site, now occupied by the Church, Parsonage and Cemetery, was a one-room schoolhouse which served a short time as the place of worship for the group of young people seeking services, education, and devotional life in the English language. The first Holy Communion recorded by the English-speaking group of Lutherans was celebrated on the fifth Sunday in June 1814. St. Michael was received into membership in the North Carolina Synod at Organ Church in Rowan County, North Carolina on October 18, 1814.

As was common during that time in the Up-Country of South Carolina, adherents to the polity of Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Churches founded congregations that met both communities' needs for faith and life. St. Michael first Elders reflect that tradition with four Lutheran Elders—John Dreher, Thomas Shuler, Samuel Wingard and John Wyse, and in addition to these Lutherans, a "Presbyterian" Jacob Hemiter served until his death in 1816. John Dreher also gave six acres of land for the use of the Church and for a Cemetery.

The first Church was built in 1814 and was 24x32 feet, with a gallery for the use of the enslaved people in the community. The Church was painted blue on the exterior and was called "The Blue Church". In 1880 the Church was expanded to 32x50 feet, painted white on the exterior, and the ceiling of the Sanctuary was painted blue, preserving the name into the twentieth century. In 1921 the present Church was built in the Carpenter-Gothic style at a cost of \$8,000, much of that offset by member donations of material and labor.

For much of its history St. Michael has been yoked to other congregations in a parish—Pastorate #9, most notably with St. Andrew's. In 1950 the last parish arrangement ended, and a new parsonage was built across River Road (on the site of the schoolhouse). The former parsonage, still located near Highway 6, had been sold in 1923. In 1954 a Christian Education Building was added next to the Church, and a Fellowship Hall was built in 1988. An accessible ramp to the Church was added in 2007, and a Memorial Garden for cremated remains was created in 2010.

The South Carolina Synod was founded at St. Michael in 1824 and meetings of that organization were held here in 1826, 1857, and 1924. A special Conference of the Synod of North Carolina was held at St. Michael on April 30, 1816, which was the first Lutheran ecclesiastical meeting in the State.

Pastors who have served the Congregation are:

Godfrey Dreher 1812-34
Preached in English beginning 1812
at the Pleasant Springs Schoolhouse.
John Yost Meetze 1814-22
Licensed (1812) Ordained (1822)
John Christian Hope 1834
John G. Schwartz 1835
George Haltiwanger, Sr. 1836-40
George Haltiwanger, Jr. 1840-50
James D. Stingley 1850
Jesse B. Lowman 1853
James H. Bailey 1854
Daniel M. Blackwelder 1861-65
J N. Derrick 1866-70

William Alexander Houck 1871-73
John Eusebius. Berly 1877
Levi Bedenbaugh, Supply 1874-75
Jacob H. Hawkins 1876-78
Peter Miller 1880-83
Willis Alexander Deaton 1891
Henry Julian Mathias 1898
Shadrack Laban Nease 1902
Victor Clarence Ridenhour 1905
William Pinckney Cline 1907
Henry Maxwell Brown 1913
M. D. Huddle 1914
R R. Sowers 1919
John Wesley Magnum 1923-25; 1946-49

David Bittle Groseclose 1925-28
Fred Louis Lineberger 1929-32
John Carnahan Peery Sr. 1932-39
James David Kinard 1939-42
George Frederick Schott 1942-44
James Kivett Cobb 1945-46
Stafford LeRoy Swing 1950-53
David Frederick Castor 1955-59
Robert Martin Weeks 1960-64
Henry Newton Brandt 1965-1977
Dwight C. Wessinger 1978-2016
Frank W. Anderson 2016-present