

St. Michael Lutheran Church
 2308 Merrimac Road
 Blacksburg, VA 24060

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Blacksburg, VA 24060
 Permit No. 78

December Servants

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 29
<i>Accolytes</i>	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Kelsey Trimble Abby Penner	Isaac Nagle	Ushers	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Becci Nagle and Inga Solberg					
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dave Surface		Sandy Birch		Jeff Birch	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		AAL		Smiley		
<i>Greeters</i>						
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dave Surface	Mickey McGuigan	Sandy Birch	Jody Smiley	Jeff Birch	Betty Gross
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Richard Robinson Lauren Robinson	Fran Shepherd Jada Brown	Leslie Simmers Brian Simmers	Amy Woods Steve Woods		Sandie Worley Sarah Worley
<i>Ushers</i>	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Hank Schneider Dickie Sheipherd	Betty Gross Burn Gross Gary Worley Brian Simmers	Sam Akers Steve Mouras Josh Mouras Phillip Isenhour	Roscoe Turman Dave Surface Peggy Brown Bob Brown	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Randy Robinson	Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle Jeff Birch Sandy Birch



Volume 25, Number 12

December 1, 2002

*From the
Pastor* 

Thank you! The Long-Range Planning Committee had a great response to its request for input for a new St. Michael mission statement. Last week, the committee met with Steve Mouras, who guided us through a process of sorting through and organizing your input. Several themes emerged as being important ministry emphases for our congregation. These themes (in descending order of mention) were: Outreach, Proclamation, Worship, Nurturing the St. Michael community, Teaching, Love, and Peace. The committee is now working to develop a statement of mission out of the input of our members. When a proposed statement is ready, it will be presented for congregational approval.

This process of developing a mission statement is more than an exercise in arranging thoughts and words. The process is a way of speaking a collective word about how we understand our call from God, to be carried out in this place at this time. A clear statement will help us to organize our conversations over the next months as the Long-Range Planning Committee guides us in evaluating our ministries and dreaming of ministries for the future. It will also aid us in marking our progress in months and years to come.

Again, thank you for your participation in the mission statement process. There will be more requests for your help as the Long-Range Planning Committee continues its work. The members of the committee welcome your comments at any time. The members are: Jeff Birch, Bob Brown, Judy Clemens, Cindy Dowdy, Betty Gross, Kevin Krallman, Julia Landes, Linda Mitchell, Hank Schneider, Tim Smiley, and Amy Woods.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, let us discover together the ways in which Christ is born among us even now, leading us to do God's work in our world. I wish you all the joy and peace of Christ these Advent and Christmas seasons.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mitchell**

Pastor's Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Office Phone Number: (540) 951-8951 Pastor Mitchell's Home Phone Number: (540) 552-2532

Celebrate the gift of God's Son

with a gift of your own!

**Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, December 14
9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Training for workers
8:00 am**

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall**

**You can also serve by bringing food
items for the donors.**

**Sponsored by:
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
branches at:**

**New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
Shiloh Lutheran Church
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
St. Michael Lutheran Church**

**See Jane Lane or Pastor Mitchell for
more information**



Happy-Go-Lucky Club

Happy-Go-Lucky Club will meet Thursday,

December 12, at 11:30 AM, at the church. Lunch will be potluck, with ham provided. Please bring a small gift to exchange with a man or woman.

Happy-Go-Lucky's November auction earned \$175.50 for the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

3-D Meeting

The December 3-D meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. -- after the Advent worship service. All are welcome to attend this monthly meeting of our committees. Dessert -- Devotions --- Down to Business.

You are the Body of Christ

In the childrens' sermons throughout October and November, we were building the body of Christ. On Sunday, November 10, that "body" was revealed and symbolized in the cross. As we read in I Corinthians 12:27, "now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it". And as the body of Christ, we offer with joy and thanksgiving ... ourselves, our time and our possessions. To assist with that offering, a **time and talent sheet** is included with this newsletter. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the church. Both can be returned during church (in the offering plate) in December.

Our thanks to Barbara Corbett and Lynn Hickok for building our cross and providing the art work for the body of Christ. You have truly shared your special talents.



Justice and Mercy Fund

The Justice and Mercy Fund is back.... Seeded by a generous \$500 donation from Wal-Mart, the justice and mercy fund is now available to help our neighbors with emergency needs such as food, medicine, transportation, and electricity. Donations can be placed in the special Love Offering envelopes found in the pews (with checks made payable to St. Michael). An accounting of the uses of our gifts will be provided in future newsletters. Our thanks to Lutheran Brotherhood which matched the donations in November.

Thank You

Our thanks to Wal-Mart for donating five turkeys and beverages for our annual community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Needed – Narrators

The choir needs one or two narrators for the cantata on Dec. 24 at 6:30. If interested, contact Donita Moore by December 8.



NEW TIME FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!!!

Our Annual Congregational Meeting to discuss and approve the 2003 operating budget and to elect Council members will be held on December 15 at 10:00 AM, between the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM services. **Please make a note of the time.** The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall and there will be no Sunday School. Child care will be provided.

The proposed 2003 budget is now available. Please take the time to review the budget and give it prayerful thought. This is not the Congregational Council's budget, it is St. Michael's budget. It will be a commitment that we all will make. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with a council member.

If you have any questions before the meeting, please contact Kathy Albert.
Ph #: 381-1844 email: kalbert@kollmorgan.com

Please make every effort to attend on December 15 at 10:00 AM.



DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

Don't forget to support the Montgomery County Food Bank. Our Shopping Cart needs to be filled with cake, cookie & pie mixes, and holiday dinner

items.

Advent and Christmas Worship

***O, Come Let Us Adore Him,
Christ our Lord!***

Wednesday, December 4

6:00 pm Advent Dinner *(meal provided)*

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer

*Location: Luther Memorial
Lutheran Church**

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 pm Advent Dinner *(meal provided)*

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Location: St. Michael

Sunday, December 15

6:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 18

6:00 pm Advent Dinner *(meal provided)*

6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Location: Luther Memorial

Tuesday, December 24

6:30 pm Choir Cantata

7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am Service of Lessons and Carols
followed by pot-luck brunch

Note: Only one worship service today!

*Our Wednesday evening Advent dinner and Evening Prayer will be joint events with Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Education and Worship Committees would like to try an experiment. We are going to offer a "Children's Church" for kids in grades 1 – 5. It will begin after the children's sermon and will have a lesson on the bible readings of the day. It will be a follow up to our Sunday School lesson that day. We will try it for the next few weeks and see how it goes. If you have any comments or would like to help, please contact Jody or Doug Smiley.

Blessing of the Animals Held October 6

On October 6th we had a Blessing of the Animals. We had a good crowd. The pets enjoyed meeting other pets and compared notes on their people! We had a short service outside. This will be an annual event since it was met with such success. Next year we will hope for a greater diversity. After all, we don't want our dogs to think they rule! A little humility would be good for them.