

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

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

### *January Servants*

	<b>January 5</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>January 26</b>
<i>Accolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Abbi Penner	Scott McGuigan	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Isaac Nagle
<i>Altar Care</i>	Doug, Jody, and Tim Smiley			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Josh Mouras	Jody Smiley	Karen Mayer	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>				Vicky Mouras
<i>Greeters</i>	George and Linda Naughton			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Josh Mouras	Jody Smiley	Isaac Nagle	Jenny Akers
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Becci Nagle Isaac Nagle	Sharon Robinson Zach Woods	Sandy Birch Jada Brown	Kathy Albert Kelsey Trimble
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff Birch Sandy Birch Philip Isenhour Sam Akers	Randy Robinson Hank Schneider Dave Surface Roscoe Turman	Peggy Brown Bob Brown Dickie Sheppard Ray Howell	Mickey McGuigan Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Brian Simmers



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January 1, 2003

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By the time you read this, it will be 2003 or very near to it. The party hats and noisemakers will have been put away and our daily lives will have resumed as usual. Except for the fact that we may have the day off from work, January 1 is not much different from January 2 or May 15 or October 23. Though we are still in the season of Christmas until Epiphany on January 6, once the decorations and presents are out of sight, Christmas is mostly a memory. We have celebrated the birth of Jesus, Son of God, then gone on with business as usual. But could it be there is more to the story of Jesus coming into the world?

Frederick Buechner writes in his book, *Whistling in the Dark*, “Just before the final benediction, the New Testament ends with the prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus!” When he came the first time, he came so unobtrusively that except for Mary and Joseph and a handful of shepherds, nobody much knew or cared. But he says he will come a second time. Who knows how he will come or when or where... People who in search of a timetable try to crack the Book of Revelation like a code are on a wild goose chase. People who claim that all who join their sect will be saved and all others lost are wrong. The ones who will be saved, Jesus says, are the ones who feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoners. If you love, in other words, you’re in. If you don’t, you’re out... In one of the more outlandish of his outlandish images, he says he will come like a thief in the night. We must be ready at all times therefore. We can never be sure when he will break into the world like a house, when he will break into our lives.”

Though we may do very well at containing our celebration of Christmas in a few days or weeks, we cannot do so with the second coming of Jesus. Though we do not know when Jesus will return, we do know that we have our work cut out for us until he does. Serving the hungry, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the prisoners – that should keep us busy until Jesus comes back. May the year ahead be filled with many opportunities for ministry in Jesus’ name. May we step up with willing hearts to praise God through our work as servants of the Lord. And may we join our voices with that of the writer of Revelation when we boldly say, “Come, Lord Jesus!

**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
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## Proposed Mission Statement

At its November meeting, the Long-Range Planning Committee drafted a proposed new mission statement for St. Michael. The committee offers this statement for your consideration; the congregation will vote to adopt the statement at a congregational meeting in March. Members of the committee welcome your comments; the members are: Jeff Birch, Bob Brown, Judy Clemens, Cindy Dowdy, Betty Gross, Kevin Krallman, Julia Landes, Hank Schneider, Tim Smiley, Amy Woods, and Pastor Mitchell.

### St. Michael Proposed Mission Statement

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit,  
the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is:

**C**are for God's people in need,  
**H**ear of God's love through Word and Sacrament,  
**R**espond to God's grace with thankful hearts,  
**I**nvoke others into Christ's community,  
**S**erve God in our daily lives, and  
**T**ell the story of God's love for all.

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### 3-D Meetings Dessert - Devotions - Down to Business

The monthly 3-D meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month beginning in January. Our first meeting will be January 14 in the fellowship hall. We invite all members of the congregation to share their time and talents at these monthly "joint committee" meetings....and enjoy fine fellowship as well. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455.

And speaking of sharing our time and talents....the summary lists from the Time and Talent forms for 2003 are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. All members are welcome to add their names to any of the many volunteer opportunities at any time throughout the year.

The sign-up sheets for Altar Care, Coffee Hour, and Altar Flowers for 2003 are also posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**“Thy Kingdom Come,  
Thy Will Be Done...  
in Virginia”**

**Day at the General Assembly  
for all people of faith**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2003  
8:00 am until 3:30 pm  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
Richmond, VA**

*Hosted by the Lutheran, Episcopal, and  
Presbyterian churches  
with the Pace Center for Campus and Community  
Ministry of the United Methodist church.  
Coordinated by the Virginia Interfaith Center for  
Public Policy.*

**See Pastor Mitchell for registration forms.**

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**December 15, 2002**

**Dear Hearts,**

**It’s been a year in November 2001 that I had surgery the first time and November this year for the second one. Now I am beginning to heal. I never said “thank you” the first time, so please forgive me. Now I can thank you for anything big or small that you did for me for both years.**

**Thank you for letting me be a member of the St. Michael family. A special thanks to Doug. He brought me communion when I didn’t know him and he brought me communion when I came back to the living.**

**I give thanks to my Father in heaven. He had me by the hand both times and he had me**

**by the hand when my brother died this month.  
(What a wonderful feeling).**

**Juanita Simpson**

## **Memorial Gifts**

Our worship and fellowship have been enhanced with recent memorial gifts. We thank the following for their generosity:

\*Jim, Judy and Tim Clemens; Cindy and Chris Dowdy for Advent paraments and communion linens given in memory of Barney and Freida Clemens.

\*Bill and Lou Ann Phipps for a dishwasher given in memory of Helen Phipps.

\*Carol and Ben Crawford for a communion veil given in memory of Alene Kirk.

\*Bobby and Johnnie Lane of Clanton, Alabama for an oak lectern given in memory of Bill Lane.



**Inclement Weather Policy**

WHEN WINTER WEATHER MAKES DRIVING CONDITIONS dangerous, the Pastor and Council President will decide if worship services will be cancelled. In the event of cancellation, they will contact WDBJ-TV (channel 7) and Q-99 radio, which will include St. Michael in their church cancellation announcements. The message on the church answering machine will also be changed to state that worship is cancelled.

the fund, please see ANNE SCHMIDT of Pastor Mitchell.

Christmas will be much brighter for all the gifts you provided for the children on our Angel Tree. Thank you to all the "angels" of St. Michael for your generosity.

Our next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sandy Birch. Vicky Mouras will talk about her Army experiences in Hungary during the Bosnian conflict.

## Our Website is "on-line"

Announcing our new website:

<http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/>.

Thanks to Philip Isenhour, our webmaster, for getting our site up and running. He plans to make frequent updates to the site and welcomes any suggestions and assistance.



In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7-8

## WELCA

At the December meeting of the Women of the ELCA, 12 sweat suit outfits and 18 pairs of slipper socks were donated to the Heritage Hall Nursing Home. With the cutbacks in state assistance, many of the residents are now without some basic needs. We thank the members for their generous donations.

In place of sending Christmas cards, WELCA suggested contributing money to the church library fund. If anybody would still like to contribute the

## Offering

Offering envelopes for 2003 for the current fund and the property improvement fund are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Using the dated envelopes provide an excellent reminder for our regular and faithful giving to the current fund.



## **Justice and Mercy Fund**

In November, \$265 was donated to the Justice and Mercy Fund during our "2 for 1" campaign. This gift was matched by the Lutheran Brotherhood and provided a starting balance of \$1,030 for the fund. This balance includes the generous \$500 donation from Wal-Mart. In December, the following checks were written:

Medicine and food \$136.99  
Doctor bill (broken wrist) 70.00  
Funeral expense for a Riner family \$100.00  
Total \$306.99  
Balance \$723.01

Each of the families we have assisted this month have a number of unmet needs. For example, the Riner family has lost their mother, the father is ill, and the two daughters have been placed with family members. In the short time the fund has been "reactivated", we have heard of many neighbors who need our assistance. Your future gifts will be very appreciated and directed to those in need. Checks made payable to St. Michael (or cash) can be placed in the Love Offering envelopes found in the pews. If

you are able to offer other assistance, e.g., one young woman is seeking employment as a custodian, please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455. Thank you for sharing.  
Thank you for other gifts

At the November birthday dinner, \$198 was donated and matched by Lutheran Brotherhood. Our \$396 gift will be divided among the Christmas Store, Womens Resource Center, and the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.