

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Burn Gross who enthusiastically distributes the children’s bulletins each Sunday; James Pascoe who fixed the vacuum cleaner and is cleaning the church for us while Wanda recuperates from carpal tunnel surgery; Kelsey Trimble who volunteers for extra acolyte and nursery duty as needed; the ladies of WELCA who washed pews, cleaned the kitchen and nursery; Jay Nagle for providing all our engraving; Linda Elliot for helping to prepare the last newsletter for mailing; all who brought gifts for our Salvation Army Christmas angels.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist and custodian, donations to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, food and supplies for Kid’s Nights. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** paid an electric bill for two families, bought a coat, hat and gloves for a child, and groceries for a family recently relocated to Blacksburg.

Memorial Gifts

Thank you to Christine McCauley for the new table in the back of the sanctuary, dedicated in loving memory of Kenneth McCauley.

The Tuna Challenge

Girl Scout troops 645 and 737 thank the congregation for donating over 130 cans of tuna fish for the Christmas Store – double the donation of last year!

Blood Drive at St. Michael on December 11

The semi-annual blood drive, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the area Lutheran churches, will be at St. Michael on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to provide food for the donors and assistance to the medical staff. Sign up at church on December 5 or contact Jane Lane at 552-3653. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Celebrate the Gift of God’s Son with a gift of your own – give the Gift of Life.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner a great success

Over 110 people were served and an additional 40 dinners “to go” were prepared on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to all the volunteers who set up – and cleaned up - the fellowship hall, decorated the tables, the Girl Scouts and Brownies who made place mats and helped serve the meal, the great cooks, greeters, dishwashers, cake and pie bakers, gelatin and sweet potato casserole makers. It was a wonderful day of ministry, fellowship and service.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Christmas Meeting on December 9.

Our December meeting will be on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Vickie Mouras (3775 Millstone Ridge Rd). We will prepare miniature Christmas trees for our homebound members, collect sweatsuits and lotion for our neighbors at Heritage Hall, enjoy a Christmas message and share Christmas treats. If you need a ride, please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455. All women of St. Michael are Women of the ELCA and very welcome at all meetings.

Remember the Food Bank

Holiday foods would be appreciated this month; canned yams, packages of dressing and mashed potatoes, cake mixes...though any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

Sweatsuits (size XL) and body lotion for residents of Heritage Hall

Collection boxes will be in the hallway until December 5. Thank you for caring.

Nearly 100 celebrate their birthdays on November 14

The annual birthday dinner was held on Sunday, November 14, with a large gathering of family and friends. A free will offering was matched by Thrivent and will benefit the Montgomery County Christmas Store, the Women's Resource Center, and World Hunger. The oldest partier, at 94 years old, was Ulysses Kichline, father of Carol Howell; the youngest was Sara Albert, 6 months old. Pictures are on the bulletin board.



MEN'S MINISTRY BEGINS

All men in the congregation and their friends are invited to breakfast on Saturday, January 8, at 9 a.m. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship and be a part of an exciting new ministry at St. Michael. Contact George Naughton for more information.

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY



At the November meeting, over \$175 was collected at the annual "white elephant" auction for the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a wrapped gift to give to a resident of Heritage Hall who may not have family to share the holiday season. Come share some Christmas cheer.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

ADVENT SUPPERS AND SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, December 1, 8, 15, 22

St. Michael will join with Luther Memorial each Wednesday night to prepare for Christ's coming. A light meal will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:10 p.m. and worship, using Holden Evening Prayer, will begin at 6:15 p.m. The service will be held at Luther Memorial on December 1 and 15 and at St. Michael on December 8 and 22. If you are interested in assisting with the meal or service, please speak with Donna Oliver or submit a "Welcome to St. Michael" form available in the Sunday church bulletins.

KID'S NIGHT AT ST. MICHAEL

WEDNESDAY, December 8 and 22

All children in grades K-5 are invited to Kid's Night from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. starting with a light supper, crafts, music and more. *Please note the change in time.* Families are encouraged to come and share in the Advent supper together with an Advent program and activities offered for the youth during the Advent worship service.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

SUNDAY, December 19

Come and be a part of the "Not So Silent Night", a Christmas celebration for children of all ages at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. Bring a plate of Christmas treats to share if desired and make plans to be part of the fun.

Program Practices

Practices for the program will be on Saturday, December 4, 11, and 18 from 10 a.m. until noon. For more information, please contact Jody Smiley or Linda Naughton.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

SUNDAY, December 12 and 19



Everyone is invited to participate in St. Michael's annual Christmas caroling. We will share a light lunch at noon and then visit and sing to our St. Michael friends and family who are homebound.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
FRIDAY, December 24 – 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

This year, St. Michael will add an 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve to provide additional worship opportunities. The family service at 7 p.m. will include the traditional Christmas cantata at 6:30 p.m. presented by the choir.



If you would like to serve as the lay reader, an usher, or communion assistant at either service, please contact Sandy Birch or fill out the appropriate space on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the Sunday bulletin . If you would like to provide special music, contact Donita Moore.

CHRISTMAS DROP-IN at the WERTZ HOME
FRIDAY, December 17

The congregation is invited to a Christmas Drop-in at the Wertz’s at 2013 Broken Oak Drive on Friday, December 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Directions are available in the back of the church. Come and celebrate the season.

LESSONS and CAROLS
SUNDAY, December 26

St. Michael’s celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 26 with a Service of Lessons and Carols at both the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services. Come and sing all your favorite Christmas carols and hear the scripture passages that proclaim Jesus’ birth.

POINSETTIAS



Orders are now being taken for poinsettias for Christmas Eve. This year, the poinsettias will cost \$10.50. To place a poinsettia in the church, in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend, please use the order form on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The deadline for ordering a poinsettia is December 19.

INVITE A FRIEND TO A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Share the joy of Christmas by inviting a friend to worship with you on Christmas Eve. Invitations to our services are available in the front hall. In fact, invite a friend or family to any or all of the activities listed above.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

All gifts (unwrapped) should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 5. Thank you for sharing and caring.

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

**Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Blacksburg, VA 24060
Permit No. 78**

December Servants

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24	December 26
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Dan Crowder	Abbie Penner	Dan Crowder Sarah Crowder	TBA	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Sandy Birch and Loren Crowder				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Jane Lane		Dave Surface	TBA	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>	Jody Smiley		Jane Lane		“Leftovers”
<i>Greeters</i>	Julia Landes				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Birch	Cindy Dowdy	TBA	Lori Sheppard
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Cindy Lang Abbie Penner	Loren Crowder Sarah Crowder	Jane Lane Leslie Bland	no nursery provided	Jane/Katie McGuigan
<i>Ushers</i>	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	TBA	Jeff Birch Jody Smiley George and Linda Naughton

The Congregational Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on December 12 to approve the 2005 Spending Plan for Ministry and to elect new members to the Congregational Council. Copies of the spending plan are in the newsletter and will be available in the front hallway



January Servants

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble	Abbie Penner	Dan Crowder	Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>					
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Jane Lane		Dave Surface		
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>	Jody Smiley	Alice Schneider	Jane Lane		Potluck lunch
<i>Greeters</i>	Julia Landes				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Birch	Cindy Dowdy		Lori Sheppard
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Cindy Lang Abbie Penner	Loren Crowder Sarah Crowder	Jane Lane Leslie Bland		Jane/Katie McGuigan
<i>Ushers</i>	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle		Jeff Birch Jody Smiley George and Linda Naughton

