

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church
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Mission in Action

Our mission statement is printed at the bottom of this page, and it also hangs in our sanctuary, but in these pictures, I think you can truly see the mission and ministry of St. Michael in action.



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

Care for all God's people in need,
Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament
Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,
Invite others into Christ's community,
Serve God in our daily lives, and
Tell the story of God's love for all.

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 Karen Mayer for staffing our first “Holiday Helper” afternoon; Alice Schneider and Betty Gross for cooking our Birthday Dinner and the hostesses for their cakes and table decorations: Sandie Worley, Alice Schneider, Lynn Hickok, Barbara Corbett, Jody Smiley, Sandy Birch, Tammy Veit, Peggy Brown, Shannon Rigsbee, Dianne Krallman, Thelma Hylton, Carrie Mayer, Betty Gross and Kris Wertz; all who contributed to our outreach projects (Christmas giftboxes, Christmas Store items, angel tree, men’s clothing drive, Women’s Resource Center supplies, Food Bank).

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided landscaping, music supplies, general church repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organists, custodian, and nursery workers.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In November, we provided assistance for eight families: four with electric bills, three with water bills, and rent for one family. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to Justice and Mercy and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner a Great Success

St. Michael provided over 110 people with Thanksgiving meals at the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers who set up – and cleaned up - the fellowship hall, decorated the tables, the Girl Scouts who made place mats, the great cooks, greeters, dishwashers, cake and pie bakers, jello and sweet potato casserole makers, and those who donated funds for the meal. It was a wonderful



fellowship event. A special thank you goes to Carol Crawford, Fran Gallimore and the Caring and Sharing Committee for organizing the event and to Dan Bowen and Wal-Mart for providing five cooked turkeys. Pictured (clockwise) are Betty, Carol, Fran, Katie,

Burn and John, our turkey carvers. Additional pictures are posted on the bulletin board.

2007: New Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2007 are now available on the hallway shelf. Thank you for sharing your treasures.

Altar Flowers, Altar Care and Fellowship Hour for 2007

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Thank you for serving in these special ways. The opportunity to donate your altar flowers to the "Friends with Flowers" program for hospice patients will be available on the form.



Christian Children's Fund Contact Person Needed

For a number of years, St. Michael has supported two overseas children through the Christian Children's Fund. A contact person is needed to receive the notes and letters from the organization and share the story of this ministry with the congregation. If you are interested in this ministry and would like to serve as the contact person, please talk to Pastor John.

Holiday Helpers

To help families prepare for the holidays, St. Michael will offer a Holiday Helper event to provide child care so that parents in the congregation can do holiday shopping and preparations. The December Holiday Helper event will be on Sunday, December 10 at the church. Sign up using the "Welcome" form in the bulletin or talk with Pastor John or Sandy Birch (birch@vt.edu) for more information.

Blood Drive at Price's Fork Elementary School

Price's Fork Elementary School is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, December 14 from Noon until 6 p.m.. If you are interested in donating, please call the school nurse at 951-5736 to schedule a time.

Virginia Synod Launches Bible Reading Emphasis

Bishop Mauney has invited the entire Virginia Synod to read through the Bible over the course of the next year. Pastors from around the synod are preparing introductions to each of the books and the synod will provide those introductions and a reading schedule to everyone who participates. To sign up or for more information, check out the Synod's web site at: www.vasynod.org.

Youth Night on December 13



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Night on Wednesday, December 13 during the Midweek Advent Service. Come and eat with your family and then enjoy a program during the service. For more information, contact Jody Smiley at esmiley@vt.edu or at 961-2472.

Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17

Come and be a part of this year's Youth Christmas Program for children of all ages at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 17. The youth of the congregation will be performing "Bethlehem P.D.". Practices for the Christmas Program will be on Saturdays, December 2 and 9 at 11 a.m., Friday, December 15 (with supper) at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 16 at 10 a.m. For more information, please talk to Jody Smiley. The congregation is invited to bring Christmas snacks for a fellowship gathering after the program.



Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20

St. Michael will join with Luther Memorial each Wednesday night to prepare for Christ's coming. A light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. and worship, using Holden Evening Prayer, will begin at 6:45 p.m. The service will be held at Luther Memorial on December 6 and 20 and at St. Michael on December 13. 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.

Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 10



Everyone is invited to participate in St. Michael's annual Christmas caroling. We will share a light lunch following the 11 a.m. Service before going to sing to our St. Michael friends and family who are homebound.

Christmas Drop-In at the Wertz's on Friday, December 16

The congregation is invited to a Christmas Drop-in at the Wertz's at 2013 Broken Oak Drive on Friday, December 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Directions are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Come and celebrate the season.

Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17 and December 24

The Choir Christmas Cantata, "We All Bow Down", will be sung on Sunday, December 17 at the 9 a.m. Service and on Sunday, December 24, at the 11 a.m. Service. Make plans to come and enjoy the beautiful music.

The adult and youth Chime choirs will also be performing during December.



Poinsettias



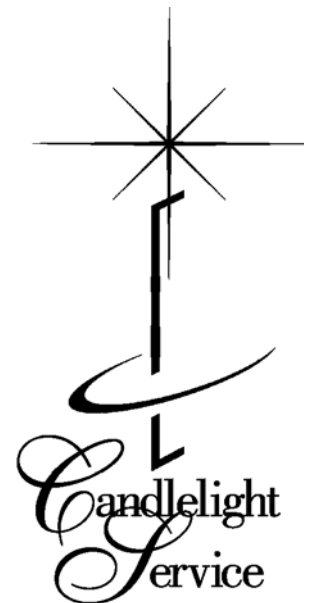
Orders are now being taken for poinsettias for Christmas Eve. This year, the poinsettias will cost \$10.50. To place a poinsettia in the church, in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend, please use the order form on the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the bulletin. The deadline for ordering a poinsettia is December 17.

Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24 – 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

St. Michael will have two services on Christmas Eve. The Family Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 p.m. and a Traditional Christmas Eve Service will be at 11 p.m.

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.



Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 31

St. Michael's celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 31 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.

Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 10



Congregational Brunch and Meeting

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 10 at 10 a.m. to approve the Spending Plan for 2007, elect new council members, and to consider both constitutional amendments and a constitutional bylaw. The following

people have been nominated for Congregational Council: Linda Elliott, Shannon Rigsbee, Randy Robinson, Lori Anne Sheppard, and Ben Simmers. Bring a dish to share and come be a part of this congregational meeting. Copies of the 2007 Spending Plan are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and online at www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Establish Mission Endowment Fund

The Council is recommending several amendments to the constitution to allow St. Michael to establish a Mission Endowment Fund. The purpose of the mission endowment fund will be to provide for mission work beyond the operating budget of the congregation in the following areas of ministry: Youth and Family Ministry, Caring and Sharing Outreach Ministry, Music Ministry, Major Maintenance and Improvement, and Scholarship Funds to include the Gallimore Scholarship. The exact wording of the proposed amendment is available in the back on the sanctuary and online at www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Proposed Constitutional Bylaw to Protect Historic Cemetery

The council is recommending that the congregation adopt a new constitutional bylaw to protect the historic cemetery on the church grounds. The small cemetery behind the sanctuary dates back to the original Lutheran Church that sat on the property in the 1800s and is a part of the history of the area. To ensure that the cemetery remains historic, the council recommends closing the cemetery to future burials by adopting bylaw C 16.05.

C 16.05 In order to preserve the historic nature of the cemetery on the grounds of St. Michael Lutheran Church, no further burials will be allowed on church property.

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December Servants

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Sandy Birch and Lorin Crowder			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	David Surface		Randy Robinson	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Sandy Birch	Andrea Sharpe	Jody Smiley
<i>Youth Servants</i>	Corson Wertz	Elizabeth Berg	Matt Sharpe	Will Sharpe
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	Fay and Cliff Walters Julie Landes and Jeff Birch		Petersons Julie Landes and	Linkous' Jody Smiley
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Kelsey Trimble	Mickey McGuigan	Doug Veit
<i>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</i>	Lori Anne Sheppard	Sandy Birch	Sarah Bohn	Shannon Rigsbee
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Ray Howell Jeff Birch	Bob and Peggy Brown James Pascoe Burn Gross	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jay Nagle J.D. Robinson	Randy Robinson Grace and Ben Simmers Dickie Shepherd

Christmas Eve: 7 p.m.: Scott and Katy McGuigan, Kris Wertz, Jody Smiley
11 p.m.: Kelsey Trimble, Ann and David Surface, Lori Anne Sheppard
December 31: 9 a.m.: Greeters: Tschettters, Worship Asst: Lori Anne Sheppard
11 a.m.: Greeters: Julie Landes, Jody Smiley



Women of the ELCA

The December meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be Tuesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. at the home of Alice Schneider. We will share Christmas snacks, enjoy a holiday program, and celebrate the fellowship of the season. If you need a ride, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455. Directions to the Schneider's new home are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Last month, we mailed 737 pounds of presents to the Head Start program at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The 168 Christmas gift boxes, quilts, knitted hats and new clothing were donated by eight Lutheran churches in the New River Valley. **Thank you to all who participated in this important ministry.**

Remember the Food Bank: December is spaghetti sauce and pasta month, though any non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: New and used towels and new and used twin-sized bed sheets are welcome.

Congratulations to Jody Smiley who purchased the winning raffle ticket for the two-story dollhouse. We raised \$167 for the computer center project for Papua New Guinea.

Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 9. Twenty-five huge bags of men's clothing for the Rescue Mission in Roanoke have been donated. Clothing will be collected through January 28 when we serve supper at the Mission. There will be no meeting in December. For more information about mission projects, contact Jeff Birch at jbbirch@vt.edu or at 951-3455.

Happy-Go-Lucky

The Happy-Go-Lucky group is sponsoring a trip to the Wohlfahrt Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 3, to see a special matinee performance of "My Favorite Things." At the annual white elephant auction last month, \$252 was raised for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. In addition, members are also sponsoring a special collection of toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap for the Christmas Store. Donations will be accepted through December 3.



Welcome to the St. Michael Family



On Sunday, November 12, we welcomed seven new members to the St. Michael family.

David Hillis moved to the New River Valley area from Norfolk in 1994. He loves the outdoors and camping and is an active Boy Scout leader. David also enjoys movies, reading and listening to rock and roll music.

Tacey and Bryce Apisa moved to Blacksburg four years ago from their hometown of Fairfax. Tacey is a Virginia Tech alumna so she enjoyed moving back to the New River Valley. She is an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher with Montgomery County and Bryce is an energetic second grader and a huge football fan.



Marc and Terry Abrams live at their Giles County horse farm, Harmony Hills Equestrian Center near Pembroke, with their two daughters, Maria (17) and Katherine (15). Marc was a faculty member at Virginia Tech before founding Harmonia, a software company headquartered at the Corporate Research Center in Blacksburg. Terry is a horseback riding and equine care teacher who loves animals including the farm's 27 horses, three cats and a Great Dane named Aphrodite. Maria, a senior at Giles High School and the Southwest Virginia Governor School, works at Harmony Hills as a riding instructor. Katherine, a sophomore at Giles High School, is a very active horseback riding competitor in dressage and eventing. Most weekends, Katherine can be found traveling with her mother to horse shows.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY