



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmhc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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Micah's Backpack

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

- Micah 6:8

St. Michael has a passion for feeding the hungry. The Community Thanksgiving Meal is an established ministry which reaches well over 120 people per year. The people of God at St. Michael have donated food to local food banks for years and have responded to a variety of hunger related needs. Our participation in the SHARE Program allows nearly 40 families a month to purchase food at more reasonable prices.

As Pastor Glenn London noted during his sermon at our 40th Anniversary Celebration, now is the time to take the next step forward in ministry. Now is the time to build upon our passion for feeding people and to begin providing direct assistance to children in our community through a backpack feeding program. Backpack feeding programs are designed to help hungry children at times, such as weekends, when other resources like meals served at school are unavailable.

Micah's Backpack will be a community ministry sponsored by St. Michael which will provide a backpack filled with two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners to a child in need. Beginning on Friday, November 7, St. Michael will provide backpacks to five students identified by Price's Fork Elementary. The students will return the backpacks on Monday to be refilled for the coming weekend. A flyer with more information about Micah's Backpack and how you can support this emerging ministry will be available next Sunday or online at www.micahsbackpack.org.

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 Linda Elliott, Vikki Andri and Shirley Linkous for helping with church mailings, Jessica Brown and her dad, Billy Brown, for helping set up chairs for the anniversary dinner, and all the Birthday Dinner helpers listed below.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, support of our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In October, we assisted eight families: three with electric service, four with rent, and one with professional expenses. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Gift idea: Share our new *FEEDING THE FLOCK* cookbook with your friends and family. It's a great gift at \$12. All funds received are used by the Justice and Mercy Fund to provide emergency assistance. For your copy, contact Betty Gross (552-2154), Sandy Birch (951-3455), Carol Crawford (961-5733), or Pastor John.

A Thank You Note

With lots of donations from St. Michael, Junior Girl Scout Troop 737 collected 67 cans of chicken noodle soup for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Many thanks for helping us to help others.

(Editor’s Note: Let’s help the Girl Scouts reach their goal of 100 cans. Bring your cans of soup this Sunday.

A big “grazie” to all the birthday dinner helpers

To the chefs Anna Rossomando, Betty Gross and Alice Schneider, the cake providers Betty Gross, Alice Schneider, Ann Surface, Jody Smiley, Judith Wolfe, Joanne Pascoe, Kris Wertz, Jeanette Pasier, Carol Linkous and Sarah Wall, Dianne Krallmen, Gary and Sandie Worley, and Lynn Hickok, the set-up and clean-up crew: Worleys, Surfaces, Pasiers, Dowdys, Jody Smiley and Sandy Birch and other St. Michael family. The Italian Festa was a great success...delicious lasagna, lively conversation and games, fun piñata for the children, and wonderful birthday cakes.



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Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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| <p align="center">Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p> |
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November Servants

| | November 2 | November 9 | November 16 | November 23 | November 30 |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Acolytes</i> | Sarah Crowder | Will Sharpe | Matthew Pasier | Olivia Hodge | Andrew Bales |
| <i>Altar Care</i> | Birches | | Pasiers | | |
| <i>Comm. Assts.</i> | Sandy Birch | | Bob Brown | | |
| <i>Christ's Kids</i> | Kris Wertz | Andrea Robinson | Michelle Berg | Tacey Apisa | Jody Smiley |
| <i>Youth Servant</i> | Sarah Moehling | Cam Nagle | Camden Brewer | Carlie Simmers | Lexi Simmers |
| <i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i> | Keith Gay | Lori Anne Kirk | Matthew James | Katie Garst | Fred Spengler |
| <i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i> | Charlene Harris and Linda Elliott Gross family Simmers family | | Clifton and Shelane Walters Pasier family Sunday School | | |
| <i>Lay Reader</i> | Fran Shepherd | Becca Perez | Cindy Dowdy | Sunday School | Doug Veit |
| <i>Ushers</i> | David Hillis Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd Don Linkous | Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle J.D. Robinson | Ben and Grace Simmers Roscoe Turman Jeff Birch | Sunday School | Isenhour Surfaces McGuigan |

Mowing: Sam Akers 11/1 back; Jim Clemens 11/8 front; Jay Nagle 11/15 back; Doug Smiley 11/22 front. Rear: Jeff Crowder 11/3; Dave Surface 11/10; Tom Hodge 11/17; David Hillis 11/24



Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will be meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, at the home of Jennie Hodge (5007 Tall Oaks Drive in Blacksburg). Dianne Krallman will lead the program. All women of St. Michael are invited.

Remember the Food Bank: November is **canned goods** month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In November, we'll collect **baby supplies**, e.g., diapers and baby food. The collection basket is in the hallway.

The deadline for returning the Christmas shoe boxes is Sunday, November 23. November 23, the St. Michael youth (and their adult helpers) will be decorating the boxes at a "Party with a Purpose" and then they will be packed for shipping to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Thank you for your generosity in providing these wonderful gifts for the Head Start youth on the reservation.

In addition to the Christmas Boxes, we can help by providing electric heaters for families. The cost of a heater is only \$50 (retails for over \$160) and has been proven to be the most efficient way to heat homes on the reservation. (See the ONE Spirit heater program story on the Web site at: <http://www.nativeprogress.org/>) If you would like to help, please use the special giving envelopes in the pews and designate your gift to heaters. Any amount will help. Thank you.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8

Men in Mission at the Christmas Store



The Men in Mission donated over a hundred hours of labor in remodeling the children's bathrooms in Kid's World at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. In addition, the men also removed mold and painted the children's nursery at the store. Pictured are the ten painters, carpenters, plumbers, cleaners and all-around good guys who participated in the project. From left,

Doug Smiley, Rick Mayer, Matthew James, Gary Fetter, Jacob Dennis, Bob Brown, William Allen, Pastor John, Jeff Birch, and John Krallman. The Men in Mission group are also scheduled to work in the parking lot on December 13 when the Christmas Store opens.



The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, November 13, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and a “Celebration of the 60’s”. We will recognize those members who celebrated 60-69th birthdays during the year. In addition to the “60’s Celebration”, we will have the annual **auction for the Montgomery County Christmas Store**. Bring your white elephant items to the luncheon. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The congregation is also invited to bring in white elephant items for the auction as well. Items can be left on the desk in the corner of the fellowship hall.

Mom and dad gifts for the Montgomery County Christmas Store

The Christmas Store provides a children’s Gift Store where children can shop for their parents. Often, these are the only gifts that the parents receive. The O.K.s invite the congregation to donate unwrapped gift items through December 7. Appropriate gifts might include flashlights, tools, after shave lotion, hand cream, candles, kitchen towels...gifts that cost less than \$5. We might all have a few unopened or unused gifts around the house that we could share...some call it “re-gifting”. Thank you.



**OKs
on the Go!**

On October 19, the O.K.s gathered for lunch at Mama Concetta for an Italian buffet. The next week, a group went on a big trip to Pearisburg where they enjoyed a lunch at the Bank Restaurant, a tour of the Andrew Johnston Museum and a drive by dry Mountain Lake on the way home.



Sing in the Christmas Cantata

Join the choir at 6:30 p.m on Thursday evenings to practice for the Christmas Cantata, *Immanuel*. If you can’t make the Thursday night practice, the choir will also be practicing right after the 11 a.m. service for a half hour. The Cantata will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 14. For more information about the choir, contact Donita at dmoore@stmlc.us.



**Holden Evening Prayer Service
Thursday, November 13 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

Youth Night on November 9 and 23



On Sunday, November 9 and 23, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night programs for youth from Kindergarten to Senior High. The complete schedule is available through the online calendar at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Kid's Night will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade and is led by Pastor John.

The Middle School/Senior High Youth Group for 6th through 12th grade will be led by Carrie Mayer and will provide an opportunity for fun and service.

Party with a Purpose on November 23

On Sunday, November 23, everyone is invited to join the youth for a Party with a Purpose at 5 p.m. at church. We'll share some pizza with the participants in Youth Night and then prepare all the Christmas boxes and other gifts for mailing to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We need lots of "Santa's helpers." All in the congregation are welcome to help.



Christian Questions, Lutheran Answers Adult Sunday School Class

This year, the Adult Sunday School class will be considering a series of common Christian questions using a book by Dr. Martin Marty entitled, *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. Each week will focus on a different question. In November the questions discussed will be:

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|-------------|---|
| November 2 | What is All Saints Day? |
| November 9 | How do Lutherans relate to the Saints? |
| November 16 | Who were Elizabeth and Zechariah? |
| November 23 | What does it mean to be good stewards of our gifts? |
| November 30 | What is Advent? |

**Sunday School for All Ages Begins at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary
Everyone is Welcome!!**

Bible Study on November 16

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) on Sunday, November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and explore this beautiful song of Mary!

Welcome New Members to the St. Michael Family



The Brewer family moved to Christiansburg in December 2007 from Cookeville, TN. Seth, age 10, is a 5th grader at Christiansburg Elementary School. He earned his Black Belt in Taekwondo while living in Tennessee and is continuing his studies here. Although he doesn't admit to liking school, he is an avid reader and loves science. Camden, age 7, attends 2nd grade at Christiansburg Primary School. She too likes to read, but she is just as good at making up stories as she is at reading them. She enjoys making new friends and dancing. She has studied ballet, tap and jazz since she was 3. Ron has the toughest job as the stay at home Dad. He is a runner and is currently training for his 2nd marathon in mid-November. Sheila is the Director of Continuous Improvement at Wolverine Advanced Materials in Blacksburg. She enjoys reading, volleyball (Note: Sheila plays on the St. Michael team) and scrapbooking the family's adventures. Add the Brewer contact information to your directory: 140 Spring Buck Lane, Christiansburg, VA 24073, rbsm517@nrvunwired.net, 467-0855.

Congratulations to...

Matthew Gallimore and Sarah Wang who were married on October 11 in the Duck Pond gazebo on the Virginia Tech campus. Matt is the son of Fran and Jerry Gallimore. Matthew and Sarah met two years ago at the St. Michael Community Thanksgiving dinner.



Michael Keister and Crystal Long who were married at St. Michael Lutheran Church on October 25. Michael is the son of Jeanne Keister and grandson of Peggy Price.

Darron and Sharon Oliver who welcomed their first child, Cameron Scott, on October 8. Proud grandparents are Freddie and Donna Oliver.

Boy Scout Troop 158 News



Troop 158 meets on Thursdays at 7:15 -8:30 p.m. at St. Michael Lutheran . Adult and youth guests are welcome any time. The troop consists of 13 boys, all but one being 6th and 7th graders. Lightweight and leave no trace (LNT) camping skills are emphasized, and the Troop participates in district and council events.

Webelos, Cub Scouts and boys ages 11 through high school are cordially invited to consider joining the Troop. The Troop has two Star scouts (one should shortly earn Life), and three boys that soon will earn First Class. The Scoutmaster team consists of five BSA (Boy Scouts of America) trained adults.

For more information, contact Scout Master Jan Helge Bohn---bohn@vt.edu or Ben Crawford---ben.crawford@vt.edu (phone 961-5733).

Thanksgiving Service with St. Mary's Catholic Church on Sunday, November 23

The Thanksgiving Service will be on **Sunday, November 23 at 7 p.m.** Come and give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives. Pastor John will preach and St. Mary's will host the service in their new building on Old Mill Road (just off Price's Fork Road near St. Michael).

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 27

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. Donations of pies, gelatin salads, and money for the turkeys and fixings will be requested during the first Sundays in November. We will also need helpers in the kitchen, servers, and drivers. Let's all make a special effort to invite those in the community who may not have family in the area. Invitations will be available in the narthex for distribution and posting.....spread the word!



Thanksgiving Baskets at Blacksburg High School

Each year, BHS students collect Thanksgiving Baskets, which feed one family an entire Thanksgiving meal. They serve canned hams in place of turkeys. Last year, they fed 500 families around the community. This year, the students are trying to break their record and collect 1000 baskets and they could use our help. If you would like to donate items, the list follows. Each basket usually costs around \$20, so monetary donations are accepted (checks payable to BHS). If you have any questions, please send them to Carrie Mayer at cmayer@mail.mcps.org. Basket list: 2 cans green beans or peas, 2 cans yams or sweet potatoes, 2 cans corn, 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 box stuffing mix, 2 packages biscuit or cornbread mix, 1 box instant mashed potatoes, 1 bag rice, 1 package pie crust mix (no frozen or prepared crusts), 1 can pumpkin, apple or berry pie filling, 1 box family-sized tea bags, 1 box hot chocolate mix, 1 small bag of sugar, 1 small bag of self-rising flour, 1 packet gravy mix, 2 cans of cream of mushroom soup, 1 can of chicken or beef broth. The items can be delivered to Blacksburg High School (520 Patrick Henry Drive) beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, November 24.

“Thank you” to our St. Michael family on November 23



**Thank You
Breakfast**

On Sunday, November 23, between the two worship services, the congregation is invited to a thank you brunch....thank you to all of the St. Michael family who are God's hands in the world in so many ways. A few examples include those who serve as Sunday servants, Sunday School or Vacation Bible School teachers, prepared meals for bereaved, donated food to the Food Bank or funds for Disaster Relief, prayed for others, bought Christmas gifts for the Salvation Army and school supplies for needy children, volunteered at the St. Michael booth at the Prices Fork Fair or at the Christmas Store - - in other words, all of us. There will be no Sunday School that day so teachers can enjoy fellowship as well. Join the celebration of service on November 23.