



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 31, Number 12

December 1, 2008

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4, 5, 10, 40, 100, 130, 220, 400

Do you have a favorite number? I'd like to share a few of the numbers I'm thankful for at the moment.

**4, 5 and 10** *Four* is the number of weeks that our new feeding ministry, Micah's Backpack, has been running and it is off to a great start. *Five* is the number of students Micah's Backpack is helping each week. *Ten* is the approximate cost per week to provide a backpack of food for a child and *ten* is also the total number of children we plan to serve on a weekly basis when the ministry expands to include Kipps Elementary in 2009.

**100 and 400** *One hundred* is approximately how many people attended the first St. Michael and St. Mary's Thanksgiving Service. It was wonderful to join in worship and give thanks for our blessings with our new neighbors. *Four hundred* is approximately how much money was given at the service to support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.

**130** *One hundred and thirty* is the number of people who shared in the Community Thanksgiving Meal. The food was wonderful. The spirit was joyful. It was a marvelous day!

**40 and 220** There were about *forty* people who participated in the Party with a Purpose and they prepared *two hundred and twenty* Christmas Boxes for shipping to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation thanks to the overwhelming generosity of people at St. Michael and our other local partners in ministry.

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 all who contributed to our outreach projects (Christmas gift shoeboxes, Christmas Store items, Angel Tree, Women’s Resource Center supplies, Food Bank); Jennie Hodge, Nancy Franz, Bill Gahnz and Judy Clemens for preparing the first Micah’s Backpacks, Jennie Kelly for organizing the Angel Tree gifts, and to all who participated in the Party with a Purpose.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for Micah’s Backpacks, the community Thanksgiving dinner, heaters for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partners, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, 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 November, we provided assistance for three families: one with a water bill, one with a gas card and third with rent. 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.

### 2009: New Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2009 are now available on the hallway shelf. Thank you for sharing your treasures. Members can also contribute on-line. See the St. Michael website for details.

### Altar Flowers, Altar Care and Fellowship Hour for 2009

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 and nursing homes will continue in 2009.



### Micah’s Backpack Helping Kids



Micah’s Backpack, St. Michael’s new feeding ministry, has begun providing food to five children at Price’s Fork Elementary School. For about \$10 per child, per week, the backpacks are filled with two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners. For more information about how you can help support Micah’s Backpack, you can check out: [www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org) or talk to Judy Clemens, Nancy Franz or Jennie Hodge.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner a Great Success



St. Michael provided over 130 Thanksgiving meals at the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers who set up and cleaned up the fellowship hall and decorated the tables. Thank you also to the great cooks, greeters, dishwashers, cake and pie bakers, jello and sweet potato casserole makers, and those who donated funds for the meal. It continues to be a

wonderful fellowship event. A special thank you goes to Carol Crawford, Fran Gallimore and the Caring and Sharing Team for organizing the event and to Wal-Mart for providing six cooked turkeys.

### Thank You Youth!



Thank you to the middle and high school youth who volunteered at the Montgomery County

Christmas Store last month. Pictured are Elizabeth Berg, Matthew Pasier and Michelle Pasier along with their advisors Carrie Mayer and Jeanette Pasier.



### Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for December

December 7	What is the Incarnation?
December 14	No Sunday School – Congregational Brunch and Meeting
December 21	What is the role of Joseph in the Christmas story?
December 28	No Sunday School

### O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas potluck will be held Thursday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. We will have a "Celebration of the 50's" and recognize all our brothers and sisters who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> – 59<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year. Bring a friend for fellowship, fine food and a fun time.



At the annual white elephant silent auction last month, \$351 was raised for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. In addition, members are also sponsoring a special collection of gifts for moms and dads for the Christmas Store. Donations will be accepted through December 7.

## **Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17 at 6 PM**

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 3 and 17 and at St. Michael on December 10. If you are interested in assisting with the meal or service, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form available in the Sunday bulletin.

## **Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 7**



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 Cantata on Sunday, December 14**

St. Michael's Choir will share a Christmas Cantata entitled, "Immanuel," during both the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services on Sunday, December 14. Make plans to come and enjoy this beautiful gift of music.

## **Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14**

Come and be a part of this year's Youth Christmas Program for children of all ages at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 14. **Practices for the Christmas Program** will be on Saturday, December 6 from 10 – 11 a.m. (K-2 from 10-10:30, 3-5 grades from 10:30 – 11 a.m.); Sunday, December 7 from 5 – 6 p.m.; and Saturday, December 13 from 11 a.m. – noon (3 – 5 grade from 11-11:30; K-2 from 11:30 – noon). There will also be a "walk-through" during the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14. For more information, please contact Jody Smiley. The congregation is invited to bring Christmas snacks for a fellowship gathering after the program.



## **Christmas Drop-In at the Wertz's on Sunday, December 21**

The congregation is invited to a Christmas Drop-in at the Wertz's at 2013 Broken Oak Drive on Sunday, December 21 from 5 – 7 p.m. Directions are available on the hallway shelf. Come and celebrate the season.

## Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 14



### Congregational Brunch and Meeting

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 14 at 10 a.m. to approve the Spending Plan for 2009, elect new council members, and to act on proposed changes to our St. Michael Constitution. The following people have been nominated for

Congregational Council: Nancy Franz, John Krallman, Mickey McGuigan, Jeanette Paiser, and Gary Worley. Bring a dish to share and come be a part of this congregational meeting. Child care will be provided. **Copies of the 2009 Spending Plan are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and on-line at [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).**

### Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or so. Please contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455 if you would like to participate.

### Growing with Faith Update

Construction is progressing on our Classroom Addition. The footings have been poured, the foundation walls are currently under construction and we have completed the switch from our well to County water. Over the next month, Lionberger plans to pour the floor and begin construction on the walls. New pictures of the construction are posted on a regular basis to: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/facilities-expansion/>.

### End-of-Year Giving Information

If you are planning to make a gift at the end of the year to support the ministry of St. Michael, remember that the IRS requires all gifts for 2008 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2008. You can make gifts to support the General Fund, which provides for the everyday ministry of the congregation, or to one of several special funds, including: Justice and Mercy, Facilities Expansion, Micah's Backpack or Property Maintenance. You can find more information about these funds or donate online at: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/>. If you need assistance with tax advantageous gifts like gifts of stock or donations from an IRA, you can contact Pastor John or Pastor George Sims at the Virginia Synod Mission Office for Planned Giving, <http://www.plan2giv.org/>.



## **Christmas Eve Services** **Wednesday, 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. An informal fellowship time will follow the 7 p.m. service.

### **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 28**

St. Michael's celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 28 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 \$7. 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 14.



### **Instead of a tie, what about a pig or chick?**

#### **Alternative Christmas Gifts from the Giving Catalog**

For \$10, you can purchase a fruit tree seedling to start an orchard or 10 chicks to build an egg business in Mexico or provide a week of meals for a child orphaned by AIDS in Africa. A pig can be purchased for a family in Kenya for just \$30. Lots of good gifts are featured in the Giving Catalog of the ELCA which we received with our recent *Lutheran* magazine mailing. Something to think about during this Christmas season...

**Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY**

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Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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## *December Servants*

	<b>December 7</b>	<b>December 14</b>	<b>December 21</b>	<b>December 28</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Sarah Crowder	Alex Moehling	Matthew Pasier	Katy McGuigan
<b>Altar Care</b>	Linda Elliott	Jody Smiley		
<b>Comm. Assts.</b>	Dianne Krallman		Alice Schneider	
<b>Christ's Kids</b>	Kris Wertz	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Andrea Robinson
<b>Youth Servants</b>	Sarah Moehling	Parker Wertz	Bryce Apisa	Corson Wertz
<b>9 a.m. Greeters</b> <b>11 a.m. Greeters</b>	Steve/Amy Woods Hank/Alice Schneider	Sandy Williams/Judith Wolfe Randy/Sharon Robinson	Angie/Shirley Linkous Wanda/James Pascoe	
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Lorin Crowder	Andrea Robinson	Nancy Franz	congregation
<b>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Fred Spengler	Lori Anne Kirk
<b>Ushers</b>	David Hillis Don Linkous Ray Howell Sandy Birch	Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross Randy Robinson	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jay Nagle Dickie Shepherd	J.D. Robinson Bob and Peggy Brown M. McGuigan

Christmas Eve Servants – 7 PM: Roscoe Turman, Kris Wertz, Jody Smiley, Lorin Crowder, Sandy Birch, Sarah Crowder, MaKayla Dowdy.

Christmas Eve Servants – 11 PM: Dave and Ann Surface, Lori Anne Kirk



## Women of the ELCA



The December meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be Tuesday, December 9, at 7 p.m. at the home of Vickie Mouras. 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 Mouras home are available on the hallway shelf. All are welcome to bring a Christmas treat to share and children's books for the Women's Resource Center.

We shipped 220 Christmas shoe boxes and other gifts to the Head Start program at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Christmas gift boxes, quilts, knitted hats and new clothing were donated by St. Michael, several other Lutheran churches in the New River Valley, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and a Girl Scout troop. We also sent quilts and hats knitted by Sharon Oliver and other gifts to Rev. Karen Rupp, pastor of the Lutheran Retreat Center in Pine Ridge. Rev. Rupp oversees programs for the homeless on the reservation. In addition, 15 electric heaters were purchased for homes on the reservation. **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:** Cleaning supplies will be collected during the next two months.

## Congratulations to....

**Jen and Steve Daskal** on the birth of their first child, Jack Alexander, on October 27.

**Jada Brown** on the birth of her daughter, Tatiana Renee Vega Brown, on November 11. Proud grandparents are Mack and Karen Brown.

**Dorothy Birch**, who was recently recognized as "Young Alumna of the Year" in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech for 2008-2009. To view Dorothy's work as an environmental photographer, go to [www.worldofcolorgallery.com](http://www.worldofcolorgallery.com).

**Tommy Howell and Krista Williams** who will be married on Saturday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at St. Mission Church in Blacksburg. Their wedding announcement is posted on the hallway bulletin board and the congregation is cordially invited to attend. Tommy is the son of Ray and Carol Howell.