



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## A Firewall and A Thank You

The firewall is finished. Each time I pull into the church parking lot and see the firewall reaching beyond the walls of the fellowship hall, I am reminded that we are making progress on the Classroom Addition. We are still working on walls and a roof and there is a tremendous amount of work to be done before the building is complete, but each day as the crew builds on the previous day's work, we get closer to completion. If you'd like to follow the progress of the project, you can do so through the Construction Slide Shows that are posted on the Facilities Expansion page of our web site: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/facilities-expansion/>. I am continually adding pictures to the slide show as the crews make progress, so check back often to see what is happening. (The newest photos are always at the end of the slide show.)



Kris, Corson, Parker and I want to thank you for your generous Christmas gift and for all the love and support you show us. We value your partnership in ministry and feel privileged to be a part of the St. Michael family. May God's blessings be with you all and our ministry as we work together to proclaim God's love to the world.

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 Hank Schneider for setting up the candle holders in the sanctuary; David Hillis for helping prepare all the candles; everyone who helped decorate for Christmas; Charlene Harris for arranging for all our altar flowers this year; Alice Noonkester for mailing reminders to Sunday servants; Linda Elliott for helping prepare Sunday bulletins; Judy Clemens for cleaning the altar linens; Jeff, Brad and Braden Birch, Mack Brown and Gary Worley for putting up the Chrismon tree; Vickie Mouras for hosting the December WELCA meeting; all the Christmas Eve worship servants; and to everyone who provided food for the Advent Supper.

**Thank you to all who serve** as ushers, choir members, teachers, altar care helpers, greeters, acolytes, lay readers, communion assistants, fellowship hour sponsors, youth assistants and more.

### **Because of your gifts**

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In December, we contributed to three electric bills, one oil bill, and one water bill. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the need. Kroger gift cards are available for those who wish to contribute to the Justice and Mercy Fund through grocery purchases. See Sandy Birch for details.

**Offering envelopes for 2009** are now available on the hallway shelf. Thank you for sharing your resources.

### **Thank you, everyone at St. Michael, for a successful Gift Box Program**

*The Christmas Gift Box Program this year was an enormous success by any measure. We, at Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg, enthusiastically wish to thank those who helped in any way. When we added our gift boxes to the 220 boxes you prepared, we were able to ship 400 gift boxes to children in the Head Start Program on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Your generosity is heart-warming. You are a caring congregation and it shows! This has been a wonderful act of Christian outreach. The families on the Pine Ridge Reservation are wonderful people who live in desperately challenging conditions and their children will be very happy to get your gifts. What an appropriate way for you and them to celebrate the birth of Christ. We at Christ Episcopal Church have a special place in our hearts for you. We have a lot in common and we have enjoyed working with you all over the years. Best wishes, Rex Hartson and Rieky Keeris, for Christ Church American Indian Ministry*

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***January Servants***

	<b>January 4</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>January 25</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Andrew Bales	Matthew Pasier	Alex Moehling
<i>Altar Care</i>	Linda Elliott and Bill Greer			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Loren Crowder		Jeff Birch	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Michelle Berg	Andrea Robinson	Jody Smiley
<i>Youth Servants</i>	Carlie Simmers	Corson Wertz	Camden Brewer	Cameron Nagle
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	Crawfords	Fay and Cliff Walters	Shirley/Angie Linkous	
	Wanda and James Pascoe		Lisa Moehling and Matt Belue	
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Carrie Mayer	Andrea Robinson	Nancy Franz	Doug Smiley
<i>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</i>	Keith Gay	Fred Spengler	Lori Anne Kirk	Matthew James
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Ray Howell David Hillis	Grace and Ben Simmers James Pascoe J.D. Robinson	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Bob and Peggy Brown	Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd Burn Gross M. McGuigan



## Women of the ELCA

In January, the Women of the ELCA have planned a “Ladies Night Out” on Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30 at the Bull and Bones restaurant at First and Main. All women of the congregation are invited to this fellowship event.

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

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** In January, donations of toilet paper will be appreciated.

## Lutheran Men in Mission



On December 13, the Men in Mission group helped at the Montgomery County Christmas Store (MCCS) by supervising the parking lot. Those participating from St. Michael were Pastor John, Hank Schneider, Gary Fetter, Bob Wunderlich,

Bob Brown, Ben Crawford, John Krallman, Ben Templeton, Ron Brewer, Dave Surface and Tom Hodge. The group is scheduled to serve dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission this spring.



*A thank you....Dearest Men in Mission. Just a note to thank you all for your hard work in remodeling the bathrooms at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. It was extremely kind of you to take time out of your busy schedules to dedicate it to the children at Kid's World. I am eternally grateful!*

*Maria Rossi, supervisor of Kid's World (the MCCS day care center).*

## Calling All Scrapbookers!

Anyone interested in scrapbooking on a Saturday at St. Michael are encouraged to contact Sheila McCartan at [rbsm517@nrnunwired.net](mailto:rbsm517@nrnunwired.net) or 467-0855.



**Sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers, Altar Care and Fellowship Hour are posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please add your names to the list. Thank you for sharing and serving in these special ways.**

## Youth Nights on January 11 and 25



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, January 11 and 25. The complete schedule is available through the online calendar at:

[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).

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

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



### **The Youth Christmas Program plays to record crowd**

Thank you to all the students, angels, shepherds, wise men and stable animals who participated in the Christmas program on December 14. The cast of characters included MaKayla Dowdy, Delanie Veit, Alexis Niemeira, Jessica Brown, Jack Graves, David Hodge, Camden Brewer, Noah Moehling, Carlie Simmers, Parker Wertz, Corson Wertz, Bryce Apisa, Lexi Simmers, Seth Brewer, Ryan Albert, Olivia Hodge, Sarah Moehling, Alex Moehling, Katherine Berg, Matt Sharpe, Katy McGuigan, Elizabeth Berg, Erin Albert, Will Sharpe, Renee Brown, and Ben Templeton. Special thanks to Donita Moore, Jody Smiley (director), Sandy Birch, Cindy Dowdy, Andrea Robinson, Matthew Pasier, Michelle Pasier and the parents of the cast for all their assistance.

### **Shopping List for Helping Ministries**

Each month, St. Michael highlights several needed items for helping ministries that are supported by the congregation. All those items are now listed on the Shopping List for Helping Ministries. This list with suggestions for Micah's Backpack, the Women's Resource Center and the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program is available in the front hallway at the church.



## **Ministry Toolbox: Hospitality Ministry in the First 3 Minutes**

A new worshipper walks into St. Michael. The new worshipper has taken the first step – a giant step toward connecting with God through the ministry of St. Michael. They have overcome every barrier that might keep them away; fear, intimidation, social inertia, weekend distractions, preconceived notions and a million other reasons that might have kept them away until that moment.

Many people have said, “You only have one chance to make a first impression.” When it comes to churches, you might get two opportunities: the first three minutes after someone arrives at St. Michael and the first three minutes after the worship service is over. During those first three minutes, you have the opportunity to make someone feel welcome and connected to the people of God at St. Michael. You don’t have to be an official greeter. You don’t have to say something clever or scripted. Simply reaching out in Christian love, to say a word of welcome is a powerful ministry of hospitality. The next time you see someone you don’t recognize at worship, remember the words of the angels, “Be not afraid,” and take a moment in the first three minutes to welcome them to God’s family of faith at St. Michael.

## **Christian Children’s Fund ( CCF) Report**

We recently got news from each of our CCF children. A new photograph and letter are posted on the CCF poster in the narthex.

Seven year old Anjali’s mother sends “loving greetings...and that Anjali felt very happy after seeing the books and photos we sent her.” The family is doing well in the rainy season and celebrated two festivals in October. Anjali participated in a dance and ran a race this past fall. Our older foster child, Christa, reports that her family is well and she is studying western culture and English. She wants to help her four younger brothers and sisters learn English. She writes, “I send you an expression “Where there is Faithful, there is Love; and where there is Love, there is the Lord.” Thank you very much and may God be with you and bless you all.”

A package with Christmas greetings and a small gift went out to each girl in December. If you would like to send a note or card to them, please see Jennie Hodge.

## **Care of Creation Recycle Bins**

Our two green recycle bins for paper and cardboard – one in the narthex and one in the fellowship hall - have gotten a lot of use! Please continue to put all paper, e.g., used Sunday bulletins, in these bins so that we may be good stewards of our resources.



## Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 1. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring \$1 to place in the Soup Pot and a can of food. The money will be donated to Micah's Backpack and all canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.



## Report on December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 14, the congregation approved the 2009 Spending Plan for Ministry and several constitutional amendments. The amendments must be approved again at the Annual Meeting before they can take effect.

**Congratulations** to Gary Worley, John Krallman and Nancy Franz who were elected to the Congregational Council.

The Congregation acknowledged the service of retiring council members Fran Gallimore and Jim Clemens. At the December 21 worship service, Jim Clemens was recognized for serving six years as council president. Thank you Jim!



### The 2008 Congregational Council

Standing left to right: Andrea Robinson, Tammy Veit, Pastor John, Fran Gallimore, Gary Worley, Ben Simmers, Rick Mayer, Randy Robinson  
Seated left to right: Jim Clemens and Ben Crawford

## Christmas Eve at St. Michael

