



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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November 1, 2009

Give Thanks!

Thank you for the many ways that you are helping St. Michael to do God's work through your hearts and hands and voices. Here are a few examples of the ministry that we have done so far this year in God's name.

- 250 or more people joining together to worship God during the past year
- 121 families helped through the Justice and Mercy Fund
- 60 or more people taking part in Sunday School
- 140 people served through the Thanksgiving Meal
- 30 youth involved in various youth ministries
- 62 students helped by Micah's Backpack
- 40 or more adults participating in educational opportunities
- 325 kids helped by the Christmas Boxes, Angel Tree and School Supplies Mission Projects
- 52 **Older Kids** participating in Senior Adult ministries

Thank you for your generous stewardship of God's gifts to you and for helping St. Michael to continue to proclaim God's love for God's people.

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 Ray and Tommy Howell for painting our exterior doors; Fran Shepherd, Rick Mayer, and David Hillis for moving everything from the storage unit to the new storage shed; Corson Wertz for moving lots of boxes from the church building to the new storage shed; Linda Elliott, Bill Greer, Margaret Larsen, Dave and Ann Surface, and Charlene Harris for helping with church mailings; Charlene Harris and Carol Crawford for arranging for and serving the meal for the Pascoe family.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for our classroom addition, the storage shed, 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 **16 families**: nine with electric service, three with rent, three with car expenses, and one with a 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 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.

Congratulations to...

Emily Garst and Matthew Pasier who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Emily and Matthew were recognized at a reception in their honor following their confirmation.

Linda Mitchell Motley, who has accepted a call at Zion Lutheran and St. Mark Lutheran Parishes in Floyd and Willis respectively. Pastor Linda, who served St. Michael Lutheran from 1998 to 2003, begins her ministry on November 1. We welcome pastor and her husband Billy back to the area.



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Daylight-Saving Time Ends
November 1

November Servants

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Altar Care	Judith Wolfe and Sandy Birch				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Angie and Shirley Linkous	Angie and Shirley Linkous	Cliff and Fay Walters	Cliff and Fay Walters	Hodge family
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Jen Daskal	Lori Anne Kirk	Jacob Dennis	Sandy Birch
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Corson Wertz	Sarah Crowder	Matthew Pasier	Alex Moehling	Seth Brewer
Comm. Asst.	Sunday School		Tacey Apisa	Sheila McCarten	
Greeters	Sunday School	Judy Clemens Dianne Krallman	Matt Belue/Lisa Moehling	Matt Belue/Lisa Moehling	Judy Clemens Dianne Krallman
Lay Reader	Sunday School	M. McGuigan	Hank Schneider	Kris Wertz	Fred Spengler
Ushers	Sunday School	David Hillis R Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross	Ben and Grace Simmers Don Linkous Joanne Pascoe	Bob and Peggy Brown Hank Schneider Philip Isenhour	Jeff Birch Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Jay Nagle
Youth Servant	Sunday School	Delanie Veit	Sarah Moehling	Camden Brewer	Cam Nagle

Mowing: Matthew James/Jacob Dennis– front on 11/7; Jay Nagle – back on 11/14; Doug Smiley – front on 11/21. Rear lot: Ron Brewer on 11/2; Dave Surface on 11/9; Tom Hodge on 11/16; Jeff Crowder on 11/23.



Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will be meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, at the home of Dianne Krallman (913 McBryde Dr. in Blacksburg). Kris Wertz will lead the program and share some exciting news about the youth group – LYNX. 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 22. On November 22, at 5 p.m., the St. Michael youth (and their adult helpers) will be decorating the boxes at a "Party with a Purpose" and then the boxes 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 and others on the reservation.



In addition to the Christmas Boxes, we can help families on the reservation by providing SHARE boxes. If you would like to help, please use the special giving envelopes in the pews and designate your gift to SHARE. 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

Buon Compleanno! (that's Happy Birthday in Italian)



The congregation is cordially invited to the annual Birthday Dinner, an Italian Festa, on Sunday, November 8, at 12:10 p.m. (after the 11 a.m. worship service). Come enjoy baked ziti, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together. At the birthday dinner, the folks born in January sit together, the folks born in February share a table, ...well, you get the idea. A free will offering will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The event is hosted by the Women of the ELCA.

A Thank You Note

With lots of donations from St. Michael, Junior Girl Scout Troop 737 met their goal of 72 cans each of chicken noodle soup and pork and beans for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Many thanks for helping us to help others.

The O.Ks (Older Kids)



The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. for social time and tasty catered Greek cuisine at noon. A \$5 donation for the groceries would be appreciated, but not required. In addition to enjoying fine fellowship and delicious pastitsio and baklava, we will begin 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 Christmas Store. The congregation is also invited to bring in white elephant items for the auction as well. Items can be left on the designated table in 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 6. 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.

Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16 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 2 and 16 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.

Sing in the Christmas Cantata

Join the choir at 6:30 p.m on Thursday evenings to practice for the Christmas Cantata. The Cantata will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 20 at both worship services. For more information about the choir, contact Eric at ericyoung@stmhc.us.



Adult Sunday School Class focuses on the Book of Revelation.

This fall, the Adult Sunday School class is discussing the Book of Revelation. We will use the book, "Come, Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation" by Mark Braatan as our guide. Notes from each class will be posted weekly on the "Studying Scripture" page of the website.

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



Youth Ministry News

Youth Night on November 8

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 4th grade will be on Sunday, November 8 at 5 p.m. Come enjoy the fun and learn a little more about God's love for you. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us.



LYNX Youth Group Lutheran Youth in Christ

Eleven LYNX members, along with their advisors Kris Wertz, Carrie Mayer, and Jeanette Pasier, volunteered at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Sunday, October 25. The very energetic youth decorated the Children's Gift Shop and wrapped over 400 gifts for moms and dads. Thank you!

Pictured are Steffen Bohn, Bryce Apisa, Kelley Robinson, Katy McGuigan, Corson Wertz, Will Sharpe, Erin Albert, Matthew Pasier, Michelle Pasier, Olivia Hodge and Seth Brewer.

Help Furnish the Youth Room

The Youth would like to have a little furniture for the Youth Room in the classroom addition. If you have an old couch or chair in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please talk to Pastor John.

Party with a Purpose on November 22

On Sunday, November 22, 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 during this special intergenerational event.



Bible Study on November 15

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Letter to the Colossians on Sunday, November 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and discuss Paul's words on faithfulness and the Christian life.

Salvation Army Christmas Angels



Twenty five “angels” are looking forward to their Christmas gifts provided by members of St. Michael. Those who wish to adopt an angel can pick up their angel card which lists the age, gender and wish list of the child, and return the new and unwrapped gifts to church by Sunday, November 29. Thank you for sharing with the needy children in the New River Valley.

Micah's Backpack: By the Numbers

Here are the results of the ministry of Micah’s Backpack during the first two months of school.

- 5 Blacksburg Area Elementary Schools as Partners
- 31 Students Helped
- 162 Volunteer Hours Donated
- 213 Backpacks Delivered
- 1278 Meals Delivered
- \$1900 worth of Donated Food

Thank You for your generous support of Micah's Backpack!

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 26

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form during the first Sundays in November if you can donate a pie, gelatin salad, or funds for the turkeys and fixings. 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 on the table in the back of the church 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. This year, the students are trying to 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 23.

New Seminary Partner - Greg Longtin



Greg Lontin is a first year student at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, but he is a second career student. Greg and his wife, Judy, have been married for 27 years and until recently lived in Edgewood, Kentucky where they ran their own business. This spring, Greg decided it was finally time to answer God's call and attend seminary. Greg and his wife have two children, Katherine and Sammy. Our prayers are with Greg as he begins his seminary career and we look forward to meeting Greg and his wife when they are able to come and visit St. Michael.

St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. Gifts may be given for these items in thanksgiving for God's goodness or in memory/honor of a loved one, friend or occasion. If you have an interest in contributing toward one of the following items or if you have an ideas for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

Kids Play Handbell Set and 4 Song Card Sets - \$200

Kids Play Handball Song Card Sets - \$25

4 x 6 White Dry-Erase board (3 needed) - \$125 each

3 x 5 Bulletin Boards (4 needed) - \$50 each

Portable Ice Machine - \$250