



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

Volume 33, Number 11

November 1, 2010

Saying "Thank You!"

For many years, I have had a sign by my desk that says,

God Loves You!
Be at Peace!
Have Fun!
Say "Thank You!"

When I remember those four things I tend to be at my best in ministry and in life.

As I read a wonderful article last week about the power of saying "Thank You" by Nancy Lublin, the CEO of Do Something, I was reminded again of how important it is to take the time to thank people in our lives for all that they do. It only takes a moment to express your appreciation through words, or a note, or a gesture of kindness, but when we take the time to acknowledge what others have done and are doing for us, it can make a big impact. I would encourage you to take a few moments this week and thank one person in your life like the clerk you see everyday at the store or your child or a co-worker. Help someone to know how much you appreciate all that they do for you.

At St. Michael, our ministry is blessed by the talents and gifts of numerous people. It is only through your participation, gifts and support that we are able to accomplish the ministry God has called us to do in our community. Thank You! Thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing and all that you will do to help St. Michael be God's heart and hands and voices in 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 Selma "Pat" Smith for regular deliveries of our food donations to the Food Bank and supplies to the Women's Resource Center; Sheila McCartan, Ron Brewer, Camden Brewer, Rick Mayer, Alexa Mayer, Jim Clemens, Dickie Shepherd, Fran Shepherd, J C Martin, Tim and Mary Kate Jordan, Suzanne Gay, Pastor John and Parker Wertz for helping paint the fellowship space next to the kitchen and relocate the playground; Ray Howell for hanging our new bulletin and white boards; Mike Berg for helping to relocate our library shelves, Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for folding our Sunday bulletins.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for our Bedford Lutheran family (our new mission partner), Sunday School materials, painting supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, 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 **19 families**: 9 with electric service, 3 with rent, 1 with a doctor bill, 2 with heating oil, 1 with car expenses, and 3 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.

A Thank You Note from Harding Elementary School

Some comments from teachers for the Micah's Backpacks distributed at their school. "This program is so important to the families helped." "Thank you for your service and making lives happier." "You make a difference in our students' lives." "Thank you for your amazing contribution."

Congratulations to...

Chris Sheppard and Tanya Cervone, who were married on September 25. Chris is the son of Lori Anne Kirk and Victor Sheppard, and grandson of Ross and Kitty Kirk. Pictured with Chris and Tanya are their sons Victor and Owen.



Cindy and Chris Dowdy, who welcomed their son, Bryce Christopher, on October 22. Bryce joins happy big sister MaKayla and proud grandparents, Judy and Jim Clemens.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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



November Servants

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
Altar Care	Sheila McCartan and Sandy Birch			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Hodge family	Gary and Sandie Worley	Gary and Sandie Worley	William Allen Nancy Goad
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Matthew James	Judith Wolfe
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Corson Wertz	Sarah Moehling	Seth Brewer	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robonson		Doug Smiley	
Greeters	Judy and Jim Clemens	Judy and Jim Clemens	Frances and Charlie Edge	Frances and Charlie Edge
Lay Reader	M. McGuigan	Lori Anne Kirk	Kris Wertz	Joanne Pascoe
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Cindy Lang Jeff Birch	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Jennie Brogan	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous Rick Mayer	Philip Isenhour Jeff Birch Dave/Ann Surface
Youth Servant	Mazzy Price	Parker Wertz	Jessica, Abby, Maddie Brown	Delanie Veit

Mowing: Jay Nagle – 11/6 (back); JC Martin – 11/13 (front); Joe Young – 11/20 (back)
Rear lot: Jim Clemens – 11/1; Dave Surface – 11/8; Jeff Crowder – 11/15; Mike Berg – 11/22
Micah’s Backpack unloading: 11/8 – Brown/Trimble; 11/22 – Birch/Mayer



Women of the ELCA

On **Monday, November 8**, the Women of the ELCA will begin a year long Bible Study entitled “The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity”. The study will be led by Lori Anne Kirk and held in the church fellowship hall at 6 p.m. A light supper will be served.

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 21. On November 21, 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.



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

Micah's Backpack: By the Numbers

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

- Blacksburg Area Elementary Schools and Head Start Preschool as Partners
- 89 Students Helped
- 217 Volunteer Hours Donated
- 551 Backpacks Delivered
- 3306 Meals Delivered

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

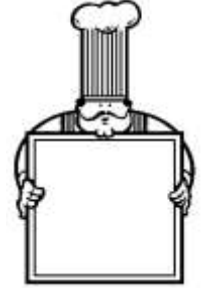
Salvation Army Christmas Angels



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 28. Thank you for sharing with the needy children in the New River Valley.

The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Tuesday, November 9, at 11:30 a.m. for social time and a tasty catered meal at noon. A \$5 donation for the groceries would be appreciated, but not required. Last month, we enjoyed South Carolina cuisine...this month it will be North Dakota gourmet. Really. Our program will include samples of Lutheran humor. Really.



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 5. 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.

Planning ahead...our Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, December 21 – the **third Tuesday** of the month. Mark your calendars for a very special catered holiday meal.

We continue to walk..and walk. At the 5 week mark, the O.K.s lead the congregation in walking 1041 miles!

A seminar of interest: On Tuesday, November 16 at noon, Dr. Chris Mertes, MD at Carilion Clinic in Blacksburg, will speak on "Ten Health Living Tips for Seniors" at the monthly AARP meeting. The meeting is held at the Blacksburg Community Center.

Walking to Bethlehem: The Journey Continues

Through October 24, we've walked nearly 3,000 miles; only 3,119 more to go. The congregation is reminded to record their miles on the chart on the hallway bulletin board.



A ¼ mile track has been established in the church parking lot and a 1/10 mile walk inside the church building has been determined. Walking trails around Virginia Tech and the town have been established and maps are available on the hallway bulletin board. Remember that walking boosts our energy levels and promotes better sleep. Walking and other physical activity improves our moods and stimulates chemicals in our brains that can make us feel happier. Do you use a stationary bike? do water aerobics? A conversion chart for exercise and activities is available on the bulletin board. Turn those exercise minutes into miles!

We're walking....we're walking.....

Come and Celebrate Your Birthday Birthday Dinner - November 14, 2010



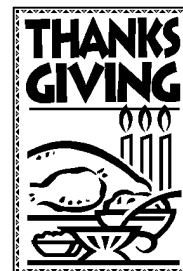
The congregation is cordially invited to the annual Birthday Dinner, an Italian Festa, on Sunday, November 14, at 12:10 p.m. (after the 11 a.m. worship service). Come enjoy an Italian entree, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together. At the birthday dinner, the folks born in 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.

Enduring Ministry, Enduring Gifts: An Opportunity to Learn about Wills, Planned Giving and Enduring Gifts

Following the birthday dinner, at 1:15 p.m. on November 14, there will be a presentation on "Wills, Planned Giving and Enduring Gifts" by Rev. George Sims of the Virginia Synod Mission Office for Planned Giving. Pastor Sims will discuss the importance of having a will, the impact that an enduring gift can make on current and future ministry and the tools available for making a planned gift. Child care will be provided for the hour-long presentation. For more information, please talk to Randy Robinson, Ben Crawford, or Sandy Birch.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 25

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 25. Sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form during the first Sundays in November if you can donate a pie, gelatin salad, sweet potato casserole or funds for the turkey fixings. Kroger has very generously donated six cooked turkeys for the dinner. 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 Service on Sunday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Come and give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives at our Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study on November 7

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Book of James on Sunday, November 7 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home.



Youth Ministry News

Youth Groups Bowling in November

Both the Youth Night group, for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade, and the LYNX (Lutheran Youth in Christ) will be going bowling on Sunday, November 14 at 3 p.m. Bring your friends and come enjoy the fun. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Winter Celebration - Virginia Synod Youth Event

Winter Celebration is a gathering of several hundred youth and adults from around the Virginia Synod for worship, singing, faith sharing and fun. All youth in 9th through 12th grade are invited to attend. The group from St. Michael will be going January 28-30, 2011. The early registration deadline is December 12 and the cost is \$50. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John or Lorin Crowder.

Party with a Purpose on November 21

On Sunday, November 21, everyone is invited to join the youth for a Party with a Purpose at 5 p.m. at church. We'll share some pizza 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.



Christmas Musical for Youth and Adults



All youth and adults are invited to be a part of this year's Christmas Musical, "A Simple Christmas Pageant" You can join the choir at 6:30 p.m on Thursday evenings to practice or take part in the Sunday afternoon practices planned for November and December. "A Simple Christmas Pageant" is a fun, simple show with familiar songs. CDs of the music will be available.

"A Simple Christmas Pageant" will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, December 19 at 6 p.m. For more information about the Christmas Musical, contact Eric at: ericyoung@stmlc.us or Jody Smiley at: jdsmiley@comcast.net.

Soup and Beans for the Christmas Store

Girl Scout Troop 737 invites St. Michael to help us collect chicken noodle soup and pork and beans for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Please put your cans in the box in the fellowship hall and thank you for helping us to help others.

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

Grieving is...nature's way of healing a broken heart. - Doug Manning

You are not alone!

Hope for the Holidays

A Grief Support Group is a safe place to share your loss

This group is open to all! Please join us from
7 to 8:30 p.m Thursday evenings
Nov. 11, 2010 — Jan. 20, 2011

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Corner of Prices Fork Rd. and Toms Creek Rd.
Blacksburg, VA



*There is no charge, but we ask that you preregister
before October 29 by calling
Rhoda Janosik, LSCW, MSW
at 540.230.5376*



www.griefvirginia.org

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.

One high chair - \$100

Folding tables for Micah's Backpack (need six) - \$70 each

Picture frames for the Gallery of Gifts - \$30 each

Choir robes - \$90 each

Advent Suppers and Services

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15 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 St. Michael on December 1 and 15 and at Luther Memorial on December 8. 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.