



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Ministry Partnerships in 2011

On Sunday December 12, we will gather for a delicious “Thank You” Brunch to show our appreciation for all the ways that you support the ministry of God at St. Michael. During the brunch, we will have our congregational meeting to elect new Council members and approve our Investments in Ministry for 2011. Your generous support in 2010 has allowed St. Michael to provide vibrant worship, faith forming educational and youth ministry and meaningful service in the community.

With your increased support in 2011, the Council is proposing that we invest in two ministry partnerships which will strengthen our ability to make Christ known in our community. The first is a partnership with Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, Virginia Lutheran Homes and Luther Memorial which will provide grief support services to the New River Valley. In 2011, two grief support groups will meet at St. Michael and one will meet at Luther Memorial. In addition, we will expand our partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry and Luther Memorial. While continuing his work on campus, Pastor Bill King will begin developing hands-on ministry opportunities for St. Michael, Luther Memorial and Campus Ministry and he will preach at St. Michael on a more regular basis. His expanded involvement will free up some of my time to continue developing our outreach and shepherding ministries. I am excited about the partnerships and look forward to the ways in which these investments will help us do God’s work with our hearts and hands and voices.

One partnership in ministry that I am happy to say will be reduced in 2011 is the mortgage on the Classroom Addition with Thrivent. In November, our refinancing application was approved and the interest rate on our loan was reduced from 6.85% to 5.5%. We were able to convert the loan from 18 years remaining to a 15 year loan while maintaining the same monthly payment. By refinancing, we will save over \$160,000 during the life of the loan.

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), and to all who participated in the Party with a Purpose; to Suzanne Gay, Andrea Robinson and Jennie Brogan who coordinated the Salvation Army Angel Tree project; to Fran Gallimore, Carol Crawford, the Caring and Sharing team and all St. Michael members who contributed to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner; to Shannon Hammonds and staff from Warm Hearth, North Star Church’s Kenny Johnson with family and friends, the Heft family and friends from Luther Memorial, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who helped at the Thanksgiving Community Dinner; and to Mike Christle and Kroger for providing our Thanksgiving turkeys.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving dinner, special music for Reformation Sunday, 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 23 families: 16 with electric bills, 2 with water bills, 4 with car expenses, and one 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.

2011 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2011 are now available on the hallway shelf. Thank you for sharing your treasures. Gifts to support the ministry of St. Michael can also be made on-line. See the St. Michael website (www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/) for details.

Altar Flowers and Altar Care

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 2011. Good Samaritan Hospice thanks us for all our weekly bouquets which are so appreciated by their patients.



Correction: In our congratulatory note to Chris Sheppard and Tanya Cervone in the November newsletter, their son Vincent was incorrectly identified.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky Catered Christmas Luncheon** will be held **Tuesday, December 21**, at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. This fall, we've enjoyed Louisiana, South Carolina, and North Dakota cuisine. In December, we will experience a colonial Virginia Christmas dinner. A \$5 donation for groceries would be appreciated, though not required.



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.

Middle-Agers Get Together on Friday, December 3

The middle-agers will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, December 3 – before the Blacksburg Christmas Parade. Contact Dianne Krallman (552-1668) or Sandie Worley (961-2709) to make your "reservation" and then depending on the number of participants, the group will select an appropriate restaurant. Join the middle-agers (you know who you are ☺) for fun, fellowship and fine food.

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 2010 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2010. You can make gifts to support the core ministry, 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/>.



Lutheran Men in Mission

The Lutheran Men in Mission will volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or so. Please contact Jeff Birch at jbirch@vt.edu or 951-3455 if you would like to participate.



Christmas Musical on Sunday, December 19 and a Journey to Bethlehem

Come and enjoy this year's Christmas musical, "A Simple Christmas Pageant" at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. The congregation is invited to bring a dish for a potluck dinner gathering after the program and then participate in the Journey to Bethlehem, a family craft experience following dinner at 7:00 p.m. We'll make ornaments, Christmas decorations, sing a few carols and continue our preparation for Christmas.

All youth and adults are invited to be a part of the musical. You can join the choir at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings to practice or take part in the practices beginning on December 4 at 9 a.m. Two more practices are scheduled for Sunday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m. (following the Family Night Dinner) and Saturday, December 18 at 9 a.m. "A Simple Christmas Pageant" is a fun, simple show with familiar songs. CDs of the music are available. For more information about the Christmas musical, contact Eric at: ericyoung@stmlc.us or Jody Smiley at: jdsmiley@comcast.net.

Christmas Gifts: Poinsettias and Backpacks

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 12. A gift can also be designated to Micah's Backpack in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.



St. Michael Volleyball Season Ends



Thank you to the Volleyball Team for representing St. Michael in the Blacksburg Recreation League. Team members Ron Brewer, Sheila McCartan, Kris Wertz, Pastor John, Mary Kate Law Jordan, Tim Jordan, Josh Eanes, Lauren Robinson, and Mark Pasier enjoyed a competitive and fun season. The team is pictured with several of their enthusiastic fans.

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.

Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 5

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 Eve Services

Friday, December 24 – 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.



St. Michael will have three services on Christmas Eve. The Lessons and Carols Service will be at 4 p.m. 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. We will celebrate Holy Communion at all three services.

You are invited to bring an item for Micah's Backpack for "Meals at the Manger" on Christmas Eve. Suggested items include: tuna, boxes of oatmeal packets and easy mac (individual macaroni and cheese).

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 26

St. Michael's celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 26 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.

Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 12



Congregational Brunch and Meeting

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 12 at 10 a.m. to approve our 2011 Investments in Ministry and elect new council members.

The following people have been nominated for Congregational Council:

Jim Clemens, Keith Gay, Matthew James, Maggie Maloney, Rick Mayer, Sheila McCartan, and Mickey McGuigan,. Three will be elected to serve for a three-year term and one will be elected to serve a one year unexpired term. Additional nominations may be made during the meeting.

Brunch will be provided by the Stewards Team to thank the St. Michael family for sharing their talents, time and treasures this past year. Child care will be provided. **Copies of the 2011 Investments in Ministry plan are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and on-line at www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.**

Winter Celebration - Virginia Synod Youth Event (9th - 12th grade)



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.

Confirmation on Reformation Sunday

Congratulations to Elizabeth Berg, Will Sharpe, Katy McGuigan and Steffen Bohn who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 30. The confirmands were recognized at a reception in their honor following the worship service.



Pizza, Practice and Bible Study on December 12 at 5 p.m.

On Sunday, December 12 at 5 p.m., come and enjoy some pizza and then practice for the Christmas program or take part in the "Joy of Christmas" Bible Study. While the youth are practicing for the Christmas program, Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on Christmas. The practice and the Bible study will conclude by 6:30 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner a Great Success

St. Michael provided over 175 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, gelatin salad 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 Kroger for providing six cooked turkeys.



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December Servants

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Altar Care	Sheila McCartan, Ron Brewer, Sandy Birch and others			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Nancy Goad William Allen	Linda Elliott Sandra Hough	Linda Elliott Sandra Hough	Clifton and Shelane Walters
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Jacob Dennis	Fred Spengler	Congregation/ Sandy Birch
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Elizabeth Berg	Will Sharpe	Parker Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Jay Nagle	
Greeters	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Berg family	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Jeff and Sandy Birch
Lay Reader	Sarah Crowder	Katherine Berg	Andrea Robinson	congregation
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Cindy Lang Jay Nagle	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Rick Mayer	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Philip Isenhour Dave/Ann Surface Sandy Birch
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	MaKayla Dowdy	Mazzy Price

Christmas Eve Servants – Please volunteer for the 4 PM, 7 PM, or 11 PM service on the St. Michael Welcome form on Sunday, December 5. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA



The December meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be Tuesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. at the home of Sandy Birch. We will share Christmas snacks, enjoy a holiday program, and celebrate the fellowship of the season. If you need a ride, contact Sandy at 951-3455. All are welcome to bring a Christmas treat to share and participate in the “adoption” of a needy family at Prices Fork Elementary School for the holidays.

Thank you to Anna Rossomando and Lynn Hickok (the chefs), and Barbara Corbett, Jody Smiley and Carol Crawford who coordinated the annual Birthday Dinner on November 14 and to all who provided birthday cakes and pies: Fran Gallimore, Fran Shepherd, Lynn Hickok, Barbara Corbett, Suzanne Gay, Carol Crawford, Joanne Pascoe, Judith Wolfe, Nia Indelicato, Alice Schneider, Pasiers, Betty Falta and Sandy Birch.



We shipped 312 Christmas shoe boxes to the Head Start program at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Christmas gift boxes were donated by St. Michael, several other Lutheran churches in the New River Valley and Richmond (Jane Lane’s home church) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). We also sent shoe boxes 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. **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.

Walking to Bethlehem: almost there

Through November 27, we’ve walked 5,774 miles; only 340 more miles to go. The congregation is reminded to record their miles on the chart on the hallway bulletin board. We’re almost in Bethlehem.



Community Christmas Invitations

The Blacksburg Master Chorale invites us to a Messiah Sing-a-long on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Free will donation.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church invites us to a Family, Home & Hearth Christmas celebration featuring the Master Chorale and other groups on Friday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students.