



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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December 1, 2011

Come share the Joy of Christmas

Journey to Bethlehem - Sunday, December 18

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 5:30 PM | Youth Christmas Program |
| 6:15 PM | Covered Dish Dinner |
| 7:00 PM | Family Craft Night |



Saturday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 4:00 PM | Lessons and Carols |
| 7:00 PM | Family Christmas Service |
| 11:00 PM | Traditional Christmas Service |

Sunday, December 25

9 AM and 11 AM - Service of Lessons and Carols

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, Eric and Joe Young and Sheila McCartan who coordinated the Salvation Army Angel Tree project; to Fran Gallimore, Carol Crawford, the Caring and Sharing team and all St. Michael members and community members who contributed to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who helped at the dinner; and to Mike Christle and Kroger for providing our Thanksgiving turkeys; to Ray and Tommy Howell for painting our new doors.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving dinner, two new sets of church doors, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partners, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, 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 19 families: 8 with electric bills, 2 with water bills, 3 with car expenses, and 6 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.

2012 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2012 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.

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 towards one of the following items or if you have any ideas for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

Computer Projector for educational presentations - \$400

White folding chairs for the fellowship hall (20 needed) - \$25 each

Hanging attachment sign for the corner of Price’s Fork and Merrimac (4 needed) - \$50

Thank you to Fred Spengler for providing our new refrigerator; Jean and Dean Rueschman for donating 10 new sanctuary chairs; Christine McCauley for donating two white folding chairs; Joe and Mildred Wall for providing folding tables, rolling carts and non-food support for Micah’s Backpack; and Don and Carol Linkous for donating the corner sign.

Congratulations to....

Fran Gallimore, who was selected as Outstanding Team Member at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery. Fran received the award, given to only a few people each year, for making a difference for a patient and his family and exceeding expectations of her volunteer job description. Fran will enjoy her VIP parking space at the hospital for the next few months.

Jan Helge Bohn, who received the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished and outstanding service to youth by the Blue Ridge Mountains Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This is the highest honor which can be awarded to adult leaders. Jan Helge has been the Scoutmaster of Troop 158, sponsored by St. Michael, since 2006, and along with his wife Sarah, founded Crew #158 for teenage members. Pictured with Jan Helge are his sons Erik, Steffan and wife Sarah, along with Ben Crawford and Pastor John.



Teresa Shorts and Tony Flores who were married in a private ceremony at the Farmhouse Restaurant on October 16. Teresa is the daughter of Greta Price.

Matthew Pasier, a member of the Blacksburg High School Cross Country Team, which recently won the state championship. Matthew placed third in the regional meet.

Rick Wall, who was elected to the Soil and Water Conservation Board in Montgomery County.

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 Heritage Hall will continue in 2012. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.



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 2011 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2011. You can make gifts to support the core ministry and to other ministries of St. Michael. 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/>.



O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky CATERED Christmas Luncheon** will be held **Tuesday, December 20**, at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. This fall, we've enjoyed San Francisco, Seattle and Boston cuisine. In December, we will experience a colonial Williamsburg 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 4. 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Tuesday, December 6 from 12:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, December 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or so. Please contact Jeff Birch at jbbirch@vt.edu or 951-3455 if you would like to participate.

Micah's Backpack 2011 – 2012 School Year to Date

Each month, 185 students in our community are assisted. By the end of November, nearly 2,100 backpacks and 12,738 meals were delivered, 3,411 food items were donated, and 981 volunteer hours were provided. The parent of a participant reported that her child looks forward to Fridays and the moment she gets on the bus so she can look to see what is in her Micah's Backpack that week! Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack this school year.

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 11. A gift of \$10 can also be designated to Micah's Backpack in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.





Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18 and a Journey to Bethlehem

Come and enjoy the youth Christmas program, "Journey to Bethlehem: A Storybook Christmas" at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. 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 are invited to be a part of the program. The group will practice on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. and on Sunday, Dec. 18 during Sunday School. For more information about the Christmas program, contact Pastor John or Nia Indelicato, Director, at life.inliminal@gmail.com.

Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21 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 7 and 21 and at Luther Memorial on December 14. 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.

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 Advent and Christmas activities at St. Michael.

Christmas Eve Services Saturday, December 24 – 4 PM, 7 PM and 11 PM

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.



Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 25

St. Michael's celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 25 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.

Holiday Helpers for Families

On Saturday, December 10 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., St. Michael will offer a "Holiday Helper" night to allow families to do a little Christmas shopping, run errands or just have a little quiet time around the house. Dinner will be provided and we'll have practice for the Christmas program that evening as well. If you are planning for your child to attend or if you'd like to help, please sign up on the "Welcome" form or email Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

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 27-29. 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.

Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 11

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 11 at 10 a.m. to approve our 2012 Investments in Ministry and elect new council members.



Congregational
Brunch and
Meeting

The following people have been nominated for Congregational Council: Nia Indelicato, John Krallman, Sheila McCartan, Mickey McGuigan, Ben Simmers. Three will be elected to serve for a three-year 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 2012 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.**

Walking to Bethlehem: over halfway there

Through November 27, we've walked 3,500 miles; only 2,600 more miles to go. The congregation is reminded to record their miles on the chart on the hallway bulletin board. We're walking...we're walking.



Reception of New Members on January 8

St. Michael will receive new members on Sunday, January 8 at both services. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor John.

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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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December Servants

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Altar Care	Joanna Garcia, Elaine Powers and the Smileys			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Gary and Sandie Worley	William Allen Nancy Goad	William Allen Nancy Goad	Sandra Hough Linda Elliott
Worship Asst.	Carrie Mayer Alexa Mayer	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Congregation/ Kris Wertz
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	David Christle	Alex Moehling	Parker Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Jay Nagle	Doug Smiley
Greeters	McCartan/Brewer family	Ben and Grace Simmers	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Jim and Judy Clemens
Lay Reader	Jody Smiley	Andrea Robinson Will Sharpe	Fred Spengler	Congregation
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Randy Robinson Jeff Robinson	Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Wanda and James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	Noah Moehling	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 4. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather for a party on Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in the large classroom at the church. 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 Price's Fork Elementary School for the holidays.



We shipped 310 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, Christ the King Lutheran in 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.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner a Great Success

St. Michael provided over 185 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 ten cooked turkeys.



A thank you note:

Thank you very much for providing this generous hospitality to our community. You surely are an example of Jesus feeding the multitudes and how thankful we are to see Jesus in each one who prepared and served this wonderful dinner. I know our Lord will continue to bless this ministry.

- Love from a thankful guest

**Pictures from the Party with a Purpose
and the Community Thanksgiving Meal**

