



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmlc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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January 1, 2012

Thank You!

Thank You for your wonderful support of God's ministry at St. Michael! Thanks to your generosity and your willingness to share your gifts, we are making Christ known in powerful ways in our community. By my estimate, in 2011 the ministry of St. Michael has touched approximately 6,000 people with the good news of God's love which represents a 13% increase from 2010. The ministry of Micah's Backpack now feeds 196 students per week in Blacksburg and is supported by over 70 community partners. The first project in the Growing with Faith campaign was completed and new doors have been installed in the fellowship hall and front hallway. Planning for the next Growing with Faith project, a Special Needs Mother's Morning Out program is underway. Thank You!

Thank You for a wonderful and meaningful Advent and Christmas! From the musicians to the volunteers folding bulletins to those decorating the sanctuary, your willingness to share your time and talents makes all the worship services, meals and special projects happen. The Advent Services with Luther Memorial, Shiloh and New Mt. Zion gave us an opportunity to gather as area Lutherans and prepare for the coming of the Lord. The Christmas program was a wonderful celebration and on Christmas Eve, we shared the story of Christ's birth with nearly 300 people at three wonderful services. Thank You!

Thank You for your generous Christmas gift to our family! The extremely generous Christmas gift from the congregation and the personal notes and gifts we have received are greatly appreciated! As I reflect on my nearly eight years at St. Michael, I give thanks to God for all of you and for the wonderful ministry that we are accomplishing together. Thank You!

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 the men who volunteered for parking lot and cart duty at the Montgomery County Christmas Store and to everyone who contributed gifts for the moms and dads who shopped at the Store; to all who served as Christmas Eve servants; to everyone who provided food for the Advent Suppers; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to Nia Indelicato and all her helpers for directing the youth Christmas program; to all who provided food and assistance for the memorial service luncheon and to Deloris Raines, Fran Gallimore, and Anna Rossomando for serving; to Shirley Linkous, Anna Rossomando, Carol Crawford, Wanda Pascoe and Margaret Larsen for helping with Christmas Eve bulletins and the newsletter mailings.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided funds for food for Our House and the Thank You brunch, family craft night supplies, 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 December, we provided assistance for **29 families**: 9 with electric bills, 3 with water bills, 2 with car expenses, and 15 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.

Some thank you notes...

Betty and Burn Gross would like to thank the congregation for their loving cards and visits during Burn's surgeries and rehabilitation.

David and Ann Surface would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful care and concern following the death of David's brother Daniel and for providing the luncheon following Daniel's graveside service.

Troop 737 sends a big thank you to St. Michael for helping them collect 69 cans of chicken noodle soup for our friends and neighbors at the Montgomery County Christmas Store.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing supplies for 100 Christmas Health Kits that were assembled by the confirmation class and donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and for donating \$50 to purchase food for lunches for the To Our House Homeless Shelter.

<p>Directory Update: We will be updating the church directory in January. If your address, phone number or email has changed, please notify Suzanne at suzanneg@stmlc.us, call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome to St. Michael form.</p>
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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.

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.

Report on the December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 11, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2012 and elected three new members of the congregational council: John Krallman, Sheila McCartan, and Ben Simmers.

A bountiful brunch provided by the Stewards Team was a “THANK YOU” to the congregation for sharing its time, talents, and treasures during 2011.

We beat the wise men to Bethlehem!

By Christmas Eve, we walked the 6,114 miles to Bethlehem. Thank you to everyone who participated and recorded their miles on the hallway chart. Keep walking – it’s healthy and it’s fun. The ¼ mile course around the St. Michael parking lot is a good place to continue the journey. Keep walking...keep walking...



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 the Nagle family for providing a table for Micah’s Backpack.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky Catered January Luncheon (weather permitting) will be held **Tuesday, January 10** at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. Continuing with regional cuisine, we will be enjoying South Carolina low country food this month. We will also be celebrating Sarah Wall's 90th birthday – yay! A \$5 donation for groceries would be appreciated, though not required.



Sunday Night Bible Study on January 29

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the story of the Miracles of Jesus on Sunday, January 29 at 7 p.m. at the church.

St. Michael Book Club Gathering on January 25

The St. Michael Book Club will gather at the home of Joanna Garcia on Wednesday, January 25 to discuss the book, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," by Betty Smith. If you are interested in learning more about the Book Club, please talk to Pastor John.

New Global Missionary Partnership in 2012

In 2012, St. Michael will begin a partnership with Pastor Austin Propst as he and his wife Tanya begin their service in Madagascar working with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. Pastor Propst will work with The Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) in Madagascar which has 1800 congregations and 180,000 members. The Young Adults in Global Mission program allows 21 to 29 year olds "to engage in one of the many dynamic ministries of the MLC in a manner that will allow them to wrestle with the realities of economic justice in one of the poorest nations on earth, and the complexities of social dynamics in a country with significant but subtle ethnic diversity and deeply rooted spiritual beliefs and practices." As the partnership develops, Pastor Propst will be sending additional information, but for now you can learn more about the ELCA's missionary work by searching 'Global Mission' or 'Madagascar' on the ELCA's website: elca.org.



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.

Micah's Backpack



Micah's Backpack continues to feed children and youth who are our friends and neighbors in our community. For the 3 weeks in December before the school break, 196 students received gifts of weekend food. In December, 588 backpacks went out with over 3,500 meals in them. Partner groups and individuals donated nearly 2,700 food items! When a volunteer dropped off the last delivery for December, the staff at one school commented on how much the children who participate look forward to their bags of food.



The picture to the left shows the Christmas Tree at Blacksburg Baptist Church surrounded by food collected for Micah's Backpack. Thank you to everyone who provides assistance to hungry students in our community.

For January, Micah's Backpack continues to collect 18 oz. jars of peanut butter. Micah's Backpack sends out 196 jars of peanut butter every 3 weeks. There is a collection box in the hallway on the way in to the sanctuary.



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 5. 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 food for Micah's Backpack. Suggested items are: canned vegetables, granola bars, fruit cups, Easy

Mac, ravioli. The money and canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) and Micah's Backpack.

To Our House Homeless Shelter Meals

St. Michael will be providing meals for the To Our House homeless shelter during the week of January 21-28 while the shelter is housed at Luther Memorial. We will provide a simple breakfast, a bag lunch and dinner each day for up to 10 participants at the shelter. If you would like to help coordinate the meals or if you are willing to help prepare and serve a meal, please sign up on the Welcome to St. Michael form or talk to Pastor John.

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January Servants

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Altar Care	Sandy Birch				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Sandra Hough Linda Elliott	Clifton & Shelane Walters	Clifton & Shelane Walters	Steve and Amy Woods	Steve and Amy Woods
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Jacob Dennis	Jennie and Olivia Hodge	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Corson Wertz	David Christle	Seth Brewer	Alex Moehling	Parker Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson	Jody Smiley	S. McCartan		Kris Wertz
Greeters	Wanda and James Pascoe	Wanda and James Pascoe	Berg family	Berg family	Deloris Raines Dianne Krallman
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Christle	A. Rossomando	Mike Berg	Jennie Brogan
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	M. McGuigan Sandy Birch	R. Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous	Wanda and James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Jessica, Abby, Maddie Brown	Megan Christle	Camden Brewer	Noah Moehling	Delanie Veit

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather on Monday, January 16, at 6 p.m. for a “Ladies Night Out” at O’Charley’s Restaurant in Christiansburg. Watch for \$5 off coupons in the Roanoke Times ☺. If you need a ride, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or birch@vt.edu.



Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas gifts for our Prices Fork Elementary School family and to those who provided food for the L-Cubed luncheon for the Lutheran college students.

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

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: Cleaning supplies will be collected during January.



Lutheran Men in Mission

Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission who volunteered at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Tuesday, December 6 and on Saturday, December 10: Ron Brewer, Jeff Birch, Hank Schneider, Jacob Dennis, Matthew James, Pastor John, Ben Crawford, Gary Fetter.





Youth Nights on January 15 and 29

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sundays, January 15 and 29 at 5 p. m. Come enjoy the fun and learn a little more about God's love for you.

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 and the cost is \$60. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John or Lorin Crowder.

Confirmation Lock-In: February 3-4

On February 3-4, Pastor John will be leading a Confirmation Lock-in for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Our topic for the evening will be the Ten Commandments. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

A Storybook Christmas



The youth Christmas program, "Journey to Bethlehem: A Storybook Christmas" was a big hit on Sunday, December 18. The lambs in the stable were especially entertaining. The congregation gathered for a potluck dinner after the program and then participated in a Journey to Bethlehem, a family craft experience.

Thank you to all the narrators, greeters, angels, shepherds, wise men and stable animals who participated in the program: Katherine Berg, Camden Brewer, Seth Brewer, Abby Brown, Jessica Brown, Lilia Brown, Tatiana Brown, Maddie Brown, David Christle, Megan Christle, Bryce Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Jack Graves, Emily Graves, David Hodge, Olivia Hodge, Chance Price, Cole Price, Mazzy Price, Matthew Sharpe, Corson Wertz, and Parker Wertz. A special thank you all the leaders who made the program possible and to the choir members who shared their musical gifts with us that evening.



Sunday School for All Ages Returns on January 8 at 9:50 AM