



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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A Word of Thanksgiving

As we approach Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your generosity of spirit and your willingness to respond to the ministry opportunities that God places before us. In the last year alone, Micah's Backpack has grown by over 20 %. Micah's Garden grew 1600 pounds of food where previously there was only grass. In just two months, Micah's Soup for Seniors developed from an idea to a ministry serving 90 senior adults per month. Fun with Friends now provides a mother's morning out for families of children with special needs. The 6:30 p.m. Service offers an additional opportunity for worship and our music ministry is growing in exciting ways.

From individuals helped by the Justice and Mercy Fund to the recipients of Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors to kids in Sunday School to families who enjoy a delicious meal in times of need, your willingness to share your time, your gifts and your resources extends God's love into our community in powerful ways. As God's heart and hands and voices in the world, St. Michael will touched over 7000 people with the power of God's love. I give thanks to God for the opportunity to be in ministry with you and I look forward to discovering the ways that God will continue to work through each of us to love and bless 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

Lynn Price and Aida Long for sprucing up the flower beds; Deloris Raines, Jennie Hodge, Kris, Parker and Corson Wertz and others who have served as greeters, readers, and "pianists" at the 6:30 p.m. worship service.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for our volleyball registration fee, Bibles for the confirmands, office 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 **33 families (a record)**: seventeen with electric service, nine with rent, four with car expenses, two with a water bill and one family with medication. 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 to Ron Brewer

The Mothers Morning Out class would like to say a huge “thank you” to Ron Brewer for all the time and hard work he invested in installing the new playground equipment. This is a very wonderful addition to our playground and it has already brought many smiles to our children’s faces as they enjoy their play time. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, Judy Clemens, Mothers Morning Out Coordinator

St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. If you have an interest in contributing toward one of the following items or if you have an idea for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

Needed items: 2 Choir Robes - \$100 each
 10 blueberry bushes for Micah’s Garden - \$10 each

Thank you to Fred Spengler for donating a new church sign for the bell tower, to Linda Elliott for a new music stand, and to Kenneth and Judith Wolfe for providing a new choir robe.

An Invitation to Prices Fork Elementary School Open House

The St. Michael family is cordially invited to a special St. Michael Open House at Prices Fork Elementary School on Sunday, November 4, from 2 p.m. - 3 p. m. Come see this beautiful new school in our community. For more information, please talk to Fran Shepherd.



For our inaugural season, Micah's Garden shared just under 1,600 pounds of fresh produce with friends and neighbors at three food pantries. Feel free to check out new pictures and information at micahsgarden.org.

On November 4th, a group of students in the Community Nutrition class at VT will plant 10 blueberry bushes. Our friends, the Sembello/Lamb family of Three Birds' Berry Farm, will be on site to help with planting and training Micah's Garden volunteers to care for the bushes in the years to come.

If you are interested in growing in your own plot next year, please let Jennie know soon at jennie@micahsbackpack.org. There are 7 plots available for 2013.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

235 children and youth at all 7 public schools and 2 preschools in Blacksburg participate in Micah's Backpack and receive gifts of 6 weekend meals on Fridays. So far this school year 5,580 meals have been shared.



Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors also earned a grant from Thrivent to help feed our friends and neighbors.

www.micahsbackpack.org

Thrivent has issued a challenge to us. For every \$1 given between now and the end of December, Thrivent will add \$0.50.

Thank you to MOOG and the Panhellenic Association at VT who organized large food drives that helped fill the shelves for Micah's Backpack!

For November we will collect chicken noodle soup. Over 1,000 cans of soup go home every month. Thank you for all the granola bars and spaghetti given in October. The Micah's Backpack collection box is in the narthex.

Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack with your time, talent, and treasure. If you have any questions, email Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



In October, Micah's Soup for Seniors delivered 90 bags of food to low-income senior adults. Hunger among senior adults is a growing and often hidden problem. This partnership with Warm Hearth, AARP and Thrivent is working to alleviate hunger at the end of each month. If you would like to volunteer to help pack or distribute food, please contact Dianne Krallman: dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com. If you would like to make a donation, a gift of \$10 will provide a bag of food to one of our neighbors in need.

Prepared with Love Coordinator Needed

For over 30 years, the people of St. Michael have provided meals prepared with love for bereaved families and for families with someone who is experiencing illness, surgery or other medical need. **Judy Clemens has coordinated this ministry for three decades and will soon be retiring from the position. We give thanks for Judy's dedication and skill in organizing hundreds of meals for families in time of need.**



To continue to provide meals, we need a new volunteer coordinator to organize the menus and call those who are interested in preparing and/or serving the food. If you are interested in becoming the coordinator for 'Prepared with Love' meals or would like more information about how you can help provide food, please call Fran Gallimore, chairperson of the Caring and Sharing Team at 552-8495 or Pastor John at 951-8951.

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, December 2. Thank you for sharing with the needy children in the New River Valley.

Montgomery County Christmas Store donations

Help share the Christmas spirit with our friends and neighbors who shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. We are collecting **mom and dad gifts** for the Children’s Gift Shop in the store. These items could include kitchen towels, perfume, body lotion, flashlights, small tools, after shave, and picture frames – items costing under \$5. “Re-gifting” is encouraged, i.e., sharing new, unopened gifts that you may not need, but others might use. These become gifts that the children give to their parents; often the only gift they might receive.

The Christmas Store also appreciates donations of gently used clothing and shoes. These items can be brought to church during November and will be delivered to the Christmas Store. Contact Sandy Birch at birch@vt.edu or 951-3455 if you have questions.

A donation was sent to the Christmas Store as our free will offering from the Birthday Dinner. Thank you.

To Our House

St. Michael will provide food for To Our House program again this year from November 10-13. This program provides shelter and meals for homeless men throughout the winter. Luther Memorial will serve as the overnight host and we will provide food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you would like to help purchase food, make dinners, serve dinner or have a specialized expertise that may be useful to the men (legal consultation, nurse/doctor visit, haircuts, etc.), please contact Nia at life.in.liminal@gmail.com.

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November Servants

	November 4	November 11	November 18	November 25
Altar Care	Doug and Jody Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Rick and Carrie Mayer	Dave and Ann Surface	Dave and Ann Surface	Cliff and Fay Walters
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay Jacob Dennis	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe William Allen
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	David Christle	Camden Brewer	Parker Wertz	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Lorin Crowder		Laura Gruss	
Greeters	Grace and Ben Simmers	Brewer/McCartan family	Dowdy family	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Corson and Kris Wertz	Anna Rossomando	Dianne Krallman	Joanne Pascoe
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James Pascoe Doug Goldsmith	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Megan Christle		MaKayla Dowdy	

Mowing: J.D. Robinson–11/2 (front); William Allen–11/9 (back); James/Dennis–11/16 (front)
Rear lot: Dave Surface – 11/5; Jeff Crowder – 11/12; Mike Berg – 11/19
Micah’s Backpack unloading: 11/19 – Bill King, Ron Brewer



Women of the ELCA

On **Tuesday, November 6**, the women of the ELCA will gather for a visit from a special woman of the Bible at 7 p.m. at the home of Dianne Krallman (913 McBryde Drive in Blacksburg). All sisters of the church are invited for fun and fellowship.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Birthday Dinner. Over 80 folks attended to celebrate St. Michael's 44th birthday. Pictured are Irene Ashley, the oldest member attending the Birthday Dinner, with Marlee Boes, our youngest member.



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 **dish soap and sponges**. The collection basket is in the hallway.

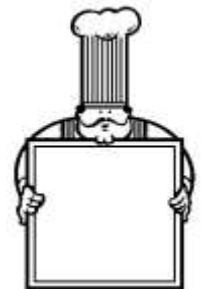


The deadline for returning the Christmas shoe boxes is Sunday, November 18. On November 18, at 5 p.m., the St. Michael youth (and their adult helpers) will be decorating the boxes at a "Party with a Purpose" and then the boxes will be packed for shipping to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South 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

The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Tuesday, November 13, 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. Our invited guest is Rex Hartson who coordinates our Christmas Box program for the Pine Ridge Reservation. Rex and his wife Rieky have visited the reservation several times and have many stories to share.



Planning ahead....our Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, December 18th. Mark your calendars for a very special catered holiday meal and program.

Congratulations to...

Tommy and Krista Howell on the birth of their daughter, Kinsey Elaine on October 3. She is welcomed by big sister Hayley and proud grandparents Ray and Carol Howell.

OK's Dinner at the Cellar Restaurant on Sunday, November 4

All the older kids (over 50 bunch) are invited to share a meal downstairs at the Cellar (301 N. Main) on Sunday, November 4 at 6 p.m. Named the 2011 Best Restaurant in Blacksburg, the Cellar is owned by Lynn Price and Kevin Long, members of St. Michael. Kevin will be preparing our special dinner at a cost of \$12/person including tax and tip. Adult beverages will also be available (note that imported adult beverages are ½ price on Sunday night ☺). Contact Sandy at birch@vt.edu to make a reservation if you didn't already sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael form" in the last Sunday bulletin.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 22

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 22. Sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form during the first Sundays in November if you can donate a pie, sweet potato casserole or funds for the turkey fixings. Kroger has very generously provided six cooked turkeys at cost 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!



Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 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 5 and 19 and at Luther Memorial on December 5. If you are interested in assisting with the meal or service, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form available in the bulletin.

Hope for the Holidays – a Grief Support Group

Hope for the Holidays, a grief support group open to all, is a safe place to share your loss. You are invited to be a part of the group from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Luther Memorial on Thursday evenings from October 25 to January 10 (no meeting on November 8, 22, or Christmas week and New Years). There is no charge, but participants are asked to register with Rhoda Janosik, LCSW,MSW, at 540-230-5376. It is important that individuals come at least to the November 1 session to get to know one another. Then if you must miss a session, it's easier to "catch up."



Sharing our Treasures

Thank you to everyone who submitted their Estimates of Giving for 2013. With your help, we will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us.



Youth Ministry News

The Youth Night group, for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will meet on Sunday, November 11 and on November 25 at 5:15 p.m. Bring your friends and come enjoy the fun. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us.

Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX: Opportunities for Service

Over the next few months, there will be several opportunities for youth in 6th – 12th grades to help with ministries at St. Michael and for adults who want to help assist with or lead some events. If you are interested in any of the events listed below, please contact Sheila McCartan at rbsm517@nrvunwired.net. We will set some preparation meetings for each event as it gets closer.

On Sunday, November 4, the youth will volunteer at the Christmas Store. We will go out to lunch immediately following the 11 a.m. service and then spend a couple of hours organizing and wrapping gifts for parents who shop at the store.

In preparation for the Christmas holiday, we are looking for youth who are interested in **crafts and leading activities**. We need your help preparing for our annual “Journey to Bethlehem” event that follows the **Christmas Program** (December 16th).

To assist our busy parents, we are planning a **Holiday Helpers: Parent’s Night Out** in December (tentatively set for December 15th). Youth are needed to keep our 5th grade and younger members entertained for an evening while the parents have a quiet dinner out or have time for some private shopping adventures.

Party with a Purpose on Sunday, November 18 at 5 PM

On Sunday, November 18, 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.



Young Adult Bible Study and Discussion Group Forming

A new Bible Study and Discussion Group is launching for young adults in their 20's and 30's. Come to Panera in Blacksburg on Saturday, November 3 at 9 a.m. Come enjoy the fellowship and share conversation about faith and life. For more information, please contact Maggie Maloney at: maggiesatch@gmail.com or Brandy Baxter at: bbuckles@vt.edu.

Sunday Night Bible Study on November 18

The Difficult Teachings of Jesus Bible Study continues with a discussion of Mark 3:28-29 - Sins against the Holy Spirit. Come and join the discussion on Sunday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Newest Members



Katie and Eddie Boes have a long history with Blacksburg and Virginia Tech; having studied at Virginia Tech, having met in Blacksburg, and becoming both engaged and married on campus. After Katie completed her graduate work in 2008, the family moved to West Lafayette, Indiana for three years, to pursue a residency at Purdue University. Soon after, Katie accepted a position as a Clinical Pathologist and Assistant Professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. They are now very blessed to be establishing roots in the community they hold so dear. Eddie is a self-employed Kinetic Artist specializing in Rolling Ball Sculptures, working out of his shop in Radford. His sculptures can be seen all across America in Children's Hospitals, Museums, and retail locations among other places. For more information, visit www.EddiesMind.com or follow on www.facebook.com/EddiesMindInc. Marlee Mae was welcomed to the family on June 25, 2012 and loves making engine sounds and chewing on her toy giraffe. The Boes Family enjoys all the outdoor recreation the New River Valley has to offer and can often be seen taking long walks around Blacksburg and across the Virginia Tech campus. Other interests include gardening, watching and playing sports, and spoiling their cats. They look forward to being active in the St. Michael Family and growing in faith in the years to come.

Ministry in Action

