



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Come share the Joy of Christmas

### Journey to Bethlehem - Sunday, December 16

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



### Monday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

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

### Sunday, December 30

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 who coordinated the Salvation Army Angel Tree project; to Fran Gallimore, the Caring and Sharing team and all St. Michael members and community members who contributed to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and the Boy Scouts who helped at the dinner; to Nia Indelicato who coordinated all the meals for To Our House; to Joyce Coupey who provides the art work for all our bulletin covers and created all the beautiful Advent and Christmas artwork in the Gallery of Gifts in the classroom addition; to all the Micah’s Backpack and Micah’s Soup for Seniors food packers; and to the ten confirmation students who volunteered at the Christmas Store on November 4.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving dinner, 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 12 families: 9 with electric bills and 3 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.

### 2013 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2013 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/](http://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.

1 Choir Robe - \$100

Thank you to Esther Birch and Roger and Sandy Sheppard for donating 20 blueberry bushes for Micah’s Garden. Thank you also to Vivian Williams for providing a choir robe. The Moehling/Belue family has donated a special handmade bookcase to the 3rd - 5th grade classroom.



## 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 2013. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

## Welcome to the St. Michael Family

Jean and Dean Rueschman have been Lutheran all their lives and enjoy St. Michael and appreciate the community services the congregation provides to those in need. Jean is an RN at Lewis Gale in Salem and Dean works at the VA Employment Commission in Radford. Their education includes a degree in German for Jean and a masters in Labor Economics for Dean. They have three dogs and live in Christiansburg. Jean and Dean love to travel and have recently been to Russia, France, Normandy and Germany. They are returning to Germany this month to visit Berlin and the Christmas Markets. Jean loves to scrapbook all their trips and Dean is an avid fisherman and hunter. They are happy to be joining the St. Michael family.



## Congratulations to....

**Carol Howell**, who retired from Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery after 34 years of service as an LPN.

**Matthew Pasier and Olive Hodge**, members of the Blacksburg High School Cross Country Boys and Girls Teams, which recently won state championships. Matthew placed third in the state meet.



## Gallery of Gifts: Advent and Christmas Display

Paintings depicting the stories of Advent and Christmas are now on display in the hallway of the classroom addition. Thank you to Joyce Coupey for sharing her art and to the members of the Gallery of Gifts team for hanging the display.

## 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 2012 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2012. 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.

## O.K.s (Older Kids)



**The Happy-Go-Lucky Catered Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **December 18**, at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. Join the HGL bunch for a time of good cheer and holiday spirit.

### 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 2. 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 Saturday, December 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or so. Please contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or 951-3455 if you would like to participate.

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



### Holiday Helpers for Families

On Saturday, December 15 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](mailto:pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

### Plan to go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 23





## **Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16 and a Journey to Bethlehem**

Come and enjoy the youth Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. The congregation is invited to bring a dish for a potluck dinner prior to the show at 5:30 p.m. and then participate in the Journey to Bethlehem, a family craft experience following dinner at 7:15 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. 8 at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 16 during Sunday School. For more information about the Christmas program, contact Pastor John or Nia Indelicato, Director, at [life.inliminal@gmail.com](mailto:life.inliminal@gmail.com).

## **Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 6 PM**

St. Michael will join with Luther Memorial, Shiloh Lutheran and New Mt. Zion Lutheran 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 12. 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 Monday, 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 30**

St. Michael's celebration of Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 30 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 9

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 11 at 10 a.m. to approve our 2013 Investments in Ministry, approve updates to the constitution, elect new council members, and recognize our new confirmands.



## Congregational Brunch and 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 2013 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](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).**

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Volunteers packed and delivered 7,008 meals for the month of November and 17,616 meals for the 2012-2013 school year so far.



Thank you to Nia Indelicato for helping secure two grants from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley during their fall cycle. One grant will provide 750 jars of peanut butter and the second will fund another potato planting project for Micah's Garden in the spring.

[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)

Thank you to Dianne and John Krallman, Sandy and Gary Worley, Suzanne and Keith Gay, Hank Schneider, Michelle, Mike and Elizabeth Berg, Olivia Hodge, the Wertz family, and Roger Shepard for coming out to pack on the Monday evening before Thanksgiving break with other community volunteers. A mom of a preschool and elementary school volunteer shared, "thanks for always welcoming my girls when we come to help fill bags." Feel free to come out on a Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. to have fun while helping kids in our community.

**There's still time to take the Thrivent Challenge to support Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors. Thrivent will match \$0.50 for every \$1 given through the end of December.**

Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack with your time, talents, and treasure. If you have any questions about Micah's Backpack, e-mail Jennie at [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

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## ***December Servants***

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

	<b>December 2</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>December 30</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Nancy Goad				
<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Cliff and Fay Walters	Hodge family	Hodge family	Ben and Carol Crawford	Ben and Carol Crawford
<b>Lay Reader Comm. Asst</b>	Keith Gay Dean Rueschman	Carrie Mayer William Allen	Judith Wolfe Nancy Goad	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Congregation Jacob Dennis
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte Comm. Asst.</b>	Seth Brewer Randy Robinson	Noah Moehling	Alex Moehling Joanne Pascoe	David Christle	Parker Wertz
<b>Greeters</b>	Randy and Sharon Robinson	James and Wanda Pascoe	Berg family	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Jim and Judy Clemens
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Nia Indelicato	Caitlyn Lucky	Mike Berg	M. McGuigan	Congregation
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	M. McGuigan D. Goldsmith	James Pascoe Hank Schneider	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Jessica, Maddie, Abby Brown		Abbey Birch		

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: 12/17 – Mark Pasier and Ron Brewer



## Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather for a party on Tuesday, December 4 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 230-8823. All are welcome to participate in the assistance of needy families at Price's Fork Elementary School for the holidays as we prepare "family night" baskets for them. A list of needed items is posted on the hallway bulletin board.



We shipped 304 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:** Aluminum foil will be collected during December.

### Community Thanksgiving Dinner a Great Success

St. Michael served approximately 150 people and provided another 30 to 40 To-Go 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, 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 Fran Gallimore and the Caring and Sharing Team for organizing the event.



### 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 25-27. The early registration deadline is December 10 and the cost is \$75. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John.



## Party with a Purpose



## St. Michael Volleyball Team In Action



## 2012 Community Thanksgiving Meal

