



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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Many Thanks!

Thank You for sharing your gifts this Advent and Christmas! From our Holden Evening Prayer during Advent to Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas, we experienced a meaningful season of preparation and celebration. Thank you to all the musicians, lay readers, cooks, decorators, ushers, kitchen folks and bulletin folders. Your willingness to share your time and your talents is a wonderful gift to God and to our community. Thank You!

Thank You for your generous support of God's ministry at St. Michael! Thanks to your generosity, St. Michael is making a powerful impact in our community. The number of people touched by the ministry of the congregation has grown by nearly 25% this year. New ministry partnerships like Micah's Soup for Seniors and Fun with Friends are making Christ known to senior adults and families of children with special needs. The 6:30 p.m. Service is off to a good start. Overall worship attendance is steadily increasing and the health of the congregation is strong. Together, we are living as God's heart and hands and voices in the world. Thank You!

Thank You for your generous Christmas gift to our family! Your gift to us was greatly appreciated. I rejoice and give thanks for the opportunity to be in ministry with you and I look forward to discovering what ministry God has in store for us in the year to come. 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 assistants Jody Smiley, Maggie Maloney, Joanna Garcia and other helpers for directing the youth Christmas program; to Freddie and Donna Oliver, Jennie Hodge, Abbi Penner, Bill Greer, Linda Elliot, Shirley Linkous and Judith Wolfe for helping fold all the Christmas Eve bulletins; and to Kevin Long and the Cellar Restaurant for catering the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon in December.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided funds for food for To Our House and the Thank You brunch, family craft night supplies, Thanksgiving dinner supplies, socks and gloves for the Pine Ridge Reservation, 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 **24 families**: 17 with electric bills, 2 with water bills, 1 with car expenses, 1 with medical needs, 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.

A thank you note...

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing funds to ship 26 Christmas boxes and other supplies to Pastor Karen Rupp on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

St. Michael Book Club and the Lending Library

Each month St. Michael's Book Club reads a book and gathers on the last Wednesday of the month for discussion and refreshments. This month everyone is encouraged to read a book from the St. Michael Lending Library and then share a little bit about the book with the group. If you'd like to join the book club, plan to come to the next discussion on Wednesday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

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

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/) for details.

Report on the December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 9, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2013, approved updates to the congregation's constitution and elected three new members of the congregational council:



Joanna Garcia



Nia Indelicato



Hank Schneider

The bountiful brunch provided by the Stewards Team was a “THANK YOU” to the congregation for sharing its time, talents, and treasures during 2012. All the leftover food was taken to the Blacksburg Police Department.

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.

New Multifunction Laser Printer for Church Office - \$250

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky January Luncheon (weather permitting) will be held **Tuesday, January 8** at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. We will celebrate the New Year.



Sunday Night Bible Study on January 20

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Jesus' teaching, 'the last will be first and the first will be last' in Luke 13:30 and in other places in the Gospels. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Reception of New Members on January 27

St. Michael will receive new members on Sunday, January 27 at all services. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor John.

Congratulations to....



Carol and Don Linkous who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Samantha Blevins and Arnie Bohanan who were married on December 8 at the Virginia Tech Chapel.



Matthew Pasier, who was named to the All-Timesland Boys Cross Country First Team.



epiphany

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

The family of a Micah's Backpack child came to the St Michael thanksgiving dinner and had a wonderful meal for the holiday.

Volunteers packed and delivered 769 bags with 6 meals each for the weekends in the month of December. For the fall semester, individuals and community partners gave over 11,000 food items to Micah's Backpack. When we receive items we can't use in the backpacks, we share with Micah's Soup for Seniors and the MCEAP Food Pantry.



www.micahsbackpack.org

Thank you to Mike Berg and the Chemistry Department at VT. For the fall 2012 semester, they gave over 2,400 cans of soup, pasta, and tuna! The Chemistry Department sends faithful volunteers including Mike who kindly take all of the cardboard packaging for recycling every week.

In January we will collect pasta in a can and there is a collection bin on the table in the narthex.

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

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Micah's Soup for Seniors is providing approximately 90 bags of food each month to senior adults in our community to help alleviate hunger. Our January distribution will take place on Tuesday, January 22. Packing will begin at 5 p.m. and we will deliver the food at 6 p.m. at Warm Hearth.



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 3. 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 and Micah's Soup for Seniors. 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 and Micah's Soup for Seniors.

Sunday School for All Ages Returns on January 6 at 9:50 AM

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January Servants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Altar Care	Joanna Garcia			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Sandie and Gary Worley	Sandie and Gary Worley	William Allen Nancy Goad	William Allen Nancy Goad
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Judith Wolfe Keith Gay	Jacob Dennis Sandy Williams	Matthew James Nancy Goad
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Parker Wertz	Camden Brewer	Alex Moehling	Seth Brewer
Comm. Asst.	Lorin Crowder	Sheila McCartan	Laura Gruss	
Greeters	Grace and Ben Simmers	James and Wanda Pascoe	Moehling/Belue family	James and Wanda Pascoe
Lay Reader	Corson and Kris Wertz	Dianne Krallman	Fred Spengler	Anna Rossomando
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Hank Schneider Doug Goldsmith	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Megan Christle	Jessica, Maddie, Abby Brown	Rosie Gruss	
6:30 PM Service				
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Patty Rennecker	Kelly Belanger	Jennie Hodge
Comm. Asst.	Patty Rennacker	Deloris Raines	Jennie Hodge	Deloris Raines
Greeter	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter	Hodge family

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather on Wednesday, January 16, at 6 p.m. for a "Ladies Night Out" at Amelia's in Christiansburg. For \$12 (which includes tax and tip), we will enjoy a delicious Italian feast. Please sign up on the Welcome to St. Michael form in the bulletin or contact Alice Schneider (552-6995). If you need a ride, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or birch@vt.edu.



Thank you to everyone who bought items for our Prices Fork Elementary School family baskets. We donated six full baskets to needy families in our community.

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 Saturday, December 8: Ron Brewer, Jeff Birch, Hank Schneider,

William Allen, Ben Crawford, Gary Fetter, Michael and Jim Henderson.



Youth Nights on January 13 and 27

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sundays, January 13 and 27 at 5:15 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 25-27 and the cost is \$75. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John.

Confirmation Retreat: January 27 at 3 P.M.

On Sunday, January 27, Pastor John will be leading a Confirmation Retreat for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders at 3 p.m. Our topic for the evening will be worship and the seasons of the church year. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

A Storybook Christmas



The youth Christmas program was a big hit on Sunday, December 16. The lambs, cows and donkeys in the stable were especially lively, and Pastor Wertz, the “understudy” camel, was very 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 and practices: Abbey Birch, Camden Brewer, Seth Brewer, Abby Brown, Jessica Brown, Maddie Brown, Lilia Brown, Tatiana Brown, David Christle, Megan Christle, Bryce Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Jack Graves, Emily Graves, Addison Lafon, Grace Lafon, C.J. Mitchell, and Parker Wertz. A special thank you all the leaders, Nia Indelicato, Maggie Maloney, Kris Wertz, Joanna Garcia, Jody Smiley, Jennie Brogan and other helpers who made the program possible.

