



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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November 1, 2013

In the Name of Love: Day of Service for the Virginia Synod

On January 20, 2014, Martin Luther King Day, the Virginia Synod and the Virginia Lutheran Partners in Mission are inviting all congregations to participate in a day of service. *In the Name of Love: A Day of Service for Virginia Lutherans* invites congregations to move out into their neighborhood to serve those in need and to share God's compassion with the world. It is an opportunity for everyone to invest time in hands-on service projects outside the walls of the church.

Projects could include assembling health kits for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi Feeding Centers, helping organize a blood drive, taking a meal to first responders or any other project that proclaims God's love to the world. Over the next several weeks, St. Michael will be gathering a team to begin considering projects and planning for the day. If you have an idea that you are passionate about or if you would like to get involved, please let me know.

You can learn more about this new ministry of the Virginia Synod on the synod website: <http://www.vasynod.org/day-of-service/> and get regular updates on *In the Name of Love*. If you are interested in receiving regular updates on the day of service, join the group Facebook page by searching: In the Name of Love: A Day of Service and Sharing God's Love.

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 Deloris Raines, Alice Schneider and Sandy Birch for serving at the Mendoza funeral meal; everyone who brought food for the Mendoza funeral meal; Linda Elliott, Bill Greer, Frances Edge, Mildred Wall and Wanda Pascoe for helping with the October newsletter folding; Judy Wunderlich for recycling our paper; Dean Trimble for helping with the new sound system.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for Bibles for the confirmands, office supplies, Faithchest/Baptism 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 **28 families**; eighteen with electric service, six with rent, one with car expenses, two with a water bill and one with dental expenses. In addition, J&M funds were used to purchase extra school supplies for children at Price’s Fork Elementary School. 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.

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.

New Sound Equipment

Speakers (Need 3)	\$300
Amplifier	\$350
Microphones and cords	\$150
Equalizers	\$200

The New St. Michael Banner



Many thanks to Judy and Jim Clemens for providing the funds for the new St. Michael banner and to Joyce Coupey for the design and creation of the banner. Joyce chose the banner theme “God’s Work, Our Hands” long before the same slogan was independently implemented for the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. She felt those simple words described the St. Michael family and its care of God’s creation. The Clemens family gift was given in memory of their son, Tim Clemens, and in honor of their children and grandchildren, Cindy, Chris, MaKayla and Bryce Dowdy.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Just under 8,000 meals went home with 270 children this month. We have developed many new partnerships including Virginia Tech's College of Arts and Human Services which sponsors monthly food drives to support Micah's Backpack.



In November, Micah's Backpack will collect microwave popcorn. We share over 1,150 microwave popcorn packages every month. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. Thank you for your gifts of popcorn and spaghetti in October.

www.micahsbackpack.org

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.



For this year's growing season, we increased our vegetable varieties from 15 to 22. We delivered 1,305.448 pounds of food to three food pantries and shared with the children who visited Micah's Mobile Backpack. Thank you to James Pascoe for faithfully taking care of our water cistern! **All are welcome to come out on November 10 at 12:30 p.m. to help tidy up the garden for the winter.**

Micah's Soup for Seniors

In October, Micah's Soup for Seniors delivered over 90 bags of food (including a Halloween treat bag) to low-income senior adults. If you would like to volunteer to help pack or distribute food, please contact Dianne Krallman: dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com. The next packing date is Tuesday, November 26 at 5 p.m. with delivery at 6 p.m. to three apartment units at Warm Hearth.



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 1. Thank you for sharing with children in need in the New River Valley.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 28

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. 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 ten 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!



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 and are often the only gifts they might receive.

The Christmas Store also appreciates donations of gently used clothing, shoes and toys. 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 230-8823 if you have questions.

A \$103 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 at the end of November. 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. St. Michael is currently looking for a new coordinator to organize the meals and for people to help purchase food, make dinners and serve the meals. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmhc.us).

Party with a Purpose on Sunday, November 24 at 5 PM

On Sunday, November 24, everyone is invited to 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.



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November Servants

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Altar Care	Hank and Alice Schneider			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Lynn Hickock Barbara Corbett	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickock	Rick and Carrie Mayer
Lay Reader Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Amy Dandro Katie Garst	Peggy Morgan Sandy Williams	Gary Worley Sandie Worley
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Sarah Moehling	Lilly Gruss	Seth Brewer	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Jeff Birch		Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley
Greeters	Ben and Grace Simmers	Gruss family	Brewer/McCartan family	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Guille Yearwood	Laura Peery	Kris and Corson Wertz	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James and Wanda Pascoe	Philip Isenhour M. McGuigan	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Jessica, Maddie and Abby Brown		Sarah Albert	Noah Moehling
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Rennekar	Kelly Belanger
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Rennekar	Gary Fetter

Mowing: 11/1-James/Dennis (front); 11/8-Jay Nagle (back); 11/15-JD Robinson (front); 11/22-William Allen (back)

Rear Lot: 11/4-Doug Goldsmith; 11/11-Guille Yearwood; 11/18-David Surface

Micah's unloading: 11/12-Matthew James and Jacob Dennis



Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, November 18, at noon at Sandy Birch's home. A salad lunch will be provided. We will share in a Bible study entitled, "In Good Company" and review WELCA activities for the year. Rides are available; contact Sandy at birch@vt.edu or 230-8823.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Birthday Dinner. Over 80 folks attended to celebrate St. Michael's 45th birthday. Pictured are Irene Ashley, the oldest member attending the Birthday Dinner, with Benjamin Garcia, 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 24. On November 24, 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 checked and 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

An Invitation

We are invited to World Community Day 2013, "Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock", sponsored by Church Women United, Inc. on Friday, November 1 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul AME Church (102 Penn St.) in Blacksburg.

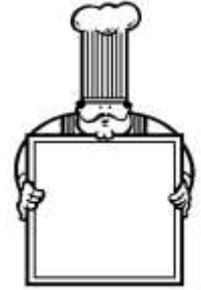
Sharing our Treasures

Thank you to everyone who submitted their Estimates of Giving for 2014. We will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us as we **reach up** toward new heights of ministry and **reach out** to share God's love with the world around us.



The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Tuesday, November 12, 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. We will have a program of good humor -- chuckles and smiles -- which promotes good mental health.



Planning ahead...our Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, December 17th (the 3rd Tuesday of the month). Mark your calendars for a very special catered holiday meal and program.

On Tuesday, November 26, at 11:30 a.m., the Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at the Hunan Chinese Restaurant inside the University City Mall (walk inside the mall at the main entrance, turn left at the “intersection” – the Hunan is on the right). The cost of the lunch buffet is \$8 plus tax and tip. To reserve your spot at the lunch table, contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@comcast.net or 961-0748 or check the box on the St. Michael Welcome form.



Pictured are Sandy, Judith, Shirley and new friend Shirley at the Wolfe Creek Indian Village during our last adventure. The O.K. trip also included lunch and a tour at the Beagle Ridge Herb Farm and Butterfly House.



**OKs
on the Go!**

Congratulations to...

Burn and Betty Gross who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 17.

Darron and Sharon Oliver on the birth of their son Braydon Michael Oliver. He joins big brother Cameron and happy grandparents Freddie and Donna Oliver.

Olivia Hodge, a member of the Blacksburg Girls Cross Country Team, who came in first in the Golden Eagle Invitational, leading the Lady Bruins to a team win.

Ryan Albert, Lexi Simmers, Erik Bohn, and Corson Wertz who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 27. The new confirmands were honored at a reception following the worship service.



Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 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 11 and at Luther Memorial on December 4 and 18. 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.

Sunday Night Bible Study on November 17

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on the Apostle's Creed in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, November 17, at 7:15 p.m.

After Church Lunch Bunch Sunday Brunch at the Inn at Virginia Tech - December 1 at 12:30 p.m.



On Sunday, December 1, everyone is invited to brunch at Preston's Restaurant at the Inn at Virginia Tech. We have reserved a private room so it will be easy to visit with the St. Michael family. The brunch is \$19.50 plus 20% tip and tax added to the bill (\$24.43) for anyone over age 13 while the cost for brunch for children 6-12 is \$13.72; under 5 complimentary. The brunch includes prime rib, catch of the day, chicken and vegetable specialties, salads, soups, omelets cooked to order and other breakfast items, and wonderful desserts including the Inn's signature bread pudding. The Inn will have their beautiful Christmas decorations up, including quite a few Christmas trees which are decorated by local businesses and organizations.

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, November 24. Please sign up on the Welcome to St. Michael form if you'd like to attend or contact Sandy Sheppard at 961-0748 or TracingMyRoots@comcast.net. If you cannot attend after making your reservation, please contact Sandy so she can inform the Inn at Virginia Tech.

Welcome to the Family

Joe Garst settled in Blacksburg in 1995 after a career in the Air Force. He earned a Ph.D at Virginia Tech in Public Administration and is now a partner in a research company, Electric Jet, and serves as the command pilot for the Virginia Tech Air Transportation Service. Joe and his wife Pat have three daughters and ten grandchildren. Since eight of his grandchildren are girls, he feels surrounded by women...including his two sisters (sister Elaine Powers is also a member of St. Michael).



Faith Toolbox: Foundations for Worship

Come and learn more about the Foundations of Worship on November 6, 13, and 20. This three week course will focus on elements of the worship service, the sanctuary and their connections to Scripture. There will be a **light supper at 5:30 p.m.** followed by **class from 6-7 p.m.** During the Faith Toolbox class, Patrice will lead music for youth. There is something for everyone! For more information, please talk to Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Serving at the Christmas Store - On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 5, all Middle School and High School youth are invited to come help at the Christmas Store. We will meet in the parking lot at the church at 9:30 p.m., work at the Christmas store from 10 a.m. until noon and then enjoy lunch together. For more information or if you need a ride, please talk to Pastor John or Sandy Birch.

Confirmation Retreat - All youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in a Sunday afternoon retreat on Sunday, November 17 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The topic for the retreat will be: Martin Luther. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

7th and 8th Grade Synod Youth Event: Lost and Found - From November 22-24, 7th and 8th graders from around the Synod will gather for worship, fun and conversation at *Lost and Found*. The cost for the event is \$75 and the early registration deadline is November 8. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

9th - 12th Grade Synod Youth Event: Winter Celebration - Winter Celebration gathers several hundred youth and adults from around the state for large group and small group experiences with lots of worship, singing, and faith sharing. The event is offered on January 22-24, 2014 and on January 31 - Feb. 2, 2014 and the cost is \$75. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John and let him know which week would be best for you.

Walking (or Swimming or Cycling or Dancing or....)

Physical activity is good for us...keeps us healthy and happy. Enough said. Pedometer step equivalents for 30 minutes of exercise and activities have been determined, e.,g., aerobic dance = 2 miles, square dancing = 1 ¾ miles. Lists are posted on the bulletin board. The new walkway alongside the church to the new Blacksburg High School is ½ mile. Contact Sandy Birch to measure the mileage on your favorite walk. Just walking around inside our houses is a mile or two – put on a pedometer and see for yourself. Only 5,000 more miles to go to Bethlehem before Christmas.



So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. **Walk** while you have the Light.” John 12:35

We’re walkingwe’re cyclingwe’re dancingwe’re smiling.....we’re feeling good!