



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 36, Number 12

December 1, 2013

Come share the Joy of Christmas



Breaking News Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 15

5:15 PM Covered Dish Dinner

6:30 PM Youth Christmas Program

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 24

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



Sunday, December 30

9 AM, 11 AM and 6:30 PM - 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 the Brewer family 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 those who helped with the meals for To Our House; to Joyce Coupey for her faithful service in providing our bulletin cover artwork week after week; to all the Micah’s Backpack and Micah’s Soup for Seniors food packers; to Mildred Wall, Carole Wall, Nancy Young, Shirley Linkous, Wanda Pascoe and Judith Wolfe for folding the November newsletter; to Deloris Raines for organizing the funeral meal for the Brown family and all who contributed to the meal; and to the students and parents who volunteered at the Christmas Store on November 5 pictured to the right.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving dinner, music supplies, the copier contract, 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 15 families: 6 with electric bills, 5 with rent, one with a water bill, one with funeral expenses, one with a storage fee and another with car expenses. Hams were also purchased for a number of Price’s Fork Elementary School families for Thanksgiving. 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.

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 Sound Equipment

Speakers (Need 2) - \$300; Amplifier - \$350;
Microphones and cords - \$150; Equalizers - \$200

Thank you to Ray and Carol Howell for donating one of the speakers.

Welcome to the St. Michael Family



William and Rikkie Bryant, who were married on December 11, 2012, live in Christiansburg. William grew up in Blacksburg and attended St. Michael when he was young while Rikkie grew up in Roanoke. They have three daughters and just welcomed their first grandson, Dakota, on July 25, 2013.

Gary and Denise Schroeder are natives of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. After Gary graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, they served three parishes:

Holy Counselor Lutheran Church in Vernon, NJ; The American Church in Berlin, Germany; and Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Blacksburg, from which Gary retired on January 1 after serving 25 years as the congregation's senior pastor. They have two adult children, Heidi and Daniel, both of whom are married. The Schroeders just started building their retirement home in Daniels, WV.



A thank you

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your contribution to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Generosity such as yours transforms the Christmas Store dream into reality for hundreds of local, low-income families.

Sincerely, Executive Board, Montgomery County Christmas Store

Congratulations to....

Kelly and Robert Mullins who welcomed their second son, **William Luke**, on **October 3**. He joins big brother Charlie and proud grandparents Dot and Bill McKinnon.

Betty Wingate, who retired from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech, on November 22 after 25 ½ years of service.

Olivia Hodge, who placed 18th in the state cross country meet, and contributed to the Blacksburg High School Cross Country Girls Team winning the state 3A championship. The team is ranked 9th in the country...the entire country!

Emily Garst, who placed second in the Mesothelioma Help Scholarship Contest and was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship for her essay entitled "The History of Asbestos Use in America".

Frenda Wall and Marcus Hainey who were married in North Myrtle Beach, SC on September 6th. Frenda is the daughter of Carole and Rick Wall.

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

We're about 1/3 of the way to Bethlehem....4 more weeks to go.

A walk around the inside of Kroger's on S. Main St. is 0.2 miles. A walk inside the New River Valley Mall is 0.6 miles. A walk around the drill field at Virginia Tech is 0.8 miles. Only 4,000 more miles to go to Bethlehem before Christmas. Any kind of exercise can be translated to miles. See Sandy for details. We can do it!

"Walk as children of light" Ephesians 5:8



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 22-24 or January 31-February 2, 2014. 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will volunteer at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or so. Please contact Jeff Birch at jbbirch@vt.edu or 951-3455 if you would like to participate.

2014 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2014 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.

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 2013 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2013. You can make gifts to support the core ministry and 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.

Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 8

St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 8 at 10 a.m. to approve our 2014 Investments in Ministry and elect new council members.



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 2014 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.**

Candidates for the three council seats are:



Jim Clemens is a retiree from Virginia Tech and a life-long member of St. Michael. He currently serves as the Council President and volunteers in various ways to support the ministry of the congregation.

Keith Gay is a retired Air Force officer and currently works at Virginia Tech. He currently serves as on the Congregational Council and chairs the Mutual Ministry team.



Matthew James is a graduate of Virginia Tech and young professional the community. He is a member of the Young Adult Bible Study, plays piano at the 9 AM Service and helps with the mowing crew.

Mickey McGuigan is a Blacksburg Middle School Science teacher and former BHS Girls Basketball coach. Mickey is a former member of the Congregational Council and frequently serves as an usher and lay reader.



Gary Worley is an employee at Virginia Tech and an artist. Gary is a former Congregational Council President, a member of the Gallery of Gifts team and active member of the Adult Sunday School class.

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 2014. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.





**"Breaking News"
Christmas Celebration
on Sunday, December 15**

Come and enjoy the youth Christmas program at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 15. The congregation is invited to bring a dish for a potluck dinner prior to the show at 5:15 p.m.

All youth are invited to be a part of the program. The group will practice during Sunday School on Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 10 a.m. For more information about the Christmas program, contact Kris Wertz.

**Advent Suppers and Services
Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 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 Luther Memorial on December 4 and 18 and at St. Michael on December 11. 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 Worship

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 Worship
Tuesday, December 24 – 4 PM, 7 PM and 11 PM**

St. Michael will have three worship 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.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Recently, a teacher at one of our partner schools shared this story: *Today a little girl saw me coming down the hall with the shopping cart full of bags and said, "Oh good! Today is food day!" Then she picked out the bag she wanted me to put in her backpack.* Since the start of January 2013, we have shared nearly 66,000 meals with this child and 274 children like her in our community. Thank you to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley for funding our grant: Peanut Butter Power!



www.micahsbackpack.org

In December, we will collect fruit chews. We share just under 1,200 snacks every month. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. Thank you for your gifts of 200 microwave popcorns in November!

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.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



In November, Micah's Soup for Seniors delivered over 90 bags of food 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. Because of Christmas, **the next packing date is Monday, December 23 at 5 p.m.** with delivery at 6 p.m. to three apartment units at Warm Hearth. Since Virginia Tech students are on their holiday break, now is a wonderful time to come and volunteer if you have never helped out before.

Micah's Closet Preparing to Launch

December marks the launch of Micah's Closet, St. Michael's newest ministry. We will be delivering new clothing to students in our community twice a year (fall and spring) to help families deal with the change in seasons. If you are interested in helping with this new ministry or providing support, please contact Sandy Sheppard at: micahscloset@hotmail.com.

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



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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.

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Altar Care	Nancy Goad				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Carrie and Rick Mayer	Dave Surface	Dave Surface	Clifton and Fay Walters	Clifton and Fay Walters
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Jacob Dennis	Dianne Krallman	Gary Worley	Congregation
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Nancy Goad	John Krallman	Sandie Worley	Matthew James
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Alex Moehling	Lilly Gruss	Camden Brewer	Sarah Moehling	Noah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Ryan Albert		Randy Robinson		
Greeters	Betty and Ray Wingate	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Ben and Grace Simmers	Moehling/Belue family	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Jay Nagle	Laura Gruss	Lauren Robinson	Joanna Garcia	congregation
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James Pascoe Don Linkous	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour	Matt Belue Ben Simmers	Jeff Birch Randy Robinson
Youth Servant	MaKayla Dowdy		Jessica, Maddie Abby Brown		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter	Saks family	Birch family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger	Charlie Saks	Congregation
Comm. Asst.	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Gary Fetter	Martie Saks	

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: 12/10 – Ron Brewer, Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather for Lunch and Learn on Monday, December 16 at noon at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Rd.). We will share a meal, learn about one or more of our sisters in the Bible, and celebrate the fellowship of the Christmas season. If you need a ride, contact Sandy at 230-8823.



Price's Fork Elementary School is providing "Family Night" baskets for the holidays for some of their families. If you would be interested in helping by purchasing a few items to go into the baskets, please see the list of needed items posted on the hallway bulletin board. The Women of the ELCA will be collecting our gifts and preparing the baskets from St. Michael.



We shipped 311 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.

O.K.s (Older Kids)



The Happy-Go-Lucky "5-Course" Christmas Luncheon will be held on **December 17** at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. Join the H-G-L bunch for a time of good cheer and holiday spirit. Five courses for \$5 – a tasty Christmas bargain.

Out to Lunch Bunch at the Cellar Restaurant on Tuesday, December 31

Ring in the New Year a few hours early with your St. Michael family. We'll beat the crowds as we gather for lunch at the Cellar Restaurant at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31. Enjoy delicious dishes and fine fellowship as we celebrate a successful year and toast 2014. For more information or for reservations, please contact please contact Sandy Sheppard at: micauscloset@hotmail.com.

