



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Resounding Joy!

I give thanks to God for each of you and for the ways that you generously support God's ministry at St. Michael! As you shared your talents during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we were able to join in worship with our brothers and sisters at Luther Memorial, Shiloh and New Mt. Zion and celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth with over 230 people. Your willingness to share your gifts makes it possible for St. Michael to make an impact in our community through on-going ministries like Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors and through new ministries like Micah's Closet. Thank you!

I give thanks for your generous Christmas gift to our family! We appreciate your kindness and your partnership in ministry. It is a blessing to share in worship, fellowship and service with you on a daily basis. Thank you!

I give thanks for the opportunities to strengthen and expand our ministry in the year to come. In January, we will start a year long series in worship called "God's Word: Guidance, Help and Hope". Each week, we will share scripture and preaching that helps us grow in our understanding of what it means to be in relationship with God. We plan to move ahead with a scattering garden for those who wish to have their ashes scattered at St. Michael and we will consider the possibility of adding staff focused on ministry with youth. With your help, it will be an exciting year of growth. 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 all who served as Christmas Eve servants; to everyone who provided food for the Advent Supper (and to Deloris Raines for organizing us) and To Our House; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to Kris Wertz, Sheila McCartan, Jody Smiley, Maggie Maloney, Margaret Christle, Ron Brewer and Patrice Yearwood for leading the youth Christmas program; to Maggie Maloney for creating the stained glass windows and all the students who helped paint the “glass”; to Ron Brewer who hung the stained glass windows and worked on the church yard; 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 Mildred Wall, Carole Wall, Wanda Pascoe, Sandy and Roger Sheppard, and Frances Edge for helping fold all the Christmas Eve bulletins; and to Nancy Young, Mildred Wall, Carole Wall, and Judith Wolfe for folding the December newsletter.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided funds for food for To Our House and the Thank You brunch, Sunday School materials, offering envelopes, Thanksgiving dinner supplies, 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 **20 families**: 8 with electric bills, 1 with a water bill, and 11 with rent. In addition, the fund provided clothing for two children whose clothes were destroyed. 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

Amplifier - \$350; Microphones and cords - \$150; Equalizers - \$200

Large Print ELW (the red book) - \$80 each (need 4)

Thank you to Dave and Ann Surface for providing a speaker and to Lynn Hickok for contributing to the equipment.

Report on the December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 22, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2014 and elected three new members of the congregational council.



Jim Clemens.



Keith Gay



Matthew James

The bountiful brunch provided by the Stewards Team was a “THANK YOU” to the congregation for sharing its time, talents, and treasures during 2013. All the leftover food was taken to the Blacksburg Police Department.

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.

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.

Thank You notes ...

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing funds to ship Christmas boxes and other supplies to Pastor Karen Rupp on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and to purchase the plastic shoe boxes and to the Heritage Club at Blacksburg High School which also contributed to shipping costs.

Dear St. Michael Members, The kindness shown by our St. Michael family during the illness and death of Ross is greatly appreciated. It was comforting to receive cards, to greet you at the funeral home or see you at the funeral service. A special thank you to those that provided food for the meal and served. We thank you for all your support. In Christ, Hallie, Billy, Fran, LouAnn and family.

“Breaking News” – a Christmas Celebration



The youth Christmas program was a big hit on Sunday, December 15. The congregation gathered for a potluck dinner before the program and a Christmas carol sing-a-long.

Thank you to all the narrators, greeters, angels, shepherds, wise men and stable animals who participated in the program and practices: Camden Brewer, Abby Brown, Jessica Brown, Maddie Brown, Megan Christle, Cameron Conway, Bryce Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Parker Ferrell, Jack Graves, Emily Graves, Lexi Simmers, Carly Simmers, Delanie Veit, Sophia Veit, and the stage crew: David Christle, Corson Wertz and Parker Wertz. A special thank you all the leaders, Kris Wertz, Sheila McCartan, Margaret Christle, Maggie Maloney, Jody Smiley, Ron Brewer Patrice Yearwood and other helpers who made the program possible.



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 either January 24-26 or January 31 - Feb. 2 and the cost is \$75. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John.

Sunday Night Bible Study on January 19

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the first two sections of the Lord's Prayer. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, January 19 at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

Sunday School for All Ages Returns on January 12 at 9:50 AM



epiphany

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

In December, we shared 6 meals and snacks with 280 children at all 7 Blacksburg public school and 2 income-based preschools in our community. Our partner Thrivent awarded a joint Neighbors in Need grant to Micah's Backpack and Micah's Closet based on our fall application! Also, Thrivent will match \$.50 for every \$1 we receive up to \$10,000 between now and March 31, 2014.



www.micahsbackpack.org

In January we will collect granola bars and there is a collection bin in the front hallway. Every month, we share nearly 2,500 snacks. Thank you for your gifts of microwave popcorn in December!

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 28. Packing will begin at 5 p.m. and we will deliver the food at 6 p.m. at Warm Hearth.

Micah's Closet Makes First Delivery

Sandy and Roger Sheppard recently delivered gift bags of a week's worth of new school clothes to 18 children who live in poverty in our community. Thank you to our volunteer shoppers: Betty Falta, Anna Rossomando, Sandy and Abbey Birch, Suzanne Gay, Kris Wertz, Frances Edge and Judy Clemens for shopping for 5 outfits, underwear, socks, lightweight jacket and pajamas for each of the children. Thank you to all the members of the congregation who contributed generously to the fund and to Sandy Sheppard for organizing the program. So far, we have distributed nearly 500 items of clothing. It's been reported that the children are already proudly wearing their new clothing to school. Micah's Closet hopes to provide clothing in the spring and fall for children in need in our community. If you are interested in helping with this new ministry or providing support, please contact Sandy Sheppard at micahscloset@hotmail.com.



Get Involved in the Day of Service



On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20, 2014, the Virginia Synod and the Virginia Lutheran Partners in Mission will be sponsoring, "In the Name of Love: A Day of Service and Sharing God's Love". Lutheran congregations around the state will be moving out into their neighborhoods, sharing God's compassion with the world and serving those need. The projects include repair work at the Von Bora House which hosts families from the New River Family Shelter, assembling Health Kits for Malawi, conducting a

Souper Bowl of Caring food drive for Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry and providing cookies for first responders. You can help with the repairs, staff the food drive, bake or deliver cookies, donate bath sized soap and vaseline for the health kits or help the youth pack the health kits. The schedule for the Day of Service is listed below. If would like more information on a particular project, please contact Pastor John at: pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

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

Von Bora House Workday from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Youth to assemble Health Kits at Our Saviour at noon followed by lunch at Amelia's

Note: St. Michael is collecting bath sized soap and vaseline

Food Drive in front of Kroger on University City Blvd - 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Bake Cookies for Blacksburg Police Department - Delivery Time TBD



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 2. 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, fruit cups, Easy Mac, tomato soup, vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup and ravioli. The money and canned goods will help relieve hunger in our community. Thank You!

Directory Update: We will be updating the church directory in January. If your address, phone number or email has changed, or if you'd like a new picture for the directory, please notify Suzanne at suzanneg@stmlc.us, call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome to St. Michael form.

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January Servants

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Altar Care	Sandy Birch			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Sandra Hough Dianne Krallman	Sandra Hough Dianne Krallman	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith
Lay Reader Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Peggy Morgan Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Nancy Goad	Matthew James Jacob Dennis
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	David Christle	Alex Moehling	Camden Brewer	Lilly Gruss
Comm. Asst.	Margaret Christle		Sheila McCartan	
Greeters	Gruss family	Moehling/Belue family	McCartan/Brewer family	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Seth Peery	Lauren Robinson	Fred Spengler	Laura Gruss
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Matt Belue James Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Megan Christle		Sarah Albert	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Gary Fetter

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will gather for Lunch and Learn at noon on Monday, January 20 at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road). We will share a meal and learn about one or more of our sisters in the Bible



Thank you to everyone who bought items for our Price's Fork Elementary School family baskets. We donated six full baskets to families in need 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 14: Ron Brewer, Jeff Birch, Hank Schneider, Ben Crawford, Gary Fetter and Pastor John.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

Thank you to all the cooks and bakers who prepared the meals for our Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons. They will recharge during January and the lunches will resume on Tuesday, February 11.



Congratulations to....

Sandy Birch, who received the Community Spirit Award on December 10 from the Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613 for outstanding community service.

The St. Michael members who walked (or swam or bicycled) 5,028 miles towards Bethlehem in November and December. Big stars to Ron Brewer and our cross country runners, Olivia Hodge and Matthew Pasier, for posting the greatest distances. Keep up the good work!



Olivia Hodge and the Blacksburg Cross Country team - state champs and national competitors at the Nike Invitational in Oregon.