



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Lutherans in Action



On January 20, Lutherans from Norfolk to Winchester to Abingdon helped out with schools, distributed food at food banks and packed health kits. In the New River Valley, there were over 60 people involved in four projects. Reports are still coming in from around the state, but my guess is that at least 500 people at 20 congregations worked with local non-profits and with Lutheran organizations like National Lutheran Communities and Services and Lutheran Family Services of Virginia to make God's love known in our communities.

During the last weekend in January and the first weekend in February, the Virginia Synod of the ELCA holds Winter Celebration, a youth event for Senior High students. This year 600 to 700 youth will gather to share in music, to talk about their faith and to grow in their relationship with God. The event and the companion event for Middle School youth, Lost and Found, are among the best youth events in the country and even though we didn't have youth attend Winter Celebration this year, our support of the ministry of the Virginia Synod helps make this event possible.

Whenever there is a disaster, Lutheran Disaster Response brings hope and healing to people in need. Long after disasters like Hurricane Sandy leave the news, Lutheran Disaster Response remains to help people rebuild their lives.

These are just a few examples of the ways that Lutherans are responding to God's love and living out their faith. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of our fellows Lutherans around the country or around the world, check out: virginialutherans.org, elca.org, livinglutheran.com or lutheranworld.org.

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 Shirley Linkous, Lynda Kinzey, Nancy Young, Margaret Larsen, Sandy Williams, Roger Sheppard, Linda Elliott, Wanda Pascoe and Judy Clemens for helping with the January newsletter mailing; Dean Trimble, Ray Howell, and Tommy Howell for installing our new sound system in the sanctuary; William Allen for making sure the Micah's bus is in good working order and had its annual inspection.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported our property insurance policy, the postal service permit, Lutheran Magazine subscriptions for members, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, 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 January, we helped 10 families: 2 families with an electric bill, 5 families with a rent payment, 2 with a water bill and one with emergency clothing.

St. Michael 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 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.

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

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Amy Ruppert & Blacksburg Christian Church for their donations to Micah's Closet! Their very generous gifts of an entire wardrobe of school clothes for 3 children, a book for each one, \$230 in Target gift cards, and \$510 will make a huge difference in the lives of low-income children in our community, by providing them with new clothes for school. The clothes have been delivered to the children. All gift cards and monetary donations will be used by our Micah's Closet Shoppers to purchase new school clothes for other needy children. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

Micah's Closet

Dear Members of St. Michael, The care and concern shown to us by our church family following our loss of Freddie is so greatly appreciated. All the calls, cards, food and especially your support at his service were a comfort to all of us. We ask for your continued prayers in the days ahead as we cope with our loss.

In Christ, Donna, Brian, Darron and families

Micah's Backpack January Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

In January, Mike, Elizabeth and Katherin Berg, Joanna and Ben Garcia, Olivia Hodge, Jeanette and Michelle Pasier, Hank Schneider and Doug Smiley shared their time volunteering with Micah's Backpack. Just under 7,000 meals went home with 281 children in our community. Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack.

Micah's Backpack will collect small cans of tuna in water in February. Tuna is a great source of protein for growing minds and bodies. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the front entryway. Thank you for your gifts of granola bars in January.

Micah's Closet



Since its launch last October, Micah's Closet has provided new clothes to children at Price's Fork & Kipps Elementary Schools, and to school-age clients at NRV Community Services (NRVCS) who have autism. Last November, NRVCS asked Micah's Closet to help a 16 year old boy with autism, who lives in poverty with his parents. The teen was wearing clothes which he'd outgrown over 2 years ago. Micah's Closet Shopper, Judy Clemens, generously gave of her time and energy to shop for a week's worth of new school clothes for the teen, and Micah's Closet arranged for his social worker to take him to RunAbout Sports, and be fitted with new shoes, donated by James DeMarco, owner.

The teen's social worker reports that his attitude has dramatically improved. His former "hunched-over-shuffle-walk" is gone. She realized that his old (used) shoes were several sizes too big, and he needed to shuffle along to keep them from falling off his feet. Also, he'd been so ashamed of his old, ill-fitting clothes, that he walked hunched over so that he wouldn't have to look at anyone. After he put on his new clothes and new shoes, he strutted around, proudly, and announced to his social worker, "I look GOOD! I need to get out more!" Over the weeks since he received new clothes and shoes, he's become more confident, stands up straight, likes to go to school, and is eager to take part in school activities. This is just one example of how new clothes can change a child's life.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed time, energy, new clothes, and money to making a huge difference in this boy's life, and in the lives of other children who live in poverty in our community. Since its launch last October, Micah's Closet has provided over 700 items of new school clothing to 38 children in need. Thank you for your support!

No child wants to wear poverty to school.

Thank you to everyone who took a valentine from the Micah's Closet Valentine Tree. Once you have purchased the item listed on the valentine, please return it to the bin in the front hallway by February 16.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



Volunteers for Soup for Seniors were able to pack and distribute 90 bags of food to seniors at Warm Hearth! As in previous months, all had a very rewarding and wonderful time meeting with the seniors at the three apartment units at Warm Hearth and getting to know the residents. The next packing and distribution date is Tuesday, February 25: packing at 5 p.m., leave for Warm Hearth at 5:45 p.m. and distribution at 6 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Soup for Seniors is very grateful for the generous donations to the program, including a recent grant from AARP, and for the support of the Warm Hearth organization. Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information.

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!



The O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will enjoy a catered luncheon on **Tuesday, February 11 at noon**, with a social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. A \$5 donation for the food is helpful, but not required.

The "Out to Lunch" bunch will meet on Tuesday, February 25, at 12:30 p.m. at Sakura Steak House at 105 Laurel St. in Christiansburg (in the shopping area near K-Mart and O'Charley's). Make your reservation on the St. Michael Welcome form or contact Sandy Sheppard at micahscloset@hotmail.com. Transportation is available.



Congratulations to....

Samantha J. B. Bohanan who earned her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction (Instructional Design and Technology) from Virginia Tech in December 2013 and is now working for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at Radford University.

Bob Brown and Mike Berg, who were among the first team of officers elected and installed in the new Hunter's Masonic Lodge #156 on Price's Fork Road. Bob will serve as Worshipful Master while Mike was elected junior deacon. Bob also served as the District Deputy Grand Master of the 40th Masonic District of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 2010.

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February Servants

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Gary and Sandie Worley	Gary and Sandie Worley	William Allen Nancy Goad	William Allen Nancy Goad
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Betty Falta	Dianne Krallman
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Judith Wolfe	Nancy Goad	Matthew James
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	David Christle	Alex Moehling	Noah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Doug Smiley		M. McGuigan	
Greeters	Betty and Ray Wingate	Christle family	A. Rossomando Judy Clemens	Ben and Grace Simmers
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Margaret Christle	Laura Peery	Loren Crowder
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Matt Belue Philip Isenhour	Don Linkous M. McGuigan
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters		Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter
Lay Reader		Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger
Comm. Asst.		Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Gary Fetter

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: 2/11 – David Surface and Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA

Did you know Abigail was a courageous and wise woman in the Old Testament? We learned that last month at our **Lunch and Learn** time. **On Monday, February 17, at noon**, we'll discover more about our sisters in the Bible. Come to Sandy's house (301 Airport Rd.) for lunch and learning and lots of fellowship.



Ladies Night Out will be Wednesday, February 19 at 6 p.m. at Amelia's in Christiansburg. All women – of all ages – are welcome for fine Italian food and wonderful fellowship. The cost of the Italian buffet will be \$12.00 including beverage, tax and tip. And we get to take home the left-overs! Sign up on the St. Michael Welcome form. Rides are available.

The Ninth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA, "of many generations", will be held July 24-27 in Charlotte, N.C. Since the national convention is so close by, it would be great if some of us could attend. See Jody Smiley for details. A schedule of events is posted on the hallway bulletin board and details are posted at www.welcatg.org. A quote from the website says it all. "A triennial gathering is transformational! When 2,000 ordinary women come together, the Spirit transforms them."

Mark your calendars – lots of activities

Monday, February 17	Lunch and Learn	noon	Sandy's house
Wednesday, February 19	Ladies Night Out	6:00 p.m.	Amelia's
Monday, March 24	Lunch and Learn	noon	Sandy's house
Sunday, April 6	Assemble Easter baskets	noon	fellowship hall
Saturday, April 19	Set up for Easter breakfast	4 p.m.	fellowship hall
Monday, April 21	Lunch and Learn	noon	Sandy's house
Sunday, May 4	Sisters Luncheon	noon	fellowship hall
Sunday, May 11	Bold Women Sunday	all worship services	
Monday, May 19	Lunch and Learn	noon	Sandy's house
Sunday, June 8	Graduate Reception and Second Sunday Summer brunch	10 a.m.	fellowship hall

Remember the Food Bank: February is Italian month (spaghetti sauces, canned ravioli, etc.), though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In February, donations of aluminum foil would be appreciated. The Center can also use any kind of art supplies for children at any time.

Calling All Artists: 2014 Online Advent Calendar

Help create St. Michael's 2014 online Advent Calendar. If you are interested in helping create the calendar or in sharing your pictures and artwork, please contact Gary Worley: Gary.Worley@vt.edu.

In the Name of Love: Day of Service and Sharing God's Love

On January 20, over 60 volunteers from St. Michael, Luther Memorial, Our Saviour, New Mt. Zion and the Unitarian Universalist congregation joined together to share God's love with the world. Repairs were undertaken on the Von Bora House which is operated by the Family Shelter. Cookies and thank you notes were delivered to the Blacksburg Police Department, the Blacksburg Fire Department, the Blacksburg Rescue Squad, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department and the Virginia Tech Police Department. We assembled 98 health kits for the Lutheran Church in Malawi and a food drive was conducted for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who helped make Christ known in our community and made a difference in the lives of our neighbors.



Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 18

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 23 at 9:50 a.m.



On Sunday, March 23, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014 Phone Directory, and complete our 2014 Time and Talent Surveys. If the meeting is canceled due to snow and

ice, it will take place on Sunday, March 30.

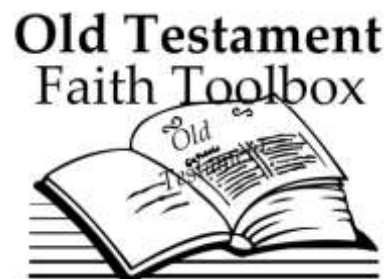
Congratulations to... our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 13 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected: Jim Clemens, President; Keith Gay, Vice-President/Secretary; John Krallman, Financial Officer.

Annual Reports are due to Keith Gay (zanria@msn.com) by Sunday, Feb. 16 . Thank You!

Faith Toolbox: Old Testament

Come and learn more about the Old Testament on two Wednesdays, February 5 and 12. This two week course will focus on historical content, major books of the Old Testament and styles of interpretation. There will be a **light supper at 5:30 p.m.** followed by **class from 6 -7 p.m.** For more information, please talk to Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmcl.us).



Sunday Night Bible Study on February 16

On Sunday, February 16 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Third and Fourth Commandments in Exodus 20.