



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Justice and Mercy Fund: Source of Help and Grace

When someone calls to ask for assistance with a power bill or rent, St. Michael usually is able to provide up to \$40 in assistance through the Justice and Mercy Fund. In some cases, that \$40 is the difference between getting evicted and staying in a home. In other cases, that \$40 is the difference between having heat or being cold. In a few cases, that \$40 helps to get power turned on for the first time. In every case, however, that \$40 is a sign to the person in need that God and God's people care about their situation.

For me, the Justice and Mercy Fund is about more than helping pay bills. For me, the Justice and Mercy Fund is an opportunity to do justice, to love our neighbor and to proclaim the compassion of Christ. You would be amazed at the number of people I talk to who say, "I'm so glad you called me back. I've called 50 churches and no one has returned my call." Now I fully understand that not every congregation has the staffing and resources to handle calls for help, but it saddens me to think that so many struggling people experience the body of Christ not as a place of help and hope, but as a place that can't return a call. Our gift of \$40 may not seem like much, but it is a powerful gift of grace to people who are struggling.

Thank you for your gifts of support to the Justice and Mercy Fund. Your generosity makes a difference in people's lives and provides a faithful witness to God's love for the world.

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 Linda Elliott, Lynda Kinzey, Joyce Coupey, Nancy Young, Margaret Larsen, Judith Wolfe and Wanda Pascoe for helping with the October newsletter folding; Judy Wunderlich for recycling our paper; Sandie Worley for shopping for the hallway blinds; Ron Brewer and Sheila McCartan for hanging the hallway blinds; Deloris Raines for arranging food for families with illness and everyone who has provided food; and Sheila McCartan for organizing Micah's Closet.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for Bibles for the confirmands, cleaning supplies, office supplies, the Youth Group Halloween party, new bathroom faucets, 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 **22 families**; seventeen with electric service, three with rent, one with car expenses, and one with phone expenses. 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.

Circle of Grace



We have created the Circle of Grace to proclaim God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people, to provide a final resting place for the cremated remains of our beloved, and to create a contemplative place of solace for those who grieve.

While the initial phase of the Circle of Grace project has been completed, the remaining elements of the design including the memorial wall, cross sculpture, benches and landscaping are yet to be completed. Those items will be installed as funding becomes available. If you would like to make a donation to help complete the Circle of Grace, please contact Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

Future Elements of the Circle of Grace

Memorial Wall (6 Panels)	\$ 3,300 each
Cross Sculpture	\$ 4,500
Paths and Walkways	\$ 2,000 – 4,000
Landscaping	\$ 2,000 – 4,000
Benches	\$ 750 – 1,500



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

This month we shared just under 7,600 meals plus snacks with 261 children who go to the Blacksburg strand schools. We had a great month of group volunteers including ESL students from New River Community College, Glade Church, the Newcomer's Club, and the Virginia Tech Men's Basketball Team. Thank you to Mike Berg, Gary and Sandie Worley, and Olivia Hodge for regularly volunteering on Thursday nights.



www.micahsbackpack.org

In November, Micah's Backpack will collect small cans of tuna. Thank you for sharing 55 cans of spaghetti in October. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the entrance hallway.



Seasonal Gardening, Community Gathering, Feeding All

We had a record season sharing a little over 1,600 pounds of a wide variety of fruits and veggies including blueberries, lettuce, onions, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, and zucchini. Thank you to Seth and Laura Peery for their dedication in caring for Micah's Garden and organizing the planting schedule.

Thanks also to the Trease family and Elaine Powers for gardening and Emily Garst for bringing Galapatia at VT out to help maintain the Garden.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

In October, 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. The next packing date is Tuesday, November 25 at 5 p.m. with delivery at 6 p.m. to three apartment units at Warm Hearth. In November, **we will be collecting cans of vegetable soup.**



Micah's Closet



Thank you to all who shopped and donated for Micah's Closet. With your help, we were able to make a difference in the lives of more than 23 children in our community. Almost 24.5% of families in Montgomery County live at or below the poverty income level. It is a staggering number, but with your continued generosity of time and financial funding we can truly make an impact!

We would like to acknowledge and thank two special community partners. The Blacksburg Junior Women's League did a clothing drive at their October meeting and provided 109 items of clothing to support the Closet in addition to a cash donation. Also, the team at RunAbout Sports donated shoes for this fall's distribution!

In the month of November, **we will be collecting children's hats and gloves** to distribute through Micah's Closet.

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

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 27

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. 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 \$93 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 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@stmlc.us).

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November Servants

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Altar Care	Elaine Powers				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Judith Wolfe Dianne Krallman	Jan Helge and Sarah Bohn	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett	Barbara Corbett and Lynn Hickok
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Mac McCloud	Gary Worley	Peggy Morgan
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Jacob Dennis		Sandie Worley	Judith Wolfe
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Alex Moehling	Camden Brewer	Abby Brown	Seth Brewer	Noah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan			Lorin Crowder	
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Judy Clemens Cindy Lang	James and Wanda Pascoe	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Laura Peery	Kris Wertz	Jay Nagle	Anna Rossomando	Seth Peery
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Marty Gordon Philip Isenhour	M. McGuigan Ben Simmers	Don Linkous Ron Brewer	Matt Belue Randy Robinson
Youth Servant	Jack Graves			Jessica, Maddie Abby Brown	
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Saks family	Berg family	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Michael Berg	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Michelle Berg	Martie Saks	Deloris Raines	Guille Yearwood

Mowing: 11/1-James/Dennis (front); 11/7-Jay Nagle (back); 11/14-JD Robinson (front); 11/21-Jeff Crowder (back)
Rear Lot: 11/3-Dave Surface; 11/10-Guille Yearwood; 11/17-Mike Berg



Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, November 17, at noon at the church. A light lunch will be provided. We will share in a Bible study entitled, "In Good Company" about bold women of the Bible. Rides are available; contact Sandy at birch@vt.edu or 230-8823.

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 16. On November 23, during Sunday School, 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

Chronic Disease Self Management Workshop

We are invited to the **Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP) workshop**, a 6-session, peer-led health education program for people with any type of ongoing health condition. The purpose of the CDSMP workshop is to enhance one's skills and ability to manage their health and maintain an active and fulfilling lifestyle. The workshop will meet every Friday for six weeks from 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon in room 220 at the Blacksburg Baptist Church beginning November 7th. For more information or to sign up, please call Elizabeth Fontaine at 540-585-3319.

Party with a Purpose on Sunday, November 23 at 9:50 AM

On Sunday, November 23, everyone is invited to a Party with a Purpose during Sunday School time. We'll 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.



Each Thursday, St. Michael publishes an **E-Newsletter** with the latest information on our ministry. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please check your "Spam" folder.

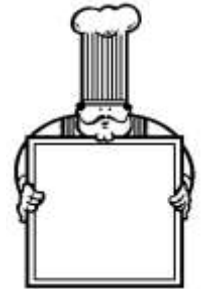


Thank you to everyone who shared an Estimates of Giving for 2015. With your help, St. Michael will continue to be God's heart and hands and voices in our community and in the world.

The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Tuesday, November 11, 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.

Planning ahead....our Christmas luncheon will be Tuesday, December 16^h (the 3rd Tuesday of the month). Mark your calendars for a very special catered holiday meal and program.



The Out to Lunch Bunch will take a break Thanksgiving week and plan for a pre-New Year's Eve luncheon next month on December 30. Stay tuned for more details.



**OKs
on the Go!**

carried us over the Bluestone River Gorge.

Pictured are Judith, Anita, Barbara, Sandy, Carol and Shirley at Pipestem State Park, our last bus trip of the year. A highlight of the trip was a ride on the aerial tramway which



Upcoming Youth Events

7th and 8th Grade Synod Youth Event: Lost and Found - There is still time to register for Lost and Found, the Virginia Synod Youth Event for 7th and 8th graders from Nov. 21-23. Youth from around the Synod will gather for worship, fun and conversation at *Lost and Found*. The cost for the event is \$65. 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 16-18, 2015 and on January 23-25, 2015 and the cost is \$65. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John and let him know which week would be best for you.

Congratulations to...



Ben Crawford, who was the recipient of the Kiwanis Club Teilmann Youth Services Award. Ben was recognized for his participation in Boy Scouting activities in nearly every capacity from achieving Eagle to adult positions as Cubmaster, Scoutmaster and council president. He has been an officer in the VA-4H Foundation and is a founding member of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. Ben is pictured with Ken Lyons, Field Director of the Boy Scout Blue Ridge Mountains Council and Larry Taylor, president of the Montgomery County-Blacksburg Kiwanis Club.

Sarah Moehling, David Christle, Matt Sharpe and Parker Wertz were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 26. The new confirmands were honored at a reception following the worship service.



Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 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 3 and 17 and at Luther Memorial on December 10. 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 23

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on "Approaches to Interpreting Scripture" in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, November 23, at 7:15 p.m.