



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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Thank You!

Thank You for your wonderful support of God's ministry at St. Michael! Thanks to your generosity and your willingness to share your gifts, the ministry of St. Michael is making Christ known in powerful ways. Through the Micah's Caring Initiative Ministries, hundreds of people are able to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Through worship, God's Word is being proclaimed to over 140 people per week. Through educational opportunities like Sunday School, the Women's Lunch and Learn and Bible Studies, individuals are growing in their faith. None of this would be possible without your generosity. Thank you!

Thank You for a wonderful and meaningful Advent and Christmas! From the musicians to the volunteers folding bulletins to those decorating the sanctuary, your willingness to share your time and talents makes all the worship services, meals and special projects happen. The Advent Services with Luther Memorial, Shiloh and New Mt. Zion gave us an opportunity to gather as area Lutherans and prepare for the coming of the Lord. The Living Christmas Cards Christmas program reminded us of the joy of Jesus' birth and on Christmas Eve, we shared the story of Christmas with over 270 people at three wonderful services. Thank You!

Thank You for your generous Christmas gift to our family! The Christmas gift from the congregation and the personal notes and gifts we have received are greatly appreciated! As I reflect on my nearly eleven years at St. Michael, I give thanks to God for all of you and for the wonderful ministry that we are accomplishing together. 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 Suppers (and to Suzanne Gay for organizing us) and To Our House; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to Patrice Yearwood, Margaret Christle, Cindy Dowdy, Lilly Goldsmith, Laura Gruss, Maggie Maloney, Jody and Doug Smiley, Reed Yearwood, Kris Wertz and all their assistants for leading the youth Christmas program; 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 Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Lynda Kinzey, Judith Wolfe and Linda Elliott for folding the December newsletter; to James and Wanda Pascoe for folding all the Christmas Eve bulletins; to Butch Akers for providing the Christmas Eve luminaries.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided funds for food for To Our House and the Thank You brunch, monthly devotional materials, Thanksgiving dinner supplies, lawn care equipment maintenance, 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 **29 families**: 12 with electric bills, 3 with a water bill, 12 with rent, one with gasoline and one with medicine. In addition, the fund provided books for children at Price’s Fork Elementary School. 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.

A thank you note...

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.



Caroling After Soup for Seniors

Report on the December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 14, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2015, heard a report on the formation of a Lifelong Faith Formation Task Force and elected three members of the congregational council:



**Sheila
McCartan**



**Ben
Simmers**



**Gary
Worley**

The bountiful brunch provided by the Stewards Team was a “THANK YOU” to the congregation for sharing its time, talents, and treasures during 2014.

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 2015. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

2015 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2015 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.

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.

“Living Christmas Cards” – a Christmas Celebration



The youth Christmas program was a big hit on Sunday, December 14. The congregation gathered for a reception following the program.

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, Lilia Villegas-Brown, Tatiana Villegas-Brown, Megan Christle, Bryce Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Parker Ferrell, William Ferrell, Jack Graves, Emily Graves, Lily Gruss, Rosie Gruss, Danny Gruss, Alexa Mayer, Reed Mayer, Bix Pettus, Louie Pettus, Delanie Veit, and Sophia Veit. A special thank you all the leaders, Patrice Yearwood, Margaret Christle, Cindy Dowdy, Lilly Goldsmith, Laura Gruss, Maggie Maloney, Jody and Doug Smiley, Reed Yearwood, Kris Wertz and other helpers who made the program possible.



Sunday Night Bible Study on January 18

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Epiphany. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, January 18 at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

Sunday School for All Ages Returns on January 11 at 9:50 AM



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 1. 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!

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

In December, 17 groups sponsored food drives and shared over 5,700 food items with Micah's Backpack. Thank you to all our food drive partners who help make a positive impact in the lives of 269 children in our community. The Nest Realty 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Contest was a huge success! It highlighted the creativity of our friends and neighbors, built community, and most importantly funded over 1,400 meals to feed children!



www.micahsbackpack.org

Many thanks to Nest Realty for inviting us to partner with them and to the St Michael Youth Group for creating a house. There are lots of pictures on the Micah's Backpack Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Micahs-Backpack/257298204308305> if you'd like to check them out. Packing for 2015 kicks off on Thursday, January 8, at 6 p.m.

This month Micah's Backpack will collect 100% juice boxes. Thank you for sharing 144 granola bars in December!

There are openings for deliveries to our partner schools on Friday mornings. In general, delivery takes less than 20 minutes and makes weekends better for the kids who participate in Micah's Backpack. Feel free to use the links below to sign up.

Blacksburg Middle School	http://vols.pt/ZiRZM9
Harding Ave Elementary School	http://vols.pt/2B5868
Head Start Preschool	http://vols.pt/CbP8LP
Margaret Beeks Elementary School	http://vols.pt/TEWpdy
Price's Fork Elementary School	http://vols.pt/QDeyJA
Valley Interfaith Child Care Center	http://vols.pt/mVzUig

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 27. Packing will begin at 5 p.m. and we will deliver the food at 6 p.m. at Warm Hearth. **In January, we will collect cans of chicken noodle soup.**

Micah's Closet

In January, **we will continue to collect sweatshirts and sweatpants** for children in youth sizes S through XL.



Congratulations to....

Olivia Hodge who was selected for the All-Timesland Cross Country Second Team.

Our December 2014 graduates including,

Carole Schneider Noyes who graduated with a Diploma in Nursing from Watts School of Nursing at Duke Regional Hospital. She also earned an Associates Degree in Health Science from the University of Mt. Olive and will take the RN exam in 2015.

Sarah Crowder who graduated from Virginia Tech with a major in Geography of Cultures, Regions and International Development with minors in Political Sciences and Peace Studies and Violence Prevention.

Kelley Robinson who graduated from Radford University with a degree in Criminal Justice. She hopes to pursue a career with the FBI, CIA or Secret Service. Kelley continues to work with the Blacksburg Rescue Squad as an EMT.

Holiday Ministry at St. Michael



Displaying our Christmas sweaters after the 9 a.m. service



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January Servants

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Altar Care	Sandy Birch			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickock	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickock	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith
Lay Reader Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay Judith Wolfe	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Dianne Krallman Jane Swing	Jacob Dennis Matthew James
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	David Christle	Camden Brewer	Maddie Brown	Abby Brown
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson	Sheila McCartan	Jay Nagle	
Greeters	Judy Clemens Betty Wingate	McCartan/Brewer family	McCartan/Brewer family	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Margaret Christle	Doug Smiley	Lorin Crowder	Mickey McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Marty Gordon James Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Megan Christle	Jack Graves	Emily Graves	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Saks family	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Michelle Berg	Katherine Berg	Guille Yearwood

Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out will be at Amelia's Pizzeria & Restaurant in Christiansburg (1130 Cambria Street) on Monday, January 19 at 6 p.m. The cost of the buffet is only \$12 which includes drink and tip....and we get to take home the leftovers! Bring a friend. We always have a good time at this gathering. If you need a ride, contact Sandy Birch or Alice Schneider.



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 13: Ron Brewer, Jeff Birch, Doug Smiley, James Pascoe, John Krallman, and Mac McCloud. Pictured are Doug, Ron and Jeff.



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 10. Our program that day will be "Take your life into your own hands: write your obit."



Care of Creation

The St. Michael Recycle Center got a facelift with new bins for collecting recycled items. The congregation is invited to share the following items:

- **Personal-sized toiletries** are shared with the Women's Resource Center, the Montgomery County Christmas Store and used in our Easter baskets.
- **Cell phones and printer ink cartridges** go to ThinkCycle, a company which exchanges them for donations to the Justice and Mercy Fund.
- **Batteries** are sent to the Town of Blacksburg which safely disposes them.
- **Eye glasses** are shared with the Lions Club.
- **Soda can pop tops** are sent to the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Roanoke which converts them into cash for RMH programs.