



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 38, Number 11

November 1, 2015

St. Michael's Mission Statement

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.

Joy, Surprise and Prayer

A few weeks ago, Micah's Closet distributed 43 gifts of clothing to students in need in our community. To protect the privacy of the children, only the schools know the names of the students receiving the help, but a teacher pulled me aside the other day to tell me how excited one of her students was to receive a gift from Micah's Closet. According to the teacher, it was the shoes that really seemed to bring the most joy. "The child kept pulling the shoes out of the bag, holding them up, looking at them and smiling. It was really wonderful to see."

Last week, I was surprised to discover a conversation on Twitter between Coach Buzz Williams of Virginia Tech Basketball and a student where the student was trying to convince Coach Williams to have an open practice and scrimmage so VT students could see the new basketball team in action. Coach Williams eventually agreed to an open practice on Wednesday, November 4 at 6 p.m. at Cassell Coliseum, but only if the students would collect food for Micah's Backpack. The student agreed and then Coach Williams announced that admission to the practice for non-students was two cans of food for Micah's Backpack. Coach Williams has been a wonderful supporter of Micah's Backpack since coming to VT and we appreciate his help feeding hungry students in our community.

During the final week of November, we are going to make a change to the Prayers of the People in worship for the Season of Advent. If you have prayer concerns that you would like included in the prayers, you are invited to write that concern in the "Prayer Concern" notebook that will be placed in the back of the sanctuary. I will add those concerns to prayers for that Sunday.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmlc.us

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 Betty Falta, Mildred Wall, Judith Wolfe, Donna Oliver and Wanda Pascoe for helping with the October newsletter folding; to Ron Brewer for installing the new television in the teen classroom; to Sheila McCartan and her family for organizing and delivering all the clothing purchased for Micah's Closet; to Ray Howell for keeping us supplied with fresh produce from his garden; to Elaine Powers for her “3-Sunday” altar care service; and to Pastor John, Ron Brewer, and Anna Lehman for moving the youth room furniture.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for roof repairs, office and music supplies, the youth group Halloween and service events, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, 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 **18 families**: 10 with electric service, 4 with rent, 2 with a water bill, 1 with funeral expenses, and 1 with heating 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.

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.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Machine and Cabinet - \$1700

Elements of the Circle of Grace

Paths and Walkways \$ 2,000 – \$4,000

Benches \$ 750 – \$1,500



Thank you to everyone who shared an Estimates of Giving for 2016. With your help, St. Michael will continue to be God's heart and hands and voices in our community and in the world. Estimates can still be submitted. Additional forms are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Focus on Youth. Thanks to your generosity, over \$500 has been added for scholarships, furniture and salaries.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

We've slowly increased our weekly participation to 255 children. Because of your generosity, we have always been able to welcome more participants as the schools identify them. We will continue to do this as the school year progresses. For Thursday night packing, 50-80 volunteers spend just under an hour to prepare gifts of weekend food. On Fridays, 12 volunteers deliver to our 9 partner schools. Please contact Jennie Hodge if you'd like more information on ways to help out:



www.micahsbackpack.org

jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

In November, Micah's Backpack will collect granola bars. We send home more than 500 snacks every weekend. Thank you for sharing 120 juice boxes during October!

On Wednesday, November 4, at 6 p.m., Coach Buzz Williams is holding an open practice and scrimmage for men's basketball at Cassell Coliseum. The entrance "fee" for non-students is two cans of food (spaghettios or chicken noodle soup preferred) for Micah's Backpack. Go coach!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

On September 29, our last date of delivery, Blacksburg experienced a very large rain storm which caused many schools and businesses to close early. However, there were quite a few brave individuals who helped out with Soup for Seniors and delivered the food bags to many anxious and very grateful seniors. The next packing date is Tuesday, November 24 at 5 p.m. with delivery around 6 p.m. to three apartment units at Warm Hearth. In November, **we will be collecting boxes of instant oatmeal.**



Micah's Closet



Thank you to all who shopped and donated fall clothing for Micah's Closet. With your help, we were able to make a difference in the lives of 43 children in our community. Each child received five pairs of pants, five tops, a light jacket, socks, underwear, pajamas and shoes. 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!

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 26

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form during the first Sundays in November if you can donate a pie, sweet potato casserole, gelatin salad 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 **parent gifts** for the Children's Gift Shop in the store. These items could include kitchen towels, perfume, body lotion, flashlights, small tools, candles, 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.

A \$60 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 the 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) or sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form.

Congratulations to...

Camden Brewer who was confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25. Camden is shown with her parents Sheila and Ron and brother Seth.



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 .

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Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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November Servants

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Altar Care	Doug Smiley and friends				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Jackie and Neil Muir	Clifton and Fay Walters	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	William Allen Dianne Krallman
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis	Peggy Morgan	Dianne Krallman
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Jacob Dennis	Matthew James	Nancy Goad	Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer			Camden Brewer	
Comm. Asst.	Doug Smiley		Corson Wertz	Sheila McCartan	
Greeters	Lori Anne Kirk Ray Howell	Cindy Lang Judy Clemens	Becky and Gary Steck	Brewer/McCartan family	Randy and Sharon Robinson
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk	Marty Gordon	Andrea Robinson	Mac McCloud	Doug Veit
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Marty Gordon Cindy Lang	Gary Steck Ben Simmers	Seth Brewer Ron Brewer	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	Emily Graves	
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Sandy Birch	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Sandy Birch	Martie Saks	Deloris Raines	Guille Yearwood

Mowing: 11/6-Jay Nagle (back); 11/13-JD Robinson (front); 11/20-Daniel Ferrell (back)

Rear Lot: 11/2-Guille Yearwood; 11/9-Mike Berg; 11/16-Charlie Saks

Micah's Backpack truck unloading: 11/4 - Bill Knocke and Mike Berg



Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, November 16, at noon at the church. A light lunch will be provided along with fellowship and friendship. We will continue our Bible study about stewardship led by Jody Smiley.

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.

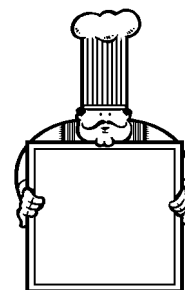


The deadline for returning the Christmas shoe boxes is Sunday, November 15. On that Sunday, during Sunday School, the St. Michael youth (and their adult helpers) will be decorating the boxes at a "Party with a Purpose" and then the boxes will be checked and packed for shipping to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Thank you for your generosity in providing these wonderful gifts for the Head Start youth and others on the reservation. Boxes are available in the front hallway.

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

The O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, November 19, at 11:30 a.m. at the Social House Restaurant in downtown Blacksburg (103 South Main St.-across the street from the National Bank). Parking is available in the back of the restaurant. We will also be carpooling from church - leaving at 11:15 a.m.



Planning ahead....our Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas luncheon – **5 Courses for \$5** -- will be Tuesday, December 8. Mark your calendars for a very special catered holiday meal and program.

We are invited to a showing of "Glen Campbell...I'll Be Me" at Warm Hearth Village Center on Saturday, November 14th from 3 – 5 p.m. This feature film documents country music superstar Glen Campbell's Goodbye Tour after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease three years ago. Join the folks at Warm Hearth to view the film and experience a panel discussion of top Alzheimer's Disease specialists in the area.



Thank You Youth Group

On Sunday, October 11, the youth group wrapped 200 gifts for parents who will be shopping at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Often, these are the only gifts that the parents receive. Thank you!!



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 15-17, 2016 and on January 22-24, 2016 and 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.

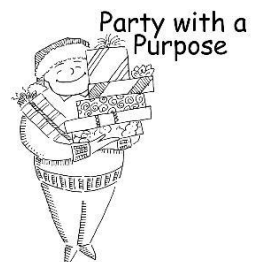
Family Fun Night at St. Michael



All families are invited to a night of fun, food and fellowship on Sunday, November 8 beginning at 5 p.m. Dinner will be provided. There will be activities for children and a time for parent fellowship. Please sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form in the bulletin or email Anna Lehman at: alehman@vt.edu .

Party with a Purpose on Sunday, November 15 at 9:50 AM

On Sunday, November 15, 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.



Advent Suppers and Services **Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 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 2 and 16 and at Luther Memorial on December 9. 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 15

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on "Faith and Sports" in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, November 15, at 7:15 p.m.

A Head Start – at St. Michael

The mission of Early Childhood Head Start Preschool at St. Michael is to build on the unique strengths of children and families through education, social services, preventative health care and nutrition. This partnership between TAP (Total Action for Progress), Rainbow Riders Preschool and St. Michael opened its doors on October 12, 2015. With the help of a federal and local grants, two classrooms have been outfitted with appropriate furniture and equipment for the little ones, ages 6 weeks to 3 years, a new playground has been fenced in and the back entrance to the classroom building has become handicap accessible. On Sunday mornings, the furniture is moved to allow for Sunday School activities. The program runs from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m, Monday – Friday.

Early Childhood Head Start is an educational program which prepares children for school and life. The curriculum is tailored to each child's individual needs and stages of development. The program provides prenatal education, full-day childcare, and family development services for parents who are employed, in an employment training program, or in school. There is no cost for families who qualify for the program which include meeting the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

We welcome our new little ones and their parents to the St. Michael family.

