



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## 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.

## Giving Thanks!

**Thank you for the ways that each of you generously supports God's ministry at St. Michael!** Because of your gifts and talents during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we shared God's love through projects like the Christmas Shoe Boxes, the Angel Tree gifts and gifts for families at Price's Fork Elementary School. On Christmas Eve, we celebrated the joy of Jesus' birth with a total of 270 people at all three services. Your willingness to share your gifts makes it possible for St. Michael to make an impact in our community!

**Thank you for your generous Christmas gift to our family!** We deeply appreciate your kindness and your partnership in ministry. We are blessed to have the opportunity to share in worship, fellowship and service with you on a daily basis.

**Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who give their time to provide leadership for our congregation!** We are blessed with talented support staff, musicians and ministry leaders and we have a dedicated Congregational Council which does an excellent job of guiding the life for the congregation. I want to say a special word of thanks to Fran Gallimore who is retiring after organizing and leading the Community Thanksgiving Meal over the last several years. Under Fran's leadership, the Community Thanksgiving Meal has grown into a wonderful gift of hospitality and excellent food for the community.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.  
pastorjohn@stmclc.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 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 Kris Wertz, Jody Smiley, Reed Yearwood, and Patrice Yearwood 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, Betty Falta, Judith Wolfe and Joyce Coupey 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; to Ron Brewer and Pastor John for hanging new directional signs and to Jay and Becci Nagle for donating the new directional signs; to Maggie Maloney for the new Advent artwork for the sanctuary; and to Jennie and Olivia Hodge for organizing the workroom.

## 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, updated software for the computers, postage for the Christmas boxes, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partners, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, 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 **24 families**: 14 with electric bills, 3 with a water bill, 6 with rent, and one with gasoline. 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.

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

Elements of the Circle of Grace

Paths and Walkways	\$2,000 - \$4,000
Bench	\$ 750

## Report on the December Congregational Meeting

On December 13, the congregation enjoyed a bountiful brunch provided by the Stewards Team. This was a “THANK YOU” to the congregation for sharing its time, talents, and treasures during 2015. At the meeting, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2016 and elected three members of the congregational council: Hank Schneider, Doug Smiley, and Tammy Veit.



Hank Schneider



Doug Smiley



Tammy Veit

### 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 2016. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

### 2016 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2016 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/](http://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@stmhc.us](mailto:suzanneg@stmhc.us), call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome to St. Michael form.

## **“Twas the Night Before Christmas” – a Christmas Celebration**



The youth Christmas program was a big hit on Sunday, December 20. The congregation gathered for a reception following the program.

Thank you to all the narrators, greeters, angels, shepherds, mice, and stable animals who participated in the program and practices: Camden Brewer, Megan Christle, Bryce Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Parker Ferrell, William Ferrell, Jack Graves, Emily Graves, Danny Gruss, Lily Gruss, Addison Lafon, Grace Lafon, Mason Lafon, Miles Maloney, Charlie Mullins, Julianne Snyder, Delanie Veit, and Sophia Veit. A special thank you all the leaders, Kris Wertz, Jody Smiley, Patrice Yearwood, Reed Yearwood and other helpers who made the program possible.



### **Sunday Night Bible Study on January 24**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on “Faith and Sports” (originally scheduled for November) in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, January 24, at 7:15 p.m.

### **Sunday School for All Ages Returns on January 10 at 9:50 AM**

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Because of your generosity, this month we expanded to feed five children who attend the Rainbow Riders Head Start program that meets at St. Michael. We now feed 271 students in 10 schools in our community. We concluded another successful Cummings and Ivers challenge gift: 10 donors matched their \$1,000 gift toward our infrastructure. There are lots of pictures on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Micahs-Backpack-257298204308305/>. Packing for 2016 kicks off on Thursday, January 7, at 6 p.m.

**This month Micah's Backpack will collect granola bars or fruit chews.** We send home more than 542 snacks every weekend. Thank you for sharing 117 juice boxes during 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](mailto: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 26. Packing will begin at 5 p.m. and we will deliver the food around 6 p.m. at Warm Hearth. **In January, we will collect cans of whole kernel corn.**

At our December distribution, we received the following note from one of the residents of South Trollinger at Warm Hearth.

*I want to thank the church for caring for me and bringing me things to eat. May God bless everyone this year. Love you all. Bessie*

## Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 7. 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!



# Celebrating and Serving During Advent and Christmas



**Party with a Purpose**



**Community Thanksgiving Meal**



**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

**Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Permit No. 78**

## *January Servants*

	<b>January 3</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>January 31</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sandy Birch				
<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Nancy Goad William Allen	Jackie and Neil Muir	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Gary and Sandie Worley
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Peggy Morgan	Mac McCloud	Judith Wolfe
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Nancy Goad	Jacob Dennis	Matthew James	Lylah Shelor
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Camden Brewer		Seth Brewer		
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Seth Brewer	Mickey McGuigan	Randy Robinson		
<b>Greeters</b>	Brewer/McCartan family	Wanda and James Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Anna Rossomando Betty Wingate	Ben Simmers Randy Robinson
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Kris Wertz	Jay Nagle	Cindy Dowdy	Mickey McGuigan	Jody Smiley
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Philip Isenhour Anna Rossomando	Sharon and Randy Robinson
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Camden Brewer	Emily Graves	Bryce Dowdy		
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg family	Berg family	Sandy Birch	Saks family	Donna Oliver
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Katherine Berg	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Tacey Apisa

## Women of the ELCA

**Lunch and Learn will be Monday, January 18 at noon.** Join your “sisters” for a light lunch and Bible study led by Jody Smiley.

Thank you to everyone who bought items for our Price’s Fork Elementary School family baskets. We donated eleven 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 12: John Kell, Ben Crawford, Matthew James, Jacob Dennis and Ron Brewer (pictured clockwise).



### O.K.s (Older Kids)



Twenty O.K.s gathered at the Outback Steakhouse on December 29 and enjoyed fine food and fellowship – and birthday cake. On behalf of the “Christmas kids”, Sandy thanks you for the fine rendition of “Happy Birthday” as well. Our next restaurant adventure will be in February. Thank you to all the cooks and bakers who prepared the meals for our Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons. The next luncheon will be Tuesday, March 8 -- a delicious Easter meal.

### Care of Creation

The congregation is invited to share the following items in our hallway Recycling Center:

**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.