



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmlc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Volume 40, Number 11

November 1, 2016

Advent Prayer Triplets and People of Passion for Council

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.

I recently had the opportunity to spend time with a pastor and author named George Bullard who introduced me to an idea he called **Prayer Triplets**. The concept of a prayer triplet is fairly simple - three people meeting together for a defined period of time to pray for their lives, the world and their congregation.

As we move into the season of Advent, I invite you to join me in forming Advent Prayer Triplets - 3 people who commit to meet 3 times for 30 minutes for prayer during Advent. I am happy to help form triplets of interested people in the congregation who sign up or you can find two friends and neighbors in the community to join you in prayer. To help each triplet, St. Michael will provide three Prayer Guides with themes and prayer possibilities for each prayer gathering. If you are interested in getting more information or in being a part of a Prayer Triplet, please email me or sign up on the Welcome sheet.

The Advent season is also the time of year when St. Michael selects **new members for the Congregational Council**. Over the last few months, the Council has talked about our leadership selection process, about the way we identify and select Council members and about whether the time has come to shift from competitive elections to more robust nomination process. The conversation is on-going, but this year, the Council would like your help to lift up people who are passionate about the ministry of St. Michael as potential Council members. On Sunday, November 13, you will be invited to write down the name of one person in the congregation who you feel is passionate about our ministry and gifted for leadership. The names that are shared will go to the nominating team who will prayerfully consider the suggestions and assemble a list of nominees for the Congregational Meeting on December 11.

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 Joyce Coupey, Frances Edge, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Mildred Wall, and Judith Wolfe for folding the October newsletter, to Ron Brewer for building storage cabinets for Micah's Closet, and to Sheila McCartan and her family for organizing and delivering all the clothing purchased for Micah's Closet.

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, bulletin and newsletter paper, stamps, septic system repair, and fire extinguisher inspections, 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 **20 families**: 12 with electric service, 4 with rent, 2 with a water bill, and 2 with car 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.

Thank You Note

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of household items. Our community is our biggest partner in providing free services to adult and child victims of sexual and domestic violence. Your participation in our mission helps us get closer to becoming a community free of sexual and domestic violence. With sincere gratitude, Pat Brown, Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley

Thank you to everyone who shared an **Estimates of Giving for 2017**. 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.



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 .

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

October has been a great month at MBP. A generous couple volunteered to make a run to Feeding America in Salem each month to buy our low cost food for the shelves. And Men in Mission agreed to be there to unload when they get back to the church. What a gift they are sharing with us! Dina, Kathy, Pastor John and Susan met to discuss a new fundraising strategy during the holiday season in which people can “text” a donation to MBP. All they have to do is type in a certain number and then follow the instructions—easy and quick and a great way to reach the tech savvy younger generations! Lots of groups have been with us to pack, and we even had plenty of packers the night of the VT/Miami game! Volunteers in our community want to feed hungry children in our midst, and those volunteers are what make MBP such a success.



www.micahsbackpack.org

This month, we have been feeding approximately 300 children each week (some weeks a few more, some weeks a few less). Each packing night we have had between 30-70 volunteers. And right now our cost is somewhere between \$4-5/bag. Food drives are starting to pick up with several big ones happening in the next few months. We are so grateful for all food donations.

If you are at the grocery store this **November** and want to pick up something for MBP, feel free to grab snack items like granola bars, fruit snacks, or individual cheez-it packs.

Micah's Closet



Thank you to all The Micah's Closet Shoppers and Sponsors! With your help, we successfully completed the fall distribution of clothing to 39 students at Prices Fork Elementary School. Last Friday, the students left school with their gift bags of clothing and according to one teacher (Cindy Dowdy), with big smiles on their faces! The need has increased every year since the start of MC. With the generous support of the congregation and the community we have been able to meet the need.

If you go to the large classroom, notice that Micah's Closet now has a closet! With grant money received and Ron Brewer's help, we installed storage so that we can take better advantage of clearance and sales events throughout the year. To help fill the closet we ask that if you have *Kohl's Cash* that you are not planning on using any time throughout the year, to please bring it to church before it expires. You can put it in the offering plate or give it to Sheila McCartan or Judy Clemens and we will ask one of our Micah's Shoppers to use it for the closet.





Micah's Soup for Seniors

The next packing date is Tuesday, November 29 at 5 p.m. with delivery around 6:00 p.m. to three apartment units at Warm Hearth. In November, **we will be collecting jars of peanut butter.**

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.

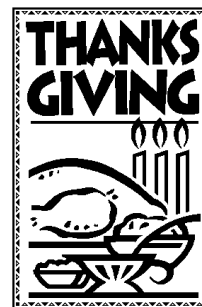


Party with a Purpose on Sunday, November 13 at 5 PM

On Sunday, November 13, everyone is invited to a Party with a Purpose at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy dinner and then help 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 for this Filling your Faith Toolbox service project.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 24

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. 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 will generously provide 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!

To Our House – November 19-23



St. Michael will provide food for the To Our House program again this year from November 19 to 23. 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@stmhc.us) or sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form.

Advent Suppers and Services **Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21 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 November 30 and December 14 and at Luther Memorial on December 7 and 21. 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 20

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study on "Thankfulness" in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, November 20, at 7:15 p.m.

Montgomery County Christmas Store Donations

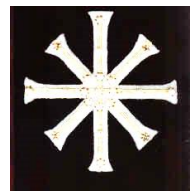
Help share the Christmas spirit with our friends and neighbors who shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. We are collecting **parent gifts** for the Children's Gift Shop in the store. These items could include kitchen towels, perfume, body lotion, flashlights, small tools, candles, and picture 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.

Northside Presbyterian Church will be collecting donations of new and used goods for the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturdays in November. On November 5, 12, 19 and 26, items will be accepted from 10:00am-1:00pm at the church. Go to the lower church parking lot located on the corner of Watson and Progress Streets. Volunteers will take your donations and give you a tax deductible form.

Items that can be donated include new and used winter clothing for infants, children and adults. Please no summer clothing. New and used toys and games, books, bikes, child car seats, new towels and linens and new small electrical appliances are needed. No used household goods are accepted.

Chrismon Workshop – November 19

Chrismon Ornaments were originated and first made for use on the Christmas tree of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957. The designs were monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by his followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us of the One we follow.



Each Christmas, St. Michael decorates our tree with Chrismons and this year we are going to have a workshop of Saturday, Nov. 19 to make new Chrismons for our tree. There will be ornaments for families, youth and adults to make. For more information or to sign up, please contact Butch Akers at: artistib@thenrv.com. Watch the bulletin for more specifics about the event.

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

<p>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p>
--

November Servants

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
Altar Care	Barbara Corbett and Lynn Hickok			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Butch Akers Dave Surface	Sandy Birch William Allen	Neil and Jackie Muir
Lay Reader	Gary Worley	Mac McCloud	Dianne Krallman	Peggy Morgan
Comm. Asst.	Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe	Sandie Worley	Lylah Shelor
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Megan Christle		Camden Brewer	
Comm. Asst.	Corson Wertz		Shelia McCartan	
Greeters	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	Ferrell Family	Brewer/McCartan Family	J.D. and Andrea Robinson
Lay Reader	Margaret Christle	Marty Gordon	Kris Wertz	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	Daniel Ferrell John Kell	Ron Brewer Philip Isenhour	J.D. and Andrea Robinson
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Bryce Dowdy	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg Family	Graves Family	Donna Oliver	Ben Simmers
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Tacey Apisa	Mike Berg	G. Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg	G. Yearwood

Mowing: 11/5-James/Dennis (front); 11/12-Jay Nagle (back); 11/19-JD Robinson (front)
Rear Lot: 11/7-Charlie Saks; 11/14-Mike Berg; 11/21-Reed Yearwood



Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, November 21, at noon at the church: This month's Lunch and Learn is titled "Paul and the power of failure: when God chooses the unlikely". No one on earth would ever have looked at Paul's resume and thought, "apostle." In fact, no one on earth did! But God chose Paul, a man with a dubious past and a shaky present,

to lead and guide the early church into the future. Let's explore how can Paul's failings helps us come to terms with a God who chooses the unlikely-including your and me.

Remember the Food Bank: November we'll collect canned foods, vegetables, fruits, meats, spaghetti, etc., 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.



November 13 will be the deadline for collecting the filled shoeboxes for the Head Start children (ages 4-6) on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. This gift is often the only Christmas gift a child receives. There are plastic shoe boxes available in the front hallway with notes offering suggestions on the content. Some ideas include educational items that will help with math, spelling or reading as well as a small toy and perhaps gloves or mittens, packaged toothbrushes, etc. Sunday evening November 13 at 5 p.m. we will have dinner catered by Greeks' Restaurant and Grill, then prepare the boxes, followed by evening worship.

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)

Planning ahead....Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with your friends at St. Michael for the next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon is December 13



November 6

Youth Lunch and Laser Tag November 6

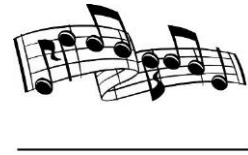


On Sunday, November 6, all Youth (6th to 12th grade) are invited to enjoy lunch together at the church and then enjoy an afternoon of laser tag. If you are interested in going, please email Casey at: pcasey8@vt.edu or Alec at: ama2106@vt.edu.

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.

Choir Camp to Prepare for Advent and Christmas

The St. Michael Choir welcomes youth and adults who love to sing and want to help lead in worship on Sundays and at seasonal worship services. If you'd like to help sing during Advent or on Christmas Eve, come and be a part of Choir Camp on Sunday, November 6 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. We'll enjoy lunch together and then learn music for the coming holiday season. For more information, please contact Patrice: payearwood1@gmail.com.



Getting Healthy and Learning about the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Thesis (95 points for discussion) to the door of the church at Wittenberg and launched the Protestant Reformation.



As we draw closer to the 500th Anniversary of that event, you are invited to join other Lutherans in the New River Valley in the 500 Years of Reformation, 500 Mile Challenge. Commemorate the Reformation by getting healthy and by learning more about Reformation history. Commit to walk, run, bike, or swim 500 miles between October 31, 2016 and October 31, 2017 and you'll receive:

You can sign up by going to: <http://eepurl.com/chfsw5>.

New River Conference Gathering – November 6

You are invited to the New River Conference Gathering on Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 PM at Luther Memorial. The Gathering will give you the opportunity to meet the Transition Team which will lead the gathering through a series of small group discussions focused on the 2017 Virginia Synod Assembly Election of a Bishop.