



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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## Faith Formation Opportunities for Children and Youth

### Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music

On the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., St. Michael gathers families with young children for dinner, discussion and music. We'll enjoy a simple dinner together, share a Bible story with the kids, then Patrice will offer a music program called "God's Children Sing" for the kids while the parents have time for discussion and conversation. You don't need to worry about cooking, just bring yourself and your family.

Date	Time	Bible Story
November 1, 2017	5:30 to 6:45 PM	Moses
December 6, 2017	5:30 to 6:45 PM	The Christmas Story

### 2017-2018 Virginia Synod Youth Events

Did you know that the Virginia Synod Youth Events are considered among the best Lutheran Youth Events in the entire country? The next two opportunities for youth to experience these wonderful faith and community building events are coming soon. For more information or to register, please email me at [pastorjohn@stmlc.us](mailto:pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

Lost and Found (7th/8th Graders) - Nov. 17-19:

Registration Deadline: Nov. 3, 2017

Winter Celebration (9th-12th Graders) - January 19-21/26-28, 2018:

Registration Deadline: Dec. 11, 2017

### 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.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.  
[pastorjohn@stmlc.us](mailto: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 Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta and Lynda Kinzey for folding the October newsletter, to Wanda Pascoe and Mildred Wall for helping with a special congregational mailing, to Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley and Kris Wertz for organizing Micah's Closet and to all the volunteers who helped shop; to Frances and Kay Edge and Gary and Sandie Worley for installing new plants around the Circle of Grace; to John Kell, Anna Rossomando, and Becky Steck for helping with Clean Up Day; to everyone who helped provide food for funeral meals; to Ron Brewer for repairing our mailbox and to our musicians for sharing their musical gifts.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for office supplies, stamps, pest control services, the Families of Faith Dinner, Music and Discussion event, bulletin and newsletter paper, 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.



**Thank you** to everyone who shared an **Estimate of Giving for 2018**. 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.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In October, we assisted **24 families**: 20 with electric bills, 3 with rent, and 1 with gasoline. 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.



#### E-Newsletter

Each Thursday, St. Michael publishes an **E-Newsletter** with the latest information on our ministry. If you have not signed up for the E-Newsletter, you can do so at: <http://eepurl.com/OnGc9>

If you are not receiving the newsletter, please check your "Spam" folder.

**St. Michael's Office will be closed** on Tuesday, November 7 so that we can serve as a polling place for the election.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)

It's a lot of fun to hear what groups come out to pack each Thursday night at MBP. On one Thursday in October, I joked that I was just going to write down every letter in the Greek alphabet to remind myself of which groups were there that night. We have so many sororities and fraternities that come to help. Other groups are fundamental in making packing happen as well...from the VT Dairy Club to the Blacksburg Newcomers Club to a team that comes from Target on a regular basis. We couldn't do what we do

without all of these great partners. Thank you!

At this point, we are serving over 300 students each week, packing 1800 meals into bags for delivery to seven schools, two Head Start programs, and one childcare center. That means that many, many children are being fed on the weekends because so many in this community care about them.

Feel free to shop during **November** for **instant oatmeal packets** and bring them to the MBP food room to help us fill up the bags.

## Micah's Closet

Thank you to all the Micah's Closet Shoppers and Sponsors! With your help, we are currently working to provide gifts of clothing to 42 students at Price's Fork Elementary School. Within a few weeks, the students will have their new clothing to prepare for the cold weather. With the generous support of the congregation and the community we have been able to meet this need.



## Micah's Soup for Seniors

We continue to have great support from the St. Michael congregation each month with both packing and delivering to the seniors at Warm Hearth.

For November, we will be packing and delivering on Nov 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. We welcome anybody who's interested to join us! We will be collecting **chicken noodle soup** for the month of **November**.

## Micah's Garden

Micah's Garden is still producing a harvest. So far this year, we have produced and donated over 400 pounds of produce from 13 different types of crops. In the picture you can see some of the crops harvested in late October.



## 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 12 at 9:50 AM**

On Sunday, November 12, everyone is invited to a Party with a Purpose at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come help prepare all the Christmas boxes and other gifts for mailing to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We need lots of “Santa’s helpers.” Come make a difference for a child.

### **Giving Thanks with Holden Evening Prayer on November 16**

On Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m., we will give thanks for all our blessings and for the gifts of food provided through Micah’s Backpack at a special Holden Evening Prayer. The service will follow packing for Micah’s Backpack that evening and we’ll share space in the pews with the bags of food that will be delivered the next day. Hope you can be a part of this special service.

### **Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 23**



Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. 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 18-22**

St. Michael will provide food for the To Our House program again this year from November 18 to 22. 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. 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.



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

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### *November Servants*

	<b>November 5</b>	<b>November 12</b>	<b>November 19</b>	<b>November 26</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Corbett/Hickok			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	JD and Andrea Robinson	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Ben and Carol Crawford
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Dianne Krallman	Maggie Maloney	Gary Worley
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Lylah Shelor	Sandy Williams	Lori Anne Kirk	Sandie Worley
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Emily Graves		Megan Christle	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Laura Gruss		Doug Smiley	
<b>Greeters</b>	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Ferrell Family	Randy & Sharon Robinson
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mac McCloud	Kris Wertz	Jody Smiley	Fran Shepherd
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Daniel Ferrell John Kell	Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Lily Gruss		Jack Graves	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Donna Oliver	Graves Family	Donna Oliver	Berg Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa	Mike Berg
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg

Mowing: 11/4-James/Dennis (front); 11/11-Jay Nagle (back); 11/18-JD Robinson (front)  
Rear Lot: 11/6-Charlie Saks; 11/13-Mike Berg; 11/20-Doug Smiley



## Women of the ELCA

All ladies are invited to come for **Lunch and Learn** on **Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** at noon and to bring a friend if you wish. We'll start with a Thanksgiving themed lunch, followed by a Bible study. There will be a place to sign up on the bulletin inserts.

**Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering** – Sunday **November 5<sup>th</sup>**, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Christiansburg, program begins 2:30pm. All the women of the church are invited – it's a good time to meet ladies from Lutheran churches in the NRV and hear about our Project for this fall: Renewal of the Spirit: Beyond the Storms. The women of Our Saviour will provide refreshments. There will be two offerings: one for VSWO (VA Synodical Women's Organization) and one for Faith Lutheran Church, Dickinson, TX. The whole church was flooded by hurricane Harvey. We are sponsoring this offering to help them replace a sewing machine, used to make crafts. Their proceeds help sponsor local charities. We also would like to help fund replacement of children's books and diapers. These are used as incentives to attend community parent education classes they host. If you have any questions, please check with Sandy Birch, Alice Schneider, or Jody Smiley.

**If you would like to help the recovery effort for Faith Lutheran, please put your Love Offering in the beige offering envelopes found in the pew pockets - label it WELCA. Thank you!**



We will again send **Christmas shoeboxes** to Head Start children at Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to pick up several. Boxes are in the narthex, with printed instructions inside.

**We will prepare the shoeboxes for shipping on Sunday morning, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:50 a.m., between church services.** We need people of all ages to help us check, close, label, decorate, and count. It's always a busy but fun hour to get these ready for children who otherwise receive few, if any, Christmas gifts.

**The Food Bank:** In November please bring ingredients for Thanksgiving Dinner - potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, roll or dessert mixes, although the food bank always welcomes any non-perishable foods.

**Women's Resource Center:** please bring **soaps** - for hands, dishes or body wash.

Thank you for all the things you provide to help others in our community.

The women of the church are invited to "Kindling New Fires for Peace" on World Community Day at St. Paul AME on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.

*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.K.s (Older Kids) Trip Update

Interested in a nice day trip with St. Michael friends? We made some plans just for you! All you have to do is register. On-line registration directions are below or you can find a paper form on the O.K.s bulletin board.

You can register on-line:

- Google: **Parks and Recreation – Montgomery County Virginia**
- Click on **Register on-line**
- Click on **How do I register for activities**
- Click on the trip(s) you are interested in registering for and follow the directions from there. (You will need a credit card to register on-line. If the trip is cancelled, they will credit your card.)

Our trip to the **Greenbrier** will be on **November 30th**...the Thursday after Thanksgiving. Time: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. It's a beautiful trip through the West Virginia mountains to the resort. Lunch will be on our own at Drapers, featuring southern Dorothy Draper dishes. In the afternoon, we can explore the legendary Greenbrier Hotel and Art Colony Shops...always a favorite place to pick up those special Christmas gifts! \$18 per person.

Brad will be our escort to the **Roanoke Christmas & Crafts** trip on Friday, **December 8th** (10 a.m.-5 p.m.). I am looking forward to experiencing the grandeur of Hotel Roanoke along with the lunch buffet in the Regency Dining Room. There will be an elaborate Christmas tree display in the hotel, so bring your camera! The historic Farmer's Market, boutiques and shops in the downtown square will certainly draw us out for last minute shopping! \$35 includes lunch!

See you soon!  
Anita Shepard  
armsis97@gmail.com  
540-382-3603

Planning ahead...Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with your friends at St. Michael for the next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon on December 12th. The theme is "Ice Cream and Iceland". Don't miss this one!



# Change Your Clocks

## Nov. 5

## Congratulations to ...

Jim Clemens, who was honored by Blacksburg High School for 37 years of service. He has volunteered his time as a member of the "chain gang" at the high school football games since 1981. He has worked almost every Varsity and JV football game since 1981.



And to Pastor John receiving the Teilmann Youth Services Award on October 5th at the Kiwanis Installation Banquet.



## Veterans Day

November 11th is not only Veterans Day, but also the day to remember St Martin of Tours, namesake for Martin Luther.

In honor of Veterans Day last year, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), called upon the church to pray for members of the armed services, veterans, chaplains and their families. Bishop Eaton was responding to a request by the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly "to establish a Sunday of prayer and action closest to Veterans Day each year to unite this church in prayer and encourage practical assistance for military members, veterans, ELCA chaplains and families."

On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, please recognize and honor with prayer, appreciation and gratitude, all veterans but especially the members of St. Michael who are veterans, including those on active duty.

### Air Force

Joe Garst

Keith Gay

### Army/National Guard

Billy Brown

Ben Crawford

Ray Howell

Bert Kinzey

Neil Muir

Jeanette Pasier

Mark Pasier

Rebecca Steck



### Coast Guard

Chris Maloney

Dave Surface

### Marines

Tommy Howell

### Navy

Jeff Birch

John Krallman

Mac McLeod

Currently serving:

### Marines

Katie Garst

*Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.*

--Abraham Lincoln

Almighty God, our Creator, provide your protection upon all those who have been and continue to be in the service of our country; guard them from all harm and danger of mind, body, and soul; sustain and comfort their families at home, especially in their hours of loneliness, anxiety, and sorrow; help those who struggle today for the basic necessities and who wrestle with demons yet tamed and expelled; give success to our defenders on land, sea, and air; and grant to us and all nations an enduring and lasting peace. Amen.

-- ELCA Congregational Resources: <http://elcachaps.com/>