



# 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.

## **Thank You!**

**Thank you for sharing your gift and talents to strengthen and extend God's ministry at St. Michael!** Because of your generosity, St. Michael makes an impact all year round. Through the Core Ministries of the congregation like worship, shepherding and education, we give thanks to God, support one another and grow in our understanding of God's Word. As we live out our faith, we make a difference in the lives of those in need. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we shared God's love through seasonal projects like the Christmas Shoe Boxes and gifts for families at Price's Fork Elementary School. On Christmas Eve, we celebrated the joy of Jesus' birth with over 300 people. Thank you for being God's heart and hands and voices!

**Thank you for your generous Christmas gift to our family!** We deeply appreciate your kindness and your partnership in ministry. Thank you!

**Thank you to all the staff, leaders and volunteers who share their time and wisdom to provide leadership for our congregation!** We have wonderfully talented support staff, musicians and ministry leaders who lead us in ministry and worship. Our Congregational Council does an excellent job of guiding the life of the congregation and we have fantastic volunteers who generously share their time and their talents in a host of ways. Thank you for sharing your gifts to extend God's love in so many ways!

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--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.*

### Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To all who helped with the Christmas Eve services; to everyone who helped with the Advent meals that we hosted (and to Suzanne Gay for organizing us); to the Christmas tree decorators and to Fran and Dickie Shepherd for providing the tree; to the men who volunteered for parking lot and cart duty at the Montgomery County Christmas Store; to everyone who contributed gifts for families at Price’s Fork Elementary School; to Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, Mildred Wall and Lynda Kinzey for folding the December newsletter; to Wanda Pascoe for folding ALL of the Christmas Eve bulletins; to Butch Akers for providing the Christmas Eve luminaries; and to Joyce Coupey for designing and creating the new St. Michael banner.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided support for the Thank You brunch, monthly devotional materials, Communion wine, music supplies, decorations for Christmas Eve, 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 **17 families**: 9 with electric bills, 1 with a water bill, 6 with rent and one with a car expense. 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.

### Congratulations to ...

**David Christle**, Brian Currin, Austin Nickle, **Matt Sharpe**, **Paul Kell**, and Jonathan Kanode who were recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. All are members of Troop 158 which meets at St. Michael. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. It is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America.



## Altar Flowers and Altar Care



*Not your mother's altar guild!*

Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2018. No experience necessary... training is available. Assistants prepare the communion elements (usually twice a month) and change the altar cloths as necessary. Easy and fun. Pictured is Doug Smiley, a long time altar caregiver. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board. Questions can be addressed to Sandy Birch.



Thank you to everyone who shares their time in preparing our altar for communion services. You are a blessing.



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 2018. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

## 2018 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2018 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.

## Thank You

*St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for all your kindness in helping our Price's Fork families this season. I know it is an answered prayer for so many. We are so fortunate to have you all in our community! Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season from Price's Fork Elementary!*

*Heather Reynolds, School Counselor*

**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](mailto:suzanneg@stmlc.us), call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome to St. Michael form.

## Report on the December Congregational Meeting

On December 3, 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 2017. At the meeting, the congregation approved the Investments in Ministry Plan for 2018 and elected three members of the congregational council: Elizabeth Graves, John Kell and Mickey McGuigan.



Elizabeth Graves



John Kell



Mickey McGuigan

### Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 5. 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!



### Sunday Night Bible Study on January 21

Pastor John will be leading a Bible study entitled, “I Didn’t Know that was from the Bible: Discovering the Scripture Verses in the Liturgy”. The study will be in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, January 21, at 7:15 p.m.

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

On Wednesday, January 10 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., families with young children are invited to gather for dinner, discussion and music. We’ll enjoy a simple dinner together, share the story of Epiphany and the Wise Men, 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.



## 20/20 Vision: Looking to the Future of Ministry at St. Michael

In November, a planning group facilitated by Nancy Franz, developed a possible new mission statement, discussed making our current mission statement a vision statement and identified three key visions for how we can grow and strengthen our ministry together in the coming three years. The vision areas are: Engagement, Leadership and Children, Youth and their Families.

Beginning this month, you are invited to help develop each of the three visions areas and present a plan for action to the congregation at our March 2018 Congregational Meeting. If you are interested in getting involved, please talk to Pastor John for more information. Here's the schedule for the first meeting for each group.

Engagement

Sunday, January 14 at 9:50 AM

Children, Youth and their Families

Sunday, January 21 at 9:50 AM

Leadership

Monday, January 22 at 7 PM

## Celebrating Advent and Christmas at St. Michael



## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Things were hopping at Micah's Backpack this month. On the last night of packing, we packed double the usual amount of bags. Volunteers gamely played along in the confusion and finished packing in the usual amount of time! Maybe it was Santa and the hot chocolate and goodies that kept them going.

Thank you to all the volunteers who so faithfully show up on Thursday evenings to make sure that hungry kids get food to keep them going over the weekend. Without these stalwart volunteers, we would never be able to pack over 320 bags a week.

So far this school year, we have packed 5,474 bags over 17 weeks. That's an average of 322 bags each week. Amazing that our community is so generous.

Feel free to join us for packing on Thursday nights at 6:00. We start packing in 2018 on January 11.

For **January**, please feel free to bring 100% juice to fill the MBP shelves.

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 Susan Verbrugge at [susan@stmhc.us](mailto:susan@stmhc.us)

## 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. Thanks to the 25 to 30 volunteers who help each month. Our January distribution will take place on Tuesday, **January 23**. 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 applesauce.**

## Lutheran Men in Mission

Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission who volunteered at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 9.



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***January Servants***

	<b>January 7</b>	<b>January 14</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>January 28</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Steck Family			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Neil and Jackie Muir	Wilma Pieper and Butch Akers	Sandy Williams Lylah Shelor	Ben and Carol Crawford
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Butch Akers	Matthew James	Gary Worley
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Lylah Shelor	Dianne Krallman	Jacob Dennis	Sandie Worley
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Megan Christle		Emily Graves	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jody Smiley		Mickey McGuigan	
<b>Greeters</b>	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Ferrell Family	Gary and Rebecca Steck
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mac McLeod	Fran Shepherd	Emma Patterson	Jeff Birch
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Don Linkous	Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd	Daniel Ferrell Marty Gordon	Gary and Rebecca Steck
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg Family	Graves Family	Donna Oliver	Saks Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa	Charles Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa	Martie Saks

## Women of the ELCA



As has become our tradition over the last few years the ladies will have dinner at a local restaurant in the New Year and enjoy a night off from their home kitchens! We will meet for Ladies Night Out at O'Charley's on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00 PM. Bring your daughter, mom, friend or neighbor and join the St. Michael ladies for some delicious food and fellowship. Please sign up on the bulletin inserts so they can set enough places for us. If you need a ride or would like to car pool, please call Alice Schneider 552-6995.

### The Christmas Giving story continues....

It was noted in the December newsletter that we sent 276 Christmas shoeboxes to the Head Start children at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Our good friends at a Dublin, VA shipping company called Fontaine, ship our boxes and those from Christ Episcopal at no cost — that's over 2,000 pounds of presents. What a wonderful gift from the company!



In addition, we always have hats, gloves, scarves, baby blankets, toiletries and other items that we send to a retreat center and clothing closet on the reservation. We always use Easy Way (near Taco Bell) who yearly give us a nice discount. This year the small donations from individuals and organizations to help with shipping totaled \$130. This amount was not mentioned to our friend at Easy Way as she calculated our cost. After the discount, the total came to \$132.14...which she rounded to 130...the exact amount that had been donated! A small Christmas miracle?

**Remember the Food Bank:** for January please bring in breakfast cereals – any variety, either cooked or dry cereals, though all donations of packaged and canned foods are greatly appreciated.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** Cleaning supplies will be collected during January.