



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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Celebrating Christmas at St. Michael



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) and To Our House; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to Patrice Yearwood, Matthew James, the Choir, and Jody Smiley for providing music and leadership for the youth Christmas program; to the men who volunteered for parking lot and cart duty at the Montgomery County Christmas Store; to Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen, Mildred Wall and Betty Wingate for folding the December newsletter; to Wanda Pascoe, Lynda Kinzey and Betty Wingate for folding the Christmas Eve bulletins; to Butch Akers for providing the Christmas Eve luminaries; to Doug and Jody Smiley for setting up and taking down the beautiful poinsettia tree; to Pat Smith and Betty Wingate as they retire from delivering food to the food pantry and supplies to the Women’s Resource Center for many years, and to Mack and Karen Brown for arranging transportation and transporting two of our members from Heritage Hall to the annual Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas luncheon.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided support for the monthly devotional booklets, heat pump repair, 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 **8 families**: 3 with electric bills, 4 with rent and one with medication assistance. 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 ...

John Krallman who was recently promoted to Interim Chief of Staff for the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) at Virginia Tech. His new position involves assisting all VT employees with their information technology needs.



Altar Flowers and Altar Care



Not your mother's altar guild!

Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2019. 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 2019. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

2019 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2019 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/) for details.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting and Thank You Brunch has been rescheduled for next Sunday, January 6 at 10 a.m. Brunch will be provided by the Stewards Team as a thank you to all in the St. Michael family who shared their time, talents and treasures this past year. Please plan to attend this important meeting where we will approve the 2019 Investments in Ministry and elect new council members. If the meeting must be cancelled due to inclement weather, the makeup date is January 13.



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 3. 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!



In Case of Emergency



Did you know we have a complete First Aid kit and AED (automated external defibrillator) mounted on the wall just outside of Pastor Paul's office and near the kitchen door? We hope no one needs them but it is nice to know they are available if needed.



Lutheran Men in Mission

Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission who volunteered at the Montgomery County Christmas Store on Saturday, December 8. Our church's Men In Mission under the leadership of Jeff Birch have handled the Montgomery County Christmas Store parking for one Saturday the last ten consecutive years at least.



Pictured above L to R are Dave Surface, Gary Steck, Jeff Birch and Ron Brewer. John Kell and Doug Smiley also helped but are not in the photo.

The Lutheran Men in Mission will continue to help with Micah's Backpack by unloading the food car and moving the food into the storage bins on the second Wednesday of each month, December through May. The next date is **January 9**.

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, call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome to St. Michael form.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



December has been an exciting month for Micah's Backpack. Many groups contacted us after choosing Micah's Backpack to use as their community service hours. A big thanks to the groups from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg High School and other organizations for dedicating your time and energy to helping us feed hungry children in our community. We especially want to thank the Virginia Tech Women's Golf Team for helping us reorganize after our crazy Thanksgiving week pack night and the Virginia Tech Women's Basketball Team for helping us pack in December!

This month we have served close to 350 students each week. Every Thursday we are blown away by the generosity of our community members with their donations of time, money and/or food. Without the blessing of their kindness, we would not be able to meet the need. Thank you for supporting Micah's Backpack in 2018!

MCPS is on winter break from December 21-January 7. **We will begin packing again on Thursday, January 10th.** If you feel called to support Micah's Backpack this month, we would ask that you consider donating **cans of tuna**. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Micah's Soup for Seniors



The packing date for January is **January 29th**. We continue to support over 100 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera bread. Thanks to everyone who made 2018 a very successful year. We want to thank all our church volunteers, Chi Delta Alpha Service Sorority and the many other volunteers in the community.

If anyone can help out with the Panera - picking up the leftovers on Monday night - please let me know. I hope that we can get several volunteers so we can alternate months.

Recently we had a group of VT students working on a project for their Project Management course. They focused on different ways to support Micah's Soup for Seniors during their course. These students held two neighborhood food drives, had a bake sale at Moe's, and put together health kits for the November packing. It was exciting to have their support.

For **January**, we will be collecting **chicken noodle soup**.



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January Servants

	January 6 Epiphany	January 13 Baptism of Our Lord	January 20	January 27
Altar Care				
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Clifton and Fay Walters	Mayer Family	Elaine Powers Joe Garst	Neil and Jackie Muir
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Mac McCloud	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Williams	Joe Garst	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Emily Graves	
Comm. Asst.	Doug Smiley	Jeff Birch	Mickey McGuigan	
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	James and Wanda Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Gary and Rebecca Steck
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	Fran Shepherd	Mickey McGuigan	Marty Gordon
Ushers	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	James and Wanda Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Gary and Rebecca Steck
Youth Servant	Bryce Dowdy		Emily Katz	

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers at both services please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate.

Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn: All women are invited to **Ladies Night Out – 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 16.** We will have dinner at O’Charley’s and it’s free pie dessert night! You are welcome to bring a friend. If you would like to carpool, please call Alice Schneider or Sandy Birch. We will **not** have a regular Lunch and Learn in January. There will be a sign-up sheet in bulletin inserts.



Price’s Fork Elementary - Empty Stockings: Many thanks to all who shopped to fill holiday stockings for ten children at Price’s Fork Elementary. We also used December’s Noisy Offering the children collected to fill two of the stockings. Thanks to Fran Shepherd who delivered them all to the school.

Remember the Food Bank: In **January** please bring **canned or packaged tuna or meats**, although other non-perishable foods are always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: There is always laundry to do – we will continue to collect **laundry detergent** or **dryer sheets** this month.

Thank you for all the ways you help our neighbors.

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 that exchanges them for donations to the Justice and Mercy Fund.

Batteries are sent to the Town of Blacksburg where they are safely disposed of.

Eyeglasses 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.

Church Doors

The new front doors have been installed; however, they are damaged and will be replaced. The reordering and reinstallation will take a while. After the undamaged doors are installed, they will be painted.

Happy New Year!



St. Michael Choir, Musicians and Soloists on Christmas Eve



St. Michael Lutheran Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 11:00 AM Worship	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting 11:00 AM Worship - Communion	7 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	9 2:45 PM Music Lesson 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Congregational Council	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	16 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out to O'Charley's Restaurant 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 5:30 PM Confirmation Dinner and Table Talk at Luther Memorial 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Choir Practice 11:00 AM Worship - Communion	21 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	22 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study	23 2:45 PM Music Lesson 7:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	24 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	25	26
27 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Choir Practice 11:00 AM Worship	28 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	30 2:45 PM Music Lesson 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	31 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	1	2

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Food Bank - Tuna/Meats; Women's RC - Laundry Soap; Micah's Backpack - Tuna; Soup for Seniors - CN Soup