



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Paul, With Deep Gratitude...

I approach the final days of my time as Interim Pastor at St. Michael with many mixed emotions. This has been a great experience for me as I have met terrific fellow pilgrims along the path of faith. We have hugged, laughed and cried together through the many changes and chances of our lives. The people of St. Michael have been very welcoming, very patient and deeply loving. I am a better pastor and a better person for having spent time with you.

The road ahead for St. Michael is full of opportunity. Pastor Michelle will enter a parish that is on the move and ready to move even more. I see the following impressive road signs:

- just about every Sunday we have visitors
- the young people are ready for more faith mentoring
- more kids are showing up for Children's Sermon
- the Sunday Adult Discussion enjoys great conversation
- Micah's Initiative is a dynamic ministry that addresses more needs every month

I see only great ministry opportunities in the coming years at St. Michael!

December 8th will be my last Sunday. I look forward to hugging each of you. I have deep gratitude in my heart for all the Saints at St. Michael.

Pastor Paul

Holden Evening Prayer

December 4 at Luther Memorial - "Wait" - Meditation by Pastor Paul

December 11 at St Michael - "Watch" - Meditation by Pastor Monica

December 18 at Luther Memorial - "Wonder" - Meditation by Pastor Michelle

Serving the community through
faith, fellowship, worship,
learning and grace.

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 Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Mildred Wall, Betty Wingate, and Judith Wolfe for folding the November newsletter; to the Community Thanksgiving Meal Coordinator, Anna Rossomando and everyone who contributed in any way to make Thanksgiving Day a great success; to Kevin Long from The Cellar Restaurant for loaning us the food warming boxes for the Thanksgiving meal; to Dianne Krallman for organizing the To Our House Meals and everyone who provided food, cooked and served those attending the meal; to all the members of our church council who work so hard to keep us moving in the right direction; to Gary Worley and Philip Isenhour for organizing and providing technical support for the Online Advent Calendar and to all the contributing artists for their beautiful work; to Joyce Coupey for her faithful service in providing our bulletin cover artwork week after week; and to all the Micah’s Backpack and Micah’s Soup for Seniors food packers.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving dinner, music supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partners, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, salaries for our ministerial staff including our nursery workers, the monthly utilities, yearly renewal of McAfee Virus Protection, Sunday School supplies, food for the Families of Faith meetings and cleaning supplies.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In November, we provided assistance for 10 families: 7 with electric bills, 2 with rent assistance and one with a water bill. 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.

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 2020. Our weekly bouquets are very much appreciated by the residents.



Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 8

The Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, December 8 at 9:50 a.m. There will be a brunch provided by the Stewardship Committee so come and enjoy without cooking. The meeting will be to elect council members and to present, discuss and vote on the 2020 Investment in Ministry Plan. Copies will be available by November 25 and nominees will be shared as soon as candidates have accepted the nomination. Nominations may be made from the floor the day of the meeting. If you wish to nominate someone, please ask that person's permission. Before the meeting, we will take time to thank Pastor Paul for serving as interim.



Schedule changes for December

December is a busy time for everyone and our St. Michael plans are full with Advent, other services and activities. On **December 8** at 9:50 a.m. (no Sunday School) we will have a brunch provided by the Stewardship Committee in appreciation of your service to others. At this brunch we will also give **thanks to Pastor Paul** for his leadership over the past 18 months as our Interim. This will be his last Sunday at St. Michael. **December 15** will be Pastor Michelle's first service. Please plan to attend to welcome her. On **December 22**, we will have **one service at 10:00** with communion (no Sunday School). The children will present their Christmas Pageant during this service. No practice is needed and all children and youth are encouraged to participate. Afterwards we invite everyone to bring Christmas goodies to share. **December 29** will be Lessons and Carols at both services.

Decorating the Christmon Tree

Please stay to decorate the Christmon tree after the Advent meal and service on Wednesday, December 11.



December 22, Single Service on this Sunday

If you have a colorful Christmas sweater, think about wearing it to worship on Sunday, December 22, at the single 10 a.m. service. We'll take a festive group picture for the website.

The **Children's Christmas Program** will be on this Sunday also.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24 – 4 P.M. and 7 P.M.

St. Michael will have two services on Christmas Eve. We will celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

Invite a Friend to a Christmas Eve Service

Share the joy of Christmas by inviting a friend to worship with you on Christmas Eve. Invitations to our services are available in the front hall. In fact, invite a friend or family to any or all of the Advent and Christmas activities at St. Michael.

End-of-Year Giving Information

If you are planning to make a gift at the end of the year to support the ministry of St. Michael, remember that the IRS requires all gifts for 2019 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2019. You can make gifts to support the core ministry and to other ministries of St. Michael. You can find more information about these funds or donate online at: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/>. If you need assistance with tax advantageous gifts like gifts of stock or donations of minimum distributions from an IRA, you can contact Doug Smiley.

Do You Need to Take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA?

If you are 70 ½ years old and need to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you have an opportunity to support St. Michael Lutheran Church and save money on your taxes. Under the current tax law, a gift made directly from an IRA to a qualifying charitable organization counts toward your required IRA minimum distribution requirement. Making a gift directly from your IRA to St. Michael Lutheran Church allows you to support a ministry you love and to lower both your adjusted gross income and your taxable income, resulting in a lower overall tax liability. Talk to your tax advisor to find out if this strategy will work for you.



Lutheran Men in Mission

For the past several years, our Men in Mission group has served on the final day at the Christmas Store. This year, the final day of operation is Saturday, December 7. We will help load packages into cars, help with cart management and direct parking lot traffic from opening (8:30 a.m.) to closing (about 2:30 p.m.). You may choose to work shift one from 8:30 a.m. to noon or shift two from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Or, you could work both shifts.

If you would like to help at the Christmas Store please contact Jeff Birch at jbbirch@vt.edu by Wednesday, December 4.

Last year we had 8 volunteers and everyone had a good time and a meaningful experience.

Christmas Gifts: Poinsettias and Backpacks

Orders are now being taken for poinsettias for Christmas Eve. This year, the poinsettias will cost \$7. To place a poinsettia in the church, in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend, please use the order form on the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the bulletin. The deadline for ordering a poinsettia is December 15. A gift of \$10 can also be designated to Micah's Backpack, Micah's Soup for Seniors, or Micah's Closet in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.



Advent Suppers and Services Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 6 P.M.

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 follow at 6:45 p.m. The service will be held at Luther Memorial on **December 4** and **18** and at St. Michael on

December 11. If you are interested in assisting with the meal or service, please sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form in the bulletin.

Advent Calendar

Mark your calendar for the unveiling of the 2019 St. Michael Advent Calendar. This year's theme focuses on the symbols we associate with the Christmas season. The St. Michael art team worked very hard last winter preparing this year's calendar. We are very thankful for the talents of Barbara, Butch, Maggie, Anna, Joyce, Elizabeth, Becky and Lylah. As part of the St. Michael congregation, we hope the calendar brings you joy during the Advent season. Joy to all and peace on earth! If you would like to join us in preparing next year's calendar, please contact any one of the artists listed above or Gary Worley who coordinates the artwork production. A special thanks also goes out to Phillip Isenhour, who makes the web pages work for the calendar.

Micah's Caring Initiative Sharing the Story

Micah's Soup for Seniors

The packing and delivery date for Micah's Soup for Seniors will be **December 17th**. Please note the change from the normal packing schedule. We will be working with the Women of the ELCA, the youth of the congregation and the congregation to make gift bags for the seniors. We will be including fleece blankets, socks, lotion, hand sanitizer, fresh fruit and treats. Please consider helping us out with this project.



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December Servants

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Altar Care	Birch/Smiley Families				
9 AM Service	ADVENT			Christmas Pageant 10:00 am Service	Lessons and Carols
Greeters	Gary and Sandie Worley	Wilma Pieper Elaine Powers	Judith Wolfe Jenny Kellinger	Butch Akers Dave Surface	Ben and Carol Crawford
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Peggy Morgan	Kris Wertz	Mac McCloud	Emma Patterson
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Lori Ann Kirk	Butch Akers	Lylah Shelor	Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Jack Graves		Emily Graves
Comm. Asst.	Doug Smiley		Laura Gruss		Sandy Birch
Greeters	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	JD and Andrea Robinson	Ferrell Family		Randy and Sharon Robinson
Lay Reader	Jody Smiley	Jeff Birch	Fran Shepherd		Mickey McGuigan
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	JD and Andrea Robinson	Daniel Ferrell John Kell		Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd
Youth Servant	Bryce Dowdy		Danny Gruss		Emily Graves

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers at all 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 come celebrate the Advent season with lunch and an interesting Bible study led by Jody Smiley on December 16th at noon in the fellowship hall. **Friends are welcome!** There will be a place to sign up on the Welcome Sheet.



Women's Fall Gathering: Birthday party & games final count - We collected 50 card and board games and 28 Birthday Party kits from St. Michael and NRV churches for Lutheran Family Services (LFS) Adult Day Care centers. The LFS board was very happy to have these supplies to help their work with clients and sent a lovely note of appreciation that's posted on the bulletin board.

Christmas Project: Our project this year will be gift bags containing small holiday gifts for the approximately 100 Micah's Soup for Seniors recipients at Warm Hearth. We invite everyone in the congregation to bring items from the list below by Sunday December 15. The youth will pack the bags that will include a greeting card and a Christmas treat. There will be a box in the entry area to collect these items. They will be delivered to Warm Hearth December 17th with the regular December monthly groceries. Let's see if we can fill all those bags for the Warm Hearth seniors.

By December 15th - Warm nonslip socks, hand sanitizer, hand lotion and inexpensive fleece throws to keep warm during the colder months.

For the Food Bank: In December, please bring boxed mac and cheese or boxed rice meals, although the food bank always welcomes all non-perishable foods.

For the Women's Resource Center: trash bags – kitchen size.

Thank you for helping our neighbors in many ways!

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky **5-Course Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, December 17, at noon with social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. Join the H-G-L bunch for a time of good cheer and holiday spirit. Five courses for \$5 – a tasty Christmas bargain. Friends are always welcome as we enjoy a Christmas program and special music. We will also celebrate Christine McCauley's 90th birthday as well as the birthdays of our many Christmas "kids"... and welcome Pastor Michelle and John to the St. Michael family.



CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

2020 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2020 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.

Update on Bedford Lutheran

We continue to support Bedford Lutheran as they move toward becoming a congregation. The congregation is now served by a part-time pastor. Pastor Tim Feaser started at Bedford in March. He and the congregation are doing well. The congregation is discussing organizing as an official congregation next year. There are a number of steps that still need to happen, but they are moving forward with their plans and hope by the end of 2020 to make the move from Synod Authorized Worshiping Community to congregation. If St. Michael continues to support Bedford for one more year while they become an organized congregation, the timing might work to shift to the new congregation for 2021. You can see more about their ministry on their website: <http://bedfordlutheranva.org/index.htm>

Your Mission Support Makes Ministry Happen

Because of our congregation's generous mission support shared with the Virginia Synod, ministry happens. In Virginia, our congregation's mission support gift provides scholarships to seminary students, supports ministry with young people, creates learning opportunities for individuals and congregations and allows for the Virginia Synod staff to be a resource to our congregation on issues like calling a pastor, creating congregational vitality, and constitutional issues. The Virginia Synod shares a portion of our gift to enable the ELCA to undertake ministries that our congregation could not do alone like developing new congregations and providing resources for existing congregations. This is a wonderful witness by our congregation to the ways that we walk together as God's people around the state and around the world. To learn more about the ministry of the Virginia Synod, visit www.vasynod.org.

Former Pastor London

Thursday, October 24 was a time to renew long time friendships. I (Fran Shepherd) was in Isle of Palms S.C. and was fortunate to have lunch with Pastor Glenn and Anne London. Glenn was at St. Michael from January 1976 – 1985. Glenn had planned to attend our 50th celebration last year but had a family conflict and then a heart attack. I am glad to say that he has recovered and is doing well. We spent about 2 ½ hours catching up with family and sharing stories. Scott has married and his bar continues to be busy. Brice is working as an engineer at a Charleston hotel. Glenn and Anne's address is 548 Rosings Dr., Summerville, S.C. 29483.

Thank You Note ...

What a friend we have in Jesus. Thank you to St. Michael for being our church family and supporting us during this time. The peace of God be with you all!

Yours, Gary and Sandie Worley

Congratulations to...

Megan Christle and Alexa Mayer who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 27.



Christine McCauley who celebrated her 90th birthday on November 22. Christine is a charter member of St. Michael.

Dianne Krallman who retired from Hubbell Lighting after 34 years of service. She worked her entire career in the Production Control area, starting in an entry-level position, and ending as the Materials Manager. Dianne says it was a job she enjoyed very much, but is now looking forward to volunteer work, working in the garden, reading and traveling – especially when John joins her in retirement (soon!) Dianne now serves as our coordinator for Soup for Seniors and To Our House at St. Michael.



NRV Confirmation

Students in Grades 6th – 8th are welcome to participate in Confirmation Class. Confirmation Classes are being held 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. the 2nd & 4th Sunday each month at Our Saviour in Christiansburg, led by Pastor Wanda Childs. A light snack will be provided to students. Please contact Elizabeth Graves at 042000eg@gmail.com for more information.

Mother's Morning Out Wish List

85% of brain development happens before the age of 5! St. Michael's Mother's Day Out program services children aged 18 months- 5 years Monday- Thursday each week. Every day the teachers work to stimulate the senses and help brain development during this critical growth phase. We provide a safe, nurturing environment for students to learn social/ emotional skills, develop language, and explore their surroundings using their 5 senses. If you would like a way to help support this mission, please contact Megan Meyers at mmo@stmhc.us. We would also love to have volunteers come in to read to our class. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher for our program, please also feel free to reach out. I am happy to give you a tour and talk a little more about what we do each day.

We are seeking monetary support or donations for the following items.

- 1) Outdoor playhouse and picnic table for the playground, which will be available for all children in the congregation to enjoy.
- 2) Magna-doodle board to help students develop fine motor skills.
- 3) A 2-door 72" tall storage cabinet to help us store toys and allow for rotation. We would also like a child safety lock for this cabinet.
- 4) Large playground balls and soft indoor balls.
- 5) A flannel/felt board so we can explore stories with an added hands-on experience.
- 6) Outdoor mat for our back door so we can wipe our feet when coming off the playground.
- 7) Gently used dress-up clothing size 2T-4T.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Be sure to check online for Advent Calendar beginning today! 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Handbell Choir	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 5:30 PM NRV Cares Circle of Parents in the Large Classroom	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	4 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Advent Meal and Service at Luther Memorial	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	6	7 8:30 AM Lutheran Men in Mission at the Christmas Store
8 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Choir Practice 9:50 AM Congregational Meeting and Thank You to Pastor Paul 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Handbell Practice	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	11 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Advent Meal and Service at St. Michael 7:30 PM Decorate the Chrismon Tree	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	13	14 2:00 PM Beck/Anderson Wedding
15 Welcome Pastor Michelle 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Choir Practice 9:50 AM Snow Date for Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Handbell Practice	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM WELCA Lunch and Learn 5:30 PM NRV Cares Circle of Parents in the Large Classroom	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas Luncheon 5:00 PM Soup for Seniors - Packing and Delivering	18 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Advent Meal and Service at Luther Memorial	19 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	20	21
22 10:00 AM Worship - Communion and Christmas Pageant 11:00 AM Fellowship with Christmas Treats	23	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship with Communion 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship with Communion	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Worship - Communion, Lessons and Carols 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - Communion, Lessons and Carols	30	31	1	2	3	4

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

Food Bank - Mac & Cheese; Women's RC - Trash Bags; Micah's Backpack - SpaghettiOs; Soup for Seniors - Tuna