



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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January 1, 2020

Blessed New Year

Blessed New Year, people of St. Michael. In Ecclesiastes we read "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." These words of wisdom give us a way to measure all that has been and all that we hope to be as a community together in Christ. Seasons come and seasons go, but their memories linger on in our hearts, sometimes indefinitely. It is my prayer that this new season at St Michael is filled with the love and hope, found only in Christ Jesus, in order that it linger into eternity.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit this crazy journey has brought us together to be God's people in our small, but mighty corner of the world. As John and I waited for God to lead us, we prayed not for a place but for a **people** that were Christ minded. It is with such joy and excitement that we have landed in this community, alongside you who have labored in your community long before I knew of you. Laboring in order that others might experience the lavish love of our Emanuel (Christ with us/ Christ with them).

As for me, my heart is overflowing with joy to have been called and accepted by such a faithful, God-loving people. A people who have a heart for servitude and community. I so look forward to not only offering my leadership in worship and vision, but to roll up my sleeves and come alongside to continue the wonderful ministries you have been sharing with the community. I am truly excited to listen to the voice of the congregation concerning moving forward, and to share my visions and ideas for our future together.

As we move forward, I pray the Holy Spirit falls afresh upon each us, allowing the Spirit to mold us, guide us and fill us, that we might continue to do "God's work with our Hands."

Peace of Christ,
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 all who helped with the Christmas Eve services; to everyone who helped with the Advent meal that we hosted (and to Suzanne Gay for organizing us) and To Our House; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to Patrice Yearwood and Jody Smiley for organizing the youth and children’s Christmas program; to the men who volunteered for parking lot and cart duty at the Montgomery County Christmas Store; to Wanda Pascoe, Fran Shepherd, Betty Wingate and Judith Wolfe for folding the December newsletter; to Wanda Pascoe, John Krallman and Dianne Krallman 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 Fran and Dickie Shepherd for cleaning and painting Pastor Michelle’s office; to Judy & Jim Clemens and Ben Simmers for counting the weekly offering; to Michelle Berg for writing the *Weekly News and Notes* emails; to Marty Gordon for keeping our space clean and to Wanda Pascoe for shopping for paper and cleaning supplies as needed and for keeping sharp pencils in the pews.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December provided support for the Taking Faith Home weekly devotional renewal, stamps, septic system repair, Advent devotional booklets, paint for Pastor Michelle’s office, light bulbs for the sanctuary, Congregational Thank You Brunch, Pastor’s new office furniture, Communion wine, music supplies, decorations for Christmas Eve, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partners, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry and 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 **12 families**: 8 with electric bills, 3 with rent 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.

Will we have church?

Winter weather sometimes requires a change in the worship schedule. When that happens it will be announced through the following outlets:

Post on Facebook

Email to Congregation

Voicemail Message on Church Phone

Change to the Church On-Line Calendar

Post it on Local TV Networks: Channel 7 and Channel 10

Remember church expenses are still incurred and your weekly offerings are appreciated when a Sunday is missed.

Altar Flowers and Altar Care

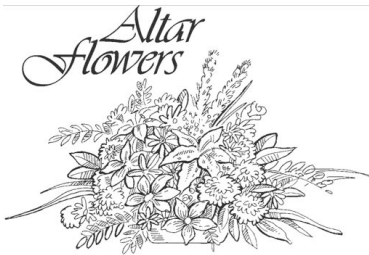


Not your mother's altar guild!

Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2020. No experience necessary... training is available. Assistants prepare the communion elements (usually twice a month) and change the altar paraments 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 2020. Our weekly bouquets are very appreciated by the residents.

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.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting was held on December 8. Margaret Christle was elected to Council and Butch Akers and Fran Shepherd were re-elected. Each will serve a three-year term. The 2020 budget was approved. Of special note is that the education wing mortgage will be paid off this year and members are encouraged to direct their gifts to other areas of need.

The next council meeting will be Sunday, **January 12**, at 12:15 p.m. Council meetings are open to the congregation.

Youth and Children's Christmas Program





Lutheran Men in Mission

For many years, the **Men In Mission** of St. Michael have helped with parking and loading at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Jeff Birch coordinates the volunteers for this annual service activity in December for the **Men In Mission**.



Pictured above L to R are Ben Crawford, David Surface, John Kell, Gary Worley, Jeff Birch, Gary Steck and Mark Pasier.

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

Committee Reports Due

All annual committee reports for the 2019 Annual Report are due to Doug Smiley by February 15.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Happy Holidays! Thank you to all of the supporters of Micah's Backpack in 2019. We had a very successful year serving over 300 children every month. The holidays can be a stressful time and we are blessed to be able to take a small burden off of the families we serve by providing them with weekend meals.

Our packing will resume on **January 9th**. Please remember that we follow the MCPS schedule, therefore, if there is a snow day on a Friday, we will deliver the bags on the following Monday. We ask that if you sign up to deliver and cannot make the Monday delivery to please email us. Check Facebook for updates regarding packing and delivering changes. We will do our best to update as soon as a decision is made.

All of us at MBP want to give a special shout out to a 6-year-old boy named Ethan. Ethan and his family are members of St. Michael and he chose to host a food drive on his birthday rather than receive gifts for himself. Nothing warms my heart more than to see such a young person with so much love, generosity, and humbleness within them! Thank you, Ethan!

This month we would be grateful to receive donations of **snacks**. Feel free to leave them in the MBP crate when you come to church. Thank you for your support!

Micah's Soup for Seniors



The packing date for January is **January 28th**. We continue to support over 100 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera bread. Thanks to everyone who helped out for our December packing and helped contribute to the Christmas gifts of blankets, socks, treats, lotion and hand sanitizer. We also added some fresh fruit with

our grant from Thrivent. The gifts were well received.

For **January**, we will be collecting **vegetable soup**.



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2308 Merrimac Road
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January Servants

| | January 5 | January 12 | January 19 | January 26 |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Altar Care | Birch and Smiley Families | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Jenny Kellinger Butch Akers | Paiser Family | Dave Surface Wilma Pieper | Lylah Shelor William Allen |
| Lay Reader | Keith Gay | Kris Wertz | Peggy Morgan | Mac McCloud |
| Comm. Asst. | William Allen | Lylah Shelor | Sandy Williams | Nancy Goad |
| 11 AM Service | | | | |
| Acolyte | Emily Graves | | Jack Graves | |
| Comm. Asst. | Mickey McGuigan | | Emily Graves | |
| Greeters | Ray Howell Ben Simmers | Josiah and Litha Tlou | Ferrell Family | Gary and Becky Steck |
| Lay Reader | Jody Smiley | Jeff Birch | Jessica Brown | Fran Shepherd |
| Ushers | Ray Howell Ben Simmers | Josiah and Litha Tlou | Daniel Ferrell Dickie Shepherd | Gary and Becky 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: In January we will take a break from our regular Lunch and Learn schedule. All women are invited to enjoy Ladies Night Out dinner Wednesday, January 15th – 6 p.m. at O'Charley's restaurant. It's free pie dessert night and of course **friends are welcome!** There will be a place to sign up on the Welcome Sheet so we can plan for enough seats for all. If anyone would like to car pool please contact Alice Schneider.



Christmas Project: Our holiday time project this year was gift bags for 107 seniors in the apartments at Warm Hearth. Each bag contained a fleece throw to keep comfortable during the winter months, lotion, hand sanitizer, nonslip socks, Christmas snacks and fresh fruit. The bags were delivered December 17th along with the regular December Soup for Seniors monthly groceries. A very big thank you to all who supported this project and to Thrivent who provided a grant. We would also like to thank the youth and volunteers who organized and bagged everything.

For the Food Bank: In **January**, please bring **canned soups**, although the food bank always welcomes all non-perishable foods.

For the Women's Resource Center: facial tissues

Thank you, to each of you, for the many ways you help those in our community.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 2. 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 Michelle's office and near the kitchen door? We hope no one needs them but it is nice to know they are available if needed.



**“Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings.”
—Jonathan Lockwood Huie**



Goodbye and Godspeed to Pastor Paul who provided leadership, guidance and friendship to St. Michael as Interim Pastor. Thank you especially for the love and lovely plaque.



Hello and a hearty welcome to Pastor Michelle who has been called to join, lead and provide vision for the congregation of St. Michael. We're glad you're here.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

January 2020

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

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

Food Bank - Canned soup; Women's RC - Facial tissues; Micah's Backpack - Snacks; Soup for Seniors - Veg Soup