



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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November 1, 2020

Greetings dear people of St. Michael,

On November 29th we will enter into the season of Advent, a time of contemplation and waiting. Perhaps more than any other year, 2020 has taught us more as a society about waiting, being patient, and in some cases, what long suffering feels like. The pandemic has left us isolated from those we love, wishing and hoping for a cure, and waiting with our memories of times past. I have seen multiple memes on social media that poke fun at the idea we would be better off skipping over 2020, as if it never happened, in order to live in 2021. The idea being that the new year would bring about new hope, new expectation, and a new start void of the pandemic.

For the people of God, the season of Advent begins a new year and it is our reminder that something new is *coming*. Still, we start this new year by waiting. We tend to think that the waiting time has no value. If the church had a meme for the new year perhaps it would poke fun at how long we have been waiting. What are we waiting for? The answer is *Jesus!*

The entire Old Testament points to Jesus as the one who was coming when God's time was right. For many centuries prophets had foretold the coming of God's Messiah, the one whom God had promised would save God's people from their sin and teach of God's will. Some of the scripture readings in our Advent season quote those ancient promises. There are many promises of God throughout the Old Testament. In each promise, God pledges that something will (or will not) be done or given or come to pass. These are not flippant, casual promises such as we often make; these promises of God are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments made by God himself. Because God is faithful, the recipients of the divine promises can have full assurance that what God has pledged will indeed be realized.

On Christmas Eve, we the people of God celebrate the reality of this promise with the coming of the Christ Child into the world. At last the waiting is over...or is it? There is another message of the Advent season that the One who has come is coming again. How does the Creed put it? "To judge the living and the dead." How did Jesus himself put it? "To take you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also." So, the Advent season actually deals with two comings of Christ: one when Jesus was born hundreds of year ago as savior of the world and the second as conquering King. In his first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances. In his second coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at his side.

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Advent is a time of waiting for both comings and that waiting will have no end until Christ returns. But hear this good news, we don't wait alone. Jesus has come into our hearts and lives by his Word so that we may believe in all we have heard and know to be true about him. All of this waiting will show up in our Advent readings. They almost stumble over one another in order to make sure we understand that God's promises are trustworthy. So, wait for it, because in Christ Jesus we find a hope that surpasses each earthly new year.

Blessed New Year, blessed Advent dear people of God!

Pastor Michelle

P.S. I want to share with you a poem that was given to me by one of my spiritual directors during a time when waiting seemed to be unbearable. I keep it neatly tucked in my Bible, still reading it from time to time, as a reminder of the value of waiting upon God.

“Patient Trust”

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through
some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.
And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

-- French Philosopher and Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

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 Keith Gay for helping to fold the October newsletter; to William Allen for continuing to assist in getting the Micah’s Mobile Backpack bus up and running; to Doug Smiley and Mickey McGuigan for making sure the Micah’s shelves are full of food for the children; to John Kell for weeding the church yard and planting new plants that were donated by Rainbow Riders; to Gary Steck for auditing the church financial records; to Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley and Kris Wertz for organizing Micah's Closet and to all the volunteer shoppers; to Pastor Michelle for organizing the workroom and kitchen; and to Pastor Michelle and Sandy Birch for organizing the storage closet.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for stamps, church software renewal, 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 2021**. With your help, St. Michael will continue to be God's heart and hands and voices in our community and in the world.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In October, we assisted **5 families**: 3 with electric bills and 2 with rent. 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.



folder.

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"

Micah's Backpack



As we head into November Micah's Backpack Program (MBP) is in full swing. We have had five weeks delivering food to our ten partnering schools. To date, we have delivered 1,307 bags of food, which equates to 7,842 meals. This has only been possible because of all of you - our volunteers, our donors and our teachers - who continually bless this ministry with their 3T's (Time, Talents & Treasures). MBP is also



in the process of servicing and cleaning "Izzy", the Micah's Mobile Backpack Bus. We hope to use "Izzy" to service our virtual students who are experiencing food insecurity. A shout out to Doug Smiley whose patience and tireless diligence has helped me to make the transition to Director a smooth one. Thank you to Pastor Michelle for her wisdom, knowledge and suggestions concerning the MBP operation. Last, but not least, welcome aboard to Sally Hotchkiss, the new Assistant to the Director. Blessings to all!

Micah's Closet



Thank you to all the shoppers who purchased clothing for 42 students at Price's Fork. The bags were delivered the week of October 19. I'm sure it was a great help for families in these difficult times. The children are always very excited to show off their new wardrobe. Thank you to all those that purchased Belk Charity Sale tickets. The money helps reimburse some shoppers. Donations to Micah's Closet are always welcomed.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



We are continuing to pack and distribute 100 + bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church with 4 volunteers and then the staff from Warm Hearth picks up the bags about 4-5 days later to distribute to the seniors. At this time, we are packing generic bags and are not offering our normal "menu" option as in the past. However, this seems to be working well and the bags contain quite a few of the basic items- tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers.

We are excited we have found a way to assist the low income seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner. We appreciate everyone's support as we feed those in need. We will be collecting **peanut butter** in November and December. You may drop those donations off at the church.

Congregational Meeting and Council Elections

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 10:00 A.M. on Zoom. The budget for 2021 will be approved and Council election results will be announced. There will be a different format for elections this year. Five members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination. You may also place a name in nomination by getting the person's permission or by nominating yourself and giving the name to Fran Shepherd (fshepherd13@icloud.com or 540-544-7462) by Thursday, November 12. A person must be an adult voting member. The budget and ballots will be mailed by Wednesday, December 2 and ballots will need to be received by Friday, December 11. The following members have agreed to have their names placed in nomination: Lorin Crowder, Keith Gay, Cindy Lang, Jenny Kellinger and Mickey McGuigan. Three members will be elected.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner - Thursday, November 26



Our annual community dinner will begin at 1 P.M on **Thanksgiving Day, November 26**. Because of the current situation with COVID-19, high unemployment and food insecurities, the need to feed those in our neighborhood is greater than ever.

This year the dinner will be a **drive-through pick up only**. The drive through time will be 1 P.M.-2 P.M. This year we will be supplying a **Thanksgiving basket** of canned goods only- such as canned hams, green beans, etc. With the COVID restrictions, we feel this is the best way to serve everyone safely. We will be buying these items in bulk so we will not have volunteer signups for providing any of the food. You may, however, make monetary donations using the "How Do I Give" link on the St. Michael website or by mailing the donation to the church.

Dianne Krallman (dhkrallman@gmail.com) is the coordinator this year so you may contact her if you have any questions.

To Our House – November 21-25

To Our House is a service offered by New River Community Action to house homeless men and women during the winter months.

This year we have volunteered to provide meals in November- Our dates are November 21st-November 25th. We are still working out the final details on how we will be setting up the meals and delivering. Luther Memorial cannot host To Our House this year because of the Covid restrictions, however, the Knights of Columbus will house the participants and Luther Memorial and St. Michael will provide the meals during two of those weeks. We will be providing breakfast and lunch food and making hot meals for dinner. We will be looking for volunteers that can either provide the food that is needed for those meals or provide monetary donations to help buy the food that is needed. We may also need volunteers (1-2 per night) to help serve or volunteers to deliver the food to the Knights of Columbus building. All Covid restrictions will be followed- everyone will be asked to use masks, gloves and social distance- at both the church and at Knights of Columbus. If you do volunteer to go to the Knights of Columbus building, there will be temperature checks.



Dianne Krallman will be the coordinator this year and we will either have a method for signing up electronically or we will be providing you the information shortly on the food items needed for the meals. Lynda Kinzey has volunteered to handle the meals. You may contact her by email

or phone - lbskinzey@gmail.com or (540) 808-9976. You may contact Dianne at dhkrallman@gmail.com.



Have you ever wondered, especially during this time of social distancing, what happens when you make your offering to St. Michael, who makes sure it goes where it is intended? Judy and Jim Clemens faithfully come once a week to log offerings that are sent by mail or dropped off. Suzanne Gay makes sure all offerings are recorded to the ministries you have indicated. John Krallman makes sure monthly reports are generated and given to church council. He assists them in monitoring St. Michael's financial health. These are important tasks that often are taken for granted so we want to say thanks.

We have had many wonderful stories about Scout Troop 158, from incorporating girls into the troop to clean up projects around St. Michael. These are certainly wonderful young people. Their leaders and mentors deserve many thanks and recognition for their hard work. Korey Mercier is the Boys Troop 158 leader, Al Cooper leads the Girls Troop 158, and Phyllis Newbill is the troop's committee chair. John Kell also works tirelessly with the troop.

When we have a software issue or need updates to our website who are you going to call? We call on Philip Isenhour. For many years Philip has always been that go to computer guy. He is certainly a skilled individual whom we are blessed to have as part of St. Michael.

We appreciate all that you do.

Thank you from the St. Michael congregation.

Families of Faith – 7 P.M. via Zoom

11/11 Week 4: Stories That Form Us for a Life of Faith
11/25 Week 5: How We Support Families with Children

Look for a Zoom link each week in your email!



St. Michael's Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 3 so that we can serve as a polling place for the election.



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Drive-in Services

Join St. Michael, Shiloh, New Mount Zion, Luther Memorial and Christ Lutheran for drive-in services this fall at the St. Michael parking lot. Services will include communion. Join us on Sunday, **November 22nd at 10 A.M.** and **Thursday, December 24th for a Christmas Eve Service at 4 P.M.** If you aren't able to print the bulletin from the website (lmlc.org), we will have a limited number available the morning of the service. You can listen to the service on channel FM 88.9 on the radio.

Mowing Schedule: 11/7-John Stramiello (back); 11/14-Daniel Ferrell (front); 11/21-Dickie Shepherd (back); 11/28-James/Dennis (front)
Rear Lot: 11/2-Doug Smiley; 11/9-Dave Surface; 11/16-Gary Steck; 11/23 George Hahn; 11/30-Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn via Zoom! All ladies are invited to attend Lunch and Learn on Monday, November 16, at noon. We'll have a bit of fellowship time followed by a Bible study—*Holy Time: reimagining the Future: How do we faithfully look to the future?*—led by Jody Smiley. The Zoom invitation will be emailed soon. If you have any questions, please contact Jody at jdsmiley29@comcast.net.



Mark your Calendars! Join women across the Virginia Synod for a virtual Thank Offering service. The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) is very excited to announce that it will be hosting a virtual Thank Offering Service on November 21st (a Saturday) beginning at 10:00 AM. We will be using *Light the Way for Justice, Light the Way for Love*, the Women of the ELCA 2020 Thank Offering service as our guide. The VSWO is pleased to have Lisa Plorin, the Women of ELCA president, deliver the sermon and Linda Post Bushkofsky, WELCA Executive Director, will bring greetings from the churchwide organization.

In addition, before the service there will be breakout rooms so we can reconnect and share with each other. These times of social distancing have forced us to find creative ways to keep our community connected. The VSWO hopes you will find this a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. We will be using Zoom for our virtual service. You must register to join the service. You will find registration information on www.vswowebly.com, on the VSWO Facebook page, and there will be an article in the VA Synod updates in the near future about the service.

The VSWO is asking women to collect a thank offering. There will be a place in the service for an offering. If you have an envelope or a thank offering collection box, have it with you. It will be blessed at that time. They are asking that we send our offering on to the Women of the ELCA, churchwide office. If you do want to make a thank offering you may send it to Sandy Birch, our treasurer; then at the end of November she will send our offering to Women of the ELCA. Information about Thank Offerings can be found on www.womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings. You may also download a copy of the 2020 Thank Offering Service in the same location. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, VSWO president.

Hope you will join us on November 21st.

Thank you for your support!

Change your clocks: Sunday, November 1



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 several years ago, 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 8th, 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
Jaimie Edwards



Mac McLeod

Coast Guard

Chris Maloney
Dave Surface

Marines
Tommy Howell

Navy
Jeff Birch
John Krallman

Currently serving:

Army
Matthew Pasier

Air Force
Michelle Pasier

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/>

St. Michael Lutheran Church

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 All Saints Sunday Watch the Blacksburg ELCA Fellowship Sunday Service Recording using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	3 Election Day - Office Closed	4 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community via Zoom	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	6 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	7
8 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 12:15 PM Congregational Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	11 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	13 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	14
15 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn via Zoom 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Packing for Soup for Seniors 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	18 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community via Zoom	19 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	20 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	21
22 Christ the King Sunday Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 10:00 AM Drive-In Service at St. Michael 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	23 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	24 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	25 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	26 Community Thanksgiving Meal - Meal Pick Up Only	27	28

29

First Sunday of Advent
Watch the Sunday Service using Link
found on LMLC.org
6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with
Pastor Michelle

30

8:45 AM Mother's
Morning Out
6:00 PM Packing
for Micah's
Backpack

1

8:45 AM Mother's
Morning Out
6:00 PM Packing
for Micah's
Backpack

2

8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out
3:00 PM Music Lesson
6:00 PM Packing for Micah's
Backpack
7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent
Service via Zoom

3

8:45 AM Mother's
Morning Out
10:00 AM Delivering
Micah's Backpack
Gifts of Food
4:30 PM Packing for
Micah's Backpack

4

10:00 AM
Delivering Micah's
Backpack Gifts of
Food

5

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