



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Volume 45, Number 12

December 1, 2021

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m.

December 1 at St. Michael

December 8 at Luther Memorial

December 15 at Christ Lutheran in Radford

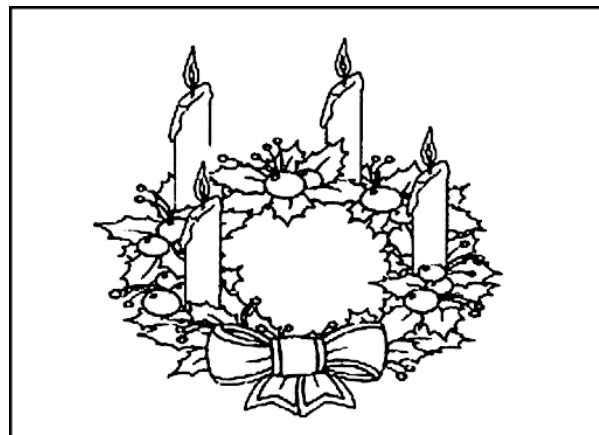
December 22 at St. Michael

Longest Night Service

(a gathering of bereaved persons to feel God's presence)

on December 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.



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, Wanda Pascoe and Betty Wingate for folding the November newsletter; to Anna Rossomando for writing Micah’s Caring Initiative thank you notes; to Dianne Krallman and Jody Smiley for coordinating meals for To Our House and the Community Thanksgiving Meal; to Daniel Ferrell, Dickie Shepherd, Matt James, Doug Smiley, Dave Surface, Gary Steck, Jeff Crowder and Jay Nagle for keeping the grass at the church mowed during the year and to Jim Clemens for coordinating the mowing team; to John Kell for keeping our flower beds looking nice throughout the year; to all the members of our church council who work so hard to keep us moving in the right direction; to all the Micah’s Backpack volunteers, Micah’s Mini Pantry contributors and Micah’s Soup for Seniors food packers; and to the Smiley and Birch families for working on Altar Care.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November provided funds for the community Thanksgiving meal baskets, meals for To Our House, continuing education supplies for Pastor Michelle, AED updates, paper, envelopes, stamps, special lightbulbs for the sanctuary, gasoline for the lawnmowers, the annual McAfee online security subscription our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, salaries for our ministerial staff, and the monthly utilities.

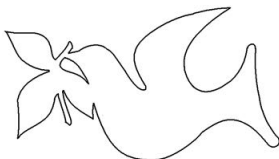
The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In November, we assisted **five** families: **three** with electric bills and **one** with rent assistance and **one** with heating fuel. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to Justice and Mercy and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Advent Calendar

Over the next twenty-eight days you will receive an email explaining how people in other countries celebrate Christmas. For a visual Advent calendar find or print a world map then place a star on each country as read about it. Pray each day that people in all those countries will know the joy that Jesus brings on Christmas morning.

Be sure to check out the **St. Michael Online Advent Calendar** each day beginning on December 1. Our resident artists worked hard to bring this daily Advent gift to us as we prepare for Christ’s birth. Visit our website, www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org each day throughout Advent. Please spread the word to friends and family.

Chrismon Tree



The Chrismon tree has been put up. We will decorate the tree with Chrismons after the church service on December 5. All are invited to stay to help.

Micah's Caring Initiative Sharing the Story

Micah's Backpack



We are now in our 12th week of the new school year delivery. To date we have packed 2,874 backpacks, 17,244 meals and 40,236 items of food. This was all done through 845 hours of volunteer work.

Don't forget about our Amazon Wish List. You can find the link on the Micah's Backpack website, Facebook and here: <https://a.co/iiMajxK>. Please feel free to share the link with friends and family.

Connie Cummings and Joe Ivers are willing to match donations up to \$5,000 this year. That means a possible total of \$10,000 for MBP non-food related expenses. PLEASE spread the word!! If you would like to donate, please visit Micah's Backpack website: www.micahsbackpack.org or St. Michael's website: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org. If you would like to mail a check please add Cummings/Ivers to the Memo line.

Micah's Backpack continues to work with Jersey Mike's Subs on the monthly Micah's Backpack Day. Last month we received a check for \$660. This month's event is on Saturday, December 27th.

Since we are supplying snacks to two School Snack Closets we are still very much in need of snacks.

MBP gave out extra food to students the week before Thanksgiving. During the Christmas vacation we will be handing out grape jelly and extra food.

For more information contact John J. Stramiello, 540-599-4682 or email hope@micahsbackpack.org or stram@stmhc.us

Micah's Closet

A big thank you to all those who purchased tickets for the Belk Charity Sale this fall. We collected \$420 to go to Micah's Closet. That will allow us to purchase three sets of clothing for children at Price's Fork Elementary School in the Spring. A special thanks to Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley, and Doug Smiley for helping to sell tickets at Belk on the day of the sale.



Micah's Mini Pantry

As we gather together to share the Christmas holidays and our many blessings, Micah's Mini Pantry thanks you all for supporting this ministry over these many months! Your generous donations make our hearts happy and supply many with needed items in the community. We are grateful for you!



As the colder months are ahead, please consider donations of non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, snacks, hot chocolate, tea, popcorn, oatmeal, and other canned meats and proteins.

There is continued need for personal care items. They include - toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper, deodorant and feminine items, band-aids, sunscreen, anti-biotic creams, and even can openers.

Remember - **take what you need and leave what you can.** All donations are greatly appreciated! Please continue to donate at the in-person church services and on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Thank you!

Peace and love to you all!

God's Work - Our Hands

Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from Feeding America, Food Lion and Kroger. We have returned to our prior routine of packing the bags at the church with volunteers and then loading up the cars and delivering them to Warm Hearth. We are being asked at this time to leave the bags at the door after knocking. We are packing generic bags and are not providing a menu selection option as in the past but this has been working well. The bags contain some basic items: tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers in addition to any special items we may be able to get from Feeding America.



We will be packing and delivering the 4th Tuesday of each month. At this time, we are packing at 10 a.m. and then leaving immediately after to deliver. We are excited to be back delivering to the seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner.

Our schedule for the next couple of months will be:

December 28th

January 25th

Thanks for all you do to help out Micah's Soup for Seniors.

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
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December Servants

	December 5	December12	December19	CHRISTMAS	December26
Alter Care	Birch and Smiley				
10:00 AM					
Greeters/Ushers	Sandy Williams Anna Rossomando	Wilma Pieper Dave Surface	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Sandy Birch Jeff Birch	Sandie Worley Gary Worley
Lay Reader	Bert Kinzey	Jane Swing	Butch Akers	John Stramiello	Doug Smiley

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers: please take the attendance, write down the number and place in the offering plate. Paper and pen are in the bookshelf drawer.

Women of the ELCA



Lunch and Learn: Lunch and Learn for December will be held on **MONDAY, December 13th at noon.** All St Michael ladies are invited. We will meet at church for fellowship, a light lunch and an Advent/Christmas program. We will socially distance and wear our masks when not



eating. A zoom link will be provided for those that cannot attend in person. If you have any questions and/or need the zoom link please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Alice Schneider, aa_schneid@yahoo.com .

Help make Christmas a little brighter for a child at Price's Fork Elementary School: We will again help this Christmas with the Empty Stocking program at Price's Fork Elementary School. Parents have provided some items on the child's wish list. The spending limit for each will be \$30 so you may be able to purchase several items or just one on the list. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jody Smiley at jdsmliley29@comcast.net .

A blessed Christmas to all. As always, thank you for your support!

Recycling Continues

Used batteries, ink cartridges, and pop tabs (for the Ronald McDonald House) are always welcome and can be dropped off in the bins near the window in the kitchen. All the small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items that have been donated over the past year were recently packaged into over 100 little gift bags for senior shoppers at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Thank you for those wonderful donations...we can always use every item!



Congregational Meeting

St. Michael will hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 12 at 11:00 following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Council members for the 2022 -2024 term and to discuss and approve the 2022 Investments in Ministry Plan. Members that have agreed to be on the ballot are Jada Brown, Jim Clemens, Ben Crawford, Jenny Kellinger, and Forrest Sloan. The investment plan and information on the candidates for Council will be sent later by email or mail.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky **5-Course Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, December 15**, at noon. Join the H-G-L bunch for a time of good cheer and a delicious meal prepared by our in-house chef, Sandy Williams. Five courses for \$5 – a tasty Christmas bargain. Friends are always welcome as we enjoy a Christmas program and special music too. We will also celebrate the birthdays of our many Christmas “kids”. To be most safe, we respectfully request that all our diners be fully vaccinated. Reserve your place at the table by contacting Sandy at birch@vt.edu. It will be wonderful to gather together again for fine fellowship and food.



End-of-Year Giving and IRA Required Minimum Distribution 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 2021 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2021. 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, contact Doug Smiley.

If you are at least 72 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.

Offering Envelopes for 2022

Offering envelopes for 2022 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 online. See the St. Michael website (www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/) for details.

Change of Address

Joyce Coupey has moved to live with her daughter in Arkansas. She would love to stay in touch. Her new mailing address is 1841 Wood Hills Bend, Van Buren, AR 72956. We are thankful for the many, many pieces of art Joyce has shared with us over the years. She created many bulletin covers (too many to count!), many Advent calendar

contributions and several pieces for us to display at church. We will miss you, Joyce, but are so happy you will be with your family!

Note from the Virginia Synod

Traditionally, the word ‘Synod’ means ‘journey together.’ As the Virginia Synod, we are a gathering of Lutherans who journey together responding to God’s love through faithfulness, boldness, and service.

During the pandemic, we have seen the power of walking side-by-side on the journey. Together, we discovered ways to promote safety in our gatherings. Together, we moved ministry into the digital space while maintaining connections in our local community. Together, we fed and cared for those in need of assistance. While each individual and each congregation provides a unique witness in their community, together as a Synod and as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we multiply the impact of our individual ministry and join with others in God’s mission to love, bless, and save the world.

Thank you for being a part of the journey of the Virginia Synod. Thank you for sharing stories of your ministry to inspire the broader community. Thank you for being a faithfully witness to God’s love in your community. Thank you for sharing the gift of mission support with the Virginia Synod and the wider church.

With the help of your gift of Mission Support, the Virginia Synod will continue to multiply and expand our mission in the world. We hope to gather in-person in 2022 for a Synod wide Gathering celebrating service and for youth events. We will provide support to three new mission congregations, one exploration for a new start, and we plan to launch another exploration in 2022. We will accompany over 20 candidates in the candidacy process and provide scholarship support. With your help, the Virginia Synod will multiply God’s mission in these ways and many more.

As your congregation prepares for 2022, I invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your Mission Support to the Virginia Synod. I know that the uncertainty of the continuing pandemic is making it difficult for congregations to plan for the coming year, but increasing your giving to the Virginia Synod by 0.25% per month will have a huge impact on the ministry we can accomplish together. If you have questions about Mission Support, please contact me at wertz@vasynod.org.

Thank you for journeying together with the Virginia Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Peace and hope,
Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
Assistant to the Bishop, Virginia Synod, ELCA
Director for Evangelical Mission



December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 First Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School with Pastor Michelle 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults 10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00 AM Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:00 AM Handbell Practice	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:00 PM Music Lessons	30 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:00 PM Music Lessons	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service at St. Michael 7:30 PM Choir Practice	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	3	4
5 Second Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School with Pastor Michelle 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults 10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00 AM Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:00 AM Safety and Security Committee Meeting	6 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	7 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:00 PM Music Lessons	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service at Luther Memorial 7:30 PM Choir Practice	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	10	11
12 Third Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School with Pastor Michelle 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults 10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00 AM Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary 12:00 PM Congregational Church Council Meeting 4:00 PM Families of Faith Dinner	13 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn in Person and via Zoom	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas Luncheon 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service at Christ Lutheran in Radford 7:30 PM Choir Practice	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	17 5:00 PM Patrice's Classes' Music Recital	18
19 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School with Pastor Michelle 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults 10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00 AM Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:00 AM Choir Practice 11:00 AM Safety and Security Committee Meeting	20	21 7:00 PM Longest Night (a gathering of bereaved persons to feel God's presence) at St. Michael	22 7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service at St. Michael	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day
26 10:00 AM Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00 AM Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	27 10:00 AM Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	28 10:00 AM Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day