



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

[hope@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.us)

[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

Volume 46, Number 11

November 1, 2022

As the holiday season approaches, package shipments often get delayed due to an unprecedented influx of online orders. I can remember a time when my family preferred to simply go into the store and purchase items because we knew we had very little control over the speed of mail delivery. However, when my sister signed me up for Amazon Prime, this expectation changed. Now with a two-day guaranteed delivery, we're accustomed to receiving things quickly and we become frustrated by delays.

We live in a world accustomed to instant gratification and waiting can be difficult. Yet in the spiritual realm patience is still rewarded, and this is why I love Advent so dearly. It is my favorite liturgical season. There's something about the colder weather, the shorter days, the appearance of Christmas lights, and the purple and pink candles in the church that I always have loved. Despite the busyness of the season, a desire always surfaces in my heart to spend a little more time in prayer, a little more time slowing down and noticing what is important . . .  
a little more time waiting.

This is what we are called to do during Advent. Wait for the Christ child and wait for Christ's return. It can be a season filled with joy and hope or a season of stress and being overwhelmed. Whatever your present season of life is, know that you are not alone. God is faithful and we can trust him to see us through life's journey.

Blessed Advent season people of God,

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--our selves, 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 October newsletter; to Butch Akers for donating office supplies; to Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley and Kris Wertz for organizing Micah's Closet and to all the volunteer shoppers; and to Doug Smiley and Mickey McGuigan for making sure the Micah's shelves are full of food for the children.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided funds for office supplies, church software renewals, music book for children's music, supply pastor pay, youth room supplies, food for Families of Faith gathering, communion supplies, and books for Pastor Michelle's continuing education.



**Thank you** to everyone who shared an **Estimate of Giving for 2023**. 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 **15 families**: **six** with electric bills, **six** with rent, and **three** with water bills. 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.



#### E-Newsletter

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>

folder.

If you are not receiving the newsletter, please check your "Spam"

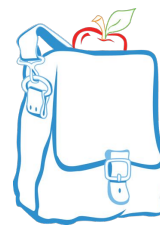
**Change your clocks: Sunday, November 6  
Fall back one hour**



## Micah's Backpack



We have now been into our 2022-2023 school year for a month and a half as of this writing. As of October 12<sup>th</sup>, we have packed 1,633 bags of food, providing 6,162 meals with 22,862 items of food. The average cost for a bag of food is approximately \$4.00. Thank you, Doug Smiley, for your intrepid shopping skills.



On October 8<sup>th</sup> we hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Food Cycle Drive. The drive ended at Rising Silo Brewery at 2531 Glade Road. MBP received more than 1,400 items of food. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported MBP.

MBP recently received a grant from the NRV Community Foundation in the amount of a \$4,000 check. Thank you, Stacie Castro and Suzanne, for all your help. MBP was also blessed with a check in the amount of \$1,500 from the Blacksburg Christian Church in honor of Pastor McCoy.

In December, the University Club of Virginia Tech will be celebrating its one-year anniversary with a fundraiser. Micah's Backpack will be the featured non-profit organization to receive the collected funds.

Many VT sororities and fraternities as well as local businesses pack for MBP. Anyone is invited to stop by on a Wednesday evening to join in the bag packing or just to engage with the wonderful volunteers. Cookies are always welcomed!

Contact John J. Stramiello if you have questions about MBP: 540-599-4682

Email: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org) or [stam@stmhc.us](mailto:stam@stmhc.us)

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

## Micah's Mini Pantry

Micah's Mini Pantry thanks you all for supporting their caring and giving ministry. Your generosity and kindness help remember those needs of others in our community. We are grateful for you! Any donations make our hearts happy, **Thank you!**

Serving healthy, nourishing meals all year is very necessary. Please consider contributing donations including 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.

The Pantry could use hearty soups, canned fruit, small sized household needs (example: laundry soap, dish soap). Please check all expiration dates.

Remember - **take what you need and leave what you can.** All donations are greatly appreciated. **Thank you!**



God's Work - Our Hands

## Micah's Soup for Seniors



We will be packing and delivering the 4th Tuesday of each month. We are packing at 10 a.m. and then leaving immediately afterwards to deliver.

We invite anyone interested in packing and distributing the bags to join us the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Next packing date: **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

Food items to donate: chicken noodle and tomato soups.

## Music News!



**Let's make music! The St. Michael Choir will have lunch and rehearsal on Sunday, November 6 from 12-2 p.m.** The St. Michael Choir has rehearsals each Wednesday at 7 p.m. A love of music and singing is the only requirement. Come sing with us!

**Calling all handbell ringers!** Handbells will start ringing and practicing on **Sunday, November 6 after the 10 a.m. service.**

If you have any questions about choir or handbells, please contact Patrice Yearwood [payearwood1@gmail.com](mailto:payearwood1@gmail.com)

## To Our House – New Dates

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

St. Michael and Luther Memorial will be working together and have been assigned the dates **January 2 - January 13, 2023**. Jody Smiley and Lynda Kinzey have graciously agreed to serve as the coordinators. There will be volunteer opportunities to help with this service. Stay tuned.



## Men in Mission

Volunteers are needed for a new project .... helping remodel a home, called Hari House 2, to provide low-income housing for men who are recovering from substance abuse. The non-profit activity, called Holistic Addictions Recovery, is co-partnered by Reed Yearwood, Patrice's son. The required work ranges from basic carpentry, plumbing, and electric skills to duties such as painting, vacuuming, window washing, and debris removal. Our first project might be to create a "model" bedroom for the home or other duties of interest to us. Please contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) if you'd like to join the team. Hari means "removing darkness" in Sanskrit. We can let our lights shine ☺.

## O.K.s (Older Kids)...Planning Ahead

The Happy-Go-Lucky **5-Course Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 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.



**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

<p><b>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</b></p>
--

***November Servants***

	<b>November 6</b>	<b>November 13</b>	<b>November 20</b>	<b>November 27</b>
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>				
<b>Altar Care</b>	Jane Swing	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley
<b>Greeter/Ushers</b>	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Gary Steck Becky Steck	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Gary Worley Sandie Worley
<b>Lay Reader</b>	John Stramiello	Mickey McGuigan	Jim Grealish	Bert Kinzey
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Doug Smiley	Jay Nagle	Butch Akers	Dianne Krallman
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	TBA	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana Villegas-Brown

**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**

**WELCA Wednesdays (Lunch & Learn):** Lunch and Learn is back! We will meet on **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at noon**. All St Michael ladies are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and bible study. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliey29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu).

**Montgomery County Food Bank and Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry:** In November we are asking for donations of items that supplement a Thanksgiving meal. The food bank always appreciates receiving any non-perishable food items.

**Women's Resource Center:** In November we are collecting cleaning supplies.

**The collections for the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center are located in the Fellowship Hall next to the kitchen window. As always thank you for your donations.**

## **New River Conference Women Will be Gathering 11/6**

Mark your calendars, the women of the New River Conference will have their Fall Gathering on **Sunday November 6th at St. Michael**. Registration will be at 2:00 pm and the program will begin at 2:30 pm and will end at 5:00 pm. **We will be providing refreshments following the program. If you would like to provide a snack please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliey29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmliey29@comcast.net)**

## **Church Council Elections**

Church Council elections will be held at the December 11 Congregational Meeting immediately following the church service. Council terms are for three years and meetings are held monthly, currently on Sunday after worship service lasting approximately two hours. Anyone interested in serving on Church Council for the 2023-2025 term, please let a current Council member know ASAP. Three council members are completing their terms.

## **Online Worship Option**

For those who are not able to attend our worship service in person, please check the online option to participate in a service each week. Go to [www.peacehopeva.org](http://www.peacehopeva.org) at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Pastor Bryan Katz conducts the services.

## **Worship Accompanist Position**

St. Michael Lutheran Church is looking for an accompanist to play piano and/or organ for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday services and to accompany the choir which rehearses 1-2 times per week (Wednesday p.m. and Sunday after church).

St. Michael is an active congregation with a heart for helping others and a love of music. The music at the service involves traditional liturgical music, hymns and anthems. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Patrice Yearwood, Music Director, at [payearwood1@gmail.com](mailto:payearwood1@gmail.com) or Doug Smiley, Worship Chairman, [smileydc@vt.edu](mailto:smileydc@vt.edu)

## A Very Happy Birthday Party

On October 2, over 70 St. Michael family and friends gathered to celebrate the 54<sup>th</sup> birthday of St. Michael Lutheran Church. We enjoyed a lovely meal catered by the Cellar Restaurant



which included lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs, a tasty Greek salad and garlic bread. And then we got to sample twelve delicious birthday cakes. We recognized the oldest and youngest at the party: Judith Wolfe at 90 and Jenny Kellinger's granddaughter, Farrah, at 2-years old. Four of our members were born outside of the United States: Suzanne Gay and Inga Solberg in Germany; Jim Grealish in Ireland; and Judith Wolfe in England. They received prizes for being born the farthest from Blacksburg, although Gary and Jeff thought they had a chance with a Seattle birthplace. Macsen Erazo-Brown won the prize for being born the closest to October 2 with his September 30 birthdate.

The birthday paradox states that in a room of 75 people, there's a 99.9% chance of at least two people having matching birthdates. Well, we surpassed that statistic big time! Mac Brown, his granddaughter Tatiana and Lynn Hickok were all born on November 11. John Kell and Anna Rossomando celebrate an August 9 birthdate. Evie and Stephen Peery and Anita Shepard share a January 31 birthdate. Jay Nagle and Beth Newman were born on July 30 and Sandy Birch and Gary Worley entered this world on December 29. Whew!

This was a happy celebration with wonderful intergenerational conversation at the birthday month tables, exceptional pasta and cake eating (although not at the same time) and lots of joyful noise. **Happy Birthday St. Michael...and many more!**



## 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 13th, 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

Matthew Pasier

Jeanette Pasier

Mark Pasier

Rebecca Steck



Coast Guard

Chris Maloney

Dave Surface

Marines

Tommy Howell

Navy

Jeff Birch

John Krallman

Richard Quesenberry

**Currently serving:**

Army

Will Sharpe

Air Force

Michelle Pasier

Marines

Katie Prewitt

*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/>

## Welcome New Members

### Jim and Carol Grealish

Jim was born in Galway, Ireland and was a Catholic priest for 28 1/2 years in the Diocese of Richmond. Carol was born in the Chicago area and moved to Radford in 1984. She was active in religious education at St. Jude Catholic Church in Radford and served as the Minister of Religious Education. Jim and Carol like to hike and walk and both are avid readers.



### Drew, Beth and Gesine Newman

Drew came to Virginia Tech as an undergrad in 2004 and never left. In 2007, Beth followed from the Philadelphia area, where they both grew up. Drew is an Engineering Manager at Kollmorgen. In his free time, he enjoys skiing, riding dirt bikes, and anything outdoors. A former elementary school teacher, Beth now works at the Blacksburg Public Library. She is also the president of The Quilting Party, Blacksburg's largest quilt guild. Gesine is in fourth grade at Price's Fork Elementary. She loves everything from exploring the outdoors to reading a good book.



## Thank you....

To Kevin Long and the Cellar Restaurant staff who recently catered delicious meals for us for the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon, the choir retreat dinner and the St. Michael Birthday Celebration.

To our members who provided twelve delicious birthday cakes for the St. Michael Celebration.

To Jeanette Pasier for hosting the October coffee hour and to Inga Solberg, Carol Grealish, John Kell and Judy Clemens who provided sweets for the party.

## St. Michael Online Advent Calendar

The Advent season begins Sunday, November 27. Be sure to follow the online Advent calendar, created by our own members, through links provided in the weekly *News and Notes* email and on the St. Michael website.

## November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	<b>2</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> All Saints Sunday Daylight Savings Ends 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Handbell Practice 12:00pm Choir Lunch and Rehearsal 2:00pm New River Valley Fall Gathering for Women of the ELCA	<b>7</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom	<b>8</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	<b>9</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting 11:15am Handbell Practice	<b>14</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	<b>16</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm WELCA Lunch and Learn 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm MCI Committee Meeting	<b>17</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Christ the King Sunday 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Coffee Hour Fellowship 11:15am Handbell Practice 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg
<b>27</b> First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	<b>28</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	<b>30</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service at New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>