



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

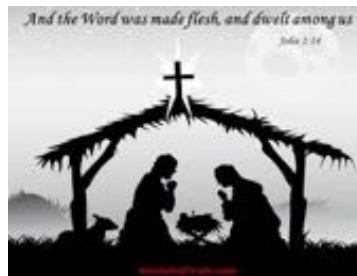
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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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December 1, 2022



Yule Tide greetings,

In the beginning of the gospel of John we read of the Word-made-flesh that came to dwell among us. If the Word came to dwell among us, how can we imagine the words we use in our prayers becoming incarnate among us, just as Jesus did? Prayers are not just words spoken into the air, nor did God come from the chaos of the beginning of creation to enter into humanity without purpose. As we enter this season, our longing and prayers from the Advent season “are met in thee tonight.” Unwrap the gift of prayer once more this Christmas season.

May the light of Christ fill your heart and mind as you celebrate his birth!

Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Michelle

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service at 7 p.m. (light supper at 6 p.m.)

November 30 at New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

December 7 at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

December 14 at Shiloh Lutheran Church

December 21 Midweek Holden Evening Prayer/Longest Night Service at St. Michael

December 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7 p.m.

December 25 **Worship Service** in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.

January 1 **Lessons and Carols** at 10 a.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 Fran and Dickie Shepherd for providing the beautiful Christmas trees from their farm; to Keith Gay, Meg Peterson, Judith Wolfe and Pastor Michelle for folding the November newsletter; to Jeff Crowder, Daniel Ferrell, Jay Nagle, Dickie Shepherd, Doug Smiley, Gary Steck and Dave Surface 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.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in November provided funds for church software, office supplies, confirmation books, music supplies, food for the O.K.’s luncheon, conference fee for our Music Director, new checks, sewer project work, supplies and snacks for the youth room, gasoline for the lawnmowers, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner Peace and Hope Ministry, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, supply pastor salary, salaries for our ministerial staff, and the monthly utilities.

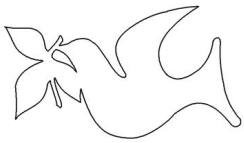
The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In November, we assisted **14** families: **six** with electric bills, **four** with rent assistance, **three** with water bills and **one** with gasoline assistance. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to Justice and Mercy and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Online Advent Calendar

Be sure to check out the **St. Michael Online Advent Calendar** each day beginning on Wednesday, November 30. The Advent Calendar was created by our very own members. You can find it via a link provided in the weekly News and Notes email as well as on our church website. Visit our website, www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org each day throughout Advent. Please spread the word to friends and family.



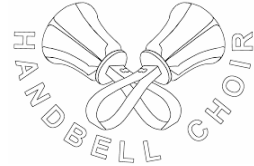
Chrismon Tree



The Chrismon tree has been put up in the Fellowship Hall. It is decorated with the Chrismons Butch Akers made for the outdoor Christmas Eve Service we had during COVID.

Music News

Handbell Choir practices will be on December 4th (after the service), 11th (after the Congregation Meeting), and 18th (at 9 a.m.).



Choir practices are Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Come sing with us.

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

Micah's Caring Initiative Sharing the Story

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 November 9th, we have packed 2,975 bags of food, provided 17,850 meals and received 41,650 items of food.

We have been contacted by Angela Martin from Member One Federal Credit Union in Roanoke. Member One has partnered with the Virginia Tech women's basketball team and is collaborating on a fundraiser to benefit Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors. The fundraiser will continue through the end of the season (February 2023).

Virginia Tech's Pi Sigma Epsilon business fraternity will be hosting a food drive for MBP over the next few weeks. The apartment complex Park 37 will also be hosting a food drive this month. Please stay tuned for updates.

For the Thanksgiving break, in addition to the regular packed food, we added cans of beef stew for our students and their families.

The Virginia Tech women's lacrosse team held a yearly food drive and made a donation to MBP.

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

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

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

Micah's Mini Pantry

We are restocking several times a week. Currently we have plenty of toothpaste. Items we need most are canned vegetables, canned fruit, shelf stable milk boxes, soups, pasta sauces, peanut butter, jelly, Ramen noodles/ready rice, canned chicken and tuna, hand soap, small size household items (laundry soap, dish soap, etc.).



Please make sure to check all expiration dates. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone for all of the donations for Micah's Mini Pantry.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from Food Lion, Feeding America and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and we encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time. We recently received a generous donation from the 100+ Women of the NRV that will help support us in 2023. We will continue to supply extra personal care items along with special items every other month. We are grateful for the recent donation and look forward to continuing to help out the seniors at Warm Hearth.



Packing Dates:

December 27th

January 24th

February 28th

Donation Items:

December: Little Debbie Cakes

February: Blankets (smaller size)

Congregation Meeting

St. Michael will hold a Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 11 immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. We will be discussing and approving the 2023 church spending plan, electing a new Trustee for St. Michael, electing voting representative for the 2023 Synod Assembly and electing new Church Council members. If you are interested in serving on the Church Council, please speak with a council member as soon as possible. Please make plans to attend this very important meeting.

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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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December Servants

	December 4	December 11	December 18	Christmas Eve 7:00 PM	December 25
10:00 AM Service					
Altar Care	Dianne Krallman	Jane Swing	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley	Jody Smiley
Greeters/Ushers	Jenny Kellinger Dianne Krallman	Gary and Sandie Worley	Joe Garst Elaine Powers	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Wilma Pieper Dave Surface
Lay Reader	Seth Perry	Keith Gay	Mickey McGuigan	John Stramiello	Bert Kinzey
Communion Assistant	Jane Swing	Dianne Krallman	Jay Nagle	Doug Smiley	Butch Akers
Youth Servant	Tatiana Villegas- Brown	Tatiana Villegas- Brown	Lilia Villegas- Brown	TBA	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): We will meet on **Wednesday, December 14th at noon**. All St Michael ladies are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and a special Advent/Christmas program. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.



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, jdsmliley29@comcast.net or Fran Shepherd, fshepherd13@icloud.com.

Montgomery County Food Bank and Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry: In December we are asking for donations of items that might be used for baking special Christmas treats such as cookie and muffin mixes. The food bank always appreciates receiving any non-perishable food items.

Women's Resource Center: With cold and flu season here, in December we are collecting tissues and sanitizing wipes.

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.

Help Wanted for Two Job Openings at St. Michael

After 15 years Suzanne Gay will be retiring as our **church administrative assistant** at the beginning of 2023. Thank you, Suzanne, for all that you have done and continue to do for St. Michael. We are looking for candidates for this part-time position. If you have any questions or know of someone that might be interested, please contact Mickey McGuigan, mymcguigan@gmail.com

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). If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Patrice Yearwood, Music Director, at payearwood1@gmail.com or Doug Smiley, Worship Chairman, smileydc@vt.edu.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky **5-Course Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **Tuesday, December 6**, at noon. Join the H-G-L bunch for a time of good cheer and a delicious meal prepared by our St. Michael chefs. 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”. Reserve your place at the table by contacting Sandy at birch@vt.edu It will be wonderful to gather together for fine fellowship and food.



100+ Women Who Care... really care about Micah's Soup for Seniors

100+ Women Who Care New River Valley is a group of 100+ women who are interested in supporting our local community. They come from all walks of life and varying financial backgrounds. As individuals, it is challenging to make a meaningful impact to the community but, as a group, they have the ability to make major contributions. The mission is to reach out and help our community with 100+ committed women pledging to each contribute \$100 on a quarterly basis to local charities. Following a presentation at the fall quarterly meeting by Sandy Birch and Dianne Krallman, the group voted to support Micah's Soup for Seniors with a check for \$10,900! **The very generous gift will support this Micah's Caring Initiative for an entire year!** Thank you 100+ Women Who **Really** Care. If you have any questions about the group, feel free to contact Sandy Birch, Jenny Kellinger or Meg Peterson, current members (and pictured below with Pastor Michelle and Dianne Krallman, Director of Soup for Seniors).



Offering Envelopes for 2023

Offering envelopes for 2023 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.

Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages is held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to join us.

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 2022 to be received by the church or post-marked by December 31, 2022. 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 at smileydc@vt.edu.

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.

To Our House – January 7 to January 13, 2023



Again this winter, St. Michael will help provide meals for the homeless as part of To Our House sponsored by New River Community Action. Our church will provide dinners from January 7 through January 13, 2023. During this time, the homeless will be sheltered at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. A Signup Genius will be sent out to our congregation in early December showing dinner menu options to choose from for each meal. Monetary donations to help purchase gift cards for their lunches are also appreciated.

For more information, contact Jody Smiley at jdsmiley29@gmail.com or Lynda Kinzey at lbskinzey@gmail.com. Thank you for your help with this important ministry.

Men in Mission

Volunteers are needed for a new project to help remodel a home called Hari House 2, which will be used 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 electrical 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 if you'd like to join the team. Hari means "removing darkness" in Sanskrit. We can let our lights shine.



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 7:00am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	2	3
4 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Handbell Practice	5 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom	6 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas Luncheon 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	7 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (light supper at 6 p.m.) 7:30pm Choir Practice	8 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	9 2:00pm Funeral for Peter Kleimann	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Congregation Meeting followed by Council Meeting 12:00pm Handbell Practice	12 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	13 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	14 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 Mid-Week Advent Service at Shiloh Lutheran Church (light supper at 6 p.m.) 7:30pm Choir Practice	15 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 5:00pm Patrice's Classes' Music Recital	16	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00am Handbell Practice 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	19 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	20 7:00pm MCI Committee Meeting 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	21 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent Service/Longest Night Service at St. Michael Lutheran Church (light supper at 6 p.m.) 7:30pm Choir Practice	22	23	24 7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	26	27 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	28	29	30	31