



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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God is Our Guide for the New Year

You might remember hearing about the twelve young boys and their coach who set out after football practice to spend some time exploring the caves of Tham Luang, Thailand. Most of the year the seven-mile twisting channel of limestone tunnels, nooks, and crannies is relatively dry. With the arrival of the rainy season, the narrow passageways can fill with water making the caves impossible to navigate. The boys wanted to squeeze in one last adventure heading down into the narrow cave before the monsoons came. During their exploration a heavy rain hit, trapping them deep inside.

What was to be a short jaunt turned into a massive two-week long search and rescue operation that ended with the most extraordinary cave rescue in history. During the rescue each boy was tethered to a lead diver who shared oxygen with him. The diver dragged his rescue boy along wading, climbing, and diving through the cold, murky water. All each boy needed to do was to lie still and trust the diver to get him through the treacherous passage safely.

As we look back over the passing year and into the new year, we are reminded that our well laid plans sometimes get derailed and we often times don't know where the journey will take us. The good news is that God remains tethered to us when we pass through the difficult passages of life. We don't need to be afraid of being derailed or of the difficult tunnels. God has called us by name; we are His. We can count on God's presence and protection over us. Like the divers who pulled each boy through the long, twisting channel, we can count on God to guide us in the new year. God will walk with us and see us safely through.

Happy New Year,
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 Advent season and the Christmas Eve service; to the Chrismon tree decorators; to all who provided Christmas gifts for children at Price’s Fork Elementary School; to Keith Gay, Meg Peterson, Betty Wingate and Judith Wolfe for folding the December newsletter; to Judy and Jim Clemens for counting the weekly offering; to Jody Smiley for writing the *Weekly News and Notes* emails; to Mary Nickle for her dedication and hard work with Micah’s Garden; and to John Kell for keeping the church grounds looking well maintained year round.

Because of your gifts

Core
Ministry
Fund



Your generous gifts in December provided support for music supplies, Advent devotionals and *Christ in Our Home* and *Hope-Full Living* quarterly devotionals, Carbonite and McAfee renewals, office supplies, stamps, staff Christmas gift cards, To Our House lunch gift cards, sewer project survey work, altar supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and support to Peace & Hope ministry, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry and salaries for our facilities and ministerial staff and supply pastors.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In December, we provided assistance to **15 families**: **nine** with electric bills, **four** with rent, and **two** with water bills. 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.

2023 Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2023 are now available and can be picked up from the hallway shelf at church. 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.

Help Wanted for Job Openings at St. Michael

Administrative Assistant

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

Worship Accompanist

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.

Committee and Ministry Annual Reports Due by January 31

Committee chairs and ministry leaders, it's that time again. Please provide your annual report to Keith Gay (keith.w.gay@gmail.com) by January 31. He'll compile the congregation's annual report for presentation at the annual meeting.

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 call the church office at 540-951-8951.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



Packing Dates:

January 24th
February 28th

Donation Items:

February: Blankets (smaller size)

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January Servants

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
10:00 AM Service					
Altar Care	Gary and Becky Steck	Inga Solberg	Doug Smiley	Jane Swing	Sandy Birch
Greeters/Ushers	Dickie and Fran Shepherd	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Butch Akers Jenny Kellinger	Judith Wolfe Wilma Pieper	Dave Surface Butch Akers
Lay Reader	John Stramiello	Jim Grealish	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Forrest Sloan	Mickey McGuigan
Comm. Asst.	Doug Smiley	Jay Nagle	Jennifer Wayne	Butch Akers	Sandy Birch
Youth Servant	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Ada Peery	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): Start off your new year by attending our January Lunch and Learn! We will meet on **Wednesday, January 18th at noon**. All St. Michael women are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and a Bible study. Our winter/spring studies will explore the Ten Commandments. In January we will begin with Commandments 1 and 2. **This month we ask that you bring your own bagged lunch. Desert and drinks will be provided.** If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.



You helped make Christmas a little brighter for a child at Price's Fork Elementary School: A big thank you to all those who filled an empty stocking for a child at PFES. We were able to provide 15 stockings. Again, THANK YOU!

Montgomery County Food Bank and Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry: In January we are asking for donations of **hearty soups**. The food bank always appreciates receiving any non-perishable food items.

Women's Resource Center: In January we are collecting **paper towels**.

Another thank you to all who donated journals and planners for the women who are clients of the Women's Resource Center. They were very appreciative of your donations.

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.

Altar Flowers



The sign-up sheet for 2023 is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you for serving in this special way. Most weeks, Sandie Worley purchases flowers from Kroger and creates our two bouquets for Sunday worship. Other weeks, beautiful silk flower arrangements are used on the altar. The cost of the fresh flowers is \$30 if members of the congregation would like to sponsor the bouquets in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary or birthday or other occasion. The donors are welcome to take one or both of the bouquets home after the service. As appropriate, the remaining bouquets will be delivered to any St. Michael members (or friends) who might be hospitalized, in nursing homes, at home recovering from surgery or just need a flower or two to brighten their day.



Recycling Continues

All used eyeglasses and pop top 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 200 little gift bags for senior shoppers at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Thank you for those wonderful donations. We can always use every item!



Happy New Year

Be grateful for the things and people you have in your life. Things you take for granted someone else is praying for.

-Marlan Rico Lee



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Member Sunday 10:00am Lessons and Carols Worship Service at St. Michael	2 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom	3 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	4 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	6 Epiphany of Our Lord To Our House	7 To Our House
8 Baptism of Our Lord To Our House 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting	9 To Our House 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	10 To Our House 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	11 To Our House 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 To Our House 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	13 To Our House	14
15 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	16 1:00pm Scout Leadership Training in the Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	17 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	18 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	19 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	20 7:00pm Cub Scout Camp In Begins	21 12:00pm Cub Scout Camp In Ends
22 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice	23 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	24 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	25 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	26 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	27	28
29 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice	30 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	31 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Kipps Farm HOA Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall	1 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	2 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	3	4