

# St. Michael Messenger November, 2023



**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**2308 Merrimac Road**  
**Blacksburg, VA 24060**  
**540.951.8951 hope@stmlc.us**  
**www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org**

## Celebrate Our Veterans

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." We will have a special coffee hour on 11/12 after worship to honor our veterans.



This Veterans Day, 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.



## The Community Thanksgiving Meal is Back!

We are excited to announce that the Community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Michael is back! The meal will be served at 1:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day (11/23). For this happen we need lots of volunteers and of course food. There will be a volunteer signup sheet in the weekly bulletin insert listing food and volunteer opportunities. Please sign up

to help.

**Families of Faith** will be joining forces with all the amazing groups of SMLC to help and serve at the Thanksgiving Dinner, 11/23. Please contact Jada Brown if your family is able to attend! This will be the November Family of Faith meeting.



## Our first Trunk or Treat & Family Fall Festival

**was a success!!** We had about 13 trunks decorated, snacks, games, crafts, cake walk and even a petting zoo. The only "down fall" we had was we ran out of candy twice, because we had at least 300 or more visitors!!! (Thank Goodness Foodlion isn't far away!) Thank you to everyone who decorated and handed out candy, help pass out bags, sent in donations or just had us in your prayers! Please check out our

Facebook page for more pictures: Youth Ministry at St. Michael Lutheran Church.

**Music is alive and well at St. Michael Lutheran.** Thank you to all of our dedicated choir members that rehearse weekly and lead in worship each Sunday. We had a great kick-off weekend at the end of September to get a head start on music for Fall. Warm-ups, a little music theory, choir rehearsal, some games and lots of food were all a part of our time together. Our time together, the fellowship is a highlight! Come sing with us and join the fellowship!



**HANDBELLS** will ring in December! Time to get ready. Come join us after church this Sunday, November 5, November 12, November 26 as we rehearse for Advent and Christmas ringing!

And finally, we are ALL a part of the music at St. Michael as we lift our voices in communal singing. Our new Hymn of the Month is designed to introduce us all to new hymns and new music for singing in worship. A new piece is chosen and...

Week 1- Choir sings verse 1

Week 2- soloist or small group sings verse 2

Week 3- Congregation sings verse 3

Week4- Congregation sings ALL verses.

This plan is adapted each month based on the chosen hymn. (i.e., the hymn may only have a short verse/refrain as in our October Hymn of the Month (ELW 538) that we sang as a Benediction each Sunday. In September we sang from All Creation Sings, #1000, God's Work, Our Hands (hymn tune- Earth and All Stars).

"We become what we sing. In the 17th century, Christian Huygens discovered that two pendulums swinging at different frequencies, when placed next to each other, will eventually begin to swing at the same frequency. Imagine what happens when all of us shed our self-consciousness and robustly sing together?"

We become what we sing." Adapted from Daily Grace, Women of the ELCA ( courtesy of Sandy Birch)

### **MICAH's Music/Drama & Art-Update**

Our mission: to engage the community, children and youth to bring new vitality and life to our worship, music program and church. Sing well, Act well, Do good

Our Thursday class is in its 6th week! Four more weeks to showtime!

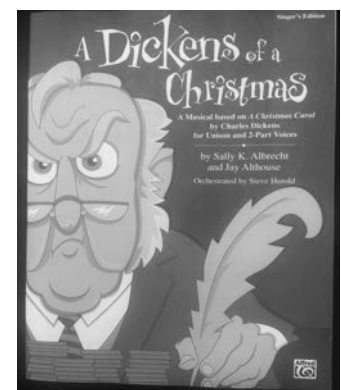
YOU Don't Want to Miss This!!

### **A Dickens of a Christmas**

a musical based on A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens

By Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse

**2 SHOWS!!**



**DECEMBER 2, 2023-11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.**

FREE. Donations will be accepted to sustain this new program and give back to Micah's Caring Initiative.



**Fall Gathering-November 4th**

The women of the New River Conference will gather on Saturday, November 4th, 1:00-3:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski. Our afternoon will be filled with fellowship, food and worship. We will also learn about Micah's Ecumenical

Ministries in Fredericksburg, the VSWO Love Offering Project for 2023-2024.

We plan to carpool so please meet at the church at 12:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net.

**WELCA-Lunch & Learn:** We will meet on Wednesday, November 15th at noon for Lunch and Learn. All St. Michael ladies and friends are welcome. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and a service project for the Christmas Store. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.

**Donations/Collections for November**

**Food Banks:** Sides for a Thanksgiving meal

**Women's Resource Center:** Paper Towels

**Soup for Seniors:** 7 ½ oz can vegetables

**Thanksgiving Meal:** See the volunteer sheet in the weekly bulletin



insert



**Events for November at St. Michael**

<p>11/2-Men's breakfast and Bible study (7 am)  11/5-Daylight Savings Time Ends-FALL BACK  11/5-All Saints Sunday  11/12-Coffee Hour, Honoring Veterans  11/12-Church Council meeting (11:30 am)  11/15-Lunch and Learn-Service Project (Noon)  11/19-Confirmation Class at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm)  11/19-Worship, Music, and Program/ministry to            appeal to Younger Adults working group (11:30 am)  11/22-Setup for Thanksgiving meal (3:00 pm)  11/23-Food donations due at church (10:00 am)</p>	<p>Weekly Events: Meeting at St. Michael  Monday-Cub Scouts (7:00 pm)  Tuesday-Packing Micah's Backpack (6:00 pm)  Wednesday-Choir (7:15 pm)  Thursday-Micah's Music/Drama and Art (5:30 pm)  Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm)  Sunday-Adult Sunday School (9:00 am)</p> <p><b>Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events.</b></p>
---	---

11/23-Thanksgiving meal (1:00 pm)	
11/28-Soup for Seniors Packing (10:00 am)	

Pastor Wes' Schedule: Pastor Wes Jamison will normally be available on Sundays, Tuesdays, and one other (changing) day during the week. His email address is [pastorwes@stmlc.us](mailto:pastorwes@stmlc.us) and his cell number is 540.392.5632. Please let Pastor Wes know by phone if there is a pastoral emergency.



Adult Sunday School is back! Pastor Wes will lead us each week. We are using the Daily Discipleship resource from the ELCA. Please make plans to join us on Sundays at 9:00 am.

### Save the Date-December 5<sup>th</sup>

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



### Sharing the Story of Micah's Caring Initiatives



Each week we are packing around 300 bags. During the months of September and October we packed a total of 1,900 bags of food for children in 10 local schools. 26,614 food items have been distributed to help address food insecurity in our community.

Our volunteer base continues to remain strong. The VT Women's Tennis team, cadets from the ROTC, The Blacksburg Rotary Club and several fraternities and sororities packed with us during the month of October. It is wonderful to see people from all backgrounds come together to support our mission.

The MR Real Estate Team in Blacksburg hosted a food drive for us on Thursday, Oct. 12th. The drive brought in 500 food items to fill our shelves.

Members of SMLC are invited to pack bags for Micah's Backpack on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:30 pm.



Soup for Seniors continues to pack and distribute approximately 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth Village. We will be packing the bags at St. Michael on November 27th at 10:00 a.m. We encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time. Mark your calendars that we will be packing on December 19th. We will continue to a little something extra in the bags every other month. In December we will be collecting Footie Socks with grips.



The pantry is still going strong, thanks to all the amazing donations! MMP is in need of Hearty Soup, Ramen, Canned vegetables, fruits and pastas, mini boxes of cereal and hats and gloves for those who are in need. All other donations are accepted and appreciated! Please remember if you are donating from your own pantry to check all expiration dates.

**Micah’s Snack Closets:** The Snack Closets are all stocked and have actually been restocked already this school year. This means the schools are really providing lots of yummy snacks to the kids. This program was initially funded by the Robert Schulman Bequest for Children.

### November Sunday Servants

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>				
<b>Altar Care</b>	Inga Solberg	Dianne Krallman	Doug Smiley	Sandy Birch
<b>Greeters</b>	William Allen Wilma Pieper	Mark and Jeanette Pasier	Gary Steck Butch Akers	Elaine Powers Joe Garst
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Doug Smiley	Sandy Birch	Jody Smiley
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Dianne Krallman	Jennifer Wayne	Jane Swing	Joe Garst
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Gesine Newman	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana Villegas-Brown

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

### Thank you to some “Quiet” Servants



Thanks to Fran Shepherd and Jody Smiley organizing Micah's Closet and to all the volunteer shoppers; to all those that help with coffee/fellowship hour and to Doug Smiley for coordinating the new snack closet program that is part of Micah’s Caring Initiative.

### Because of your Gifts

Your generous gifts in October supported decorations and candy for our Trunk and Treat, office supplies, cleaning supplies, cups and coffee for fellowship, Altar flowers, postage, a plumbing repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Peace and Hope Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff.





The Justice and Mercy Fund continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In October, we provided assistance for 15 families: two with rent, eleven with electric bills, and two 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 needed.

**Pastor Wes Contact Information:** Email: [pastorwes@stmhc.us](mailto:pastorwes@stmhc.us) Cell Number is 540.392.5632.

**Reminder: If you have any articles, upcoming events, congratulations/celebrations to share, or anything else for the newsletter please pass it along to Jody Smiley. Photos and logos are greatly appreciated.**