

# St. Michael Messenger December, 2023



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

## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule Midweek Advent All meals and services will be at St. Michael

*Holden Evening Prayer Service at 6:45 p.m. (light meal at 6 p.m.)*

December 6<sup>th</sup> Meal Catered by Cellar  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Subs from Substation 2  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Homemade Soups  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Worship Service at 10 a.m.  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Pre-Service Concert at 6:30 p.m.  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.  
December 31<sup>st</sup> Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.



A donation of \$5 for adults is suggested to help cover the costs of the catered meals.



## Presents Dickens of a Christmas

**December 2, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. shows**

**St. Michael Lutheran, 2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg**

**Free Admission**

Your donations will support St. Michael's Music/ Drama & Arts  
and local groups like Micah's Caring Initiative

**Director-** Joelle Shenk

**Assistant Director-** Kayla Lees

**Musical Director-** Patrice Yearwood



## 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.

### Thanksgiving Day was a very good day at St. Michael

On Thanksgiving Day, the congregation hosted over 70 guests for dinner at its 27th Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers who provided side dishes such as sweet potato casseroles and gelatin salads as well as tasty cakes and pies. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped set up (and clean up) the fellowship hall and sanctuary, carve the 8 turkeys, prepare the stuffing and green beans, drive many of our Warm Hearth guests to the dinner, and greeted everyone who joined us for the delicious meal. It was a very special time filled with new friendships and fine food.



### Donations/Collections for December

- Food Banks:** Sides for a Christmas meal
- Women's Resource Center:** Toilet Paper
- Soup for Seniors:** Footie Socks with non-skid grippers
- Soup for Seniors:** Christmas themed Little Debbie Cakes

## UPCOMING Events

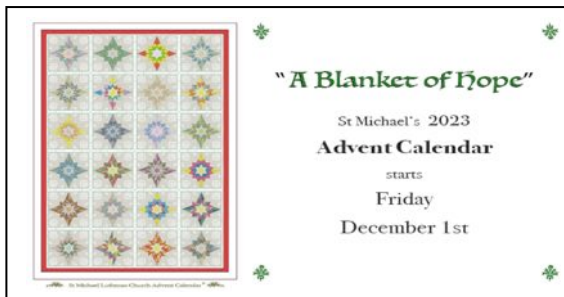
### Events for December at St. Michael

12/2-Dickens of a Christmas (11 am and 4 pm)	Weekly Events: Meeting at St. Michael
12/3-Community Engagement WG (11:30 am)	Monday-Cub Scouts (7:00 pm)
12/5-Happy-Go-Lucky Christmas Lunch (Noon)	Tuesday-Packing Micah's Backpack (6:00 pm)
12/5-Worship, Music, and Program/ministry to appeal to Younger Adults WG (7 pm)	Wednesday-Choir (7:15 pm)
	Thursday-Micah's Music/Drama and Art (5:30 pm)

12/6-Midweek Advent meal and service (6 pm) 12/7-Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (7 am) 12/10-Congregation Meeting (11:30 am) 12/13-Midweek Advent meal and service (6 pm) 12/16-Christmas Camp (1-4 pm) 12/17-Confirmation Class at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm) 12/20-Lunch and Learn-Christmas Prog. (Noon) 12/20-Midweek Advent meal and service (6 pm) 12/24-Pre-service concert (6:30 pm) 12/24-Christmas Eve Evening Service (7 pm) 12/28-Soup for Seniors Packing (10 am) 12/31-Lessons and Carols Service (10 am)	Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm) Sunday-Adult Sunday School (9:00 am)  <b>Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events.</b>
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St. Michael will our **Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 10** immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. We will be discussing and approving the 2024 church spending plan, electing voting representative for the 2024 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.

### Online Advent Calendar



Be sure to check out the St. Michael Online Advent Calendar each day beginning on **Friday, December 1st**. 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-lutheranchurch.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheranchurch.org) each day throughout Advent. Please spread the word to friends and family.

### Christmas Camp is Coming

St. Michael will host a **Christmas Camp on Saturday Dec. 16th from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm**. We will have crafts, games, snack, music, the Christmas story and hopefully a special visitor.

We will need lots of sugar cookies to decorate and volunteers to help with games, crafts and serve snacks. Please contact Jada Brown, [brownball33@aol.com](mailto:brownball33@aol.com) if you have any questions. There is a signup sheet for items needed and volunteer opportunities in hallway at church.



**Nursery News**

Bring your kids, invite kids in your neighborhood, nieces, nephews, grandkids to help have a great turn out for this fun event!

### Nursery will be open for Christmas Eve Evening Service

The nursery (Mother's Morning Out room) will be open for the Christmas Eve Evening Service. The Cozy Corner in the Fellowship Hall will also be available. These areas are for kids (of all ages) and parents that may need a break during the evening service. We know that a 7:00 pm service not to mention the excitement of Christmas Eve can be a little overwhelming.

### WELCA-Lunch & Learn

We will meet on Wednesday, December 20th 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 Christmas program. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu).



### December Sunday Servants

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>					
<b>Altar Care</b>	Jane Swing	Dianne Krallman	Inga Solberg	Jody Smiley	Gary and Becky Steck
<b>Greeters</b>	Dickie and Fran Shepherd	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Gary and Becky Steck	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Sandie Worley Butch Akers
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Forrest Sloan	Jody Smiley	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley	Jennifer Wayne
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jane Swing	William Allen	Butch Akers	Jay Nagle	Jody Smiley
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana 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.

#### Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 PM

**Greeters:** Dickie and Fran Shepherd

**Lay Reader:** Doug Smiley

**Communion Asst:** Jody Smiley

**Youth Servant:** Tatiana Villegas-Brown

### Thank you to some "Quiet" Servants



A big THANK YOU to all that have made God's ministry at St. Michael possible. Your donation of time, talents and treasures to Micah's Caring Initiative (Backpack, Closet, Soup for Seniors, Garden and the Snack Closet), Men in Mission and WELCA projects, Mid-week meals and services, all the youth events (Families of Faith, VBS, Trunk and Treat, Christmas Camp), Community Thanksgiving meal, our regular worship services, and more have made a difference in our community and beyond. You are God's hands in the world!

## 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.

## Sharing the Story of Micah's Caring Initiative



Each week we are packing around 300 bags. During the months of September, October, November we packed a total of 2,974 bags of food for children in 10 local schools. 41,636 food items have been distributed to help address food insecurity in our community.

Our volunteer base continues to remain strong. The VT Catholic Campus Ministry, Chi Delta Sorority and Pi Sigma Epsilon (co-ed Business Fraternity) packed with us during the month of November. The VT German Club and VHSL Ken Tilley Student Leader Conference at BHS had food drives. The VHSL Student Leader Conference also made a \$200 donation. It is wonderful to see people from all backgrounds come together to support our mission.

We will not pack Dec. 19th, Dec. 26th or Jan. 2nd due to the Montgomery Co. Public Schools winter break. Packing will resume on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00pm.

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 **December 28th at 10:00 a.m.** We encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time. We will continue to a little something extra in the bags every other month. **In December we will be collecting Footie Socks with grips and Christmas themed Little Debbie Cakes.**



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 for those who are in need. **With cold weather on the way donations of hats and gloves are appreciated.** Please remember if you are donating from your own pantry to check all expiration dates.

**Micah's Snack Closets:** The Snack Closets are going strong. This means the schools are providing lots of yummy snacks to the kids in the Blacksburg area. This program was initially funded by the Robert Schulman Bequest for Children.

**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.



**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.**