

St. Michael Messenger January, 2024



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



We Shared Together an Amazing Christmas Eve Service!

We had a beautiful and inspiring Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. It takes many folks to make this happen. Thank you to all that prepared the sanctuary. Thank you to our Music Director, Patrice Yearwood and our organist Dallin Baldwin, all of the soloists, duets, choir members, and handbell choir who did such a fantastic job. Thanks to Pastor Wes for leading us in worship and to all that assisted.



You don't want to miss this!!

St. Michael's Music/Drama & Arts has a new class coming January 11- March 21, 2024, The Quilt Speaks, Secret Messages in Songs & Quilts, by Dr. Rene Boyer. Journey with us as history unfolds itself and reveals the importance of a spiritual and seemingly simple quilt square. This time we feature Music & ART with a little drama sprinkled in.

Sign up today! Ages 7-14. Class size- 30 participants. Register at stmlc.us/mda. If you have any questions please contact Patrice Yearwood, payearwood1@gmail.com.

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 Judy and Jim Clemens for counting the weekly offering; and to Jody Smiley for writing the Weekly News and Notes emails.

Because of your Gifts

Your generous gifts in December supported office supplies, *Christ in Our Home* and *Hope-Full Living* quarterly devotionals, postage, cleaning supplies, staff Christmas gift cards, 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

J & M continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In December we provided assistance for 6 families: one with rent, four with electric bills and one with a water bill. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as needed.

Donations/Collections for January

Food Banks: Hearty Soups

Women's Resource Center: Paper Towels

Soup for Seniors: Tomato Soup (10 ½ oz size)



UPCOMING *Events*

Events for January at St. Michael

<p>1/4-Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (7 am) 1/7-Church Council Meeting (11:15 am) 1/14- Community Engagement WG (11:15 am) 1/17-Lunch and Learn (Noon) 1/21-Confirmation Class at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm) 1/23- Soup for Seniors Packing (10 am) 1/28-Fellowship/Coffee Hour (11:15 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) Beginning 1/10 Thursday-Micah's Music/Drama and Art (5:30 pm) Beginning 1/11 Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm) Sunday-Adult Sunday School (9:00 am)</p> <p>Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events.</p>
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WELCA-Lunch & Learn

We will meet on Wednesday, January 17th 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 Bible Study. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.



It is time to update our Prayer List. If you would like to add or continue to have someone included please write their name on the Welcome Sheet in your bulletin or contact Harley at harley@stmlc.us.

Offering Envelopes for 2024

New offering envelopes for 2024 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 (st-michael-lutheran-church.org) for details.



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 ANNUAL Committee
 REPORTS
 DUE 1/31/24
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Committee, Ministry, Working Groups Annual Reports
Due by January 31

Committee chairs, ministry and working group leaders, it's that time again. Please provide your annual report to Keith Gay (keith.w.gay@gmail.com) by January 31. These will be included in 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 or contact Harley at harley@stmlc.us .



Altar Flowers



The sign-up sheet for 2024 is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you for serving in this special way. The cost of the fresh flowers is \$40 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.

January Sunday Servants

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
10:00 AM Service				
Altar Care	Sandy Birch	Butch Akers	Gary and Becky Steck	Inga Solberg
Greeters	Wilma Pieper William Allen	Jenny Kellinger Butch Akers	Mark and Jeanette Pasier	Elaine Powers Joe Garst
Lay Reader	Jane Swing	Keith Gay	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley
Communion Assistant	Butch Akers	William Allen	Jody Smiley	Joe Garst
Youth Servant	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Gesine Newman

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

Sharing the Story of Micah's Caring Initiative

8,660 Backpacks Delivered

51,960 Meals Provided

121,240 Items of Food



I would like to thank the members of St. Michael Church for all of their support this year. As we take a look at the amount of food we distributed in 2023, we have a lot to be proud of. Your generosity, kindness, and willingness to give your time for the betterment of others is truly appreciated. It is because of individuals like you that we are able to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Your contributions make a significant difference, and I am truly fortunate to have you as part of our Micah's Backpack family.

As a reminder we will not pack on Jan. 2nd. Packing will resume on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00pm.



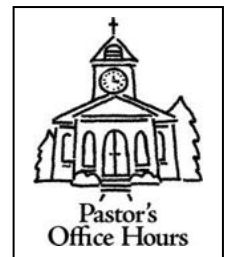
Soup for Seniors packs and distributes approximately 85 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth Village. That means for 2023 we delivered approximately 1020 gift bags of food and special items. We will be packing the bags at St. Michael on **January 23rd at 10:00 a.m.** We encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time. Thank you to all that donated special items during the year. You helped us be able to put a little something extra in the bags.



In 2023 the pantry was filled and emptied all year long. It was a real blessing those in need in our community. 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: In the fall of 2023 the Snack Closets expanded to serve all the elementary schools in Blacksburg. It has been well received and is greatly appreciated by all the schools we serve. 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@stmhc.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.