

The Messenger

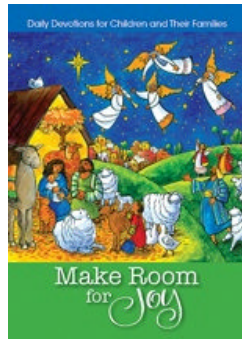
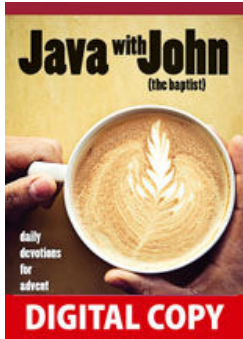
Bringing you the news of mission and ministry for the people of St. Michael

“And He is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

For us, there is only one name for this time of year...**Christmas** time! Yes, for us, St. Michael, Jesus' coming to Earth is the reason this time of year is set apart and we keep it sacred. Our prayer for you is that this Advent season will prepare you to receive the one born for us whose name is Jesus.

So, let's get ready for Christmas!



Our ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE IN!

Visit the Advent Table in the foyer at Church to pick up your booklet. We ask that you take one per household of either *Java with John* (the Baptist) OR *Make Room for Joy* for our children.

Then, each week during the season of Advent, you will have the opportunity to gather in **Java Groups or Joy Groups** to chat about the devotion with others from our congregation and community.

This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome, invite and connect your neighbors, classmates, friends, colleagues during the time of year when hearts are often listening harder to hear the Good News of God's great love for them!

Meet up for one of the many Java Groups or Joy Groups to catch up, refresh, connect and pause during the week for reflection together. Wherever you are, there is a Group meeting somewhere near you. Check out the Google map for locations as they are posted by scrolling over the little balloons for details.

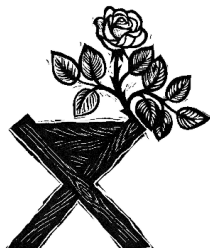
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Don't see a Group near you, but want to start one? All you need is a regular day, time and place that we can post and you can be the "anchor" in your location. We ask that a Group leader be in that same spot each week at the same time on the same day. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar to lead a group! You just have to be committed to being present. You can be creative with your times/days/places. They are called Java Groups, but they can be anywhere and don't have to be over coffee! Please contact me (427-5088) as soon as possible if you are interested in being "on the map"!

Join in the conversation! You do not have to RSVP, nor do you have to go to the same group each week. You can join in more than one a week if you choose. You may be in a different part of the city! Pick what works for you and your week and your world and take a break to connect with others and God this Season!

Go in peace to share the Good News!

In His Love,
Juliet Hutchens
Director of
Faith Development



Your Pastoral Ministry
Staff wishes you a,
Merry Christmas!

December 2011

Christmas Eve and Day Services

Saturday, 24 Dec. Worship @

◆ **Noon**

The Christmas Story with Communion

◆ **5pm**

Lessons and Carols with Communion

Ideal for families

◆ **7:30pm and 10pm**

Candle Light Communion

Sunday, 25 Dec. Worship @

◆ **10:30am**

Christmas Day Communion

Children are invited to bring a gift for show and tell and to wear their PJs

Join us weekly at St. Michael on:

Mondays

Planners @ 10am

Boy Scouts @ 7pm

Tuesdays

Sewing Ministry 2nd & 4th @ 10am

AA Meeting @ 7pm

Wednesdays

Men's Lunch Outing (1st) @ 11:45

Cherub Choir @ 5:00pm

Cantata Bell Choir @ 6:30pm

Sr. Choir Rehearsal @ 7:30pm

LYF Fire pit @ 7:30pm

Property Team (2nd) @ 7:30pm

Thursdays

Prayer Shawl 1st & 3rd @ 10am

Beach Babies @ 10am

NA Meeting @ 7pm

Fridays

Book Club 4th @ 7pm

Saturdays

Men's Breakfast 2nd @ 9am

Finance Meeting 2nd @ 10am

Worship & Music 2nd @ 11am

Key Dates This Month

Dec. 2-3 Confirmation Retreat

Dec. 11 Christmas Cantata

Dec. 18 Children's Christmas Program

For Additional Youth Events see pg. 3

A Note From Our Council President...

Most of us are familiar with *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens in 1843. Written in only six weeks' time, it received immediate critical acclaim. Sales of the book began on December 17, 1843 and by Christmas Eve the first 6,000 copies were sold out. Over the next 168 years this tale has been adapted to film, opera, a chamber music work by composer Benjamin Britten, and even a mime production starring Marcel Marceau. In 2011 Scrooge is a household word, and each Christmas season we are reunited with Christmas Past, Present and Future. Another book with which we are all familiar contains the Gospel of Matthew. The 28 chapters encompass the Past, Present and Future of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the genealogy of Jesus, we learn of His birth, baptism, ministry, passion, death and resurrection. Although not an acclaimed critic by any means, I would venture to say that The Bible has had the most profound effect on mankind and the world than any book ever written. During Advent, we are reminded of the simplicity in which God brings us His most precious gift to redeem, our Past, Present and Future. God's son, our Lord, was humbly born in a building used for livestock to a young frightened couple. At His baptism, Jesus humbled himself to fulfill all righteousness. Through birth and baptism, we remember our Past. As He ministered, taught and performed miracles, Jesus' greatest commandment was to love God with all one's heart, soul and mind, showing us how to live in the Present. Throughout His passion, death and resurrection when repeatedly given the opportunity to save himself, Jesus remained humble and obedient to God His Father, assuring us of our Future place with Him. On behalf of our church council, I wish each of you a blessed and merry Christmas as we continue our journey together looking forward in faith.

By His Grace, Nancy Crane

Jesus = God Who Saves

Social Outreach News

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We asked for items for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets you provided. We asked for your help in assembling and delivering the baskets and you came. Through your generosity 65+ families will have a tasty Thanksgiving. God bless you. Thanks also to the Sunday School students for donating 103 cans of yams.

Planners - Don't forget about our Planners (plastic bag yarn) that meet every Monday at 10 at church. You do not have to crochet to help with this project. We need people to cut bags and loop together the strips. Please come to a gathering to learn how to do this.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 11 Return items to Angel Tree
- Dec. 12 Deliver Angel Tree Items.

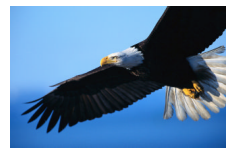
Stewardship & Finance News

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Commitment Cards for 2012! Consecration Sunday was great...*We are living in the family of God.*

October financial results were positive for St. Michael! Thanks be to God and thanks to each of you for your gifts and prayers. Giving to Spending plan is behind by 5% year to date. There are bridges to continue to build for the remainder of 2011. For the facts and figures check the treasurers report in the fellowship hall or talk to Tina Allen, Treasurer, Paul Lown, finance ministry chair or any council member. Please pray that our gifts from God in our lives can be a blessing towards all God's children.



From the Eagles' Nest...



All are welcome to join the EAGLES Potluck Luncheon and gala Christmas Stocking Stuffer event on:

Thursday 15 December at 11 AM in the SMLC Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy Christmas Carols and share in the fellowship as we merrily stuff and pack up goodies for the homeless at the Virginia Beach Light House shelter. Use the sign up sheet posted on the EAGLE bulletin Board to make your presence and dish preparation known. The kitchen and buffet table will be ready for use at 1030 AM. Don't miss this event and the gift surprises for participants of all ages..

Have You heard about the Human Warmth Fund?

Our LYF Youth are set to help the Human Warmth Fund during the months of Dec./Jan./Feb. Human Warmth is a program of Lutheran Family Services which provides financial assistance for families who struggle to pay their heating bills during the winter months in the TIDEWATER AREA. They are always in need of more support. Please see the bulletin board for details and please lend your support to this worthy cause.

Calling all Musicians & Singers!

Part of what makes our St. Michael Christmas Eve so special and spirit-filled are the musical offerings that our talented member-musicians share during the preludes. If you would like to share your talents this year, please contact Holly and/or sign-up on the first bulletin board in the choir room. At this time, she will need to know what piece you would like to offer and the service you prefer to attend. Children's music will be featured prior to the 5:00 gathering. An extended prelude for the 7:30 worship service begins at 6:55. Traditionally, this 7:30 service has the most volunteers, so if you would consider an offering at the late service (or perhaps, both the middle and the late service) this may allow for more overall participation. Please communicate with Holly at your earliest convenience. Holly's email: landersun2@aol.com. With thanks in advance for the gifts you share with those who gather on Christmas Eve.



Date Night for Couples

Friday, December 9, at 5:30 pm. Join us (you don't have to be a member) as we take a hilarious look at love, life, and marriage with Mark Gungor and his *Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage talks*. Youth will provide childcare for donation.

3rd Friday Book Club at 7pm

Dec 23rd is Night by Eli Wiesel, & Jan 27th is The Giver by Lois Lowry.

Our SMLC Preschool

Upgrading your computers? We are accepting donations of used monitors and mice (mouses??) for our preschool computers, and would appreciate your help!

Thank you, Ms Sue.

A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S!

this year's Children's Christmas Program. All children of St. Michael are invited to participate. **Sunday, December 18** during Both Worship Services!
Rehearsals: Sunday, December 11 and Saturday, December 17 (times tba)
For more information contact:
Cynthia Bowen, 5cbsinvb@gmail.com

Need Help Preparing for Christmas

Drop the kids off and we'll even wrap your Christmas gifts! Our National Youth Gathering Youth and Adults will be offering Child Care and Gift Wrapping **Services Sunday, 18 Dec. from Noon till 5pm**. Drop off and pick up will be at the Martin Murphy Room in the Education wing. This is a fundraiser for their trip next summer!

Beach Babies Playgroup

meets Thursday mornings at 10am in the fellowship hall for playtime, snack and devotion, open to all parents, caregivers, and friends with babies and young children. Bring a toy to share and join us around the quilt!

An Invitation to Join the Team...

PARENTS of LYF (6th-12th Grade) Youth: We are always in need of parents to plug in as drivers, chaperones, snack/meal organizers and providers. If you would be interested in serving on the Parent Ministry Team for Faith Development, or if you are able and interested in providing for any of these needs and wish to give of your time and resources, please see Juliet Hutchens or email juliet.dfd@gmail.com



Emmanuel = God with Us!

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- GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**
LMF (5th-8th grades) LYF (9th-12th grades)
ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN YOUTH SERVICE & OUTREACH
- Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st LYF Firepit on Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm Rain/snow/shine we will Gather for fellowship around the fire! Sign up for student devotions on the bulletin board!
 - Dec. 9-10 LYF Lock-In (6th-12th Grade) Join us from 5pm Friday night til 10am Saturday morning for service projects and FUN as we hang out together, locked in! Proceeds from Date Night donations will benefit Human Warmth to help Lutheran Family Services provide heat to the needy. Details and permission slips for this event available on the bulletin board.
 - Dec. 18 ALL YOUTH ON DECK! We will help/participate in/support our Christmas Pageant: A Capital Christmas! Please plan to be at church for this special Sunday of worship! (YES, we will still have Sunday School)
 - Dec. 18 National Youth Gathering Group hosts an afternoon of Childcare and Gift Wrapping for Fundraiser (12:00pm till 5pm)
 - Jan. 1 in the afternoon: After you have rung in the New Year join your LYF friends and help the homeless start 2012 with a hot meal, a warmed building and kind hearts. LYF (6th-12th grade) will serve food at the PIN Ministry Sunday Meal on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 1st. Watch the bulletin board for details during December!

WINTER CELEBRATION: Sr. High (9th-12th graders) Winter Cel will be: Jan. 27, 28, 29th! Registration Forms will be available this month for early bird discounts! If you have true financial need, please see Juliet!

LYF (LIFE) 6TH-12 GRADE

DATES TO SAVE!

- DEC. 2, 3 CONFIRMATION RETREAT
- DEC. 9,10 LOCK-IN & PIN PANCAKE BREAKFAST!
- DEC. 18 YOUTH SUNDAY & NYG FUNDRAISER
- DEC. 21 LYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE MESSENGER
St. Michael Lutheran Church
2208 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-3536

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Virginia Beach, VA
Permit No. 418

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2011



God's Vision for St. Michael

Merry Christmas St. Michael!

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2208 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-3536
Church Phone: 757-427-5088
Email: admin@stmichaelvb.org

Office Hours: M-F 9:00-4:00 pm
Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am



Join our group/be our friend on facebook!
St. Michael Lutheran Church, Virginia Beach

January Messenger Submission Deadline: Dec.. 15th
Please submit all entries to church office email above.