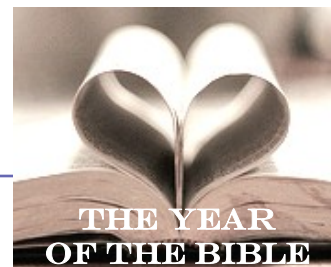


The Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary	
9:00 AM 10:45 AM	
9:00 AM—Sunday School	
Wednesday February 22, 2012 11 AM & 7:30 PM	
Ash Wednesday Worship	

A Silly Little Love Song

by Pastor John A. Mohan

With the approach of Valentine's Day, all thoughts turn to love, not that we need much coaxing. Love seems to define our times. More accurately, the search for love seems to define us.

Love, you would think, is universally celebrated. Who could argue against it? When John Lennon criticized Paul McCartney for writing fluffy love songs, the former Beatle's response was to release *Silly Love Songs* and watch it immediately climb the charts to #1 in May, 1976.

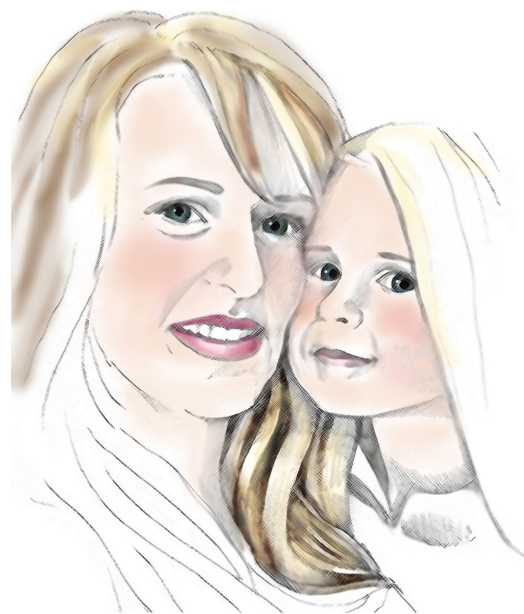
Love is so strong an emotion, so fundamentally desired, that we often desire nothing else. Love colors everything!

When thoughts turn to love, I turn to the first letter of John. "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8).

With this letter, John is direct and clear. Love and God are inseparable. In fact, it is our love that determines our understanding. If we get love wrong, then we get God wrong.

Joseph Sittler, in his ground-breaking book *The Care of the Earth* (1964), explores the tyranny of our self-love as well as our profound need for God's grace and self-giving love. Beginning with St. Augustine's assertion that human knowledge is determined by human love, Sittler writes:

"We do not know truly because we do not love truly or amply. Right knowledge is a function of right love. And what is the actual history of man's love? Simply



We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

that he loves himself — passionately, toughly, fiercely, relentlessly. This passion is man's pathos, and there is no adequate liberation, no salvation for him so long as its way and power be not broken and changed.

"Unless and until *the love with which I love finds its proper object in the love with which I am loved by God* I am a prisoner of love too small for love's heavenly nature and scope. The gospel declares that this human fact has been met by a sufficient godly act. Its name is Jesus Christ "...who loved us and gave himself for us."

There is nothing silly about that love song, although it brings a smile to my face and joy to my life.

Inside this issue:

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Family & Youth	4
Worship/Music/Community Events	5
Financial Report/Council Updates	7
Our Mission & Vision	8

A Caring Community!

Notes from our Health Ministry—

February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Learn about heart disease prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HeartMonth/>.



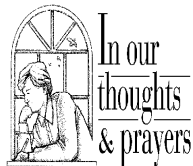
Free health education classes are offered at Franklin Square Hospital Center throughout the year, including Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group, Diabetes Support Group and others. Most classes meet in the Crawford Conference Center. To register or for more information, please call 443-777-7900.

- **Widow & Widower Afternoon Series** meets Tuesdays from 1 to 3 PM, for anyone whether widowed for 20 years or 20 days. The next sessions will be February 14th, 21st & 28th.
- **Grief & Loss Monthly Support Group** meets the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 PM for those dealing with the loss of a parent, sibling, spouse or friend, assisting participants in understanding the journey of grief and that they are not alone. This month's meeting will be February 28th.

For more information about St. Michael's Health Ministry, contact our Parish Nurse, Carolyn Kelly, 410-256-8921 or kellycarol2@msn.com.

Please keep these members in prayer.

They would also appreciate a card or note of cheer. Current addresses may be obtained by calling the church office, 410-256-6441. George & Carolyn Belton; Walt & Erma Blucher; Jim Cloman, Marge Elloff; Stan & Lucille Kimmel; Irene Klausmier; Helen Koch; William Mehle, Sr.; Miriam Milburn; Helen Miller; Betty Nixon; Estella Rye; Sallie Schauman; Al & Madaline Scrimger; Dot Tischler; Bud & Eleanor Yingling.



To Pastors Mohan & Kelley, Terry Hirt, Emma Hahn and the Women of the Church:

For the beautiful fruit basket, flowers, and all the cards and prayers sent to us during our recent illnesses, we thank you so much. God's blessings on all of you.

~Lois & Bill Mehle



To St. Michael Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettias that two ladies from church [Joan Galton and a friend] brought me today. Hope the New Year will be a good one for all concerned.

~Sincerely, Elizabeth Stier

Dear St. Michael:

I want to thank you for the Christmas flower that was sent to me. I was a member of the church some years ago. Thank you again.

~Elizabeth Rupinski

To Our Church Family:

I would like to thank you for your prayers and good wishes for my husband [Howard]. He is now on oxygen and doing well. I especially want to thank Pastor Kelley for his visit; that meant a lot to both of us.

~God Bless All, Barbara A. Wilson

Dear Members of St. Michael Church:

Thank you for thinking of us this past Christmas season, and for the lovely poinsettia. We are both in our mid-eighties and now reside at Oak Crest. Our health is good. We were church members for about 45 years and I served as an usher as well as teaching a young people's church entry class many years ago. I remember fellow ushers' names, Carroll Scott and Jacques Jockell. Again, thank you and God bless you.

~Walt & Laura Winebrenner

These expressions of thanks were received in response to our Christmas Giving Tree ministry, coordinated by Luise Reichert:



To Pastors Mohan, Kelley & Congregation:
Kindness colors the world with happiness. What you did meant a lot. Thanks so much.

~Deja, Nivek, Elohim & Tottie, Chestertown, MD

To St. Michael Lutheran Church:

Thank you from WMCC (Western Maryland Children's Center) for all the gifts for the youth here. Christmas Day was very blessed because of your generosity in giving.

~Staff at WMCC

A Caring Community!

Ministerial Acts

At the Grave

12-19-11 Charlotte Saxon
 12-23-11 Robert Reichert



Congratulations to . . .

. . . proud grandparents Bill & Gwen Pohlman who welcomed Savannah Mae Walston, 7 pounds, 8 ounces, 20 inches long, at 11:06 AM on December 10th. Baby Savannah, her happy parents and grandparents are all doing well.

Got news to share? Send notices to barbharant@stmichaelperryhall.org.

These thank you notes are from our less-fortunate neighbors who received holiday food baskets from St. Michael Community Outreach.



To St. Michael Lutheran Church & Community Outreach Emergency Food Center:

I would like to thank all who have helped my family each year for the holidays. I really appreciate all of your help. May God bless each and every one of you.

~Julon C. & family
 Sandy Plains Elementary School

Dear Mr. Wagner & Holiday Team:

On behalf of Glenmar Elementary, we would like to thank you for your wonderful donations during the holiday season. The families you helped benefited from your kindness; the food helped them during this difficult economic time. The families you assisted were very appreciative of your generosity, and so are we. We hope that you have a happy and healthy New Year.

~Kathleen Leishear, School Counselor &
 Romina Gaddy, School Social Worker

Dear George Wagner & St. Michael Congregation:

Thank you so much for your generous support of Sandalwood Elementary School families by providing food baskets and chickens! We are able to give our neediest families a good meal or two due to your generosity. Thank you for putting happy smiles on our students' faces. I have enclosed an article from the Baltimore Sun that talks about our school winning a national award. One of the reasons why we received this award is due to help we get from the community to make our students fed and ready to learn. Thanks for your support!

~Karen Knauer, School Counselor

Stewardship Bouquets—

God's Work, Our Hands

This month we say "Thanks!" to . . .

. . . Joan Galton for delivering Christmas poinsettias to all our homebound members;

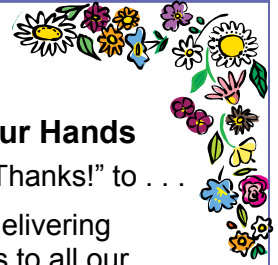
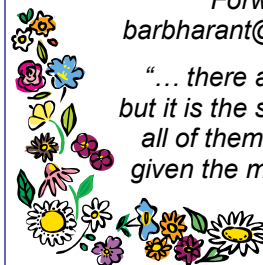
. . . everyone who helped with the decorating and un-decorating of our sanctuary for Christmas.

Stewardship Bouquets are brief acknowledgements of significant service done by volunteer ministers at St. Michael. Would you like to send a bouquet?

Forward your suggestions to barbharant@stmichaelperryhall.org.

"... there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

(1 Cor. 12:6-7)



These people were welcomed as members of the St. Michael congregation



on Sunday, January 15th: Robert Beck; Doug Cloman & Megan Reale; Michael & Tricia Isenock; Andy & April Kepner; and Richard & Dorothy Kinsey.



Do you have a new email address?

Please take a moment to help us stay in touch with you. Visit our website, www.stmichaelperryhall.org, click on "Get Email Updates" from the home page, and follow the simple prompts; call the church office, 410-256-6441, if you have any questions.



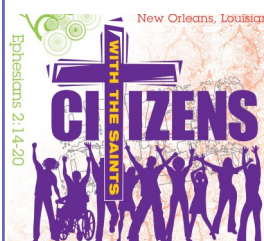
Family & Youth Ministries

From our Youth Minister~

We had a great month in January, with our middle school youth attending Jr. Quake and our high school youth attending RoadTrip. It was very busy for me, but our youth had the opportunity to meet other Lutherans from around the state and to be spiritually fed, and that is a blessing.

This year's **Youth Service will be Sunday March 25th**. We will begin planning with Mr. Jeff (Christopher) starting Sunday, January 29th at 8:30 AM in the Youth Room. Please come to help make this year's service the best ever.

I want to send a big **Thank You to the congregation** for making our first pancake breakfast a success—we hope you all enjoyed it. Thanks to your generosity, we made over \$400 towards our travel expenses for the ELCA Youth Gathering this June. We will have another **pancake breakfast the third Sunday in February (19th)** and look forward to seeing you there.



Now the countdown to the **National Youth Gathering** really begins. We are just 5 months away from our trip to New Orleans! Thanks to all who have supported us and continue to support us. This is a great opportunity for our youth; unfortunately it's very expensive, and we appreciate all you've done and continue to do to help us get there.

~Peace, Ernie

For more information on St. Michael's Youth Ministries, please contact Ernie Lehr, 443-271-1119 or ernielehr3@verizon.net.



Save the Date for Vacation Bible School July 30–August 3, 2012

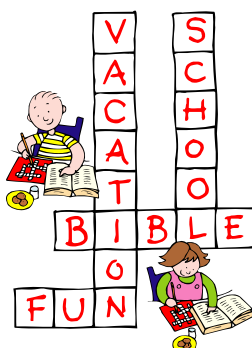
Become involved as a volunteer for VBS! Two key positions available now are:

Pre-School Director—Help make our pre-school program shine! Duties include: Working directly with the VBS director to help plan and execute an exciting pre-school program. Starting in March, anticipated time commitment is only about 8-10 hours per month, flexible. This person should be organized, and knowledgeable about the pre-school age group.

Decorations Director—Duties include: Working directly with VBS director to plan and execute decorations themed for our event.

This person will be responsible for recruiting a group of friends to help make, install, and take-down decorations. Starting in April, the anticipated time commitment is only about 8-10 hours per month.

Volunteer sign-up for group guides, teachers, and helpers for music, crafts, snacks and games will begin after Easter. More info: Julie Kirsch, cjkirsch@hotmail.com or 410-529-3019.



Confirmation News

Our winter break ended in January, and our classes are back in session. We turn our attention to the New Testament and the story of Jesus Christ. Students will soon receive their confirmation Bible verse so they can begin memorizing it. Confirmation for our second year students (8th graders) will be Sunday, June 10th.

Classes are offered most Monday evenings beginning at 7 PM. Students in grades 7 & 8 are encouraged to attend.

Schedule:

- Feb. 6th—The Wilderness Temptations
- Feb. 13th—Jesus Calls the First Disciples
- Feb. 20th—NO CLASS (Presidents' Day)
- Feb. 27th—The Beatitudes

Worship/Music/Community Events

Notes from the Director of Music—

We are still looking for more to join the music ministry, especially singers in grades 2-6 as we begin working on the musical "Sermon on the Mount" to be presented March 11th. Please come out and join us!

Contact Jeff Bunn: 410-256-6441 x18 or jeffbunn@stmichaelperryhall.org.



Faith Followers, our fellowship ministry for students in grades Kindergarten through 2, usually meets the third Sunday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Our next meeting

will be Sunday, February 19th. Contact Eve Bowmaster for more info: 410-256-8686 or ebowmaster@comcast.net.

EI. FLYP (Elementary Fellowship of Lutheran Young People) usually meets the third Sunday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All children in grades 3, 4 & 5 are welcome. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 19th. More info: Julie Kirsch, 410-529-3019 or cjkirsch@hotmail.com.

The God Squad offers students in grades 6, 7 & 8 fellowship and servant events to practice their faith in fun and challenging ways. Laurie Schell (410-933-1142 or laurie4320@aol.com) coordinates these events and invites parents to help! More info: check the God Squad web page.

Sr. FLYP offers fellowship, fun and service to others for students in grades 9-12. Our regular meetings are usually held the first and third Sundays of each month, starting in the Youth Room at 6:30 PM (ending at 8:30 PM). Our next meetings are scheduled for February 5th & 19th. More info: Ernie Lehr: ernielehr3@verizon.net or 443-271-1119.



Worship Schedule Highlights—

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. We will hold Ash Wednesday worship at 11 AM and 7:30 PM, with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.
- Midweek Lenten services will be held Wednesdays, February 29 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28. We'll meet at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soup, bread, and dessert. At 7, worship begins in the Sanctuary, including Lenten readings, hymns and meditations, ending by 7:25.
- Holy Week begins Sunday, April 1st with Palm Sunday worship at regular worship times, 9 & 10:45 AM, including procession with palms.
- Maundy Thursday worship will be at 7:30 PM on April 5th. During this service, our fifth grade students will join with their families at the Lord's Table for First Holy Communion. The altar will be stripped in preparation for Good Friday.
- Good Friday worship will be at 7:30 PM on April 6th.
- Easter festival worship will be celebrated Sunday, April 8th at 7:30, 9 & 11 AM.

We hope you'll join us for these worship events!

Inclement Weather—Call the church office, 410-256-6441, for a recorded update if the weather is severe to learn if worship is cancelled. You may also visit our website, www.stmichaelperryhall.org, or tune in to WBAL radio (1090 AM) or WJZ-TV for weather-related closing information.

For weekday events, we follow Baltimore County Public Schools: if school was cancelled or dismissed early, our evening programming (choirs, Confirmation, etc.) is also cancelled, unless you are contacted by your group leader (choir director, mentor, etc.).

Community Events

Free Bach Concert will be at Christ Lutheran Church, 701 S. Charles St., 21230, on Sunday, February 5th at 4 PM, featuring Cantata 182: Himmelskönig, sei willkommen, Prelude and Fugue in B minor (BWV 544), and guest choir Dayseye from Bryn Mawr School. Another free concert will be presented March 4th. More information: www.bachinbaltimore.org.

Perry Hall Improvement Association meets Thursday, February 9th at 7:30 PM at the Perry Hall Library, featuring representatives from the Fire Department and Department of Public Works to discuss emergency preparedness, snow removal, and related topics. More info: www.perryhallmaryland.org.



Events



2012 Bus Trips

March 28—Back Roads of Lancaster: tour with meal at an Amish home, \$72.

May 16—American Music Theater, Lancaster, for “Country Classics” with meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord and time at Goods Store and Amish Market, \$74.

June 6—Totem Pole Playhouse for “Chaps” where Monty Python meets the Old West. It’s 1944 and the Yank’s are comin’. Join America’s favorite singing cowboy, Tex Riley, as he travels to merry ol’ England for a special wartime performance on BBC radio of classics like “Tumblin’ Tumbleweed,” “Cool Water,” and “Gunslinger.” Includes oven fried chicken and baked ham meal at Hickory Bridge Farm. \$80.

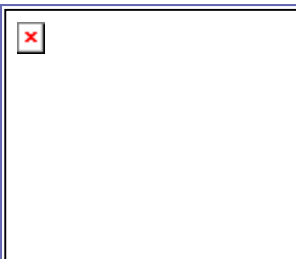
June 17-23—See flyer on Women’s bulletin board in church narthex for details. *Make your reservation by February 1st!*

Please call Emma Hahn, 410-592-8512, for information, reservations and a complete list of 2012 trips.

PANCAKE SUPPER



The Fellowship Team will sponsor a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st with two seatings, 5 & 6:30 PM. This is the Fellowship Team fundraiser for the care packages we send to college students and military members who are away from home and church. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee for \$4 per person. Tickets will be sold between worship services beginning February 5th. If you can help, please contact Kevin & Diane Webb, kdk.kdk@verizon.net or 410-529-0373. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship!



Bible Study—The Bible Study from *Gather* for September, 2011 through May, 2012 is “To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark.” This year’s theme verse is “Take heart, get up, Jesus is calling you” *Mark 10:49b*. The February

session is “Tough Questions” based on Mark 10-11. Chapter 10 of Mark’s gospel is structured around a series of formidable questions. They are not only for the women and men who met Jesus long ago; they represent the kind of questions we ask and Jesus asks of us—today. If you could any question of God, what would it be?

All are invited and welcome to participate in one of the circles:

Monday Morning Circle

Date: February 13
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Church Parlor
Leader: Emma Hahn

Tuesday Morning Circle

Dates: February 7
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Church Parlor
Leaders: D. House/G. Diegel

Thursday Morning Circle

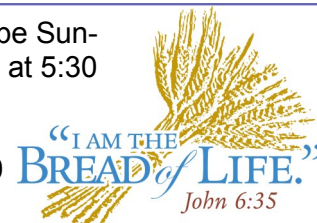
Date: February 9
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Church Parlor
Leader: Emma Barzyk

Thursday, February 9—Leaving the church parking lot at 1 PM, we will take a party to residents of Augsburg Lutheran Home. You can’t imagine how much this means to the residents until you have experienced it. If you would like to help, please contact Gretchen Grace, 410-529-1241.

Reserve Friday, March 2 for World Day of Prayer at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Belair Road in Fullerton. Watch the *Good News* for additional information.

For more information on these or any of the ministries of the *Women of the Church*, please call Emma Hahn, 410-592-8512.

The next Bread of Life Potluck will be Sunday, February 19th beginning with dinner at 5:30 and program at 6:15. Watch the *Good News* for program details. To help with the meal, please contact Kay Asher, 410-671-9880 or hkasher@comcast.net.



Perry Hall Children’s Center (PHCC) will host Open Houses Friday, February 3rd, and Monday through Thursday, February 6-9th for their 3- and 4--year old co-op programs, with open registration February 17th. They’re also sponsoring a Bull Roast fundraiser February 24th. Call 410-256-4517 for more information.

St. Michael's Congregation Council considered/acted upon the following items at its January meeting:

- Pastor Kelley shared with the council his planned hospitalization and surgery. The surgery is scheduled for January 24th with a four- to six-week recovery time. The council expressed concern and support for Pastor Kelley.
- Received a draft Treasurer's Report. A final report will be presented in February. The delay was due to the switch to a new reporting format as well as the treasurer's travel schedule.
- The Education and Youth Team requested guidance regarding the costs associated with adult chaperones. Several key chaperones are paying full price to attend multiple events each year in support of the ministry. Council confirmed the 2012 budget does not include general funds to offset such costs, but the Education and Youth Team has access to multiple restricted funds, some of which could be used.
- Set the summer worship schedule. One service will be offered beginning Sunday, June 17th. The service time will be 9:30 AM.
- Discussed ways of welcoming first-time worshippers. Welcome materials will be developed and ushers will be made aware.
- Discussed \$950 of cash rewards from church credit card accounts. Referred to Finance Team for recommendation for income allocation.
- Received updates from Chapel/Organ Restoration Funding Team and Building Team.
- Received update on 403(b) proposal for all staff.
- Reviewed "back-burner" issues from 2011 to reprioritize for 2012.
- Property Team was asked to look into possible rebate programs for exterior lighting upgrades, much like the interior upgrades accomplished in 2011.
- Property Team was asked to research possible replacement of another rooftop HVAC unit for the New Education Building.
- Pastor Mohan requested the Worship Team consider placing on the congregation's wish list a wireless microphone system for the sanctuary that could be used by the contemporary choir as well as others.

Summer Fun in February? No—but it's not too early to register for summer camp!

Registration is open for Mar-Lu-Ridge, featuring Family Camp, Adventure or Arts Camp, Day Camp, and new this year, Guitar or Swimming Camp. Register by February 17th and save \$35 off the total cost. Visit early and try the food at one of their Open Houses. More info: www.mar-lu-ridge.org, 800-238-9974.

Summer Sports Camp for girls and boys ages 5-13 is offered at Perry Hall Christian School, 3919 Schroeder Avenue, 21128. Each session is one week, and sessions run from June 18—August 10 with baseball, soccer, basketball or volleyball in the mornings, and mixed indoor and outdoor games in the afternoons. Several discounts are offered for multiple children or multiple sessions. More information: Athletic Director Jesse Thomas, 410-256-8880.

Treasurer's Report

Dec. 2011	Current Month		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$57,175	\$64,534	\$502,503	\$489,218
Expense	\$43,129	\$44,679	\$477,115	\$482,048
Surplus (Deficit)	\$14,046	\$19,855	\$25,388	\$7,170
Deficit Carryover			(\$66,894)	
Combined Deficit			(\$41,506)	

Mar-Lu-Ridge Saturday Retreat Series takes a winter break and resumes this spring with "Becoming Who You Are: Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit," a Lenten retreat, with presenter Dr. Tom Williamsen, composer and pastor. Retreat is offered March 10, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM; \$30 includes lunch. Register: 800-238-9974 or MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org.

Our Mission and Vision

The mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to praise and serve God and make disciples for Jesus.

The vision of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to be a Christ-centered, welcoming community of active, compassionate, Spirit-filled disciples, working in harmony to spread the Word of God.

The Messenger

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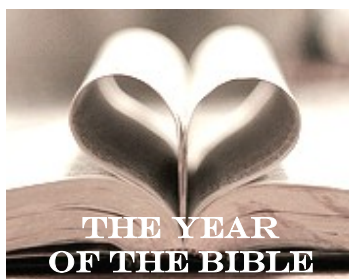
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**Deadline for the
March Messenger is
Friday, February 10th.**



Email Updates
Visit our website,
www.stmichaelperryhall.org,
and click "Get Email Updates!"



St. Michael Lutheran Church

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410-256-7081 (fax)
office@stmichaelperryhall.org

Sunday Worship:
9 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School: 9 AM

Look for us on the web:
www.stmichaelperryhall.org

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