

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **We Are Easter People!**

I love Easter! Easter is my favorite Sunday of the church year because on Easter morning we are reminded that we are Easter people. We celebrate the empty tomb and the risen Lord. We rejoice at the grace of God, the unconditional, undeserved love, mercy, and forgiveness that God shows us in Jesus. We embrace the hope and promise of eternal life with God that Easter brings. We are Easter people!

Even as we gather on Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week, we are Easter people. If we weren't, we would be overwhelmed by the "Hosannas" turning to shouts of "Crucify Him!". We would be lost at the thought of one of Jesus' own disciples betraying him. We would be devastated by the sadness of Good Friday. As Easter people, we see the events of Holy Week through the lens of the resurrection. We see the events of that week unfold, knowing how the story ends. We see the betrayal of Judas and know that Jesus had to die to save us from our sins. We hear Jesus say in the Gospel of Luke, "Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit," knowing that Jesus will conquer the power of death. We go with Mary to the tomb on Easter morning knowing that what Mary will find offers us the hope of a sure and certain future with our God who loves us dearly.

Easter Sunday will come and go before we know it, but the good news for you and for me is that thanks to Christ's death and resurrection, we are Easter people freed from the power of death by God's gracious love.

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran church is to:

Care for all God's people in need,  
Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament  
Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,  
Invite others into Christ's community,  
Serve God in our daily lives, and  
Tell the story of God's love for all.

## Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

*We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.*

### Thank you to some “quiet” servants



To everyone who provided food for our Lenten suppers in March and helped set up the fellowship hall; to Julie Landes and Charlene Harris for helping with the April newsletter mailing; Gary Worley, Sarah Worley, Charlene Harris, Shirley Linkous and Linda Elliott for helping compile the 2005 annual report; Pastor John, Gary Worley, Ray Howell (pictured), Jonathan Howell, and Chris Lang for cleaning the storage shed and playground area and spreading mulch on all the flower beds;

Angela Peterson and Kris Wertz for staffing the nursery during Lenten services; Barbara Corbett for helping with the Sunday School class at Heritage Hall; and Gisela Mittman and Fran Shepherd for making kneelers for the communion rail.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported supplies for Kid's Nights, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children's Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist, custodian and nursery workers, registration for confirmation camp, palm crosses from Africa, and a revised sign for Easter services.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In March, we provided assistance with electric bills for two families and rent for three families. A sixth family was assisted with mobile home supplies (skirting for their home). We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need. Kroger Gift cards are still available; contact Sandy Birch. Five percent of our purchases are deposited to the fund.

### Shower of Blessings



We share God's blessings in our actions as we give our time and share our talents in the ministry of St. Michael. In March, many of our St. Michael family completed time and talent surveys and shared their blessings with the congregation and the community. By sharing these gifts generously, we make ministry happen at St. Michael. For those who have not completed the survey, it is still available on-line on the St. Michael website or on the table in the back of the church. Thank You!



### **Sunday School class visits Heritage Hall**

After church on Sunday, March 5, all the members of the upper elementary school Sunday School class visited with residents at Heritage Hall, a local nursing home. They sang to the residents, created original cards for many of them, and gave stuffed animals to twelve of their newest friends. The residents loved the visit from our St. Michael “angels” and responded with broad smiles, heart-felt thank you’s, and one gentleman even blew us a kiss. “Missy Hoy” also promised to bake us cookies when she returns home this month.

### **The Pictorial Directory is coming....**

If you missed the formal portraits last month, you or your family have other opportunities. Kriz Wertz will be taking informal digital pictures after church for the next two Sundays. In addition, **Belmont Christian Church** has spaces available for make up photos on April 11 and 12. Contact Sandy Birch if you are interested in either of these alternatives. The directory will be assembled by a committee of St. Michael’s finest computer experts and printed by Olin Mills by early summer.



### **Renewal of Vows**

Whether you have been married for 1 year or 50 years, you have the opportunity to renew your wedding vows on Sunday, April 30. If you are interested in renewing your vows, you can sign up on the sheet in the front hallway or you can talk to Pastor John for more information.

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***April Servants***

	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>April 30</b>
<i><b>Acolytes</b></i>	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble Steffen Bohn	Scott and Katy McGuigan (11 AM)	Steffen Bohn	Sarah Crowder
<i><b>Altar Care</b></i>	Donna Epperly, Juanita Simpson, Pat Smith				
<i><b>Comm. Assts.</b></i>	Bob Brown	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Birch (7AM) Kris Wertz (11AM)		
<i><b>Fellowship Hour</b></i>			Easter breakfast		
<i><b>Greeters</b></i>	Angela and Ted Peterson (9 AM)		Ann and Dave Surface (11 AM)		
<i><b>Lay Reader</b></i>	Shannon Rigsbee	Kris Wertz	Jeff Birch (7 AM) M. McGuigan (11)	Sara Bohn	Fred Spengler
<i><b>Ushers</b></i>	Sam Akers Roscoe Turman Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Jeff Crowder Dickie Shepherd Randy Robinson Philip Isenhour	Ray Howell Sam Akers Bob and Peggy Brown	Mickey and Scott McGuigan J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Gary Worley Ben /Grace Simmers James Pascoe

## Women of the ELCA

**The April meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at the home of Alice Schneider (4533 Preston Forest Road). Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Betty Gross will be leading our program. Contact Alice at 552-6995 if you need a ride or directions.



Thank you to everyone who brought **items for Easter Baskets** for the Salvation Army and for the Women's Resource Center. The baskets will be assembled after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, April 2. All helpers will be appreciated.

**Remember the Food Bank:** April is canned food month, e.g., cans of green beans or peaches, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In April, we'll be collecting cleaning products, e.g., dish soap, window cleaner.

Thank you to Pat Smith for delivering our donations each month.

## Happy Go Lucky

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 13, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share and a friend for fellowship. Our program will be led by Jody Smiley, our resident environmentalist. Jody is looking forward to talking with St. Michael's "big kids" about Hurricane Katrina and its effect on the environment. Thank you to Bob and Peggy Brown for leading our March program. We're all more physically fit now!



## Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast

All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 22 at 8 a.m. at the church and then head to Gilbert Linkous for a mission project with the confirmation class. Thank you to Dave Surface, Burn Gross and Jeff Birch who trimmed bushes for Martha Wade last month. If you know of others who could use some assistance from the men's group, please contact Pastor John or Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.

## Spring Clean-up Re-Scheduled for Saturday, April 8

Fellowship, fun and fresh air.....while raking, trimming, cleaning and planting. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bring your tools and enthusiasm for a good morning workout and beautification of our church grounds and building.



## Kid's Nights on April 12 and 26

All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 12 and 26. For more information, contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu) or at 961-2472. Join us for supper, music, crafts and more.

## Christ's Kids

Christ's Kids is St. Michael's Sunday morning program for youth from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. The youth are invited to go to the fellowship hall following the Children's Sermon for a brief lesson. On Communion Sundays, the youth will return to worship prior to communion so that families can commune together. If you are interested in helping with Christ's Kids, please contact Pastor John.



Carol Howell, Betty Gross, Alice Schneider, Fran Gallimore, Carol Crawford

## Hundreds of Pancakes Prepared

Many thanks to the Sharing and Caring Team and other volunteers who helped prepare our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The meal was delicious and the fellowship of members and friends decked out in Mardi Gras beads was festive.



**Lenten Midweek Service – April 5**  
The Grace-Filled Father - Pastor John

Supper at 6:00 p.m.  
Worship at 6:45 p.m.

**Food for the Lenten Soup Suppers**

If you would like to provide food for the April 5 Lenten Soup Suppers, you can sign up on the back of the *Welcome* sheet in the bulletin. Thank You!



- |                 |  |                           |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>April 9</b>  | <b>Palm Sunday</b>                             | <b>9 a.m. and 11 a.m.</b> |
|                 | Special Narrative Reading of the Passion       |                           |
| <b>April 13</b> | <b>Maundy Thursday</b>                         | <b>7 p.m.</b>             |
|                 | Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar         |                           |
| <b>April 14</b> | <b>Good Friday</b>                             | <b>3 p.m. and 7 p.m.</b>  |
|                 | Good Friday Youth Service and Tenebrae Service |                           |

**Good Friday Youth Service**

Pastor John will be offering a Good Friday Service for youth and their families at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 14. The service will help prepare youth for the joy of Easter by sharing the story of Good Friday in a way that is appropriate for youth. For more information about the service, please talk with Pastor John.



**Easter Lilies**

The year Easter Lilies will be \$10 per plant. Order forms are available in the pews and can be ordered through April 9.

# Easter

C E L E B R A T I O N

## Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 16

**Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.**

**Easter Breakfast following Service**

**Easter Service at 11 a.m.**

### Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service. The Women of the ELCA will provide coffee and orange juice and set up for the meal. Make plans to come, bring a dish and eat Easter breakfast with the St. Michael family.



### More Additions to the Family on April 9

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, April 9 at both services. If you are interested in becoming a member of the St. Michael family on that day, please talk with Pastor John.



**April 15 at 1 p.m.**

St. Michael's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 15 at 1 p.m. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.