



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Helping One Backpack at a Time

On Friday, January 23, the ministry of Micah's Backpack expanded as we delivered the first five backpacks to students at Kipps Elementary. Thanks to your generous support and the efforts of a number of volunteers, this new ministry now helps a total of ten young people in need (five at Price's Fork Elementary School and five at Kipps Elementary School). Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing the ministry of Micah's Backpack with a group at Virginia Tech and with the Social Ministry Team of another congregation in our area. I look forward to welcoming these groups as partners in this exciting and effective community ministry.

Through Micah's Backpack, we are making a difference in the life of a child - one backpack at a time. For approximately \$10 per child, Micah's Backpack is able to provide enough healthy and nutritious food for a weekend to a child in need. Sadly, the problem of hunger in our community is much larger than most people realize. If we had the resources, there are at least 60 students, between the two schools, who would qualify to be helped by this ministry. You can discover ways to support Micah's Backpack online at: [www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org) or in the brochures in the back of the church.



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

Bob Brown for constructing aisle candle storage in the front hallway storage room; Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for folding weekly bulletins; Pat Smith for delivering donated food and supplies to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program office and the Women’s Resource Center; everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported our *Lutheran* magazine subscriptions, food for Micah’s Backpack, the postal service permit, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped 5 families: one family with an electric bill; three families with water bills and one family with a rent payment. **Please consider making a one time or regular gift to the Justice and Mercy Fund. With the downturn in the economy, requests for the fund have increased.** Kroger gift cards are still available for \$25 (5% of all charges are deposited to the Justice and Mercy Fund). See Sandy Birch. All sales of the St. Michael cookbook, *Feeding the Flock*, directly benefit the J&M Fund. See Sandy, Betty Gross or Carol Crawford to purchase a cookbook for \$12.

### A Few Thank Notes

*Dear friends,*

*We are always so humbled by the generosity of people who share our concern for the adults and children served by the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) of the New River Valley. Thank you for your recent gift of SHARE boxes, baby food, diapers, and children’s books to the WRC. In Peace, Pat Brown, Executive Director*

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*During the days of Christmas we once more celebrate the light of Christ which has come into the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Your gracious gifts of prayer and support are for us, the people of Grace Lutheran Church, a light in the darkness, reminding us of our connections to the whole body of Christ. Peace, Pastor Paul Walters*

*Dear St. Michael friends,*

*We so much appreciate your efforts and generosity, the warmth from your hearts that provides warmth to others. Thank you very much for all you do.*

*Blessings, Pastor Karen Rupp, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.*

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2308 Merrimac Road  
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***February Servants***

	<b>February 1</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>February 22</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Sarah Crowder	Will Sharpe	Matthew Pasier	Corson Wertz
<b>Altar Care</b>	Pat Smith and Juanita Simpson			
<b>Comm. Assts.</b>	Jay Nagle		Linda Elliott	Sunday School
<b>Christ's Kids</b>	Tacey Apisa	Kris Wertz	Andrea Robinson	Michelle Berg
<b>Youth Servants</b>	Lexi Simmers	Matt Sharpe	MaKayla Dowdy	Sarah Moehling
<b>9 a.m. Greeters</b> <b>11 a.m. Greeters</b>	Crawfords	Gary and Sandie Worley Jeff and Sandy Birch		Hodges Sunday School
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Hank Schneider	Lori Anne Kirk	Fred Spengler	Sunday School
<b>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Jen Daskal	Sunday School
<b>Ushers</b>	David Hillis Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd Don Linkous	James Pascoe Burn Gross Ben and Grace Simmers	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jeff Birch Randy Robinson	Sunday School

## Women of the ELCA

The February meeting will be held at the home of Judith Wolfe (2755 Old Fort Rd. in Blacksburg) on Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Alice Schneider will lead the program. Directions to Judith's home are available on the hallway shelf. Call Sandy Birch at 951-3455 if you'd like a ride.



Planning ahead: In March, we will invite the congregation to **donate items for Easter baskets**, such as candy, books, and small toys. The Easter baskets are distributed to needy children at the Women's Resource Center and through the Salvation Army.

**Remember the Food Bank:** February is Italian month (spaghetti sauces, canned ravioli, etc.), though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** In February, donations of toilet paper will be appreciated.



### Youth Nights on February 8 and 22

All youth from kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to Youth Nights on Sundays, February 8 and 22. The complete schedule is available through the online calendar at:

[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).

**Kid's Night** will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and is led by Pastor John.

**The Middle School/Senior High Youth Group** for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, led by Carrie Mayer, will not meet on Sunday nights in February, but instead will be planning a special event. Look for the date and time in the bulletin.

### Congratulations to...

**Dyan and John Eppen** who were married on January 2, 2009. Dyan and John worship at the 9 a.m. service and reside in Blacksburg.

**Amy Woods** who just completed her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at Radford University with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

## **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1**

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 1. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring \$1 to place in the Soup Pot and a can of food. The money and canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) and Micah's Backpacks.



## **Annual Meeting and Brunch, February 22 at 9:50 a.m.**

On Sunday, February 22, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2008 Annual Report and the 2009 Phone Directory, take a second required vote on several constitutional amendments, and hear an update on our classroom addition.

## **Shrove Tuesday – February 24.....PANCAKES!!!**

Shrove Tuesday is an annual celebration marking the final day before the season of Lent, a 40-day period traditionally marked by self-denial and reflection.

At St. Michael, we indulge in PANCAKES....lots and lots of pancakes and all the trimmings. Come and enjoy the wonderful food beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.



## **Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 15**

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

## **Congratulations to our New Congregational Council Officers**

At the January 11 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected:

President:	Ben Crawford
Vice President:	Gary Worley
Secretary:	Tammy Veit
Financial Officer:	John Krallman

## Lenten Service Schedule



### Ash Wednesday Service

February 25 at 7 p.m.

### Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service begin on Wednesday, March 4

Supper at 6 p.m. and Service at 6:45 p.m.

If you'd like to help provide food for one of the Lenten Midweek Meals, you will have the opportunity to sign up on the back of the "Welcome" form in the weekly bulletin.

### Acts for Today

During the Lenten season, St. Michael will be exploring the Book of Acts and the ways in which the experiences of the early church speak to our life and ministry today. In Acts we hear that the church is called to be a community:

#### *March 4*

"Of Deep Devotion"

Acts 2:43-47

#### *March 11*

"That Trusts in the Power of the Holy Spirit"

Acts 4:23-31

#### *March 18*

"Where Mission Calls People to Action"

Acts 6:1-7

#### *March 25*

"That Sends People Out to Engage the World"

Acts 8:26-40

#### *April 1*

"That is Bold in Proclaiming God's Word"

Acts 28:23-31

### Mid-Week Noon Worship at Luther Memorial

In addition to our gatherings on Wednesday evenings during Lent, we are invited to worship at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in the Luther Memorial chapel. The services, beginning on March 4, will consist of prayer, scripture reading and Holy Communion. The services will last about 30 minutes.

### Setting the Tone for Lent

Beginning on Sunday, March 1, the 11 a.m. Service will begin using Setting 5 in the front of the Red Hymnal. The music for this setting is not difficult to sing and beautifully conveys the reflective mood of the season of Lent.

## **Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for February**

February 1	Do Lutherans Believe in "Predestination"?
February 8	What is Sin? Why do we Sin?
February 15	Who was Timothy?
February 22	No Sunday School - Annual Meeting and Brunch

### **Bible Study on February 22**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about Psalm 51 on Sunday, February 22 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and explore prayer for healing, mercy and repentance as we prepare for the beginning of the season of Lent.

**Holden Evening Prayer Service  
Thursday, February 12 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary**

### **St. Michael Receiving New Members on February 22**

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, February 22. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

### **Girl Scout Cookies**

Girl Scout Troop 737 will be selling cookies in February.  
Cookies are \$3.50 per box.  
See Jennie or Olivia Hodge to place an advance order.



### **Reduce/Reuse/Recycle**

Recycling is great, but did you know that eliminating waste before it is created is even better? If every household reused a paper grocery bag for one shopping trip, about 60,000 trees would be saved. Consider using reusable shopping bags and signing the Blacksburg Pledge to "say neither to paper or plastic". Donate unwanted clothing, curtains, books, housewares, furniture and other items to the YMCA Thift Store, Goodwill or the Humane Society thrift shop. (reprinted from *Town*, the newsletter of Blacksburg)

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's Work, Our Hands



### Reaching Young Adults

Your mission support provides for the ELCA's present and future gospel witness by funding the gathering and empowering of young adults (ages 18-30) for service through ELCA congregations, synods, seminaries, outdoor ministries, campus and chaplaincy ministries, colleges and universities, and pilot ministry programs.

Here are a few examples:

#### Krista Oppie

Krista Oppie is a first-year student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., but she already has years of mission and ministry experience. This twenty-something leader has served for a year in the Philippines with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. She has participated in a pilot program in the state of Washington that mobilizes young adults to fight the causes of world hunger. Before that, she ministered in soup kitchens in El Salvador and on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Most recently, Krista has participated in the Young Adult Conversations Pilot Program, which helps young adults to consider what their ministry might be and how the church can encourage them. She starts the ministry conversations and then listens and encourages future conversations. "I was instantly excited by this program. I knew that I was not going to be selling anything or pushing a new youth ministry or trying to convince someone of what they should be doing with their lives," said Krista. "The creativity and interests of the participants are the focus."

#### Mariette Martinez

Mariette Martinez is a full time student from Chicago who plans to be an elementary school teacher. She is an active member of her congregation, Zion Cristo Rey Lutheran. "I started going to my ELCA church at the age of 15; a friend invited me, and I never left," she said. Mari is one of five featured bloggers on the ELCA Young Adult Ministry Web page, [blogs.elca.org/service](http://blogs.elca.org/service). In her online journal, or blog, she chronicles her thoughts and feelings as she navigates life. Her blog focuses on her passion—service—and she uses this technology to start conversations in a free, open-ended way. The blog is part of young adult ministries that are funded by your mission support. It's another way that the ELCA is building up networks to help young adults discern their calling(s) in life and deepen their understanding of vocation.