



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

[hope@stmhc.us](mailto:hope@stmhc.us)

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

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## God's Stories for Today

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Bible and some of the great stories of scripture? Beginning on May 3, you'll have that chance as St. Michael begins a year long emphasis called, *God's Stories for Today*. In worship each Sunday, we will focus on one major story from scripture ranging from the Creation Story on May 3 to the Call of Samuel on July 19 to the Great Commission on February 14, 2010. The entire list of readings for the year is available on our website.

To make this emphasis possible, you will see one small change in worship. Since *God's Stories for Today* will emphasize entire scripture stories instead of several different shorter passages, we will use one main reading and one complementary reading in worship, instead of having three scripture readings plus a Psalm each week. With this change, we will no longer be using bulletins with our scripture readings printed on the back. You are invited to bring your favorite Bible to worship or to use one of the Bibles in the pew to follow along with the reading.

In addition to focusing on God's stories in worship, we will also spend time studying these passages outside of worship through Sunday School and Bible studies. This summer we will offer classes on reading and interpreting scripture. If you have any other ideas for how we might more fully connect God's stories to today's world, please let me know. I look forward to beginning the exploration of scripture with you in May.

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

Thank you to Anna Rossomando, Lori Anne Kirk (the organizers) and everyone who contributed to our Lenten suppers; Ann and Dave Surface for helping with the March newsletter mailing; Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett for creating our beautiful heart mobile in the narthex; Doug Smiley and John Krallman for helping Pastor John lead the Holden Evening Prayer service during Lent; and Bob Brown for building a new holder for the Easter sign.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball fellowship, the Brown fund, Micah’s Backpack, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In March, we assisted ten families: 5 families with their rent, 4 families with electric bills and one family with their water bill. 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.

### SHARE your time with SHARE

One Saturday morning each month, about forty families stop by St. Michael to participate in SHARE Virginia which provides food at a minimum cost to all people who want to stretch their food dollars. Everyone gets a package of quality food including fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, and food staples at up to 50% savings. SHARE is open to everyone. If you eat, you’re in!



On March 3, members of St. Michael met with Kathy Rayne, SHARE director, and heard a wonderful evaluation of our program. In fact, Kathy stated that we are a “model” program and she often sends new volunteers to our site to observe. **Our thanks to Betty and Burn Gross, Wanda and James Pascoe and Sam and Jenny Akers for nurturing SHARE for many years.** As we seek to strength and expand the SHARE ministry at St. Michael, we will need to expand the number of volunteers assisting with the program. For example, if you have just one Saturday morning a year to give, you could assist with picking up and delivering the food. Others volunteers are needed to assist with the administration of the program and will assist Betty and others on-site. SHARE is a wonderful opportunity for community service and fellowship and we invite you to join the team by contacting Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu).

**SHARE God’s love with our hearts and hands.**



## Thank you!

Thank you to all who have completed and returned their **Time and Talent surveys** for 2009-2010. We are truly good stewards of God's gifts as we share those gifts to make ministry happen at St. Michael. We do God's work in Christ's name for the life of our congregation, the community and our world.

Additional copies of the survey are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and can be returned in April. You can also complete the survey on-line on St. Michael's website.

## A thank you note

*Dear Friends at St. Michael Lutheran Church: The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Inc. (MCEAP) thanks you for your generous monthly contribution of \$260 and baskets of food. Contributions such as yours enable MCEAP to have a significant impact in the lives of many of our friends and neighbors. During 2008, MCEAP provided emergency assistance in slightly over 2400 cases (an increase of more than 26% over 2007 and nearly 60% over 2006!) We appreciate your care and concern for your fellow citizens in their time of need. Sincerely, Margaret Zelinski, MCEAP*

## Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship is April 15

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

## Spring Clean-up Scheduled for Sunday, April 4 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help spruce up our church grounds on Saturday morning, April 4, beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools and gloves

## Growing with Faith: Classroom Addition

With the warmer weather, the contractor is making excellent progress on the classroom addition. The brick on the parking lot side of the building is complete and drywall is being hung in the classrooms. If all continues as planned, the space will be available to use for Vacation Bible School in June.



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***April Servants***

|   | <b>April 5</b>  | <b>April 12 – 7 a.m.</b>                               | <b>April 12 – 11 a.m</b>  | <b>April 19</b>                                | <b>April 26</b>                       |
|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Acolytes</i></b>                  | Sarah Crowder   | Corson Wertz   | Katy McGuigan   | Andrew Bales                                   | A. Moehling                           |
| <b><i>Altar Care</i></b>                | Jeff and Sandy Birch                                      |  |   |  |                                       |
| <b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>              | Randy Robinson  | David Surface  | Mickey McGuigan   |  |                                       |
| <b><i>Christ's Kids</i></b>             | Jody Smiley   |  |   | Michelle Berg                                  | Tacey Apisa                           |
| <b><i>Youth Servant</i></b>             | Lexi Simmers  | MaKayla Dowdy  | Parker Wertz  | Jessica Brown                                  | S. Moehling                           |
| <b><i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i></b>        | Keith Gay   |  |   | Jen Daskal                                     | Matthew James                         |
| <b><i>Greeters – 9 AM<br/>11 AM</i></b> | Charlene Harris/Linda Elliott<br>Hank and Alice Schneider |  | Clifton & Shelane Walters<br>Jeff and Sandy Birch<br>Judy Clemens |  |                                       |
| <b><i>Lay Reader</i></b>                | Anna Rossomando   | Jody Smiley  | Lori Anne Kirk  | David Gerrard                                  | Jennie Kelly                          |
| <b><i>Ushers</i></b>                    | David Hillis<br>Ray Howell<br>Cindy Lang<br>Don Linkous   | Randy Robinson<br>Ann Surface<br>Ben and Grace Simmers | Roscoe Turman<br>Jeff Birch<br>Fran and Dickie Shepherd           | Bob and Peggy Brown<br>Jay Nagle<br>Burn Gross | Surfaces<br>Scott and Mickey McGuigan |

Lenten worship assistants: 4/1 – Jody Smiley; Maundy Thursday – Kris Wertz

## Women of the ELCA

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter baskets** for the Salvation Army and the children sheltered by the Women's Resource Center. We assembled over 40 baskets including some special baskets for mothers at the Resource Center.



Tables movers and decorators are invited to the fellowship hall on **Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m.**, to set up for the Easter breakfast.

**The April meeting** will be held at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg) on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m. We will be planning our Bold Women worship service and enjoying a program presented by Vikki Andri and Sandy Birch. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship.



The **Sisters in Christ Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, May 3**, following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program, "Baskets overflowing with the fruit of the Spirit".

**Remember the Food Bank:** April is cookies and crackers month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** In April, donations of socks...all sizes...all kinds for women and children will be appreciated.

## Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will be serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Palm Sunday, April 5. If you would like to volunteer for the kitchen staff, please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455. We will leave St. Michael at 3 p.m. and celebrate the season with our neighbors at the Mission. The Men in Mission will also be assisting with the SHARE program, driving to the Dublin warehouse one Saturday each month to pick up the food for distribution. James Pascoe, crew leader, will train us on Saturday morning, April 18, and then we can share the pick-up responsibility. It's possible that we'll only have to serve one Saturday a year if we recruit enough volunteers.

## Micah's Backpack Continues to Expand

With the support of Luther Memorial, Micah's Backpack will be expanding to serve five students at Gilbert Linkous Elementary School in April. This brings the total number of students being helped by Micah's Backpack to 16 at three schools.

## Happy Go Lucky Luncheon

We will gather together on Thursday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. for social time and a luncheon at noon ... but NOT a potluck this time. Our luncheon will be catered and will only cost \$1! Yes, you read that right. It might be fun to come just to see what you can get for \$1 these days. During the program time, we'll share ways to "do more with less".



**OKs  
on the Go!**

## The O.K.'s (Older Kids) go traveling....

With our input, five super bus trips have been planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this spring and summer. The adventures begin in April and include Pleasant Hill Farm, the National D-Day Memorial, Taubman Museum of Art, the Volvo plant in Dublin, and the Fort Chiswell Animal Park. All members of St. Michael (not just Older Kids) and our friends and family are welcome to participate. A minimum of 8 travelers is required with a maximum of 20 for each trip.

Our first adventure will be Tuesday, April 14, when we visit the Pleasant Hill "field of flowers" Farm, and enjoy lunch and a garden tea. The trip also includes a visit to the West Wind Farm Vineyard. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch, transportation and a bouquet of flowers. The tour leaves Gables Shopping Center at 10 a.m. and we'll return by 4 p.m. The deadline to register is April 7.

Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for all five trips are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information.

## Softball Season begins



The first practice is Sunday, April 5 at 2-3 p.m. at the JC field in Blacksburg. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better. The team invites everyone out to the Tom's Creek softball field this spring for some exciting ball. The April games will be announced in the Sunday bulletins when the schedule is set by the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department.

## St. Michael's Summer Mission Trip: June 28 - July 3

Come and spend a week in Welch, West Virginia at the McDowell Mission doing home repairs for low income and elderly people who need help meeting their basic needs. During the week we will be working on projects ranging from painting to flooring and porch repairs. No special skills are needed. The cost for the week to cover lodging and supplies is \$225 per person. For more information on the trip, please talk to Pastor John.

## **Youth Night on April 26**



On Sunday, April 26, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night programs for youth from Kindergarten to 5th Grade. The complete schedule is available online at: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).

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

## **Youth take a Journey to Jerusalem on Saturday, April 4**

All youth are invited to take part in a Journey to Jerusalem on Saturday, April 4 at noon. Pastor John will discuss the events of Holy Week and Easter using a variety of items for the youth to touch and see. Come and learn a little more about the events of Holy Week and then stay for lunch.

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

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| April 5  | Why Did Jesus Have to Die?  |
| April 12 | No Sunday School - Easter Brunch  |
| April 19 | Who were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women? (Luke 24:10) |
| April 26 | What is the difference between justice and charity?   |

## **Bible Study on April 19**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) on Sunday, April 19 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and discuss the response of these early disciples to the empty tomb and the risen Lord.

## **Virginia Synod Assembly in June**

Each year, St. Michael sends representatives to the Virginia Synod Assembly at Roanoke College. The Assembly conducts the official business for the Synod, including electing officers, considering resolutions and approving the Synod Spending Plan. If you are interested in attending this year (June 5-7) with Pastor John, please talk to Ben Crawford.

## **Relay for Life**

The Montgomery County Relay for Life is taking place on Friday, May xx at the Christiansburg High School track to raise awareness and funds to fight cancer. Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz (951-1393) will be happy to accept your donation and/or to sign you up to participate.





**Saturday, April 4 at Noon**  
**Journey to Jerusalem**

*Children can touch and see Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and then stay for pizza*

|                 |   |                           |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>April 5</b>  | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br><i>Reading of the Passion Story</i>               | <b>9 a.m. and 11 a.m.</b> |
| <b>April 9</b>  | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br><i>Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar</i> | <b>7 p.m.</b>             |
| <b>April 10</b> | <b>Good Friday</b><br><i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</i>               | <b>7 p.m.</b>             |

**Saturday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m.**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for children**



**Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 12**



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

**Easter Breakfast following the 7 a.m. Service**

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

**Easter Breakfast**

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service. Make plans to come, bring a dish and eat Easter Breakfast with the St. Michael family.



**Flowers for the Easter Floral Cross**

The congregation is invited to bring flowers for the Easter Floral Cross. The cross was created years ago by Barney Clemens from a St. Michael Chrismon tree and has been a part of our Easter tradition.