



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Micah's Backpack - Numbers that Tell a Story

3, 11, 16, 49, 186, 709, 1116

In November of 2008, Micah's Backpack sent home the first five backpacks to provide healthy weekend meals to students in need. Over the last six months, this new ministry has continued to grow and is making a huge impact in our community thanks to your generous support. Here are a few numbers that begin to tell the story of what Micah's Backpack is accomplishing.

- 3** Partner schools involved in the ministry, including : Gilbert Linkous Elementary School, Kipps Elementary School and Price's Fork Elementary School
- 11** Churches and local organizations supporting Micah's Backpack
- 16** Students currently being provided with a weekend backpack
- 49** Backpacks donated as Easter Gifts this year
- 186** Total number of backpacks sent home since November 2008
- \$709** Offerings received during the Midweek Lenten Services in support of Micah's Backpack (which equals approximately 70 backpacks)
- 1116** Total number of meals served to students in need since November 2008

Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack and the ministry of St. Michael. Together we are making Christ known in the world.

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 all our Holy Week readers, Becca Perez, Doug Smiley, Fred Spengler, Betty Falta, Dianne Krallman, Nancy Franz, Anna Rossomando, Keith Gay, John Krallman, and the participants in the Palm Sunday Passion Reading; Lori Anne Kirk, Ray Howell, Gary Worley, Ron, Seth and Camden Brewer, Sheila McCartan, Dickie and Fran Shepherd and Pastor John for participating in the spring clean-up at church on April 4; Vikki Andri, Jeff and Braden Birch, David Hillis, Doug and Jody Smiley for serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Palm Sunday; to all who set up and cleaned up our Easter breakfast; Shirley Linkous, Deloris Raines, Bill Greer, Charlene Harris and Linda Elliott for helping with newsletter mailings and folding bulletins; Carol Crawford, Betty Gross, and Sandy Birch for serving lunch at the funeral of Doris Price, Judy Clemens for organizing the lunch and to all who provided food.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, our facilities expansion, and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for a record 23 families;** 17 with electric bills, 4 with rent assistance, and 2 with gasoline purchases. 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.

On Palm Sunday, two very large boxes of shampoos and other toiletries were delivered to the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry.

A Thank you Note



*Dear St. Michael members,
Thank you for your kind donation of Tab Tops for the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs will be taken to be recycled and the proceeds will go back into the operation of our facility, which is a Home-Away-From-Home for families who have children in the hospital. We appreciate your help to us in this area of our work.*

Sincere thanks, Ronald McDonald House Staff

Jeff Birch handing over 50+ pounds of tabs

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May Servants

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Katy McGuigan	Matthew Pasier	Corson Wertz	Will Sharpe
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Crowder family				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Sheila McCartan		Lorin Crowder		Jay Nagle
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Camden Brewer	Lexi Simmers	Carlie Simmers	Delanie Weit	Parker Wertz
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Keith Gay	WELCA	Jen Daskal	Jacob Dennis	Matthew James
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Steve and Amy Woods Ann and Dave Surface	WELCA	Judith Wolfe and Sandy Williams Brewer family		
<i>Lay Reader</i>	M. McGuigan	WELCA	Sarah Crowder	Carrie Mayer	A. Robinson
<i>Ushers</i>	David Hillis Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd Don Linkous	WELCA	Roscoe Turman Philip Isenhour Ben and Grace Simmers	Bob and Peggy Brown Randy Robinson Burn Gross	Schneider Birch Pascoe J. Robinson

Weeding schedule: week of 5/9: Jeff Birch; week of 5/23: Ron Brewer
 Mowing schedule (subject to change): 5/2 and 5/30: Jay Nagle (back); 5/9: Doug Smiley (front); 5/16: William Allen (back); 5/23: Jim Clemens (front)
 Rear lot: 5/4: Tom Hodge; 5/11 and 5/18: Jeff Crowder; 5/25: Dave Surface

Women of the ELCA

The annual **Sisters in Christ luncheon** will be held on Sunday, May 3, in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Beverages and dessert will be provided for this salad potluck luncheon.



On Sunday, May 10, the worship services will be led by women of all ages as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ**. The text will feature Sarah, wife of Abraham, and center on faith, keeping promises and humor. Everyone is reminded to return their Thankoffering boxes which were distributed last month. These Thankofferings will support programs of the Women of the ELCA such as a clothing bank in southwest Virginia.

Remember the Food Bank: May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce, and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In May, we’ll continue our collection of socks for women and children – all sizes.

O.K. News

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

“Martin and Katharina Luther” invite us to lunch on Thursday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. to share a hearty German meal, enjoy friendship and learn more about their ministry. Come on Thursday to meet the family. Lunch will be provided; a \$3 donation will be appreciated.

Let’s go traveling....



**OKs
on the Go!**

Our next adventure this spring will be a trip to the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford on Wednesday, May 13. A walking guided tour of this 9-acre complex features a lush English Garden, statuary and stylized platforms which pay tribute to the Allied Forces participating in the largest land, sea, and air operation in history – the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Lunch will be on our own at the 100 year old renovated train station and home of the Old Liberty Station Restaurant featuring American fare. **The registration deadline is May 5.** The cost of transportation and admission fee is \$20. We will depart from the Gables shopping mall at 9:00 a.m. and return by 5:00 p.m. Invite friends and family members to come along for the ride. We need a minimum of 8 travelers for the trip; a maximum of 20.

Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for all our trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information. Our June trip is to the Volvo truck plant and a picnic at Claytor Lake catered by chef Jeff Birch. O.K.s are welcome to come just to the lunch at the lake too.



Youth Night on May 10 and 24

On Sundays, May 10 and 24, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night programs for youth from Kindergarten to 5th Grade.

Youth Night will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade and is led by Pastor John



Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults

The fun begins on Sunday, June 21 and continues through Thursday, June 25. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 7

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Thursday, May 7 at 6 p.m. Come learn more about Crocodile Dock and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for May

The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday morning. Each week will focus on a different question. In May, the questions discussed will be:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 3 | How do Lutherans Read the Bible? |
| May 10 | What should be the Church's relationship to the culture? |
| May 17 | Who was Joseph? |
| May 24 | Thoughts and Questions about the Old Testament |
| May 31 | Thoughts and Questions about the New Testament |

Sunday Bible Study on May 17

Since we weren't able to meet in April, Pastor John will be leading the Bible Study about the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) on Sunday, May 17 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.

**Baskets Overflowing with the Fruit of the Spirit
Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon
Sunday, May 3 at noon**

**Bring a salad to share...and a friend, mother, sister, aunt,
daughter....**



Take me out to the ballgame....



The team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park on Monday nights for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better.

May 4 vs. Slusser's Chapel at 6:15 p.m.

May 11 vs. BJCC/LDS at 6:15 p.m.

May 18 vs. Fieldstone UMC at 6:15 p.m.

June 1 vs. First Wesleyan at 7:15 p.m.

Relay for Life

When: Friday, May 29 from 7:00 p.m. through Saturday, May 30th at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Christiansburg High School Track

Ways to support the event to fight cancer: 1) donate money (checks can be made out to the American Cancer Society; 2) donate \$10 for a luminaria to honor or remember those with cancer (checks made out to ACS and the name of the cancer person and the donor/message); 3) join our relay team; 4) attend the event. Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz (951-1393) will be happy to accept your donation and/or to sign you up to participate. Donation envelopes are available in the church pews too.

Ministry Team Meetings in May

VBS Planning Team	May 7	6 p.m.
Congregational Council	May 10	7 p.m.
Mission Trip Planning Team	May 17	4 p.m.

Prayer List Update

Please use the St. Michael Welcome Sheet found in the Sunday bulletins to include new or continued prayer requests for the prayer list which will be updated beginning May 10. Requests can also be made by calling Suzanne Gay in the church office.

Congratulations Graduates



Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized at the worship services on June 14 and at the first second Sunday brunch on that day.

We celebrate two high school graduations: Zachary Woods from Blacksburg High School and Josh Howell from Giles County High School. Our university graduates have all earned their Master's Degrees and include Jennie Hodge who will graduate from Hollins University on May 17, and Carol Bland, Kris Wertz, Lindsay Robinson and Katie Katz who will graduate from Radford University on May 8. On May 16, Jenny Wenrich will receive her degree in Veterinary Medicine from Virginia Tech.

Congratulations to ...

Krista Williams and Tommy Howell who were married on March 28. Tommy is the son of Ray and Carol Howell.

Carole and Mark Noyes on the birth of their first child, Johnathan Henry Noyes, on April 20. Proud grandparents are Hank and Alice Schneider.

Power in the Spirit is July 9-11 at Roanoke College

It's back to the Bible for ELCA Lutherans. The keynote speaker and Bible study leader at this year's Power in the Spirit gathering will be Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, an internationally known theologian and Lutheran Bible scholar. More information about the gathering, which includes a number of exciting workshops, is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Dishes, dishes and more dishes

If you're missing a serving platter, casserole dish, or food container, you may find it on the kitchen counter. Items left after May 3 will be appreciated by the YMCA thrift store. ☺

Care of Creation: Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

In an effort to take better care of our environment, many of us are making the switch to compact fluorescent lamps. These lights last longer than the standard incandescent bulbs and use less energy. But unlike incandescent bulbs, CFLs cannot be thrown in the trash as they contain small amounts of mercury, a toxic substance. Thus, a number of Downtown Merchants of Blacksburg have volunteered to recycle them for free. The list of businesses is posted on the bulletin board and was printed in the latest issue of *town*, Blacksburg's newsletter.

Summer Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Everyone planning to participate in the 2009 Summer Mission Trip to the McDowell Mission in Welch, West Virginia is invited to a planning meeting on Sunday, May 17 at 4 p.m. at the Wertz home. The group will be discussing registration forms, planning for meals and possible projects. For more information, please speak with Pastor John.

Largest Easter Celebration Ever

Thank you to everyone who helped make this St. Michael's largest Easter Celebration ever. The combined attendance at the Sunrise Service and the 11 a.m. Service was 225 people. There were over 80 people at the Good Friday Service and a group of enthusiastic children at the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

