



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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April 1, 2010

God's Work, Our Hearts and Hands and Voices

Each week during March, approximately 50 to 70 students from Blacksburg High School have made St. Michael their home away from home. We are hosting theater groups, math groups, the Student Government, musical groups, and tutoring sessions. I have enjoyed meeting these students and their dedicated teachers. They are wonderful guests and it is a privilege to extend hospitality to them in their time of need.

Micah's Backpack continues to make an impact in the lives of students in our community.

Here are the results of the ministry of Micah's Backpack from September 2009 to March 2010.

- 5 Blacksburg Area Elementary Schools and the Head Start Preschool as Partners
- 73 Students have received Backpacks
- 370 Volunteer Hours Donated
- 1097 Backpacks Delivered
- 6582 Meals Delivered
- 4003 Pounds of Food Donated
- 3313 Items of Food Donated

These are just two of the many ways that you make Christ known through the ministry of St. Michael. Thank you for being God's heart and hands and voices in our community.

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 Lori Anne Kirk, the organizer, Deloris Raines and her kitchen crew and everyone who contributed to our Lenten suppers; Doug Smiley, John Krallman and Lori Anne Kirk for leading the Holden Evening Prayer service during Lent; Jennie Hodge for coordinating the communication with our foster children: and the enthusiastic crew pictured here who assembled all the Easter baskets: Fran and Dickie Shepherd, Jody Smiley, Suzanne Gay, Judy Wunderlich, Stephanie Gardner, Deloris Raines and Sandy Birch.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball fellowship, snow removal, the Brown fund, 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 twelve families: 3 families with their rent, 4 families with electric bills, 2 families with their water bill, and 3 families with medication, groceries, and lodging. 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

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! Thank you to all the SHARE crew: Betty and Burn Gross, Wanda and James Pascoe, Jenny and Sam Akers, Deloris Raines, and helpers: Jeff Crowder, Jeff and Sandy Birch, Dave and Ann Surface, and Stephanie Gardner. Contact Betty Gross (552-2154) if you’d like to purchase a SHARE box. Monthly SHARE newsletters are on the shelf in the hallway.



Thank you!



Thank you to all who have completed and returned their **Time and Talent surveys** for 2010-2011. We are truly good stewards of God's gifts as we share those gifts to make ministry happen at St. Michael.

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 get a copy of the survey on-line on St. Michael's website.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship is April 25

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 Saturday, April 10 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help spruce up our church grounds on Saturday morning, April 10, beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools and gloves.

Congratulations to....

Tammy and Doug Veit on the birth of their daughter Sophia Grace on February 15. She joins her happy big sister Delanie and proud grandparents, Bob and Peggy Brown.

Deborah and Daniel Stafford on the birth of their son Ashton Christian on March 17. He joins his happy big sister Kate and proud grandparents, Alice and Hank Schneider.



St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. Gifts may be given for these items in thanksgiving for God's goodness or in memory/honor of a loved one, friend or occasion. If you have an interest in contributing toward one of the following items or if you have an idea for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

Kids Play Handball Song Card Sets - \$25

Folding tables for Micah's Backpack - \$70

Thank you to Fred Spengler and his sister, Betty Ramundo, who donated a new 2010 Toro Titan commercial riding lawn mower to St. Michael in loving memory of their parents, Fritz and Emma Spengler.

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April Servants

| | April 4 (7 a.m.) | April 4 (11 a.m.) | April 11 | April 18 | April 25 |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| Altar Care | Birch and Smiley Families | | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | | |
| Greeters | | | Shirley and Angie Linkous | JC and Amelia Martin | Bohn family |
| Worship Asst. | | | Lori Anne Kirk | Jacob Dennis | Judith Wolfe |
| 11 AM Service | | | | | |
| Acolyte | Corson Wertz | Katy McGuigan | Katherine Berg | Seth Brewer | Greg Moehling |
| Comm. Asst. | Kris Wertz | M. McGuigan | | | |
| Greeters | Judy and Jim Clemens | Sandy Birch Jane McGuigan | Jim and Judy Clemens | Tim Jordan and Mary Kate Law | Tim Jordan and Mary Kate Law |
| Lay Reader | Sandy Birch | Kris Wertz | Doug Smiley | Jay Nagle | Lauren Robinson |
| Ushers | Randy Robinson Grace and Ben Simmers Ray Howell | Fran and Dickie Shepherd David Hillis Don Linkous | Jeff Birch Burn Gross Ann and Dave Surface | H. Schneider Rick Mayer James Pascoe D. Shepherd | Philip Isenhour R. Robinson Jennie Kelly Ray Howell |
| Youth Servant | MaKayla Dowdy | Parker Wertz | Delanie Veit | Cam Nagle | Matt Sharpe |

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 60 baskets (a record!) including some special baskets for mothers at the Resource Center.



Tables movers and decorators are invited to the fellowship hall on **Saturday, April 3 at 3 p.m.**, to set up for the Easter breakfast.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Nancy Franz (2109 Broken Oak Drive in Blacksburg – near the Wertz home) on Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. We will be planning our Bold Women worship service and enjoying a program presented by Tacey Apisa, who will share her experiences as a missionary in Africa. Nancy is planning a chocolate tasting too – this is a “can’t miss” meeting! Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship.



The Sisters in Christ Luncheon will be held on Sunday, May 2, following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program. May 2 is also “Bold Women” Sunday, and both services will be led by the women of the church.

On April 11, thank offering boxes will be distributed to the congregation. Please add your change to the boxes during the month and return the offering on Sunday, May 2. This special offering will be sent to the ELCA and used for programs for women and children in poverty. Our nickels, dimes and quarters added up to over \$300 last year.

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

Remember the Women's 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 leading our worship services on Sunday, April 18. The scripture reading, from 2 Timothy, speaks of the farmer, soldier and athlete and reflections will be shared by Jerry Gallimore, Keith Gay, and Jeff Birch during the service. The annual service project at the Roanoke Rescue Mission has been scheduled for Sunday, September 19.

Happy Go Lucky Luncheon



The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a “**First Tuesdays**” **spring luncheon on April 6**. Continuing our theme of healthy eating, we’ll concentrate on “Feeding Our Brains Well”. Research shows certain foods that reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke appear to protect brain cells too. We’ll enjoy a catered, healthy lunch and practice some “brain aerobics”. A donation of \$5 for the groceries will be appreciated, though not required. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch beginning at noon.

The O.K.’s (Older Kids) go traveling....

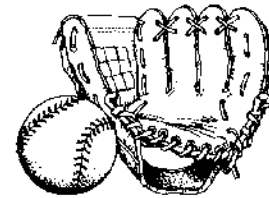


**OKs
on the Go!**

A number of bus trips are being planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this spring and summer. Destinations may include the Parkway’s Rock Churches, Historic Churches in Ellett Valley, Floyd, Claytor Lake, and the mansion at Ft. Chiswell. All members of St. Michael (not just Older Kids) and our friends and family are welcome to participate. Dates, destinations, and registration forms will be available soon.

Softball Season begins

The first practice for the softball team is Sunday, April 11, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Jaycee Park field. The team invites everyone out to the Jaycee Park softball field this spring for some exciting ball. The games will be announced in the Sunday bulletins once the schedule is set by the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Department.



Youth Nights on April 11 and 25 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, April 11 and Sunday, April 25 at 5 p.m. Come enjoy the fun and learn a little more about God’s love for you. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us.

Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX

LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh **i**n **C**hrist (**X**) – will meet on April 11th for a Bible Study on Noah’s Ark and on April 25th for a service project. For more information, please talk to Carrie Mayer, Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.

Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for April God's Extraordinary Church: Studies in Ephesians

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|----------|---|
| April 4 | No Sunday School – Easter Brunch |
| April 11 | Are We Building in Love? - Ephesians 1:3-14 |
| April 18 | Are We Building without Walls? - Ephesians 2:3-14 |
| April 25 | Are We Building beyond Measure? - Ephesians 3:14-21 |

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 4-6) with Pastor John and Jody Smiley (President of the Virginia Women's Synodical Organization), contact Gary Worley, council president.

Christian Children Fund Update

Our oldest foster child, Christa, sent two letters to us in January. She thanked us for the Halloween treats and school supplies we sent and described her Christmas celebration where the students "had [a] class decorating contest and my class got number one." She asks that we support her through prayer. Our younger foster child Anjali recently sent us a picture she drew and letter thanking us as well. She has begun attending a community school and enjoys dance and won a prize for it.

We sent Valentine treats to the girls and will keep you posted when we hear from them again. Please see Jennie Hodge if you'd like to send a note or card to them; they love getting mail from their St Michael family.

Troop Received U.S. Flag

Troop 158 which meets at St. Michael was the recipient of the U.S. flag that flew over our nation's Capitol on February 8, 2010, the Centennial Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. They received the flag thanks to Congressman Rick Boucher and Scouter Ben Crawford.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.



April 1 **Maundy Thursday** **7 p.m.**
Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar

April 2 **Good Friday** **7 p.m.**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt for children



Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 4



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.

