



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Partners in Ministry

Each month a team of people gather to fold the newsletters and prepare them for mailing. If one person were to try and prepare the mailing alone it could take four or five hours, but with everyone working together, the task is usually completed in less than an hour. When people share their gifts and talents, we are able to accomplish far more than any one of us could do alone.

The same is true for us as a congregation. By ourselves, St. Michael might have been able to provide a few backpacks at one school, but with all of our community partners, like Blacksburg Presbyterian, Christ Episcopal, Luther Memorial, the FAN Club at VT and the Second Harvest Food Bank, we are able to distribute 65 backpacks each week to students at five elementary schools and the Head Start Preschool. By ourselves, St. Michael can help a few families who are in need, but through our support of Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, we can make a difference in the lives of families around the state. By ourselves, St. Michael can begin to expand ministry for Senior Adults, but through our support of Lutheran Homes of Virginia, thousands of senior adults are helped. By ourselves, St. Michael can help support a mission congregation, but through our partnership with the Virginia Synod and the ELCA, we can be ambassadors for Christ through Virginia and around the country. To borrow from the Apostle Paul, we are a part of the body of Christ. When we reach out and combine our gifts and talents with the gifts and talents of ministry partners in our community, in our state and around the country, we are able to provide a powerful witness to God's mission to love and bless the whole world in ways that we could never do alone.

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 Ray Howell, Tommy Howell, Ron, Seth and Camden Brewer, Sheila McCartan, Fran Shepherd, Dickie Shepherd, Andrea Robinson, Tim Jordan and Mary Kate Law Jordan, Elizabeth and Michelle Berg, and Pastor John for participating in the spring clean-up at church on April 10; Dean Rueschman, Doug Veit, William Allen and Bob Brown who helped build a handicap ramp, to all who set up and cleaned up our Easter breakfast; Bryan Katz who updated our seasonal yard signs; Shirley Linkous, Charlene Harris, Bill Greer and Linda Elliott for helping with newsletter mailings and folding bulletins; Jerry Gallimore, Jeff Birch, and Keith Gay for serving as our worship leaders on April 18 – the farmer, the athlete and the soldier.

### Clean Up Day



### 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 10 families;** 3 with electric bills, 6 with rent assistance, and one with medicine. 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 April 17, six students from West Ambler-Johnson dormitory at Virginia Tech washed all our windows and pews as their service in **the annual “Big Event.”** They left us a note, stating “you have a really beautiful church; thank you for sharing it with us today.”

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***May Servants***

	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>May 16</b>	<b>May 23</b>	<b>May 30</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Hank and Alice Schneider				
<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy Birch Suzanne Gay	Hodge family	Ben and Carol Crawford	Ben and Carol Crawford	Gary and Sandie Worley
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	WELCA	Olivia/Jennie Hodge	Lori Anne Kirk	Keith Gay	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Elizabeth Berg	Corson Wertz	Sarah Crowder	Greg Moehling	Seth Brewer
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jennie Kelly		Lorin Crowder	John Krallman	Randy Robinson
<b>Greeters</b>	Betty Gross Joyce Coupey	Sunday School			
<b>Lay Reader</b>	WELCA	Sunday School	Joanne Pascoe	Dianne Krallman	Hank Schneider
<b>Ushers</b>	Dianne Krallman Sandy Birch Deloris Raines Alice Schneider	Sunday School	Grace and Ben Simmers Ray Howell David Hillis	Dave and Ann Surface Rick Mayer Don Linkous	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour Jennie Kelly Dickie Shepherd
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Sarah Moehling	Delanie Veit	Lexi Simmers	Parker Wertz	Carlie Simmers

*Mowing schedule:* 5/1 and 5/29: J.C. Martin (front); 5/8: William Allen (back);  
5/15: Matthew James/Jacob Dennis(front); 5/22: Jay Nagle(back)  
*Rear lot:* 5/3: Joe Young; 5/10:Jim Clemens; 5/17: Dave Surface; 5/24:Jeff Crowder;  
5/31:Mike Berg  
*Weeding Team:* 5/1: Jennie Hodge; 5/15: Mary Kate and Tim Jordan; 5/29: Rick Mayer

## Women of the ELCA

Two of the most well-known sisters in the Bible, Mary and Martha, invite all sisters of the church to the **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on Sunday, May 2** in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Bring a neighbor, friend, grandmother, aunt, niece to this fun fellowship event. Beverages and dessert will be provided for the salad potluck luncheon.



**On Sunday, May 2**, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ**. The text, Romans 5:1-11, tells us “suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope”. As our worship leaders, Lori Anne Kirk, Jody Smiley, and Nancy Franz, will offer their reflections on these three themes.

Everyone is reminded to return their **Thank offering boxes** which were distributed last month. These Thank offerings will support programs for children and women in poverty.

**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.

**Remember the Roanoke Rescue Mission:** In May and June, we will be collecting **new** children’s books for the Mission. The books will be delivered during the annual Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization meeting in mid-July.

### Ministry Team Meetings in May

VBS Planning Team	May 2	7 p.m.
Congregational Council	May 9	6:30 p.m.

In addition, there will be a Gallery of Gifts Planning Team meeting and a Senior Adult Ministry Task Force meeting. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

### Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 2

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Come learn more about our High Seas Expedition and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

## **O.K. (Older Kids) News**

### **Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon**

Continuing our First Tuesdays theme, May 4 will be a “Happy Heart” luncheon. We will share a program about keeping our hearts healthy and happy, and enjoy a delicious meal which will be colorful and good for us. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon. A \$5 donation for the food is appreciated, but not required. Kemvia Adams-Busch will join us at 11:30 a.m. to talk about our travel plans for the year and to present some travel awards to the group.



### **Let's go traveling....**

Our adventures this year will begin on Wednesday, May 26, with a trip to Roanoke: a stop at the Bubblecake Shop for a made-from-scratch cupcake, then two shows at the Megadome Theater "Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaoh's" - a rediscovery of the tombs of the great Pharaohs and "Amazing Journeys" - a unique opportunity to view the migration of gray whales, millions of butterflies in Mexico and migratory birds navigating by sun, stars and instinct. There will be time on our own to take in the Farmers Market in the downtown historic district. Participants should have lunch prior to departure at 11:30 a.m. We return to Blacksburg at 6 p.m. The registration deadline is May 19 and the cost is \$15. Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. Our second trip, on June 23, will be to several of the Buffalo Mountain churches along the Blue Ridge Parkway, with stops at Mabry Mill for lunch, and the Farmers Market, Nancy's Fudge Shop and the Bread Basket. The summer wildflowers will be in bloom too along the Parkway.

### **Power in the Spirit is July 8-10 at Roanoke College**

“Shaped by the Master’s Hands” is the theme for Power in the Spirit, an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. Additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board.

### **Care of Creation: Top Ways to Green Your Wardrobe**

1. think sustainable – hit the thrift shop; 2. organic cotton is better for people and better for the environment; 3. purchase clothing made in the USA – saves on transportation; and 4. help keep clothes out of landfills by donating them to local thrift shops. If you would like to donate used clothing to the Christmas Store, for example, notify Sandy Birch.

### **Receiving New Members on May 23**

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, May 23 at both services. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor John.



## Youth Nights on May 9 and 23

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sunday, May 9 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](mailto:pastorjohn@stmhc.us). May 23 will be a family potluck at church with the LYNX group and their families joining us for fellowship.



## Senior High and Middle School Youth – LYNX May 2 and May 23

LYNX will meet on May 2 at 5 p.m. for a Bible study on Jonah. Then on May 23, the group and their parents will join the Youth group for a family potluck in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact Carrie Mayer, Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.



## Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults

The fun begins on Sunday, June 20 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.

## Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for May

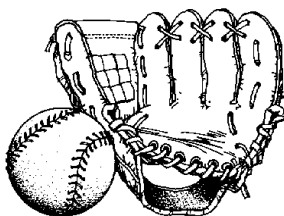
The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday morning. Each week will focus on a different question. In May, the questions discussed will be:

May 2	Are We Building as One?	Ephesians 4:1-16
May 9	Are We Building Up?	Ephesians 4:25-5:2; 5:15-20
May 16	Are We Built to Withstand?	Ephesians 6:10-20
May 23	Questions and Answers	

## Sunday Bible Study on May 16

Pastor John will be leading the Bible Study about Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21) on Sunday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and discuss the birth of the church.

## 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 3 vs. Christ Episcopal at 7:15 p.m.  
May 10 vs. NRVCC at 7:15 p.m.  
May 17 vs. Harvest Baptist at 6:15 p.m.  
May 24 vs. Fieldstone UMC at 6:15 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 2. 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 worship services in May and June.

Four students will be graduating from Blacksburg High School on June 13: Leah Gay, Scott McGuigan, Kelley Robinson, and Robert Worley. Our four university graduates are Matthew James, earning a Masters in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, John Gay earning a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the College of William and Mary, Lauren Harber (our nursery worker), who will graduate from Virginia Tech with Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Biology and Tim Smiley who is graduating from Missouri University of Science and Technology with a B.S. degree in Chemistry.

## Congratulations to ...

Jada Brown and Nicolas Mendoza on the birth of their daughter Lilia Rosalyn Villegas Brown on April 2. Happy grandparents are Mack and Karen Brown and big sister is Tatiana Brown.

Debra Snider and Carl Openshaw on the birth of their son Kolton Glenn Openshaw on April 21. Happy grandparents are JoLynn and Daniel Price and Gary Snider.



## Holy Week and Easter at St. Michael

Thank you to everyone who participated in a meaningful Lenten season and joyful Easter at St. Michael. The combined attendance at the Sunrise Service and the 11 a.m. Service was over 200 people. Both Holy Week services were well attended and a big group of enthusiastic children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

