



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

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

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

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## **Strengthen, Enhance and Expand**

I enjoy our Annual Congregational Meeting. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to share a delicious brunch, to look back at the ministry we have accomplished together during the previous year and to look ahead to future ministry possibilities. The meeting is also the time when we receive our Annual Report. Thank you to everyone who contributes information for the report, especially Rick Mayer who gathers, edits and creates the Annual Report.

This year, we also discussed *Growing with Faith: Expanding God's Mission*, our capital campaign focused on renovation, debt reduction and future ministry. The group reviewed seven different possible projects and decided that providing start-up funding for a Special Needs Focused Mother's Morning Out or Preschool, replacing the Fellowship Hall Flooring, covering the exterior trim on the Sanctuary with vinyl and replacing the exterior doors would do the most to strengthen, enhance and expand the ministry of St. Michael. Those projects, combined with providing for the mortgage on the classroom addition and reduction of the principal of our loan, will all be addressed by *Growing with Faith: Expanding God's Mission*. Over the next few weeks, small groups will gather additional information about each of the projects which will be presented to the congregation on Sunday, March 27. If you are interested in helping research any of the projects, please let me know.

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 Stephanie Gardner who has initiated our library database; Ray Howell who repaired a few loose shingles on the sanctuary; the Venture Scouts for setting up the tables for the congregational meeting,

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported Sunday School materials, snow removal, lawn mower maintenance, heater repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, our facilities, and salaries for our staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In February, we assisted 17 families with funds towards 9 electric bills, two tanks of gas, one heating oil bill and five rent payments. 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.

### Sharing Our Time and Talents



Thousands of years ago, God called a young boy named Samuel. He answered, “Here I am Lord” and became God’s servant. God continues to call God’s servants, and like Samuel, we too can respond boldly by sharing our time and talents to be God’s heart, hands and voices at St. Michael, in the community, and in the world. Our annual Time and Talent Survey is an opportunity to respond to God’s call and proclaim, “Here I am Lord”. Your completed survey responses will be joyfully received during March. Extra copies are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

### Some Thank You Notes

*Dear St. Michael’s Youth Group,*

*Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley would like to extend a huge thank you for providing the tables for our annual book sale; more tables meant more books could be displayed at once and more books would be purchased. The book sale was a HUGE success, taking in over \$10,500. Our sincerest thanks, Nia Indelicato, Executive Director*

*To our St. Michael family,*

*Thank you so very much for your donations to Johnathan’s Cancer Care Fund. We’re able to use it for deductibles, co-pays and prescriptions; those things add up quickly! He’s really doing so well. Your support and prayers are a GINORMOUS ☺ part of that amazing progress. Thank you so very much. Love, Carole, Mark & Johnathan Noyes*

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### *March Servants*

	<b>March 6</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>March 20</b>	<b>March 27</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sheila McCartan, Ron Brewer, Sandy Birch and Elaine Powers			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Shirley and Angie Linkous	Shirley and Angie Linkous	Clifton and Fay Walters	Clifton and Fay Walters
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Seth Brewer	David Christle	Elizabeth Berg	Sarah Moehling
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sheila McCartan		John Krallman	
<b>Greeters</b>	Dianne Krallman Stephanie Gardner	Dianne Krallman Stephanie Gardner	Berg family	Berg family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Lori Anne Kirk	Fred Spengler	Katherine Berg	Doug Veit
<b>Ushers</b>	Ann and Dave Surface	R. Robinson James Pascoe	Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Philip Isenhour Sandy Birch
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	Megan Christle	Mazzy Price

**Ash Wednesday** – Communion Asst: Jody Smiley ; ushers/greeters: Dave and Ann Surface

## **Women of the ELCA**

**The March meeting** will be a Bible study held during the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Lori Anne Kirk will lead the study at 6:30 p.m.. All women of the church are invited to dine together and join in the conversation.

Volunteers are invited to help with the **Healthy Heart Fair for Women and Girls** (ages 12 and older) on Saturday, March 26. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in the activities, including a Red Cross Blood Drive. More information is available on the back of the St. Michael calendar, on the hallway bulletin board or from Sandy Birch.

During March and April, **we will collect Easter candy, small toys and books for Easter Baskets** for the children at the Women's Resource Center and others sponsored by the Salvation Army. Several baskets are also prepared for the mothers at the Women's Resource Center.

**Remember the Food Bank:** March is SOUP month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome. Thank you.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In March, we will continue donations of cleaning supplies and trash bags. Art supplies for children are always needed too.

## **O.Ks (Older Kids)**

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together for a catered lunch **on Tuesday, March 22**. The theme for our spring luncheons is "The Happy Habit – easy ways to lighten up." Social time begins at 11:30 a .m.; lunch at noon; program around 12:30 p .m. You don't have to be retired to join the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons, so slip out of work for an hour and come enjoy lunch and a program.



Trips planned for this spring, summer and early fall include a tour of Mt. Airy (home town of Andy Griffith), lunch and program at the Lavender Farm, a picnic at Claytor Lake, dinner and music in Floyd, and a tour of the National Weather Service Station and Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and in future newsletters.

## **Grief Support Group at St. Michael**

The Grief Support Group will be held at St. Michael at 7 p .m. for eight sessions: 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26 and 5/3. Interested individuals can call Rhoda Janosik

at [540-230-5376](tel:540-230-5376) for more information and registration prior to the first session on March 15. The Grief Support Group is a mutual ministry with Luther Memorial.



## **Shrove Tuesday – March 8.....PANCAKES!!!**

Shrove Tuesday is an annual celebration marking the final day before the season of Lent, a 40-day period which traditionally includes 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, March 8 at our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

## **Lenten Service Schedule**

**Ash Wednesday Service - March 9 at 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service**

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

Each week, St. Michael, along with our friends and family from Shiloh, New Mt. Zion, Zion and St. Mark Lutheran Churches, will focus on one of the parables of Jesus.

**March 16** - *The Doctor and the Sick* - Luke 5:27-32

**March 23** - *The Sower and the Seeds* - Mark 4:1-20

**March 30** - *The Unmerciful Servant* - Matthew 18:21-19:1

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.

## **Mid-Week Noon Worship at Luther Memorial**

We are invited to worship at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in the Luther Memorial chapel. The services, beginning on March 9, will consist of prayer, scripture reading and Holy Communion. The services will last about 30 minutes

## **Meals for *To Our House* – March 14 and March 17**

St. Michael is participating in a ministry called "To Our House" in which approximately 10 homeless folks are provided with meals and shelter. We will be providing breakfast,

lunch and dinner on two days: March 14 and March 17. If you would like to help provide one of these meals, please contact Pastor John. Thanks you for caring.

### **Girl Scout Cookie Booth**

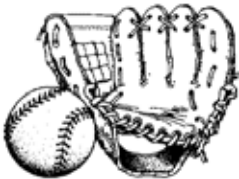
Girl Scout troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, will host a cookie sales booth on March 8 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please contact Olivia or Jennie Hodge at 953-2225 or [blacksburghoo@comcast.net](mailto:blacksburghoo@comcast.net) to place an advance order. The cookies are \$3.50/box.



### **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.

### **Softball Sign-ups in March**



If you are interested in playing for the St. Michael team and have **not** been listed on a previous roster, contact Doug Smiley at 961-2472 or Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbirch@vt.edu). Games begin in April.

### **Bible Study on March 20**

On Sunday, March 20 at 7 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on understanding parables. In March, the Bible Study will take place in the large classroom at the church.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring at St. Michael. Over 570 food items and \$205 was given to support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program Food Pantry and Micah's Backpack. Nationally, over 10,600 groups participated in 2011 raising more than \$8.6 million to fight hunger in communities around the country.



**Thank you everyone!**

### **Recycle Plastic Grocery Bags with Micah's Backpack**

Micah's Backpack uses 200 plastic bags a week to deliver food to the children in the program. Please help out by dropping off clean, tear-free plastic bags in the Micah's

Backpack room (the former nursery). Many thanks from your Micah's Backpack volunteers!

### **Altar Flowers and Altar Care**

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. The opportunity to donate your altar flowers to the "Friends with Flowers" program for hospice patients and nursing homes will continue in 2011. **We especially need altar care assistants who set up communion.** Mentors are available to assist and serve with you. See Sandy Birch for more information.

### **Fibers of Faith Knitters are meeting at St. Michael**

The Fibers of Faith Knitters will be meeting at St. Michael on Tuesday, March 1 from 11:30 to 12:30. Feel free to brown bag. All abilities are welcome; first-timers will enjoy a lesson or two. The group is knitting scarves, hats, prayer shawls and afghan squares which will be donated to needful brothers and sisters. The group plans to meet at St. Michael on the first Tuesday of each month and at Luther Memorial on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. For more information, contact Joanna Sunshine at [drs@vt.edu](mailto:drs@vt.edu) or at 951-7234.

### **Lutheran Men in Mission**

The Lutheran Men in Mission will travel to Bedford Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 9, to help with some carpentry work. Please contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or 951-3455 if you would like to participate. Planning ahead: the group (and friends) is scheduled to serve dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Sunday, June 5.

### **Congratulations to...**

**Katie and Bryan Katz** on the birth of their first child, Emily Redden, on February 9.

**Boy Scout Troop 158** which was featured in the Blue Ridge Mountains Council Annual Report. "In Boy Scouts, every outing has a purpose. Troop 158 embarked on a memorable journey to celebrate Scout Sunday in February, trekking at an elevation of 4,409 feet along the Appalachian Trail. The third winter storm of the season had blanketed the terrain with another 6 inches of snow, but the Scouts persevered. Never a word of frustration or complaint; only boys working together, helping one another move forward, ..taking encouragement in each other's progress...and demonstrating the true meaning of **friendship.**"

### **An Invitation**

Pastor Linda Mitchell Motley and the congregations of St. Mark and Zion Lutheran Churches invite you to a Hymn Sing on Saturday, March 5 at 7:15 p.m. and desserts at 8:15 p.m. The event will be at Zion Lutheran Church – 635 Needmore Lane in Floyd.

## HEALTHY HEART FAIR FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS\*



SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011  
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Co-sponsored by St. Michael

- lots of exhibits and interactive displays about physical, spiritual and emotional ways to heart health
- Wii demonstrations – for healthy exercise
- blood glucose and blood pressure screenings
- healthy (free) snacks
- door prizes, e.g., pedometers, knit scarves
- Red Cross Blood Mobile on site for blood donations (bring a fellow and he receives a free gift)
- Dr. David Osimani of Valley Heart Doctors will give a presentation entitled, “Heart Healthy Gals”
- free child care from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Brochures are available on the hallway shelf – tell your friends. See you at the Fair!

\* ages 12 and older

**Youth Ministry News**  
**Youth Night and LYNX on March 13 and 27**



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and LYNX for 5th through 12th grade will be on Sundays, March 13 and 27, 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.



# Fools for Christ

## April 1-2, 2011

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*Friday, 6:30 p.m. - Saturday, 1:00 p.m.*

**FOCUS:** Fun, Worship, Fellowship, Service, Food, Devotions

**FOR:** All 5th-12th Graders & Friends

**COST:** \$10 for everything!

***Friday***

*gathering of the congregations, ice breakers, dinner,  
learning about poverty, devotions & sleep.*

***Saturday***

*can do competition, service project, lunch & closing worship*

*See your Pastor or Youth Advisor for Registration*



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Sponsored by the Lutheran Leaders  
of New River Conference

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*Registration Deadline March 21st*