



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmhc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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April 1, 2011

Let Us Build a House . . .

Over the past few months, we have used the words of hymn 641, “All are Welcome,” as a theme to discuss our call to use our time, our talents and our treasures to be God’s heart and hands and voices in the world. As a people of God at St. Michael, we strive to “build a house where all our welcome” and “where love can dwell”; a place where “the love of God, through Jesus is revealed”; and a place where hands reach out “to heal and strengthen, serve and teach.”

With your help, we are building and strengthening God’s house at St. Michael daily. Micah’s Backpack continues to grow and involve more people in feeding hungry students. Our educational ministries are providing opportunities for people to learn more about their relationship with God. *Growing with Faith: Expanding God’s Mission*, our capital campaign focused on renovation, debt reduction and future ministry, is currently in the process of gathering information on the cost of new exterior double doors, new carpet for the fellowship hall and wrapping the building trim in vinyl. The Midweek Lenten services and meals, in partnership with Shiloh Lutheran Church and New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, gather us together for fellowship, reflection and worship and planning is underway to provide three worship services on Easter Sunday to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord. Thank you for all you are doing to build this house of ministry and service. May God’s presence be with you.

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 all who have contributed to our Lenten suppers; to all who have contributed items for the Easter baskets; the Shrove pancake supper “team”: Fran Gallimore, Mike and Michelle Berg, Alice Schneider, Deloris Raines, Kim Marion, Brandon Raines, Sandy and Jeff Birch, and Judith Wolfe; Joyce Coupey who donated several large bags of yarn to the knitters group and books to the St. Michael library; Jody Smiley, Suzanne Gay, Sandy Birch and Alice Schneider who assisted with the Healthy Heart Fair; Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett who built our “house” where all are welcome.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball fellowship, Vacation Bible School supplies, 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 13 families with funds towards four electric bills, a tank of gas, two water bills and six rent payments. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund.

Thank you!



Thank you to all who have completed and returned their **Time and Talent surveys** for 2011-2012. 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.

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 Saturday, April 16 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help spruce up our church grounds on Saturday morning, April 16, beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools and gloves.



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April Servants

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Altar Care	Doug and Jody Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Hodge family	Hodge family	Ben and Carol Crawford	Jeff and Sandy Birch
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Jennie and Olivia Hodge	Keith Gay
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Parker Wertz	David Christle	Sarah Moehling	Greg Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Jeff Birch		Randy Robinson	Kris Wertz
Greeters	Jim and Judy Clemens	Jim and Judy Clemens	Sharon and Randy Robinson	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	Mike Berg	Jody Smiley	Kris Wertz
Ushers	Ray Howell Hank Schneider	James and Wanda Pascoe	Dave and Ann Surface	Dickie Shepherd Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	The Brown girls	Noah Moehling

April 24 - Sunrise service – 7 a.m.: Acolyte – Corson Wertz; Communion asst. – Sandy Williams; Greeters – Randy and Sharon Robinson; Ushers – Ben and Grace Simmers; Lay Reader – Sandy Birch; Youth Servant – MaKayla Dowdy

Women of the ELCA

Tables movers and decorators are invited to the fellowship hall on **Saturday, April 23 at 5 p.m.**, to set up for the Easter breakfast.



The April 10 meeting will be held in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We will be assembling the Easter baskets for the Women's Resource Center and Salvation Army children and enjoying a light lunch together. All helpers are welcome.

The **Sisters in Christ Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, May 1** following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program. **May 8, Mother's Day, is "Bold Women" Sunday**, and both services will be led by the women of the church.

On April 10, 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 8. This special offering will be sent to the ELCA and used for Malaria Nets for Africa. Our nickels, dimes and quarters added up to over \$460 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 macaroni and cheese and tuna fish will be appreciated. The Center also needs "gently used" bakeware, pots and pans, silverware and small appliances (toaster, mixer, can opener).

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. We will meet at St. Michael at 8:15 a.m. Please contact Jeff Birch at jbbirch@vt.edu or 951-3455 if you would like to participate.

Fibers of Faith Knitters are meeting at St. Michael

The Fibers of Faith Knitters will be meeting at St. Michael on Tuesday, April 5 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. For more information, contact Joanna Sunshine at drs@vt.edu or at 951-7234.

Happy Go Lucky Luncheon



The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a “**Second Tuesday**” **spring luncheon on April 12**. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch beginning at noon and the program around 12:30 p.m. The theme for our spring luncheons is “The Happy Habit – easy ways to lighten up.” 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.

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

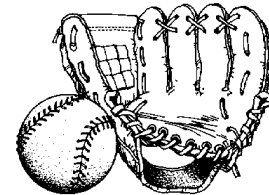


OKs on the Go!

A number of bus trips are being planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this spring and summer. Destinations – and tentative dates - include Claytor Lake on June 7; The Lavender Farm on July 8; Floyd (Pine Tavern for dinner; blue grass music at Zion Lutheran) on July 16; rescheduled Kroger/Roanoke Times tour on August 30; and Mt. Airy on September 21 (Andy Griffin’s hometown where we’ll take a tour in Barney Fife’s squad car). The final trip on October 5 will be to the National Weather Service Station and the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. 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 practices for the softball team are Sunday, April 10 and Sunday, April 17, 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 Night on April 10 Journey to Jerusalem on April 17



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 4th grade will be on Sunday, April 10 at 5 p.m. On Sunday, April 17, also at 5 p.m., children can touch and see Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem and then stay for pizza. 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.

LYNX will meet on April 10 for a service project. For more information, please talk with Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.



Welcome to the St. Michael Family

Colin Lord moved to Blacksburg just last fall. He grew up in Atlanta and went to college at Florida State University. Colin is a web developer at Modea in downtown Blacksburg and in his spare time, he enjoys running half marathons and hiking on the Appalachian Trail. When he's not writing code or spending time outside, odds are you can find Colin watching ESPN. His Dad took him to his first baseball game when he was 6 and the sports obsession has been alive ever since.

Bible Study on April 17

On Sunday, April 17 at 7 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the story of Palm Sunday and the events leading up to Christ's death. In April, the Bible Study will take place in the large classroom at the church.

Congratulations to.....

John Krallman, who was promoted to Director of Business and Financial Affairs for Information Technology at Virginia Tech.

James Pascoe, with 33 years of service, was promoted to Production Specialist at MOOG in Blacksburg.

Jeff Robinson, who was promoted to Lieutenant with the Blacksburg Police Department.

Fun and Games Night - April 16 at 5:30 PM

Come and enjoy Fun and Games Night on Saturday, April 16 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited - kids and adults - to bring your favorite board games or card games to play and a dish to share and enjoy an evening of food, games and fellowship. For more information, contact Sheila McCartan at 381-2957 or at rbsm517@nrvunwired.net.

Meals for *To Our House*

In March, St. Michael participated in a ministry called "To Our House" which provides meals and shelter for up to 10 homeless men per night. Thank you to Jeff, Lorin and Sarah Crowder, Jody Smiley, the Christle Family, the Berg Family, Olivia Hodge, Nia Indelicato, Judith Wolfe, Victoria Martin, Fran Gallimore, Anna Rossomando and Deloris Raines for helping to provide meals.

Art for Gallery of Gifts

If you have a craft or a piece of artwork which interprets a Christian symbol, we would love to incorporate it into our Gallery of Gifts art display in the education hallway. Please contact Gary Worley at Gary.Worley@vt.edu or 961-2709 for more information.

Lenten Service Schedule

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.

April 6 - *Mustard Seed* – Mark 4:26-34

April 13 - *Pearl of Great Price* – Matthew 13:44-46

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.



The Cross and the Empty Tomb Bible Study - April 20

On Wednesday of Holy Week, Pastor John will lead a Bible Study on the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion and the resurrection. The Bible Study will take place in the large classroom at the church.



April 17	Palm Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Journey to Jerusalem	5 p.m.
April 20	The Cross and the Empty Tomb <i>Bible Study on the Crucifixion and Resurrection</i>	7 p.m.
April 21	Maundy Thursday <i>Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar</i>	7 p.m.
April 22	Good Friday <i>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</i>	7 p.m.



Saturday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt for children

Easter

C E L E B R A T I O N

**Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter
on Sunday, April 24**

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Easter Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Easter Breakfast following the 7 a.m. Service

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 is a part of our Easter tradition.



Easter Gifts: Lilies and Backpacks

Orders are now being taken for lilies for Easter. This year, the plants will cost \$12. To place a lily in the church, in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend, please use the order form on the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the bulletin. The deadline for ordering a lily is April 17. A gift can also be designated to Micah's Backpack in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.