



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Growing with Faith: Worship, Compassion, Generosity

I give thanks to God for your participation in the life and ministry of St. Michael. With your help, we are growing as a community of believers in exciting and meaningful ways. Here are just a few examples of God's people in action at St. Michael.

Worship - On Easter Sunday, 285 celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord at St. Michael. Together we heard the story of the empty tomb, gave thanks for God's gift of love in Christ Jesus, and shared the good news with numerous new worshipers, extended family members and long-time friends. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts to make this celebration so meaningful!

Compassion - Micah's Backpack has applied to host a summer feeding program. If our application is approved, we will provide lunch to hungry children three times per week. Your generous support of Micah's Backpack, the people of Feeding America and our partnership of caring groups and individuals around Blacksburg are making it possible to expand our work to fight hunger in our community. Thank you for helping the hungry!

Generosity - You will be receiving information about *Growing with Faith: Expanding God's Mission*, our capital campaign focused on renovation, debt reduction and future ministry, in the next few weeks. The brochure will outline the cost of new exterior double doors, new carpet for the fellowship hall and wrapping the building trim in vinyl and the opportunities that exist to reduce our long-term debt and fund a special needs ministry. By sharing your gifts through *Growing with Faith*, you will strengthen the overall ministry of St. Michael and our ability to do God's work with our hearts and hands and voices. Thank 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

To all who set up and cleaned up our Easter breakfast; Wanda Pascoe and Margaret Larsen who helped assemble all the Easter bulletins and Bill Greer and Linda Elliot who regularly fold the weekly bulletins; everyone who provided Easter lilies and funds for Micah’s Backpacks as Easter gifts; the Virginia Tech students who washed our windows as their service in the annual “Big Event”.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported disaster relief for Japan and Pulaski, additional hymnals, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund, 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 23 families;** 16 with electric bills, 5 with rent assistance, one with gasoline and one with a water bill. In addition, food was purchased for the “To Our House” program. 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.

Welcome New Members

Welcome to Lynn and Gray Wilkens, whose blended family includes four sons and one daughter. They are the proud grandparents of four wonderful children. Gray teaches biology and ecology at Blacksburg High School and Lynn is a physical therapist. They enjoy hiking and gardening and are thankful to have found a church home at St. Michael.



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, the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services was over 285 people. Our joint services with Shiloh Lutheran Church and New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church for Holy Week were well attended. Approximately 60 enthusiastic children and adults participated in the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

Mission Trip to Southwest Virginia

Luther Memorial and St. Michael congregations are planning a joint mission trip in southwest Virginia. Volunteers will leave Blacksburg on Tuesday, July 5 and return Saturday, July 9. The group will work under the auspices of Project HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence), a local agency which works with homelessness and emergency needs, and will stay at Holy Trinity Church in Wytheville. The exact location of the work is still to be arranged, but it will involve home repair/construction of some type. The cost will be \$100 plus food. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmlc.us) or Pastor Bill King (luthercm@vt.edu).

Feeding America Volunteer Field Trips



Join the volunteers from Micah's Backpack for fun, fellowship, and food sorting at Feeding America (the food bank) in Salem on Monday, May 9 or Monday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to noon. In March and April, members of St. Michael and friends from our Micah's Backpack partner groups traveled to Feeding America to volunteer for three hours to sort, inspect, and pack donated food from Kroger and to bag pasta destined for soup kitchens and other agencies. James, the Quality Control Coordinator at Feeding America, welcomes volunteers with a smile and says they "need 30-40 volunteers a week to make sure food gets from the donation side of the food bank to the distribution side." No experience is necessary and we promise a fun and fulfilling trip. Please e-mail Jennie Hodge at jennie@micahsbackpack.org with any questions or to sign up.

ChildFund Update

Our eldest sponsored child, Christina, recently sent us information and a picture. She is a senior in high school and wants to be a doctor when she grows up. She and her family "thank you very much for all the aids that you sent to me." See the bulletin board by the kitchen pass-thru for her picture and information. If you'd like to send a note or card to either of our sponsored children, please see Jennie Hodge. Thank you!

Power in the Spirit is July 14-16 at Roanoke College

"We Love to Tell the Story" 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. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Walt Wangerin, author of books like *Ragman* and *The Book of God*. Additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board.

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May Servants

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Altar Care	Elaine Powers				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Gary and Sandie Worley	Gary and Sandy Worley	Nancy and Glen Goad	Nancy Goad William Allen	Sandra Hough Linda Elliott
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	WELCA	Judith Wolfe	Lori Anne Kirk	Jennie Brogan William Allen
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Corson Wertz	Sarah Crowder	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	Sarah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Kris Wertz		Sheila McCartan		
Greeters	Tim and Mary Kate Law Jordan	WELCA	Bob and Peggy Brown	Bob and Peggy Brown	Bob and Peggy Brown
Lay Reader	Salinda Arthur	WELCA	Andrea Robinson	Mickie McGuigan	Cindy Dowdy
Ushers	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	WELCA	Jeff Robinson D. Shepherd	James and Wanda Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Mazzy Price	Delanie Veit	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	Jayden Haley

Women of the ELCA

All women are invited to the **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on Sunday, May 1** 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 8, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

The May meeting will be a Bible study and light supper on Monday, May 9 at 6 p.m. in the large Sunday School classroom. Lori Anne Kirk will lead the study entitled “The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity.” All women of the church are invited to dine together and join in the conversation.

Everyone is reminded to return their **Thank offering boxes** which were distributed last month. These Thank offerings will provide nets for the prevention of malaria; just \$10 could save the life of a child. **The boxes should be returned by Sunday, May 8 – Bold Women Sunday.**

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, let’s provide trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size). A list of needed items is available by the donation bin in the front hallway.

Summer care packages for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation: Rex and Rieky Hartson, our Christmas box partners from Christ Episcopal Church in Blacksburg, will be driving to the Pine Ridge reservation this June. They will deliver care packages to Rev. Karen Rupp, the Lutheran pastor who runs a homeless shelter and Lutheran Retreat Center on the reservation. Household goods which would be especially appreciated include bath soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dish detergent, toilet paper, paper napkins, paper plates, paper towels, new and gently used clothing of all kinds, and non-perishable food of all kinds. Your donations can be put in the box in the narthex.



O.K. (Older Kids) News

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a “**Second Tuesday**” **spring luncheon on May 10**. Social time begins around 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon and the program at 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 luncheons, so slip out of work for an hour and come enjoy some fine fellowship and food.



**OKs
on the Go!**

Let’s go traveling....

A number of bus trips are being planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this summer and fall. Destinations include Claytor Lake on June 7 (picnic lunch at the lake and trip to the Glencoe Museum in Radford); Maison Beliveau (Lavender Farm) on July 8 for lunch and presentation; Floyd (Pine Tavern for dinner; blue grass music at Zion Lutheran) on July 16; rescheduled Kroger/Roanoke Times tour on August 17 (tentative); 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.

Congratulations to....

Emily Garst, who recently competed in the Level 7 Virginia State Gymnastics Competition and placed 1st on uneven parallel bars, 2nd on the floor exercise and 4th place all around in the senior age division.

Stephanie Gardner who recently accepted a position as librarian with Bridgewater University. We thank Stephanie for setting up our St. Michael library prior to her move to the Harrisonburg area.

Becky Halvorson, who was selected to receive the 2011 Abel Wolman Doctoral Fellowship from the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This fellowship is the highest honor that AWWA bestows upon PhD students conducting work in the field of water supply and treatment and only one student is given this award per year.

Eric Young, who won 2nd place for his original composition “Nancy’s Lament”, in the Sonor-Orff Composition challenge. The sponsor is a leading manufacturer of musical instruments and Eric will receive some new Orff instruments for his winning submission.

Reception of New Members - May 15

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, May 15. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

PANDAManiA

Where God is Wild about You!
Psalm 73⁹ TM

Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults

The fun begins on Sunday, June 12 and continues through Thursday, June 16. 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 1

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 1 at 1:30 p.m. Come learn more about our PandaMania and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

Youth Nights on May 8 and 22



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 4th grade will be on Sunday, May 8 and Sunday, May 22 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 May 8 and May 22

LYNX will also meet on May 8 at 5 p.m. and on May 22 at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.

Sunday Bible Study on May 15

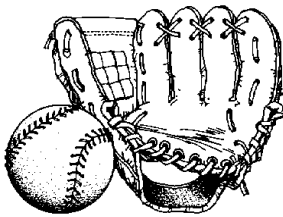
Pastor John will be leading the Bible Study entitled, "Mary, Mary and the other Mary" on Sunday, May 15 at 7 p.m. at church in the large Sunday School classroom. Come and learn about Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who witnesses the Resurrection.

St. Michael Book Club Meets on Wednesday, May 18 at 7 PM

The first meeting of the St. Michael Book Club will be on Wednesday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jeanette Pasier (1923 Greenbrier Circle in Blacksburg). The first book to be read and discussed is *The Red Queen* by Phillippa Gregory. For more information, please contact Pastor John. All are welcome!



Take me out to the ballgame....



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

Monday, May 9 vs. Blacksburg Christian Fellowship at 7:15

Saturday, May 21 vs. Grace Covenant at 3 p.m.

Monday, May 23 vs. Tried Stone at 6:15 p.m.

Congratulations Graduates

Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized at a **graduates reception on June 12** at the first 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Three students will be graduating from Blacksburg High School: Michelle Pasier, Johnathan Henderson, and Keely Jones. Sarah Crowder will graduate from Christiansburg High School. John Travis Krallman will be graduating from Lewis & Clark School Law in Oregon.



Micah's Backpack Update

Many thanks to everyone who donated clean, tear-free bags to Micah's Backpack! Your response was fantastic: you have given us enough bags to send weekend food home to 137 students for the rest of this school year. Please watch for another plea for bags in September. Your donated bags make a difference in the lives of hungry children in our community.

Micah's Backpack Summer Planning Meeting - May 15 at 5 p.m. - Come and help Micah's Backpack plan and prepare for a summer feeding program.

Proposed Amendments to St Michael's Constitution

The Congregational Council is recommending four amendments to our constitution. As specified by the constitution, changes require approval at two congregational meetings. The first vote will be on June 12 during the Second Sunday Summer Brunch meeting and the second vote will be taken during the Brunch on August 14.

Descriptions of the recommended amendments are below. Further, an electronic copy of the constitution showing the amendments is available for review at the congregation website, <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/downloads/>. A paper copy is available for review in the front hallway.

1. Proposal: Combine the responsibilities of the congregation council's vice president and secretary into a single office called the "vice president / secretary." The council determined one individual can perform the duties of both offices. (See congregation constitution paragraphs C6.05.b, C9.14, C11.01.d, C15.01, C17.03, and C17.04.)
2. Proposal: Change one reference to the congregation's "treasurer" to "financial officer" to accurately reflect the title and responsibilities of the office. (See SMLC constitution paragraph C11.01.d, and note the use of "financial officer" in C.11.01 and first half of C.11.01.d.)
3. Proposal: Change the term of service for church members elected by the council to fill vacancies on the council. The constitution currently says the individual will serve "until the next annual meeting." The council recommends that the individual "serve the remainder of the previous incumbent's term." The current process is not adequate when the congregation needs to elect a member to serve an unexpired term alongside members to serve full terms. That is, it does not provide a way for us to determine which individual will serve the unexpired term. For example, in 2011 the congregation elected four council members. In the absence of a process to determine which one would serve the remainder of the unexpired term, the council asked for a volunteer. This proposal corrects that problem and restores the system which was used at St. Michael for many years. (See SMLC constitution paragraph C12.03)
4. Proposal: Correct various typographical errors throughout the document. (Examples: St Michaal (Michael), many (marry), adofstry (ministry), and committeee (committee))

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.

- Choir robes - \$100 each
- ELW Hymnals (8 needed) - \$25 each
- New Refrigerator - \$700 - \$900