



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Coming Soon: An Evening Worship Service

Would you like to help design, develop and attend a new evening worship service at St. Michael? On Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, a planning group will gather to begin work on an Evening Worship Service at St. Michael. This group will be building the service from the ground up, so bring your most creative ideas and dreams.

I realize at this point that you might be wondering, "*Why does St. Michael need an evening service?*" With changing work schedules and a multitude of commitments for individuals and families in today's world, the time is right to develop a worship opportunity for people who are unable to attend worship on Sunday mornings.

Over the next few months, the planning group will learn from those who will attend an evening worship service and seek to discover which night and time would work best. The group will develop the format and style of worship and explore ways to invite others to participate in this new service. The goal is for the new service to begin in September 2012, but the night, time and other details of the service will depend upon the needs of the people who will be attending the service. I am excited about this new beginning and about the opportunity to expand our ability to share God's love with 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

To all our lawn care servants: Jim Clemens, Jeff Crowder, Mike Berg, Dave Surface, Joe Young, Jay Nagle, Matthew James, Jacob Dennis and William Allen, who mow from May to November; to everyone who brought food for Sarah Wall’s funeral luncheon, the servers, Deloris Raines, Anna Rossomando, Pat Smith and Sandy Birch and Judy Clemens for her organization; to Ron Brewer and Pastor John for helping two families with furniture moving; to Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for folding our weekly bulletins.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported our property insurance policy, the postal service permit, lawn mower maintenance, office supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped 10 families: 2 families with an electric bill, 5 families with a rent payment, 1 with a telephone bill and 2 with car expenses. The fund was also used to purchase food for the To Our House program for the homeless.

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.

- White Chairs for Fellowship Hall - \$25 (19 needed)
- Raised Garden Enclosure for Micah's Garden - \$20 (up to 36 needed)
- Deer Fence for Micah's Garden - \$3 per foot (330 feet needed)

Thank you to Harvey and Meg Peterson who donated a computer projector and Bee Bedwell who donated a choir robe.

Two Thank You Notes

Your prayers and support during our recent loss were a blessing to us. St. Michael has been an important part of our family for many years. Dan always enjoyed his visits. Thank you for being there for Dan and for us. - - The Daniel Surface family

The family of Sarah Wall would like to give our special thanks to the members of the church who prepared the luncheon for us. Thanks also for the love and support of the congregation. Our sincere appreciation to the choir and musicians and especially to Eric Young for singing "Ave Maria", our mother's favorite song.

Micah's Backpack January Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack ended the first month of 2012 feeding 191 children and youth in our community with gifts of weekend food. 777 bags went home providing 4,662 meals plus snacks.

Volunteers donated almost 250 hours of time including youth who participated in community service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In December and January, close to 7,100 food items were donated including 85 jars of peanut butter from members of St Michael. School staff continue to report that participants love getting their bag of food! Feel free to get in touch with Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org if you'd like to help out with this community ministry.

Micah's Backpack will collect boxed fruit chews in February. Every month over 1600 snacks go home with hungry children and youth in their Micah's Backpack bag. Please put your gift of boxed fruit chews in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. Thank you.

Micah's Garden Coming the Spring

This spring, Micah's Backpack will begin a new project to provide more fresh food in our community - Micah's Garden. Volunteers and partners in Micah's Garden will grow food to be distributed through local food banks and will be able to grow food for themselves. There are still several details to work out, but the plan is to create an enclosure on the back corner of the church property with raised beds for gardening. If you are interested in being a part of Micah's Garden, please talk to Jennie Hodge: jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 5. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring a monetary donation to place in the Soup Pot. The money will be donated to ELCA World Hunger Relief and Micah's Backpack. Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 737 for sponsoring Souper Bowl Sunday. The troop will also have yummy Girl Scout Cookies for sale. They will donate a portion of their cookie profits to both hunger relief programs too.



Thrivent Project Meeting, February 5

Each year Thrivent Financial for Lutherans makes money available for projects in the community. In previous years, we have used these funds to help with projects like the school supply collection and the Christmas Shoe Boxes. It is time to make proposals for 2012, so if you have ideas or would like to be involved, please plan to meet briefly with Pastor John and Jody Smiley immediately after each service on February 5.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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February Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Altar Care	Joanna Garcia			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	J.C. and Amelia Martin	J.C. and Amelia Martin
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Lori Anne Kirk	Carrie Mayer & Alexa Mayer
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Alex Moehling	Parker Wertz	Corson Wertz	Sarah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson		Jeff Birch	
Greeters	Anna Rossomando Deloris Raines	A. Rossomando Deloris Raines	Joanne Pascoe Sandy Birch	Joanne Pascoe Dianne Krallman
Lay Reader	Dianne Krallman	Lauren Robinson	Margaret Christle	M.McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Randy Robinson James Pascoe	Ben/Grace Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Noah Moehling	Delanie Veit	Megan Christle	

Women of the ELCA



In February and March, the congregation will be invited to **donate items for Easter baskets**, such as candy, books, and small toys. The Easter baskets are

distributed to needy children at the Women's Resource Center and through the Salvation Army. The Women of the ELCA will assemble the baskets at a March 25 meeting after the 11 a.m. service.



Bible Study and Muffins will be held on Tuesday, February 21, about 6:45 or so, following the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Jody Smiley will lead a study from the Gospel of Mark.

Remember the Food Bank: February is Italian month (spaghetti sauces, canned ravioli, etc.), though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In February, donations of cleaning supplies and trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size) would be appreciated. The Center can also use any kind of art supplies for children at any time.

The O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will enjoy a catered luncheon on **Tuesday, February 14 at noon**, with a social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. A \$5 donation for the food is helpful, but not required. This month we will visit the original San Francisco "Spaghetti Factory" with choices of pasta and homemade sauces and the restaurant's signature Italian dessert.



More events of interest to O.K.s

The February 21 AARP chapter meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. After a brown bag lunch at 11:30 a.m., the program, featuring Dr. Karen Roberto, Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology, will begin at noon. AARP provides free tax preparation starting February 1. AARP Driver Safety Courses begin in March. See Sandy Birch for details and dates.

St. Michael Receiving New Members on February 26

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, February 26. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.



Youth Nights on February 12 and 26 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, February 12 and Sunday, February 26 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@stmlc.us.

Lutheran Higher Education Sunday

On Sunday, February 12, St. Michael will celebrate Lutheran Higher Education Sunday. Chaplain Paul Henrickson will be our guest preacher and members of the Roanoke College Choir will share their musical gifts. In addition, our seminary partner, Jonathan Boynton, from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary will be present to assist with worship and share about his seminary experience. The Lutheran Church has a long history of educational ministry and this will be a wonderful day to celebrate two of our strong ministry partners, Roanoke College and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

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.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 18 at 9:50 a.m.



On Sunday, March 18, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2011 Annual Report and the 2012 Phone Directory, and complete our 2012 Time and Talent Surveys.

Congratulations to... our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 10 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected: Jim Clemens, President; Rick Mayer, Vice-President/Secretary; John Krallman, Financial Officer.

Annual Reports are due to Rick Mayer by Sunday, Feb. 19. Thank You!

Shrove Tuesday – February 21.....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, February 21 for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 22 at 7 p.m. with Wednesday Night Lenten Soup suppers and service beginning on February 29. Mark your calendars for an active and meaningful Season of Lent.

Girl Scout Cookie Booth

Girl Scout troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, will host a cookie sales booth on February 21 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please contact Olivia or Jennie Hodge at 953-2225 or blacksburghoo@comcast.net to place an advance order. The cookies are \$3.50/box.



Think Recycling!

Girl Scout Troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, is helping maintain the St. Michael Recycle Center as part of their Silver Award. The following items may be recycled in the white bins in the hallway:

- tab tops from soda cans for the Ronald McDonald House
- printer cartridges and cell phones for the Justice and Mercy Fund
- eye glasses for the Lions Club
- small flower vases for the Friends with Flowers who serve Heritage Hall
- small toiletry items for the Roanoke Rescue Mission
- batteries for Mother Earth

Every time we recycle 24 printer cartridges or cell phones, a tree will be planted. If you have any questions, please see Olivia Hodge. Thank you to Judy Wunderlich for recycling our paper and cardboard each week.



Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service - February 22 at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service
Supper at 6 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer 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 gather for a time of fellowship and worship. Our midweek Lenten Sermon Series is entitled, "Feed my Sheep" and will focus on the ways that we are fed by God's word and called to feed others.



February 29

Bread of Life - John 6:35-41

March 7

Feeding the 5000 - Matthew 14:13-21

March 14

Do You Love Me? - John 21:15-17

March 21

A Faithful Call to Action - James 2:15-17

March 28

Done to Me - Matthew 25:31-46

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.

Worship Changes During Lent

As we move through the seasons of the church year, the readings, music and elements of our worship services change to reflect the mood and emphasis of the season. Lent is a season of reflection and repentance, so you will notice that the Alleluias disappear during Lent, the style of music in worship becomes a little more somber and this year we will stand for the reading of the Gospel. While none of these changes is major, hopefully each one will help set the mood for worship and heighten our awareness of God's presence in our midst.

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 Heritage Hall residents will continue in 2012. **We especially need altar care assistants who set up our communion.** Mentors are available to assist and serve with you. See Sandy Birch for more information.



Welcome to the St. Michael Family



On January 8, we welcomed four families to St. Michael. **Rich, Laura, Rosie (age 10), Lily (age 6), and Danny (age 2) Gruss** moved to Blacksburg from the Chicago area last summer. It's a homecoming for Rich and Laura since they both grew up in Virginia, and Laura actually lived in Blacksburg as a child! Rich works as a software engineer at Tech's Math Emporium. Laura is currently staying home with the kids, although previously she taught Anthropology and Anatomy. Rosie and Lily go to Harding Avenue Elementary School.

Sharon Owens and Duane Hartwick have three children between them: **Tyler (age 12), Tristan (age 5), and Karma (age 5)**, with their first due in late April. Duane is a fulltime student at NRCC with hopes to transfer to VT in the fall to study wildlife sciences. He previously served 8 years in the Marine Corps. Sharon is a CNA working in home health while seeking her degree in nursing – and awaiting the birth of their baby girl, Madison.



Kevin Long and Lynn Price have three children: **Calvin, Adam, and Adia**. Calvin is 18 and will graduate high school this year. He has a goal of someday hiking the Appalachian Trail. Adam is 16, and a junior at BHS. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and weight lifting. Adia, is 11 and is a sixth grader at BMS. Her passion is riding and working with horses. She is part of the academy at Advantage Ranch / Dori Del. She shows Appaloosa's, and hopes to one day make it to Nationals. Kevin and Lynn own and operate The Cellar Restaurant in downtown Blacksburg. It started out as Kevin's passion, and now the whole family takes part. Kevin has lived in Blacksburg for 29 years and graduated from Virginia Tech. Lynn was born and raised here, went to college in North Carolina, lived in Atlanta for 2 years, and happily moved back in 1998. They are very excited to become part of the St. Michael Lutheran Church family!

Kimberly and Christian Hearn have been married for six years. Their earlier lives dedicated to the ocean have adapted to the beautiful New River Valley. Christian is pursuing a PhD in Electrical Engineering at Virginia Tech, and Kimberly is currently a stay-at-home mother for their children **Chase (age 3) and Katherine (6 months)**. Kimberly is outdoors as much as Blacksburg winters will permit; gore-tex and double long underwear are a far cry from past summers lifeguarding in Oceanside, CA. And for Christian, the thrill of surfing world-class reef-breaks has been replaced with the occasional well-executed flip-turn at the War Memorial pool.

