



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 35, Number 3

March 1, 2012

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## Micah's Garden To Provide Fresh Food

Since 2008, Micah's Backpack has united people in our community around the goal of providing weekend meals to hungry students in our community. What began as a small group working to give five backpacks per week has grown to a coalition of 70 groups and nearly 300 volunteers who pack and deliver approximately 200 backpacks of food each weekend.

As this community ministry has grown, I have learned a great deal about hunger and the issues surrounding food insecurity. I wish I could say that there was one clear way forward that would provide enough food for everyone, but sadly hunger is a massive and complex problem and no one action or program can provide a comprehensive solution. On a local scale, programs like Micah's Backpack, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry help families bridge the gaps and make food available to our neighbors who are hungry.

One element often lacking at food pantries and backpack programs is fresh food. With that need in mind, a new ministry is emerging from Micah's Backpack to make fresh food available to those in need. Since St. Michael is blessed with good farm land and open space, we will plant Micah's Garden this spring. The garden, which will be built toward the back corner of the church's property, will provide a place to grow food for local pantries and a place for individuals to grow fresh food for themselves. I believe Micah's Garden will be a wonderful next step in our efforts to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. If you are interested in helping with Micah's Garden, please talk to Jennie Hodge: [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

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 Carol Crawford, Fran Gallimore and the Caring and Sharing team for organizing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and to Keith Gay, Michelle Berg, Maggie Maloney, Deloris Raines, and all the other helpers who set up, cooked and cleaned; to Sandie Worley, Alice Schneider and Barbara Corbett who arranged and delivered flowers to Heritage Hall the last two months.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported Sunday School materials, ELCA World Hunger, repair and replacement of our sewer line, 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 13 families with funds towards 4 electric bills, a tank of gas, and 8 rent payments. Food was also purchased for *To Our House* for the homeless. 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.

### 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 (17 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 Charlene Harris who donated several chairs for the fellowship hall.

### Sharing Our Time and Talents

Thousands of years ago, God called a young boy named Samuel. He answered, “Here I am Lord”. 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 beginning March 18.



## Micah's Backpack February Report



[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)

his chemistry class at VT the option of bringing in peanut butter during the class' study sessions and over 240 jars were collected for the first half of this semester.

In February, Micah's Backpack fed 202 children and youth in our community with gifts of weekend food. 799 bags went home providing 4,866 meals plus snacks. Volunteers donated almost 350 hours of time and St Michael and Micah's Backpack volunteers brought in 200 fruit chews and 6 jars of peanut butter. Mike Berg gave



**Micah's Backpack will collect chicken noodle soup in March.** Every month, over 800 cans of chicken noodle soup go home with hungry children and youth in their Micah's Backpack bag. Please put your gift of 10.75 cans of soup in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the church entryway.



This spring, Micah's Backpack will begin a new project to provide 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.

Groundbreaking for Micah's Garden will be on Saturday, March 17. Volunteer work-days to install deer and groundhog fencing will be on March 17 (9 a.m. – 6 p.m.) and March 18 (2 p.m. – 6 p.m.) and if needed on March 24 - 25. No experience required. Please see Jennie Hodge to sign up to volunteer or contact her at [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

Are you a home gardener with extra produce in the growing season? Feel free to bring your harvest to St Michael for distribution to Giving Tree Food Pantry, Interfaith Food Pantry, and Spiritual Roots Food Pantry. Produce may be dropped off on Thursdays and put in the coolers in the Micah's Backpack room. See Jennie Hodge for information.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
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### *March Servants*

	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 25</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Elaine Powers			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan Helge & Sara Bohn	Jan Helge & Sara Bohn	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe Nancy Goad	Jennie Hodge Olivia Hodge	Sandy Birch William Allen
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sarah Moehling	Parker Wertz	Corson Wertz	Alex Moehling
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Kris Wertz		Jeff Birch	
<b>Greeters</b>	Wanda and James Pascoe	Ben and Grace Simmers	Ben and Grace Simmers	Sandy Birch Anna Rossomando
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Lori Anne Kirk	Maggie Maloney	Joanne Pascoe	Doug Veit
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	R. Robinson James Pascoe	Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Noah Moehling	Delanie Veit	The Brown girls	

## Women of the ELCA

**The March meeting** will be held following the 11 a.m. service on March 25. We will share a light lunch and assemble the Easter baskets for the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. Join us for fellowship and service.



During March, **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 13 at noon**. We'll enjoy a couple of Irish stew and soda bread recipes and other treats. 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 fellowship.



Trips planned for this spring, summer and early fall include the Frontier Museum in Staunton, Mabry Mill and the Blue Ridge Parkway, picnic at Claytor Lake and a tour of the Volvo plant, a tour of the Roanoke Times and WDBJ TV station, the VMI museum and historic Lexington, and Mayberry Days in Mt. Airy. Our first trip will be to Abingdon on Thursday, March 22

to the Heartwood Arts Center and a Barter Theater matinee performance of "9 to 5: the Musical", a comedy coming direct from Broadway based on the hit movie starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and in future newsletters.

## 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.

## **Youth Night on March 11 and 25**



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sundays, March 11 and 25, 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.

## **Youth of the New River Conference Project and Tour Saturday, March 10**

All youth from 6th through 12th grade are invited to join with the Youth of the New River Conference for a day of service, fellowship and fun. We will meet on Saturday, March 10 to sort books for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, have lunch at Amelia's and then travel to Salem for a tour of Roanoke College. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor John for more information.

## **Confirmation Mini-Retreat – Sunday, March 18**

On Sunday, March 18, from 3 to 6 p.m., the confirmation class will be studying the topic: Talking about Faith.

## **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.

## **Bible Study on March 25**

On Sunday, March 25 at 7 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Difficult Teachings of Jesus: John 6:47-63 in the large classroom at the church.

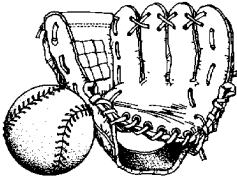
## **Souper Bowl of Caring Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring at St. Michael. Over 30 food items and \$230 was given to support the ELCA world Hunger and Micah's Backpack. Nationally, over 8,500 groups participated in 2012 raising more than \$8.4 million to fight hunger in communities around the country.



**Thank you everyone!**

## Softball Sign-ups in March



If you are interested in playing softball for St. Michael team, please sign up on the Welcome form or contact Doug Smiley at 961-2472 or Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu). Games begin in April.

## Lutheran Men in Mission

Micah's Garden is seeking volunteers to help build, place and fill garden frames. Details for making the frames and raised beds can be found at:

<http://www.bonnieplants.ca/GardeningResources/tabid/64/ID/63/Raised-beds--super-easy-4-x-8-garden.aspx> .



Preliminary work for the garden is being planned for March 17-18 when the plot will be prepared and groundhog fencing and deer fencing will be installed. We will do our work on March 31 after the preliminary work is completed. Please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) if you can help with this project.

## Congratulations to...

**Lance and Katie Lafon** on the birth of their son, Mason Arnold, on January 30. Mason will be well cared for by his big sisters Grace and Addison.

**Sean and Laura Peery** on the birth of their daughter, Evie Virginia , on January 31. Evie is welcomed by big sister Ada.



**Olivia Hodge**, who was selected as one of 20 Stephen J. Brady STOP Hunger Regional Honorees. As a regional honoree, she will receive a grant of \$1,000 for Micah's Backpack. Olivia works in the Micah's Backpack food room on Thursday nights and made the initial suggestion that the group serve Blacksburg Middle School students.

**Kay Edge**, who recently received certification as a licensed architect following an intensive year of testing. Kay is a faculty member in the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech.

## Thank You, Carol!

We pass a special word of thanks to Carol Crawford for 8 years of devoted service as our Caring and Sharing Committee chair. Her steadfast leadership in that role contributed tremendously to sustaining and building upon the caring, welcoming atmosphere at St Michael. Carol remains an active member of the committee. We also thank Fran Gallimore and Nia Indelicato for stepping forward to serve as our new co-chairs of the Caring and Sharing Committee.

## Lenten Service Schedule

**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 in the community 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.

## **Evening Service Planning Meeting**

If you are interested in helping develop the new evening service at St. Michael, come and share your ideas on Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



## Christ, Be Our Light

The verses of a familiar hymn, "Christ, Be Our Light", include the lines,

"Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come."

"Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today."

On Sunday, March 18, we will have the opportunity to be servants to one another....to let our lights so shine before others as we complete our **Time and Talent surveys for 2012** and share our gifts of time and talents with the St. Michael family, the community and the world. Our hearts, hands and voices will live the Word we've known.



Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with  
compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Thank You for being  
God's heart and hands and voices in the world.