



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmlc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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April 1, 2012

Opportunities for Worship - Past, Present and Future

Thank you to everyone who has assisted with the Lenten Midweek Meals and Services. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to gather with folks for fellowship during the meals and to share the music of Holden Evening Prayer.

During Holy Week and Easter, there will be a number of opportunities for us to gather in worship as we remember the Last Supper, walk with Jesus to the cross and celebrate the joy of the Resurrection. The Maundy Thursday Service, which remembers Jesus command at the Last Supper to 'do this in remembrance of me', will be on April 5 at 7 p.m. At the end of the service, we will strip the Altar in preparation for the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. The Good Friday service will begin at 7 p.m. on April 6. This service of light and darkness, the readings and reflective, music invites us to focus on Christ's sacrifice for us. On Sunday, April 8, we will celebrate the joy of the Resurrection at 7 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. We will share communion at all three services. It should be a wonderful day of celebration.

After Easter, we will return to our regular Sunday morning worship schedule with services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.. In September, we will be adding a new Sunday Evening Service for individuals who aren't able to worship on Sunday morning. The service is still in the initial stages of development, so if you are interested in helping shape the future of this service, plan to attend the Sunday Evening Service Potluck on Sunday, April 29 at 6 p.m. and bring along any friends and neighbors who might be interested as well.

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 contributed items for the Easter baskets (61 were assembled!); to Rick Mayer who compiled the annual report and Carole Wall and Lori Anne Kirk who helped bind the reports; to Fran and Dickie Shepherd, Judy Wunderlich, Joanna Garcia, Suzanne Gay and Sandy Birch who assembled the Easter baskets for the Salvation Army and Women’s Resource Center; to Girl Scout Troop 737 who provided mother’s gifts for the Easter baskets; and to Troop 737 and Judy Wunderlich for their recycling efforts.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball fellowship, building repairs, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP and Micah’s Backpack, 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 March, we assisted 19 families with funds towards nine electric bills, a tank of gas, two water bills and seven 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 2012-2013. 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.

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.

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 Fred Spengler for donating 20 white chairs for the fellowship hall and to Jay and Becci Nagle and Charlie and Martie Saks for contributing to the Micah’s Garden deer fence.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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April Servants

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Altar Care	The Smileys				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Shirley Linkous Sandy Birch	Carrie and Rick Mayer	Dave and Ann Surface	Dave and Ann Surface	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn
Worship Asst.	Sandy Williams	Keith Gay Nancy Goad	Lori Anne Kirk	Matthew James	Margaret Larsen Patty Renneckar
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	David Christle	Sarah Moehling	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan	Sandy Birch			
Greeters	Sandy Birch	Deloris Raines A. Rossomando	Berg family	Berg family	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Congregation	Kris Wertz	Margaret Christle	Mike Berg	John Krallman
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	M. McGuigan Don Linkous	R. Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Joanne Pascoe	Wanda and James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer	Jessica, Maddie Abby Brown	Megan Christle	Delanie Veit	Noah Moehling

April 8 - Sunrise service – 7 a.m.: Acolyte – Corson Wertz; Communion asst. –Jeff Birch; Greeters –Hank and Alice Schneider; Ushers – Ben and Grace Simmers; Lay Reader –Cindy Dowdy; Youth Servant – MaKayla Dowdy

Women of the ELCA

Tables movers and decorators are invited to the fellowship hall on **Saturday, April 7 at 1 p.m.**, to set up for the Easter breakfast.



Bible Study and Cheesecake will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in the large classroom. Jody Smiley will lead a study from the Gospel of Mark. All women of the church are invited for dessert and discussion.



The **Sisters in Christ Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, May 6** following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program. **May 13, Mother's Day, is "Bold Women" Sunday**, and both services will be led by the women of the church.

On April 15, 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 13. This special offering will be sent to the ELCA and used for Malaria Nets for Africa and special programs for women and children to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA organization. Our nickels, dimes and quarters added up to over \$559 last year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter baskets. We prepared 55 baskets for children and six additional baskets for mothers at the Women's Resource Center. Pictured are Dickie and Fran Shepherd, Joanna Garcia, Suzanne Gay and Judy Wunderlich, the St. Michael "Easter bunnies."



The **Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO)** has made some wonderful plans to celebrate during the July convention. One idea is to donate \$25 to the 25th Anniversary Appeal in the name of a woman who has impacted your life. What a great way to show your appreciation! Use the form below to participate.

**Honor a woman who has made difference in your faith life
with a \$25 anniversary gift to the Women of the ELCA!**

You can bring your offering to convention or send this form and a \$25 check to the
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO)

Anna Barb, VSWO Treasurer
5501 Alum Springs Road
Edinburg, VA 22824

Name of Person Honored: _____



Lutheran Men in Mission

Thank you to the Lutheran Men in Mission who built and filled the raised garden beds for Micah's Garden on Saturday, March 31.

Happy Go Lucky Luncheon

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a **“Second Tuesday” spring luncheon on April 10**. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch beginning at noon and the program around 12:30 p.m. Our menu will be delicious, traditional Easter fare. 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. A \$5 donation is appreciated.



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 include the Blue Ridge Parkway and Mabry Mill; the Frontier Culture Museum and Staunton; historic Lexington (including a narrated carriage ride); Claytor Lake and the VOLVO plant; and Shatley Springs. **The next trip is scheduled for Monday, April 30, with a morning visit to the Mill Mountain Zoo, lunch on our own in the City Market area, and an afternoon tour of the Roanoke Times and World News Center.** Registration deadline is April 23 and the cost is \$12. Schedules and registration forms are available on the shelf in the front hallway.

Passover Seder Meal - Sunday, April 15 at 5 PM

Youth and adults are invited to come and learn more about the Passover. For more information, please talk to Nia Indelicato.

Youth Night on April 22



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, April 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@stmlc.us.

Bible Study on April 22

On Sunday, April 15 at 7 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Difficult Teachings of Jesus: Saltless Salt (Mark 9:50) in the large classroom at the church.

Welcome to the St. Michael Family



On February, three families were welcomed to St. Michael. **The Goldsmith family** has lived in Longshop since 1990. Doug and Wendy have three lovely children; Josh (28), Caleb (20) and Lilly (18). Doug is a self-employed environmental engineer. Wendy is a pharmacy technician for Kroger. Josh is currently the Chief Operating Officer for a local dermatology office. Caleb and Lilly are attending Virginia Tech studying environmental sciences. The Goldsmiths have many interests including gardening, attending VT sports events, hunting, and most of all fishing. The Goldsmiths also have a great love for animals and they have four beagles, two cats and a pet chicken (named Chicken)! They are very excited to join the St. Michael family.

Suzanne (Suzie) Price Jones was born in Blacksburg and was a member of New St. Peters Lutheran Church on Glade Road until the early 60's. She has now returned home. She is married to J. B. Jones, Jr. and has two children. Her son, J. B. Jones, III, and his family live in Blacksburg and her daughter, Jennifer Jones Hubble and her husband, live in Denver, Colorado. Suzie retired from Christiansburg High School in 1999 where she was a secretary for 17 years. She is involved in RSVP.



Martie and Charlie Saks are new to the NRV and have much to discover about this diverse area. They have been married a wonderful 5 years and have been together for seven years. They met on Match.com and have not been separated since their first date when Charlie took her shopping. Martie is an Air Force brat and has lived in many places in the USA and Europe. She settled in the Clemson area and yes, graduated from that fine institution of higher education in 1977, with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Charlie moved to the Clemson area from San Diego to become the sole caregiver for his parents. Enter Match.com and you know the rest. Charlie moved to the NRV in 2008 when he took a Safety Engineering position with AlliantTech Systems, at the Arsenal, and Martie followed two years later after remodeling and then selling their homes. They have been looking for a church for four years, but really turned up the heat two years ago and have found a home at St. Michael.

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.



April 1 **Palm Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

April 5 **Maundy Thursday** **7 p.m.**
Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar

April 6 **Good Friday** **7 p.m.**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Saturday, April 7 at 10:15 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt for children

Hands-On Holy Week at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 7

Before the Easter Egg Hunt, explore the story of Holy Week using items like a crown of thorns. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.



Easter

**Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter
on Sunday, April 8**

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.

Thank you, Eric!

For the last three years, Eric Young has blessed the music ministry of St. Michael with his gifts and leadership. As his music career has continued to grow, the demands on Eric's time have reached the point where he feels he must step down as Music Director. His presence and joy will be missed. Even though he will no longer be on staff, Eric will remain a part of the St. Michael family.



Evening Worship Service Potluck on April 29

On Sunday, April 29 at 6 p.m., you are invited to a potluck to discuss the Sunday Evening Worship Service which will begin in September. Invite a neighbor, bring a dish to share and help plan for this exciting new worship opportunity. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

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 in the bulletin. The deadline for ordering a lily is April 2. A gift of \$10 can also be designated to Micah's Backpack in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.



Spring Clean-up Scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help spruce up our church grounds on Saturday morning, April 21, beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools and gloves.



The Recycling Center

In late February, Girl Scout Troop 737 sorted, packaged, and mailed two boxes of used printer cartridges and old cell phones to a recycling company. The company sent a check for \$75.10 to benefit the Justice and Mercy Fund and will also plant three trees for us. Please keep bringing cartridges and old cell phones to the Recycling Center in the hallway. You can also bring in soda can pop-tops, batteries, eyeglasses, travel-sized toiletries and bud vases to be recycled. Thank you for helping take care of our planet.

Micah's Backpack March Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

For April, Micah's Backpack will collect 14.75 oz. cans of spaghetti or ravioli. We send home over 800 cans every month to youth in the community who are our friends and neighbors. Thank you for donating 130 cans of chicken noodle soup in March.

Over 5,000 meals went home in nearly 1,000 weekend bags for the month of March. Close to 1,000 food items were donated by St. Michael and other groups and individuals in Blacksburg. One parent in our phone survey said, "my child loves the backpack program and thank you very much for making weekends better for her."

Make a Difference in a Child's Life with a Frisbee

Last January, John Galbraith, a Micah's Backpack volunteer, and others from the area went on a service-learning trip to Blacksburg's sister City of San Jose de Bocay, Nicaragua. They saw children with few toys so they gave the children a frisbee. The children did not stop playing with that simple toy until it was too dark to see! John would like to send a collection of inexpensive or used frisbees to the children of San Jose de Bocay and invites us to contribute. A collection box is in the hallway near the recycling center. Thank you.

Another Thank You

Dear St. Michael,

On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, I would like to thank you for allowing us to use your church's spare tables for our book sale. It was a great help having the extra display space. Thank you also for your book donations. The book sale was a HUGE success, taking in over \$8,500 in gross receipts. These funds will help us continue to make a positive impact in our community by providing adults with free and confidential literacy services.

Our sincerest thanks, Nia Indelicato, Executive Director

Helping our Neighbors

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).

2012 Visiting Theologian, April 15-17

Novelist and poet Paul Shepherd will be Luther Memorial's 2012 Visiting Theologian. The Visiting Theologian program has traditionally welcomed a biblical scholar or systematic theologian, but this year the program will explore theology through the eyes of literature. Shepherd, author of the novel *More Like Not Running Away*, will take "An Almighty Struggle" as his overarching theme. The titles of his presentations:

- "An Almighty Struggle: the Gifts and Burdens of Creativity"--Sermon, April 15.
- "An Almighty Struggle: the Writer Versus the Lord of All"--Luther Forum (in the campus center), 9:45, April 15.
- "Where Word and Story Meet: Some Thoughts on What Makes Sermons Interesting From a Writer in the Pew"--Noon luncheon, April 16.
- "An Almighty Struggle: Writing, Religion, and Infernal Doubt"--Reading co-sponsored with Virginia Tech English Department, 3:00, Room 145, Bioinformatics Institute.

All presentations are open to the public. To ensure enough food, please call 552-0066 or email luthercm@vt.edu if you would like to attend the luncheon.

Paul Shepherd's novel, *More Like Not Running Away*, won the Mary McCarthy Award. A starred review in Booklist says "...this extraordinary first novel about the blood ties that bind fathers and sons packs such emotional power that reading it is like sustaining repeated blows to the heart." He is former writer in residence and Kingsbury Fellow in Florida State University's creative writing program, and founded the Lutheran Writers Project at Roanoke College. His fiction, poetry, and articles have appeared in many national magazines and journals.