



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

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## Resurrection People

On Easter Sunday, 290 people gathered at three worship services to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. It was a wonderful day filled with special music, a delicious breakfast and the proclamation of the good news that God through Jesus is triumphant over death.

While Easter Sunday may only come around once a year, our celebration of Easter reminds us that we are resurrection people each and every day. Thanks to the resurrection, we have the promise of forgiveness. Thanks to the resurrection, we have the assurance that God's love for us is stronger than death. Thanks to the resurrection, we have a clear example of sacrificial love. The empty tomb and the risen Lord shapes our lives and calls us to be God's heart and hands and voices in the world.

As resurrection people, we share our gifts by providing opportunities to learn more about God's love through ministries like Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and the Women of the ELCA. As resurrection people, we give of our time and resources to help our neighbor through ministries like the Justice and Mercy Fund, Micah's Garden and the Community Thanksgiving Meal. As resurrection people, we lift up our voices in prayer, in worship and in support of those who have no voice in society. I would love to hear what it means to you to be people of the resurrection on a daily basis. If you have an example you'd be willing to share, take a moment to talk to me, email me or join the discussion on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch>.

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; Lori Anne Kirk, Carole Wall, Wanda Pascoe, Linda Elliott, Shirley Linkous and Deloris Raines who helped assemble all the Easter bulletins and Bill Greer and Linda Elliot who regularly fold the weekly bulletins; Wanda Pascoe, Wanda Redden, Deloris Raines, Joanna Garacia, Lori Anne Kirk, Alice Schneider and others who served at the Lenten dinners, everyone who provided Easter lilies and funds for Micah’s Backpacks as Easter gifts; Pat Smith for regularly delivering our donations to the Food Bank and the Women’s Resource Center; Ray Howell, Lynn Price and Fran Shepherd who worked in the yard during our spring clean-up day on April 21; Christian Hearn for teaching the guitar class.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported the Seder Meal expenses, office supplies, 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 20 families;** 11 with electric bills, 7 with rent assistance, one with gasoline and one with a water bill. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the 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.

Raised Garden Enclosure for Micah's Garden - \$20 (up to 18 needed)

Storage Shed for Micah’s Garden Tools - \$159

Coolers with wheels for Micah’s Garden - \$50 (need 6)

Food Scale for Micah’s Garden - \$25

Heavy Duty Garden Hose - \$25 (need 2)

Little Tykes: Preschool Baby Swings - \$30 (need 2)

Little Tykes: Preschool Easy Store Large Slide - \$100

Little Tykes: Preschool Hide and Slide Climber - \$180

Thank you to Fred Spengler and Judith and Kenneth Wolfe for contributing to the deer fencing and to Gary Fetter, Kelly Belanger, Carol Bland and Stephanie Todd for their contributions to Micah’s Garden.



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.

The installation of a water cistern will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 9 a.m.. The cistern will allow us to pump and then store water from the adjacent retention pond for the garden plots. No experience required to help with this last bit of infrastructure for Micah's Garden. For more information, contact [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

Pictured are some of the Men in Mission helpers and four members of the AGR fraternity who constructed the 25 raised garden beds and filled them with sifted, composted soil.



## Micah's Backpack April Report



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

Micah's Backpack sent home 800 weekend bags and over 4,500 meals in April. Close to 1,700 food items were donated by St. Michael and other groups and individuals in Blacksburg. Micah's Backpack now has over 100 partners who work with us to provide six meals and snacks for children and youth who are our friends and neighbors. We also received a \$2,000 Domestic Hunger Grant from the ELCA. Feel free to get in touch with Jennie at [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org) if you'd like to help out with this community ministry.

**Micah's Backpack will collect boxed granola bars in May.** Every month over 1,600 snacks go home with hungry children and youth in their Micah's Backpack bag. Please put your gift of boxed granola bars in the box in the narthex. Thank you for bringing in over 75 cans of spaghetti in April!

A story: Two children stopped by the school counselor's office to check to see if bags would come before Easter break since there was no school on Good Friday. The counselor said "yes" and the children smiled.

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***May Servants***

	<b>May 6</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>May 27</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Pasier family			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Cliff & Fay Walters	Cliff and Fay Walters	Hodge family
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay-Reader Dean Rueschman - Communion	Women of the ELCA	Gary Worley-R Sandie Worley-C	Carrie Mayer-R William Allen-C
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade	Sarah Moehling	Corson Wertz	Parker Wertz
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sunday School		Laura Gruss	Jody Smiley
<b>Greeters</b>	Class will be the Sunday servants	Women of the ELCA	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith
<b>Lay Reader</b>	today	WELCA	Nia Indelicato	Charlie Saks
<b>Ushers</b>		WELCA	Ray Howell Doug Goldsmith	Dickie Shepherd James Pascoe
<b>Youth Servant</b>		Delanie Veit	MaKayla Dowdy	Bronzson Marion

Mowing schedule:

5/4: James/Dennis (front); 5/11: Nagle (back); 5/18: Robinson (front); 5/25: Allen (back)  
Rear lot: 5/7: Goldsmith; 5/14: Surface; 5/21: Crowder; 5/28: Berg

## Women of the ELCA

All women are invited to the **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on Sunday, May 6** 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, daughter, or niece to this fun fellowship event. Beverages and dessert will be provided for the salad potluck luncheon.



Also – bring an old purse with a small surprise inside – something like a small bottle of lotion or a poem or some Hershey’s kisses ☺. We hope to collect 25 old purses for recycling (to the Christmas Store nursery’s “dress-up” box) or to the YMCA Thrift Shop – or for sharing with other sisters. Why 25? It’s the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA. “25” is our lucky number this year.

**On Sunday, May 13**, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Please return your **Thank offering boxes on Sunday, May 13 – Bold Women Sunday.** These thank offerings will provide funds for projects benefiting women and children in celebration of WELCA’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and provide nets for the prevention of malaria; just \$10 could save the life of a child. It’s amazing how our nickels, dimes and quarters add up....last year our total thank offering was \$560.

**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.

## 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 8.** Social time begins around 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon and the program at 12:30 p.m.



Our third bus trip will be to the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton on May 9. The museum has reproduced examples of farmsteads and rural buildings, showing rural life and culture of early migrants. Lunch will be on our own at the Depot Grill located in the old freight depot of Staunton. We will have time to explore the unique shops and boutiques located in the historic district. **The registration deadline is May 1** and the cost is \$23. Let’s go traveling.....

## Congratulations to....



**Sharon Owens and Duane Hartwick** on the birth of their daughter, Madison Lynn, on April 20. Her siblings, Tristen, Tyler and Karma welcome their new little sister.

**Leslie Bland and Daniel Dillow** who were married at St. Michael on April 13.

**Joe Young** who was recently appointed Superintendent of the New River Valley Juvenile Detention Home in Christiansburg.

**Micah's Backpack**, receiving a Commendation from Virginia Tech for "Outstanding Partnership with Student-Community Engagement Initiatives".

### **Sky Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults: Everything is Possible with God**

Come and discover how all things are possible with God at SKY Vacation Bible School. The fun begins on Sunday, June 10 and continues through Thursday, June 14. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Look for the registration form in the bulletin and online in early May.



### **Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 6 at 2 PM**

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. Come learn more about our SKY VBS and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

### **Youth Night on May 13**



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sunday, May 13 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](mailto:pastorjohn@stmhc.us).

### **Sunday Bible Study on May 20**

On Sunday, May 20 at 7 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the *Difficult Teachings of Jesus: Many are Called, but Few are Chosen* (Matthew 22:14).

## Check It Out!

Come by and browse the "Book Nook" in the back corner of the Fellowship Hall!

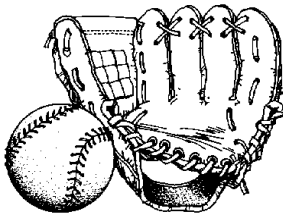
Our church library is full of books and DVDs for all ages. You'll find something for everyone--from kid's videos, teen books, and Bible stories told through graphic comics to in-depth religious studies and short books that guide and inspire daily living.



Checking out a book or DVD is easy! Look for the little box on the shelf to see how to check out and return your selection.

ENJOY!!!

## 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 7	7:15 p.m.	Harvest Baptist
Monday, May 14	8:15 p.m.	Grace Covenant
Monday, May 21	9:15 p.m.	BCOC

## Congratulations Graduates

Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized at a **graduates reception on June 10** at the first 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Abby Penner will be graduating from Blacksburg High School. Daniel Crowder and Mary Kate Law Jordan will graduate from Virginia Tech while Lauren Robinson will graduate from Radford University. In addition, we will honor John Gay, who earned a master's degree from Syracuse University in December.



**Corrections:** In the 2012 directory (red cover), the phone number for the Wertz family is incorrect. It should be 320-5982. Oops.

## Easter Celebration



## Some Thank You Notes

*Thank you for your **gift of a bud vase** while I was a patient in Heritage Hall. I was far from home and was cheered by your church's thoughtfulness. Please accept the small token I've enclosed to help your outreach to patients like me. Sincerely, Carroll Beaver*  
Note: Each week, our altar flowers are arranged into 10-14 vases of flowers for our friends at Heritage Hall.

*Thank you for your kind **donation of tab tops** for the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs were added to our collection; then will be taken to be recycled and the proceeds will go back into the operation of our facility, which is a Home-Away-From-Home for families who have children in the hospital. We appreciate your help to us in this area of our work. Sincere thanks, Ronald McDonald House staff*

*Dear friends,*

*Thank you for your **recent gift of 25 Easter baskets for children and 6 for mothers**. The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley continues to do its very best toward the accomplishment of our vision which is to create a community free of domestic and sexual violence. You are a welcomed partner in this endeavor. In fact, we could not do it without you. In Peace, Pat Brown*

*Dear St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for **donating your kitchen facility** to student groups this weekend. We appreciate your support for the International Street Fair.*

*Sincerely, The Cranwell International Center Staff*

## Power in the Spirit is July 12 - 14 at Roanoke College

"Welcoming the Stranger" 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 Rev. Ruben Duran and the Bible Study Leader is Bishop Margaret Payne. Additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board.