



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmclc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Volume 36, Number 2

February 1, 2013

One Body, Many Members

Did you know that your generous support of God's work at St. Michael makes it possible for:

- hundreds of youth to gather for weekend retreats in Virginia,
- camping ministries to share God's love each summer,
- advocates to speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves,
- senior adults to be cared for in their time of need,
- children with special needs to be educated and loved,
- students to be prepared for life in the world and for ministry in congregations,
- the good news of Jesus to be shared by missionaries around the world,
- and for long-term relief to be provided in times of crisis.

Even though on a day to day basis, most of St. Michael's ministry is focused in our local community, our partnership with the 152 other Lutheran congregations of the Virginia Synod allows us to be the body of Christ across the state and across the world. Through ministry partners like the Virginia Synod Youth Ministry programs, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Caroline Furnace, Virginia Lutheran Homes, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, Roanoke College, the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and Lutheran Disaster Response, St. Michael is able to reach out to share God's Word in ways that would never be possible for our congregation to do alone. We are all members of the body of Christ and when each of the members shares its gifts for the building up of the community, it is amazing what powerful ministry can be accomplished.

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 Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for folding our weekly bulletins; to Maggie Maloney and Brandy Baxter for leading the Young Adult Bible Study; and to Sheila McCartan for leading Youth Night.

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 13 families: 5 families with an electric bill, 6 families with a rent payment, one with a water bill and one with clothing and a storage facility .

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.

Multifunction Laser Printer for Church Office - \$250

Desktop Computer for Church Office - \$600

Thank you to Noah, Sarah and Alex Moehling who donated a blueberry bush to Micah’s Garden, Kenneth and Judith Wolfe and Lynn Hickok for providing choir robes.

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends of Price’s Fork Elementary,

Thank you so much for your support during the Holiday Season. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, we were able to help about 100 families at Price’s Fork Elementary. Your donations of food, baskets and money helped make that possible. We are so blessed to be in a community that is so generous and really care about our kids. We hope that you all had a blessed holiday season ...and we wish you a marvelous New Year!! Thank you from the faculty and staff of Price’s Fork Elementary School

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. Sincere thanks, Ronald McDonald House staff

Micah's Backpack January Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

In January, Micah's Backpack fed 237 children and youth in our community with gifts of weekend food. 747 bags went home providing 4,482 meals plus snacks. Nine of our Interfaith partners gave over \$3,500 and donated nearly 2,000 food items to Micah's Backpack over the



holidays. Pictured is a young volunteer helping Santa carry food bags headed for Price's Fork Elementary School.

Micah's Backpack will collect spaghetti in February. Every month over 1,000 cans of spaghetti go home with hungry children and youth in their Micah's Backpack bag.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



Thanks to 16 wonderful volunteers in January, Soup for Seniors were able to pack and distribute 90 bags of food to seniors at Warm Hearth! As in previous months, all had a very rewarding and wonderful time meeting with the seniors at the three apartment units at Warm Hearth and getting to know the residents. The next packing and distribution date is Tuesday, February 26: packing at 5 p.m.; leave for Warm Hearth at 5:45 p.m. and distribution at 6 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Soup for Seniors is very grateful for the generous donations to the program, including a recent grant from AARP, and for the support of the Warm Hearth organization. Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbell-Itg.com or 552-1668 for additional information.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 3. 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, Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors.



Time to Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Each year Thrivent Financial for Lutherans makes money available for eligible members to direct to charitable causes of their choice. With the beginning of the new year, Thrivent members need to make decisions about where their donations should go. Even if you made a selection in a previous year directing your donations to Micah's Backpack, St. Michael or another organization, you are required to affirm that choice for 2013. Thrivent Choice dollars can be directed at: <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or by calling 1.800.847.4836. If you have questions, please contact your local agent.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

| |
|---|
| <p align="center">Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p> |
|---|

February Servants

| | February 3 | February 10 | February 17 | February 24 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Altar Care | Elaine Powers | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Sandra Hough Shirley Linkous | Sandra Hough Shirley Linkous | Clifton & Shelane Walters | Clifton & Shelane Walters |
| Lay Reader | Keith Gay | Carrie Mayer | Jeff Birch | Gary Worley |
| Comm. Asst. | Nancy Goad | Judith Wolfe | William Allen | Sandie Worley |
| 11 AM Service | | | | |
| Acolyte | Sarah Moehling | Camden Brewer | Alex Moehling | Noah Moehling |
| Comm. Asst. | Doug Smiley | Kris Wertz | M. McGuigan | |
| Greeters | Grace and Ben Simmers | McCartan/Brewer family | Pasier family | Doug & Wendy Goldsmith |
| Lay Reader | Jody Smiley | Jennie Brogan | Lauren Robinson | Emory Yearwood |
| Ushers | Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell | James Pascoe Doug Goldsmith | Don Linkous Philip Isenhour | Randy Robinson Ben Simmers |
| Youth Servant | MaKayla Dowdy | Jessica, Maddie, Abby Brown | Abbey Birch | |
| 6:30 PM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Deloris Raines | Deloris Raines | Gary Fetter | Hodge Family |
| Lay Reader | Mike Berg | Patty Renneckar | Kelly Belanger | Jennie Hodge |
| Comm. Asst. | Patty Renneckar | Deloris Raines | Jennie Hodge | Deloris Raines |

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 17 meeting after the 11 a.m. service.

The Women of the ELCA will meet on Tuesday evening, February 5, at 7 p.m. at the church. Dianne Krallman will continue our study of *Kindred Sisters*, making connections between the lives and faith of women in the New Testament and contemporary women of all ages.

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 aluminum foil 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 26 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 celebrate Mardi Gras with traditional foods, stories and decorations.



More events of interest to O.K.s

The February 19 AARP chapter meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Community Center. After a brown bag lunch at 11:30 a.m., the program, featuring Jan Notter, Parish Nurse at Blacksburg United Methodist Church, will begin at noon. AARP provides free tax preparation starting February 1. See Sandy Birch for details.

Local Helping Ministries and Agencies List Online

We have a new page on the St. Michael website under the 'Resource' tab called 'Local Help' which lists local helping ministries and agencies. The list is divided by helping areas and provides links to websites and contact phone numbers. You can find the page at:

<http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/local-helping-ministries/>



Youth Nights on February 10 and 24 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, February 10 and Sunday, February 24 at 5:15 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.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 14

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 10 at 9:50 a.m.



On Sunday, March 10, 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 2012 Annual Report and the 2013 Phone Directory, and complete our 2013 Time and Talent Surveys.

Congratulations to... our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 13 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. 17. Thank You!

Stewardship of Creation: Think Recycling!

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

Thank you to Judy Wunderlich for recycling our paper and cardboard each week.

Shrove Tuesday – February 12.....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 12 at our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 13 at 7 p.m. with Wednesday Night Lenten Soup suppers and service beginning on February 20. Mark your calendars for an active and meaningful Season of Lent.

Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service - February 13 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 and New Mt. Zion, will gather for a time of fellowship and worship. Our midweek Lenten Sermon Series is entitled, "People Along the Way " and will focus on the people Jesus encounters on his way to the cross.

February 20 - Peter and John (Luke 22:7-13)

February 27 - Judas (Luke 22:1-6)

March 6 - Pilate (Luke 23:1-25)

March 13 - Simon of Cyrene (Luke 23:26-31)

March 20 - The Two Criminals (Luke 23:32-43)

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 style of music in worship becomes a little more somber and some of the celebrative elements of worship will be omitted until Easter. 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 Care and Altar Flowers - the “inside story”



Each month, a St. Michael servant (or two) prepares the communion wine and wafers for the 11 a.m. communion service and other special mid-week services. This loving task, which involves less than an hour of time on the preceding Saturdays, may also require changing the altar cloths for the season or celebration. Only a little training is required and anyone can serve. Those who provide altar care are not the “little old church ladies” we may envision in the traditional altar guild (though Opal and Pearl, the church “gems”, have been known to fill a communion cup or two). A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. See Sandy Birch if you have any questions.



Each Sunday, with the exception of the Lenten season, individuals or families provide altar flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones or in celebration of a special event such as an anniversary. The dedication is noted in the Sunday bulletins. Church volunteers order the flowers from Angle Florist in Christiansburg using the sign-up list found on the front hallway bulletin board. Angle Florist delivers the flowers on Saturday and an invoice is sent directly to the responsible family or individual. The cost of the two bouquets is \$31.50 which includes a delivery charge. The fresh flower bouquets adorn the front of the sanctuary at each of the three church services on Sunday and then are rearranged in a dozen or so smaller arrangements and delivered to Heritage Hall the following Monday for the enjoyment of its residents. Our Heritage Hall “flower crew” includes Alice Schneider, Lynn Hickock, Barbara Corbett, Sandie Worley and Sandy Birch.

Thank you to everyone who provides our beautiful altar flowers and who shares their time in preparing our altar for communion services. You are a blessing.

Sunday Night Bible Study on February 24

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Jesus' parable of the dishonest manager in Luke 16:1-13. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Confirmation

Congratulations to our newest confirmands, Alex Moehling and Michael Henderson, who affirmed their faith on January 6.

