



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## An Early Easter

Unlike Christmas, the date of Easter moves around from year to year. According to the US Naval Observatory website, “The rule is that Easter is the first Sunday after the first ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or after March 21.” (<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/easter.php>). The article goes on to say that “The lunar cycles used by the ecclesiastical system are simple to program,” but it would take the entire newsletter to print the article explaining how the process works. In the simplest of terms, the date of Easter moves because in the Jewish calendar, the date of Passover moves and since the Last Supper was a celebration of the Passover, Christian tradition has maintained the link between the two observances.

Palm Sunday will be on March 24 and then during Holy Week and Easter, we will gather for 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 March 28 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 March 29. This service of light and darkness, scripture and music invites us to focus on Christ’s sacrifice for us. On Sunday, March 31, we will celebrate the joy of the Resurrection at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.. We will share communion at all four services. It should be a wonderful day of celebration.

In case you were wondering about Easter in the future, Easter in 2014 will be April 20. Easter in 2015 will be April 5. Easter in 2016 will be March 27 and Easter in 2017 will be April 16.

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 Donna and Freddie Oliver, Joanna Garcia, Hank and Alice Schneider, Keith and Suzanne Gay, Judith Wolfe, Deloris Raines, and all the other helpers who set up, cooked and cleaned; to Carol Crawford, Alice Schneider and Deloris Raines for setting up our Lenten Suppers and to everyone who has provided delicious soups, sandwiches and cookies; to Joanna Garcia, Jody Smiley, Judy Clemens, Dianne Krallman, Donna Oliver and Judy Wunderlich for providing lunch for the L-Cubed Lutheran student group.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported Sunday School materials, Christ in Our Home subscriptions, office supplies, 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 26 families with funds towards 14 electric bills, 4 tanks of gas, 3 rent payments, 1 water bill and medication assistance for four. 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 the following item, please contact Pastor John.

A Multi-function Laser Printer for the Church Office - \$250

**Thank you** to Ray and Carol Howell who donated the office desktop computer in memory of Ulysses and Dorothy Kitchline.

### 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 10.



## Micah's Backpack February Report



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

In February, Micah's Backpack fed 238 children and youth in our community with gifts of weekend food. Despite the snowy weather, 927 bags went home providing 5,562 meals plus snacks.

This month, Bryan Katz picked up the retired school bus that will be transformed into Micah's Mobile Backpack.

Summertime can often be a hungry time for low-income children. Micah's Mobile Backpack will eliminate transportation issues and allow us to continue to feed children and show them their community cares about them.

In February, St. Michael collected a variety of 83 food items and 45 soups, pastas, and easy macs for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

**In March we will collect canned veggies.** Every month, over 1,000 cans of veggies go home in gifts of weekend food.



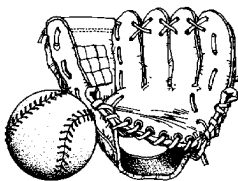
## Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary. Contact Dianne Krallman at [dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com](mailto:dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com) or 552-1668 for additional information.

## St. Michael Chimes Choir meets on Sundays - March 3 and 10

Come ring with us! The St. Michael Chimes Choir will meet on Sundays, March 3 and 10 and future dates from 5:30 – 6:25 p.m. We now have handbells to use but need many ringers. No previous experience is necessary and all ages are welcome. In fact, you don't even need to know how to read music. Contact Patrice Yearwood at [payearwood@aol.com](mailto:payearwood@aol.com) for more information.

## Softball Sign-ups in March



If you are interested in playing softball for the 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. If you were on the roster last year, you do not need to "re-sign". Membership on the team is eternal or until your knees give out, whichever comes first.

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

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### *March Servants*

	<b>March 3</b>	<b>March 10</b>	<b>March 17</b>	<b>March 24</b>	<b>March 31</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Jeff and Sandy Birch				
<b>9 AM Service</b>				<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Easter</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Steve and Amy Woods	Steve and Amy Woods	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	J.C. and Amelia Martin
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Dianne Krallman	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis	Congregation	Peggy Morgan
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Sandy Williams	Nancy Goad	Sandie Worley	Sandy Birch
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	Sarah Moehling	Camden Brewer	Alex Moehling
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sheila McCartan		Randy Robinson	Kris Wertz	M. McGuigan
<b>Greeters</b>	Brewer/McCartan family	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Moehling/Belue family	Berg family	Jeff and Sandy Birch
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Caitlyn Lucky	Jody Smiley	Jay Nagle	Congregation	Emory Yearwood
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Alice and Hank Schneider	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Doug Goldsmith	Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Camden Brewer		Abbey Birch		Jessica, Maddie Abby Brown
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter	Hodge Family	Deloris Raines
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Charlie Saks	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger	Jennie Hodge	Corson Wertz
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Patty Renneckar	Deloris Raines	Jennie Hodge	Deloris Raines	Kris Wertz

**March 31 – Easter Sunrise service – 7 a.m.:** Acolyte - Parker Wertz; Communion assistant – Kris Wetz; Lay reader –Cindy Dowdy; Youth Servant – MaKayla Dowdy; Greeters – Ben and Grace Simmers; Ushers – James and Wanda Pascoe

## Women of the ELCA

**The March meeting** will be held following the 11 a.m. service on March 17. We will share a light lunch and assemble the Easter baskets. Join us for fellowship and service.



Through March 17, **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 aluminum foil. 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 26 at noon**. We'll enjoy a couple of Irish stew and soda bread recipes and other treats. The Mardi Gras lunch will be Tuesday, March 5 (postponed in February by bad weather). Come enjoy **two** opportunities for lunch and fellowship in March.



Trips planned for this spring, summer and early fall include the Frontier Museum in Staunton, picnic at Claytor Lake and a tour of the Montgomery County Courthouse, the Greenbrier Hotel and underground bunker, Fabulous 50's Musical at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, and the Wolf Creek Indian Village and Beagle Ridge Herb Farm. Our first trip will be to the Taubman Art Museum and

Farmers Market in Roanoke on Wednesday, April 3. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and in future newsletters.

## 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.

## 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, "People Along the Way" and will focus on the people Jesus encounters on his way to the cross.

**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.

### **Easter Gifts: Lilies and Micah's Caring Initiative**

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 March 25. A gift of \$10 can also be designated to one of the Micah's Caring Initiative Ministries: Micah's Backpack or Soup for Seniors in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.



### **Bible Study on March 17**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Jesus' parable of the dishonest manager in Luke 16:1-13 (rescheduled from February). The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, March 17 at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

### **Fools For Christ Area Lutheran Lock-In for Youth - April 12-13**

All 6th - 12th graders and their friends are invited to the Fools for Christ Lock-In at St. Michael for all the area Lutheran churches on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14. We will be focusing on the story of the Good Samaritan and helping out with Micah's Backpack, Micah's Soup for Seniors and Micah's Garden. Watch for more information in the bulletin and on the church website.



**March 24 Palm Sunday Services at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.**

**March 28 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.**  
*Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar*

**March 29 Good Friday 7 p.m.**  
*Good Friday Tenebrae Service*



**Saturday, March 30 at 10:15 a.m.**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for children**

**Hands-On Holy Week at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30**

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, March 31**

**Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.**

**Easter Services at 9 a.m. , 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.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.

## **Two Invitations**

### **Middle-ager Dinner Downtown on March 9**

The “middle-agers”, those folks loosely described as in their 40’s and 50’s and not-yet retired, are going to dinner on Saturday evening, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. at a great downtown Blacksburg restaurant yet to be announced. Since it’s spring break, the restaurants ought to be less crowded. There will be an opportunity to sign up for the dinner on a St. Michael Welcome form or contact Dianne Krallman.

### **A Photography Exhibit Opening on March 2**

Local photographer and St. Michael member, Dorothy Birch, invites you to her exhibit opening at the Next Door Bake Shop (460 Turner St.) on Saturday, March 2 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Come enjoy delicious food and drink while you peruse framed nature photography, gifts and note cards. The entire collection of photographs are at [www.dorothybirch.com](http://www.dorothybirch.com).

### **Gallery of Gifts Photography Exhibit**



The new exhibit in the education addition hallway features the photography of Stanley Larsen, a member of St. Michael who passed away last spring. Stanley was an avid photographer who took thousands of photographs over a lifetime and we thank Margaret for sharing his art with 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.



## Welcome to the St. Michael Family

On January 27, we welcomed three families to St. Michael. **Peggy Morgan** has lived in Blacksburg since 1947 when her family moved from a tiny town called Alberta near Richmond. She graduated from Blacksburg High School in 1957 and from Virginia Tech some years later, though it was called VPI in those days. Peggy worked in the computing center at Virginia Tech for 27 years before retiring. Widowed in January 2012, Peggy first visited St. Michael with friends and felt comfortable and welcome. She has jumped right into church activities like the Happy-Go-Lucky group and will be serving as a lay reader on Easter.



**Seth, Laura, Ada and Evie Peery** have been regular attenders for the past two years and are delighted to have found a community of faith to call home. Seth is a research faculty member at Virginia Tech in the Information Technology division, where he manages the centralized computing infrastructure that supports Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for university researchers and administrative operations. Laura is a Speech-Language Pathologist, and has worked as an adjunct instructor and clinical supervisor at Radford University's department of

Communication Sciences and Disorders. Seth is originally from Burke's Garden, VA, in Tazewell County, and Laura is originally from Lamsburg, VA, in Carroll County. Seth has been at Virginia Tech since 2003, but the family lived in Bland County prior to purchasing a home in Montgomery County in 2010. Their oldest daughter, Ada, turned three years old on January 18 and their youngest daughter, Evie, just turned one on January 31. The family's interests include outdoor recreation, computer programming, reading Dr. Seuss books, farming, playing with the dog, gardening, cooking, fishing, photography, watching Mickey Mouse, making crafts, rebuilding engines, drinking from sippy cups, and riding in a car seat.

**The Yearwood family** came to St. Michael Lutheran when **Patrice** was hired as Music Director in July 2012. A local music teacher, Patrice leads the Blacksburg Children's Chorale, teaches voice & piano students and also maintains some of the Musikgarten classes she began teaching in 1999, especially Music Makers at the Keyboard for ages 5-9. Her husband, **Guille**, has lived in Blacksburg since age 9 and is a local businessman and farmer. His



main job these days is raising grass-fed beef and goats and scooting to the many farms he manages in the NRV through his company, Ellett Valley Beef. He is also very active in the American Devon Cattle Association and serves as the vice-president and newsletter editor. **Reed**, their oldest child, is living in Richmond, attends VCU and works at a local gourmet grocery and eatery. He makes it home to visit occasionally and sometimes his mother snags him to sing duets or solos. **Emory Jean**, their daughter, is a senior at Christiansburg High School (CHS) who is a sports fanatic, just finished playing girls' basketball and is looking forward to soccer season. She ran track most of last year and is very sorry football season is over for the year--college and pro football which she and her father love to watch and discuss. She also loves to sing and is a member of the CHS Chamber Ensemble. Neither Guille or Emory has decided which St. Michael service they like the best yet, so depending on the week you may see either or both at the 9:00 or 11:00 service.