



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Generous Gifts, Abundant Ministry

At our annual Congregational meeting on March 10, we had the opportunity to see a powerpoint presentation about the ministry being accomplished by the people of God at St. Michael and it was a truly impressive picture. Your generous gifts of time, talent and financial support provide meaningful worship, create opportunities for learning and faith development and assist hundreds of people in need. This month, we have printed two of the charts from the presentation on the back of the calendar and I hope you will take a look. One chart shows that St. Michael's ministry impacted 7000 people in 2012 and the other chart shows the growth in overall attendance. For the next several months, we will print additional charts to help you see the impact your gifts make at St. Michael and in the world.

The abundant ministry described in those charts and featured throughout this newsletter would not be possible without your generosity, so "Thank You". Thank you for reading in worship and singing in the choir. Thank you for making a pot of soup for the midweek Lenten meals and for helping distribute food through Micah's Soup for Seniors. Thank you for praying for the people of God and for sharing your insights in Bible studies and Sunday School. Thank you for giving a backpack of food and for making a donation to the Core Ministry fund. Thank you for all the large and small things that you do on a daily basis to help St. Michael be God's heart and hands and voice in the world.

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 and to Deloris Raines for organizing the meals; to all who contributed items for the Easter baskets (48 were assembled) and to Nia Indelicato, Joanna Garcia, Alice Schneider and Sandy Birch who assembled the Easter baskets for the Salvation Army and Women’s Resource Center; to Rick Mayer who compiled the annual report and Carole Wall and Wanda Pascoe who helped bind the reports; to Ron Brewer and his neighbor who took care of a fallen tree in the yard; to Donna and Freddie Oliver, Linda Elliott, Wanda Pascoe and Margaret Larsen who help fold newsletters.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball fellowship, lawn equipment maintenance, Young Adult Bible Study supplies, malaria nets, music supplies, Sunday School materials, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP and Micah’s Caring Initiatives, 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 15 families with funds towards 12 electric bills, a tank of gas, and two rent payments. In addition, school supplies were purchased for Price’s Fork Elementary School. 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 2013-14. 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.

Multifunction Laser Printer for Church Office - \$250

Thank you to Sheila McCartan and Ron Brewer for donating funds for three acolyte robes.

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April Servants

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Altar Care	Inga Solberg			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	J.C. and Amelia Martin	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Judith Wolfe	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	Nancy Goad	Judith Wolfe	William Allen	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Noah Moehling	Sarah Moehling	Camden Brewer
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Laura Gruss	
Greeters	McCartan/Brewer family	Moehling/Belue family	Pasier family	Doug & Wendy Goldsmith
Lay Reader	Anna Rossomando	Nia Indelicato	Fred Spengler	M. McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James Pascoe Doug Goldsmith	Don Linkous Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Rosie Gruss	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Hodge family	Gary Fetter	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger	Charlie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Patty Renneckar	Jennie Hodge	Jennie Hodge	Deloris Raines

Women of the ELCA



The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the large classroom. (please note the change in day) Jody Smiley 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. All women of the church are invited for dessert and discussion. We will also be planning our Bold Women Sunday worship service and the Sisters Luncheon.



The **Sisters in Christ Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, May 5 following the 11 a.m. worship service. All mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and daughters are invited to this annual salad potluck and program. **May 19 is “Bold Women” Sunday**, and all services will be led by the women of the church.

On April 21, 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 19. This special offering will be sent to the ELCA and used for Malaria Nets for Africa. Our goal is to provide a net from each member of St. Michael. Our nickels, dimes and quarters added up to nearly \$500 last year.

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 dish soap and sponges will be appreciated.

Congratulations to.....

Chris and Maggie Maloney on the birth of their son, Miles Beck Maloney on February 23.

Dickie Shepherd, who retired from the Turf Grass Research Department at Virginia Tech on February 28 after 38 years of service to the university.

John Gay, son of Keith and Suzanne Gay, for co-authoring a book entitled “War with Iran: Political, Military and Economic Consequences” that was published in February.



Happy Go Lucky Luncheon

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a “heartfelt” spring luncheon on Tuesday, April 23. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch beginning at noon and the program around 12:30 p.m. Our guests are from the New River Health District and they will advise us how to maintain healthy hearts. Free blood pressure tests will also be provided.



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. The first trip is to the Roanoke City Market and the Taubman Museum on Wednesday, April 3. Then on Wednesday, May 22, we'll travel to the Greenbrier Resort and tour the emergency Cold War fallout shelter beneath the hotel...once a top secret US Government relocation facility. The deadline for registration is May 14 and the cost is \$43. Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board.

Programs of Interest on Aging – Some Invitations

We are invited to attend several programs in the community in April. Additional information/flyers are posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Accepting the Challenge: Providing the Best Care for People with Dementia

Join with our Methodist friends for a DVD series with Teepa Snow, a dementia care and education specialist from Duke/UNC, and other community specialists, as we learn about the following topics:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 2 | What is Dementia/Symptoms of Alzheimer's |
| April 9 | Physical Approach/Communication Skills |
| April 16 | Offering Assistance/Evaluating Cognitive Levels |
| April 23 | Meaningful Days (Activities)/Problem Behavior |
| April 30 | HBO-HOPE-Alzheimer's Project "Grandpa, Do You Know Who I Am?" |

The series will be held in the Blacksburg United Methodist Church Whisner Building from 7 – 8:30 p.m. If you'd like a ride, contact Sandy Birch (I'll be attending the sessions).

Community Conversations on Aging

The New River Valley Agency on Aging wants to hear from us about the current and future needs of older adults and adults with disabilities, and “Aging in Place” issues. The Montgomery County Community Conversation will be Thursday, April 18 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center, Multi-Purpose Room #1. (755 Roanoke Street in Christiansburg).

Fools for Christ Lock-In - April 12-13



The New River Conference Lutheran Churches will be having an area lock-in on April 12-13 at St. Michael for all youth from 6th through 12th grade. The program will be led by students from The Well, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech. On Saturday, the group will do some work for Micah's Backpack and Micah's Garden. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Confirmation Lock-In - April 26-27

The final Confirmation Lock-In of the school year for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders will begin on Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. We will focus on the stories about Jesus and on what it means to be the church. For more information, please talk to Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Junior High Servant Event July 28 – August 2, 2013

All youth who have finished 6th, 7th, or 8th grades are invited to come and spend a week at Virginia Beach living out their faith in service to others at the Junior High Servant Event. During the week, the group will learn about homelessness, glean food for the hungry and have some fun at the beach. We will be housed at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach and the cost for the week is \$125. Registration forms and online registration are coming soon. For more information, talk to Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

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.

Bible Study on April 21

On Sunday, April 21 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Difficult Teachings of Jesus in the large classroom at the church. The topic will be: Luke 9:58 - The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.

Receiving New Members on April 14

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, April 14 at all services. If you are interested in becoming a member of the congregation, please talk to Pastor John.

Micah's Backpack March Report



In March, Micah's Backpack fed 231 children and youth in our community with gifts of weekend food. 928 bags went home providing 5,568 meals plus snacks. Micah's Backpack now collaborates with over 150 partner groups in our community to help improve childhood weekend food security!

www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect **100% juice boxes in April**. Every month, nearly 2,000 juice boxes go home with hungry children and youth in their Micah's Backpack bag. Please put your gift of juice boxes in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway.



Micah's Garden opens this growing season with a **gardener orientation on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m.** in the large classroom. Jennie Hodge will give a brief overview of the cooperative nature of Micah's Garden and Eddie Boes will share his Square Foot Gardening presentation.

As part of our Easter celebration, feel free to bring in newspapers and 5 gallon buckets that will be used in Micah's Garden for future projects.

Ten (10) plots remain for the 2013 growing season. Please let Jennie know if you are interested in gardening and use the form found on the hallway bulletin board to sign up. If you'd like to help with growing, harvesting, and delivering for our friends and neighbors, contact Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org



Micah's Soup for Seniors

Seventeen volunteers helped pack and distribute over 90 bags for Seniors at Warm Hearth last month. Seven new Seniors joined the program for March. Packing and distribution this month will be **Tuesday, April 23 beginning at 5 p.m.** Join the fun – no experience necessary! Thank you to our newest partner, Panera Bread.



Thank You to
Soup for Senior's
Newest Partner

Spring Clean-up Scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help spruce up our church grounds on Saturday morning, April 6, beginning at 9 a.m. Bring your gardening tools and gloves. If needed, there will also be clean-up days on Saturday, April 13 and Saturday, April 20. Watch the bulletin and emails, to see if the extra days are needed.

