



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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I Love to Tell The Story

In the early days of the church, God's Word was proclaimed in person and by letters. Artists and musicians used their gifts to tell the story of God's love through paintings, hymns and stained glass windows. As a part of the Reformation, the words of Scripture were translated into the native languages of local people and in the 500 years that followed, countless translations have been rendered trying to reach different audiences of people. During the last century, electronic communication began to take hold - first radio and then television - allowing God's Word to be broadcast around the world.

Today, we have more ways to communicate God's love than ever before. We recently introduced a new format for our weekly email newsletter. The church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch>) provides a regular stream of updated information and inspirational pictures connected to the scripture for worship. The online church calendar on our website (<http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/>) provides the most current schedule information and I am becoming more comfortable conversing and sharing information through Twitter (@wertz_revjohn).

Our options for communication seem to expand each week, but even with all those options, the most effective way to share God's love is still through our words and our lives. When you put your faith in action, when you pray together as a family, when you join your voice in worship, you proclaim the story of God's love in meaningful ways. I give thanks for all that you do to tell the story of God's love through your lives and I pray for God's blessings to be upon you as you live as God's heart and hands and voices 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

To Joanna Garcia, Jody Smiley, Anita Shepard, Dianne Krallman, Sandy Birch, and Alice Schneider for providing lunch for the L-Cubed Lutheran student group; Betty Falta, Carole Wall, Wanda Pascoe and Mildred Wall who helped fold the February newsletter.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported snow removal, office supplies, 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 13 families with funds towards 4 electric bills, a tank of gas, 4 rent payments, 3 water bills and emergency clothing. In addition, supplies were purchased for the health kits sent to Malawi. 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. At the moment, there are not items on the wish list, but we want to **thank** Margaret Larsen for donating four large print ELW hymnals.

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 23.

Micah's Backpack March Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

Thank you to the Food Lion Charitable Foundation for their \$5,000 grant award. This funding will help us share at least 6,000 meals with the 276 children and youth who participate in Micah's Backpack. We have six students from VT Engage, a student intern, and a work-study student working with us this semester to learn about our community-based model and gain valuable leadership experience.

In March we will collect 100% juice boxes. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the front hallway. In February, St. Michael collected 67 cans of tuna. Thank you!

Micah's Closet



Micah's Closet would like to thank everyone who bought new summer clothing for 7 children at Price's Fork Elementary School. A total of 56 items (shorts and shirts) were generously given by our congregation. The shoppers are now purchasing clothing for the other 11 children at PFES. The new clothing will be delivered by the end of March.

Micah's Closet received a wonderful gift of Target Gift Cards from a family in our community. A mom and dad were planning for their child's second birthday and felt he had plenty of toys so they asked party guests to bring a Target Gift Card instead of a gift. The family was able to donate over \$200 worth of gift cards which will help clothe a student for a week. Thank you warm and generous family!

Volunteers needed in July: Our "Back-to-School" clothing distribution will take place on August 4. If you would like to help Micah's Closet by shopping for a child's school clothes in July, please contact Sandy Sheppard (961-0748) or Pastor John for more information.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 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 or 552-1668 for additional information. A special thanks to the volunteers who braved the cold and snow on January 28 to pack and deliver over 90 bags of food to the seniors at Warm Hearth. They were very appreciative of our taking the time during such bad weather to deliver the food. Also, another special thanks to Panera for their contribution of bread.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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March Servants

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Altar Care	Hank and Alice Schneider				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Clifton & Shelane Walters	Clifton & Shelane Walters	Steve & Amy Woods	Steve & Amy Woods	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Matthew James	Gary Worley	Peggy Morgan	Jacob Dennis
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dianne Krallman	Sandie Worley	Carrie Mayer	Nancy Goad
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Lilly Gruss	Sarah Moehling	Camden Brewer	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Randy Robinson	Kris Wertz	M. McGuigan
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Moehling/Belue family	Hank and Alice Schneider	Grace and Ben Simmers
Lay Reader	Gary Schroeder	Mickey McGuigan	Jody Smiley	Caitlyn Lucky	Anna Rossomando
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James and Wanda Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Ray Howell	Randy Robinson Doug Goldsmith	Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Jessica, Maddie and Abby Brown		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter	Berg family	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Patty Renneckar	Charlie Saks	Kelly Belanger	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar
Comm. Asst.	Patty Renneckar	Martie Saks	Gary Fetter	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: 3/11 – Matthew James and Jacob Dennis

Women of the ELCA

Did you know about the sorceress in the Old Testament who Saul approached to see his future? We learned about her last month at our **Lunch and Learn** time. **On Monday, March 24, at noon**, we'll discover more about our sisters in the Bible. Come to the Fellowship Hall at church for lunch and learning and lots of fellowship. Contact Sandy Birch if you need a ride.



Through April 6, **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. The Women of the ELCA will meet after the 11 a.m. service on April 6 to assemble the Easter baskets and share a light lunch.

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 lunch on **Tuesday, March 11 at noon**. We'll enjoy a catered lunch provided by the Cellar Restaurant – delicious lasagna, Greek salad and garlic bread...and a surprise dessert.

Out to Lunch Bunch – Tuesday, March 25

The Out to Lunch bunch will meet at the Olive Garden near the New River Valley Mall on Tuesday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. The cost will be about \$10, plus tax and tip. You can look at the menu by going to www.olivegarden.com/, type in your zip code and select the Christiansburg restaurant. Contact Sandy Sheppard at micaahscloset@hotmail.com to make a reservation or sign up on the *Welcome* form.

Shrove Tuesday – March 4.....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, March 4, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service - March 5 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, New Mt. Zion, Zion and St. Mark Lutheran Churches, will gather for a time of fellowship and worship. Our midweek Lenten Sermon Series will be based upon a study created by ELCA World Hunger entitled, "Into the Wild: Reflections on Hunger and the Wilderness of Life".

March 12	"Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness"	Luke 3:21-23; 4:1-21
March 19	"One does not live by bread alone"	1 Kings 17:8-16
March 26	"Washing and caring"	John 13:3-5, 12-15
April 2	"Blest are they"	Matthew 5:1-12
April 9	"Proclaim the Lord's favor"	John 15

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 Alleluias disappear during Lent and the style of music in worship becomes a little more somber. At the 11 a.m. service, we will be using some new music during the liturgy. 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.

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



Bible Study on March 16

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Commandments 5 and 6 in Exodus 20. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, March 16 at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 23 at 9:50 a.m.



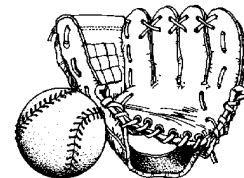
On Sunday, March 23, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014 Phone Directory and complete our 2014 Time and Talent Surveys.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 18

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.

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. Games begin in April. If you were on the roster last year, you do not need to "re-sign". Membership on the team is forever....or until your knees give out.



Congratulations to...

Steffen Bohn, a member of Troop 158 which meets at St. Michael, who recently earned his Eagle Scout rank. Steffen's Eagle project was improving the Carillion New River Valley Medical Center Pediatric Playroom. He is pictured with Mike Browning, Ben Crawford and Todd Solberg, members of the Eagle Board of Review committee.



Musikgarten....Handbell Choir....9 a.m. Hymn Choir Lots of Music at St. Michael

Bring your child to an early childhood Sunday School class for "God's Children Sing", a **Musikgarten** program for children from birth to 5 years old. Regular Sunday School stories and activities take place too.

A **Handbell Choir** for youth, 5th grade and up, will start in March. The plan is to meet on Sundays from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. to practice to play during the Easter season. No prior music or handbell experience is required. Come and ring!

On the third Sunday of each month, the 9 a.m. **Hymn Choir** will sing. Come early at 8:30 a.m., practice an old favorite from the hymnal, and join the hymn choir for the service prelude. Come and sing!

Contact Patrice Yearwood at payearwood@aol.com for more information about any of these exciting music programs.

We're only an email away . . .

John Wertz, Jr., Pastor	pastorjohn@stmlc.us
Sandy Birch, Lay Associate in Ministry	birch@vt.edu
Jennie Hodge, Director, Micah's Backpack	jennie@micahsbackpack.org
Patrice Yearwood, Music Director	payearwood@aol.com
Suzanne Gay, Administrative Assistant	suzanneg@stmlc.us
Jim Clemens, Congregational President	jclemens@vt.edu