



# 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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## **New Ministry Opportunities on the Horizon**

On March 23, we had the opportunity to celebrate the ministry we have accomplished together during the past year like serving over 50,000 meals through Micah's Backpack, touching over 7000 people in ministry and seeing more people connect to the ministry of the congregation. It was a wonderful celebration. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts to make ministry happen at St. Michael in 2013, to everyone who brought food for the brunch and to everyone who helped put the annual report together, especially the report's editor, Keith Gay.

As we celebrate where we have been, we also look ahead to some of the exciting ministry opportunities that are before us including:

- A Palm Sunday drama presented by our youth. Beautiful Holy Week music shared by our choir and musicians and the opportunity to celebrate the joy of Easter on April 20.
- The construction of a Scattering Garden at St. Michael to allow the ashes of loved ones to be scattered on the church grounds. The initial design and modifications are complete and we are currently gathering information on pricing.
- The new growing season in Micah's Garden which will produce fresh food for local food pantries. If you'd like a raised plot, email Jennie: [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).
- Workshop of Wonders: Vacation Bible School which will begin on Sunday, June 22.
- Expanding the Mother's Morning Out program to five days per week beginning in the fall.
- The possibility of adding staff for youth and family ministry.

If you would like to get involved with any of these ministry opportunities or would like more information on any of them, please let me know.

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 Fran Gallimore and the Caring and Sharing team for organizing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and to all the other helpers who set up, cooked and cleaned; to Alice Schneider and Suzanne Gay for organizing our Lenten Suppers and to everyone who has provided delicious soups, sandwiches and cookies; to Betty Falta, Wanda Pascoe, Mildred Wall, Shirley Linkous, Nancy Young, Frances Edge and Linda Elliott who folded the March newsletter; to Joyce Coupey for her beautiful bulletin covers; to Scott McGuigan who did all the binding of the 2014 directories; to the altar flower/Heritage Hall team of Alice Schneider, Barbara Corbett, Judith Wolfe, Frances Edge, and Sandy Birch; to Jim Clemens and Ben Simmers for faithful weekly offering counting; to Judy Wunderlich for her faithful weekly paper recycling; and to Marty Gordon, our church custodian, (*pictured here*) for keeping our church home looking so spiffy.



### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball registration, 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 March, we assisted 12 families with funds towards 9 electric bills, a rent payments, and 2 water bills.

### A Thank You Note

*Thank you for your generous gift to the Young Adult in Global Mission – Madagascar program. Your gift helps the ELCA to respond to God’s call to go and proclaim the good news of the gospel near and far. In gratitude, Rev. Lanny Westphal, Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship (Note: the congregation is helping to sponsor Austin and Tanya Propst in Antananarivo, Madagascar).*

## 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 in April.** Just place them in the offering plates where we share other gifts. Copies of the survey are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

## Micah's Backpack March Report



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

This month we shared over 6,600 meals with 284 children and youth in our community. Because of your generosity we have been able to add 4 more children to Micah's Backpack. Thank you to the Kroger Foundation for a \$500 grant and to the VT Residence Hall Community for hosting the 1st Annual VT Hunger Games.

**Micah's Backpack will collect canned pasta like ravioli or spaghetti in April.** Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. Thank you for your gifts 80 juice boxes in March!

## Micah's Garden

Spring has sprung and there are 16 raised beds available to individuals or families interested in gardening. Feel free to contact Jennie to get more info or to sign up.

[jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org)



## Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29, 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@hubbeltg.com](mailto:dhkrallman@hubbeltg.com) or 552-1668 for additional information.



## Micah's Closet

On Monday, March 24, volunteers delivered 21 bags of spring and summer clothing for children in need at Price's Fork Elementary School. The clothes for seven of the children were provided by the congregation's generous Valentine Tree donations. Micah's Closet Shoppers purchased clothing for the other 14 children with your generous contributions.



Thank you to Micah's Closet Shoppers Sandy Birch, Judy Clemens, Frances Edge, Kay Edge, Betty Falta, Suzanne Gay, Sheila McCartan, Ron Brewer, Anna Rossomando and Judith Wolfe and to Roger Sheppard for organizing and coordinating the Valentine Tree. Thank you also to Judy Clemens and Cindy Dowdy for selecting and ordering 39 children's books from which were included in the children's spring clothing bags.



More shoppers are needed to shop for new school clothes for our "Back-To-School" clothing distribution. If you are interested in joining this fun and easy project, contact Sandy Sheppard at 961-0748 or [MicahsCloset@hotmail.com](mailto:MicahsCloset@hotmail.com) for details.

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***April Servants***

|                        | <b>April 6</b>                    | <b>April 13<br/>Palm Sunday</b> | <b>April 20<br/>Easter</b>     | <b>April 27</b>               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Care</b>      | Doug and Jody Smiley              |                                 |                                |                               |
| <b>9 AM Service</b>    |                                   |                                 |                                |                               |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Shirley Linkous<br>Sandy Williams | Shirley Linkous<br>Judith Wolfe | Jeff and Sandy<br>Birch        | Jan Helge and<br>Sara Bohn    |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Keith Gay                         | Congregation                    | GuilleYearwood                 | Jane Swing                    |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | Nancy Goad                        | Dianne Krallman                 | William Allen                  | Jacob Dennis                  |
| <b>11 AM Service</b>   |                                   |                                 |                                |                               |
| <b>Acolyte</b>         | Sarah Moehling                    | Camden Brewer                   | Alex Moehling                  | Jessica Brown                 |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | Alice Schneider                   | Seth Brewer                     | Jody Smiley                    |                               |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Moehling/Belue<br>family          | Brewer/McCartan<br>family       | A. Rossomando<br>Sandy Birch   | Christle family               |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Hank Schneider                    | Congregation                    | Seth Peery                     | Jay Nagle                     |
| <b>Ushers</b>          | Dickie Shepherd<br>Ray Howell     | James Pascoe<br>Philip Isenhour | Don Linkous<br>Dickie Shephard | Randy Robinson<br>Ben Simmers |
| <b>Youth Servant</b>   | The Brown girls                   | Emily Graves                    | Jack Graves                    |                               |
| <b>6:30 PM Service</b> |                                   |                                 |                                |                               |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Berg family                       | Gary Fetter                     | Wertz family                   | Deloris Raines                |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Mike Berg                         | Congregation                    | Corson Wertz                   | Charlie Saks                  |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | Mike Berg                         | Gary Fetter                     | Kris Wertz                     | Martie Saks                   |

**April 20 – Easter Sunrise service – 7 a.m.:** Communion assistant –Jeff Birch; Lay reader – Cindy Dowdy; Youth Servant – MaKayla Dowdy; Greeters – Ben and Grace Simmers; Ushers – James and Wanda Pascoe

Unloading for Micah’s Backpack on April 8: Ron Brewer and Jeff Crowder

## Women of the ELCA

**On April 6, following the 11 a.m. service,** we will share a light lunch and assemble the Easter baskets. Join us for fellowship and service.



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.

Did you know about the daughter of Jephthah and her role in the Old Testament? We studied her last month at our **Lunch and Learn** time. **On Monday, April 21, 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. Thank you to Jody Smiley for leading our very interesting study.

**Remember the Food Bank:** April is SOUP month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome. Thank you.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In April, we encourage donations plastic trash bags. 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, April 8 at noon.** We will begin our programs on "Important Stuff Seniors Should Know About."



Trips planned for this year, beginning in May, include destinations like Bramwell, WV for the historic house tour, Pipestem State Park, Beckeley, WV for the annual Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair (with a stop at Tamarack), Lewisburg, WV and Claytor Lake. Information about dates/times and costs will be available at the April 8 luncheon.



## Out to Lunch Bunch – April 29

We'll be meeting at the Huckleberry Café at the Village Center at Warm Hearth at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29. Soups, salads and sandwiches are delicious and very reasonably priced. The Warm Hearth staff will also take us on a tour of the new Center. Contact Sandy Sheppard at 961-0748 or [MicahsCloset@hotmail.com](mailto:MicahsCloset@hotmail.com) to make your reservation or sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin. We will enjoy a performance of the Kitchen Kettle Band too (which may start at 11 a.m. so watch for announcements.)

## Lenten Service Schedule

**Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service**  
Supper at 6 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m.

**April 2**            “Blest are they”            Matthew 5:1-12

**April 9**            “Proclaim the Lord’s favor”            John 15



Each week, St. Michael, along with our friends and family in the community will gather for a time of fellowship and worship.

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 April 6. A gift of \$10 can also be designated to one of the Micah's Caring Initiative Ministries: Micah's Backpack, Soup for Seniors or Micah's Closet in honor of or in memory of a family member or friend.



### **Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 5**

Bring your rakes and work gloves and come out on Saturday, April 5 at 9 a.m. to help get the church grounds ready for Easter. Volunteers will be picking up limbs, weeding and mulching. For more information, contact Ron Brewer: [RBSM517@nrvunwired.net](mailto:RBSM517@nrvunwired.net).

### **St. Michael Handbell Choir meets on Sundays – April 6 and 13**

Come ring with us! The St. Michael Handbell Choir will meet on Sundays, April 6 and 13 and future dates from 5:30 – 6:25 p.m. We need many ringers to prepare for Easter. No previous experience is necessary and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to adults 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.



**April 13 Palm Sunday Services at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.**

**April 17 Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.**  
*Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar*

**April 18 Good Friday 7 p.m.**  
*Good Friday Tenebrae Service*



**Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter  
on Sunday, April 20**

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

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

**Easter**

### **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.

### **Easter Bible Study on April 6**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Easter Story on Sunday, April 6, at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

## **Hands-On Holy Week at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 12**

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.



**Saturday, April 12 at 10:15 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt for children**

## **Fools For Christ Area Lutheran Lock-In for Youth - April 4-5**

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 4 and Saturday, April 6. 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.

## **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.

## **Seminary Partner Visit on March 23**



Our seminary partner, Sarah Habermehl, met with the congregation on Sunday, March 23. Sarah is a first year student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. She spent her high school years in Virginia and went to The Ohio State University to study political science before being called to ministry. Sarah is very interested in international ministry, especially following a particularly fulfilling experience in Honduras, and may also pursue campus ministry opportunities. Our Sunday School offerings help support Sarah in her studies.

## **Drop-In Resource Center Needs Casseroles**

The Drop-In Resource Center of the New River Valley (DRIC) is in need of a few people who are willing to bake a casserole once or twice a month and bring it to the center for clients who come to eat a hot lunch. DIRC began six months ago and offers disadvantaged community members "A Place to Be, A Place to Become." If you could make a casserole or two to help feed these neighbors who are working toward making positive changes in their lives, please contact Pastor John or the program coordinator, Karlee Siepierski at [karlee.siepierski@gmail.com](mailto:karlee.siepierski@gmail.com).