



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

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Partners in Ministry

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul describes the God's people as the body of Christ and he notes that each of us plays a unique role in building up the community. When all the parts of the body work together toward a common goal, we can accomplish far more than any part could accomplish alone.

St. Michael is blessed to be a part of the larger body of Christ and to have extraordinary partners in ministry. On a local level, there are over 180 partners who support the Micah's Caring Initiative ministries. These partners provide financial and volunteer support and make it possible for these ministries to feed over 275 students per week, 90 seniors per month, to cloth 24 students at the beginning of the year and to grow fresh food to be given to our neighbors. Alone, St. Michael could never accomplish this level of ministry, but in partnership with God and our neighbors, the impact of God's love is multiplied in remarkable ways.

As Lutherans, we stand in partnership with 4 million brothers and sisters in Christ in the the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the 150 congregations of the Virginia Synod. Through this partnership, we extend aid in times of crises and support events like the Synod Youth Retreats and the National Youth Gathering. In Virginia, we also work with eight Lutheran Mission Partners to extend God's presence into prisons, education, senior adult care, social ministry settings and camps. You can learn more about these partners on <http://www.lutheranpartners.net/>.

For the last several years, St. Michael has shared in a partnership with Bedford Lutheran Church by providing prayers and financial support to help this new mission congregation grow. On Sunday, May 4, you will have the opportunity to meet the new mission developer at Bedford Lutheran, Pastor Jon Myer (<http://www.bedfordlutheranva.org/>). He will be at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services to preach and he will lead the adult Sunday School class. I think you will enjoy meeting Pastor Myer and learning about this new growing ministry that is supported by St. Michael.

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, James and Wanda Pascoe, Sandy and Roger Sheppard, Lynda Kinzey and Scott McGuigan who folded Holy Week and Easter bulletins; Lynda Kinzey, Betty Falta, Mildred Wall, Shirley Linkous, Nancy Young, Frances Edge and Margaret Larsen who folded April newsletters; Ron Brewer, Sheila McCartan, Fran Shepherd and Anita Shepard who worked in the yard during the spring clean-up day on April 5 along with the Virginia Tech students from the Big Event; everyone who provided Easter lilies and funds for Micah’s Backpack, Micah’s Soup for Seniors and Micah’s Closet as Easter gifts; Pat Smith for regularly delivering our donations to the Food Bank and the Women’s Resource Center; Maryann Hardy for planting lilies in the church yard; Seth Peery for leading a service project (planting seeds in Micah’s Garden) for the kids at the Fools for Christ Lock-In; all the Palm Sunday readers: Dianne Krallman, Keith Gay, Elaine Powers, Sandy Birch, Betty Falta, Gary Worley, Butch Akers, Jeff Birch, Hank Schneider, Jody Smiley, Fran Shepherd, Alice Schneider, and Kris Wertz; the Good Friday readers: Dianne Krallman, Rick Christ, Kris Wertz, Laura Gruss, MaKayla Dowdy, Joanna Garcia and the acolyte, Corson Wertz; Matthew James who played the trumpet on Easter morning (maybe not such a “quiet” servant).

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported Easter bulletin and altar supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, our facilities, our facilities expansion, and salaries for our ministry staff. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for 32 families:** 26 with electric bills, 2 with rent assistance, one with car expenses, and 3 with water bills. We encourage the congregation to continue contributing to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the 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 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.

Pull Down Screen for Fellowship Hall

\$225



Spring has sprung and there are 16 raised beds available to individuals or families interested in gardening. VT students and their families came out to plant potatoes and onions with Laura Peery during the VT Engage Family Day. Nearly 35 youth and adults from around the New River Conference volunteered at the Fools for

Christ Lock-in at St Michael. Some counted and sorted over 1850 food items from the Hunger Games at VT and others worked in Micah's Garden. They spent part of their morning prepping the garden for the upcoming growing season. For more information, contact jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Micah's Backpack April Report

This month we shared over 1,110 bags of weekend meals and snacks with 284 children and youth in our community. Thank you to AED at VT, Blacksburg United Methodist Church, Blacksburg New School and the Girl Scout troops that meet at St. Michael for collecting and donating over 2,000 food items this month!



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect individual size Easy Mac in May. Please put your gifts in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the entryway. Thank you for your gifts of 45 cans of spaghetti and 26 juice boxes in April.



Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 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.

As we delivered food to one of our seniors, she said, "You don't know how much this bag of food means to me. I've been sick and unable to shop for food and I don't know how I could have made it another day without this bag being delivered today." Thank you for your gifts of time and resources to make this happen each month.

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 for details.



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May Servants

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Altar Care	Sandy Birch			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Rick and Carrie Mayer
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Jane Swing	Gary Worley	Peggy Morgan
Comm. Asst.	Matthew James	Judith Wolfe	Sandie Worley	William Allen
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	Maddie Brown	Sarah Moehling	Jack Graves
Comm. Asst.	Laura Gruss		Randy Robinson	
Greeters	Josiah and Litha Tlou	WELCA	Betty and Ray Wingate	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Joanna Garcia	WELCA	Marty Gordon	Laura Peery
Ushers	Marty Gordon Ray Howell	WELCA	Dickie Shepherd Matt Belue	Ben Simmers Randy Robinson
Youth Servant	Rose Gruss		Noah Moehling	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Gary Fetter		Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Kelly Belanger	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Mike Berg	Gary Fetter		Martie Saks

Mowing schedule: 5/02-J.D. Robinson(front); 5/09-Jeff Crowder (back); 5/16-James/Dennis(front); 5/23-Jay Nagle(back); 5/30-J.D. Robinson(front)
Rear: 5/05-Mike Berg; 5/12-Charlie Saks; 5/19-Dave Surface; 5/26-Guille Yearwood
Unpacking for Micah’s Backpack: 5/13 – Jeff Birch and Doug Smiley

Women of the ELCA

All women are invited to the **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon and Tea on Sunday, May 4** in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Bring a neighbor, friend, grandmother, aunt, daughter, or niece to this fun fellowship event. Beverages and dessert will be provided for the salad potluck luncheon. Bring a favorite tea cup or mug as we celebrate the theme, “with this cup.”



On Sunday, May 11, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Thank Offering boxes will also be distributed **on Sunday, May 11 – Bold Women Sunday.** Since the readings for Bold Women Sunday center on Jesus the Shepherd and his sheep, our thank offerings will be used to purchase sheep for families in developing countries. The warm, durable wool from sheep can be woven into hats, sweaters, coats and blankets to keep families warm and dry, the wool can be sold at local markets for extra income, and sheep’s milk can be used to make nutritious dairy products.

Remember the Food Bank: May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In May, let’s provide trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size).

The Women of the ELCA will be **sewing pillow case dresses** for little girls in Africa and on Monday, June 23, during VBS, we will be cutting out fabric and donated pillow cases for the dresses. We welcome all seamstresses to join the project and all donations of pillow cases and fabric. The dresses will be collected at the 2014 VSWO Convention on August 15-16 in Harrisonburg, VA.

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Charlotte, NC on July 24 – 27. Several members of St. Michael will be attending and encourage more sisters to join the adventure. The theme is “of many generations” and will feature enriching workshops, stirring worship, engaging Bible studies and more. Some have called these gatherings a “life-changing event.” More information is available on the hallway bulletin board or talk with Jody Smiley, WELCA national board member.



O.K. (Older Kids) News

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon



The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together to enjoy a “**Second Tuesday**” spring luncheon on **May 13**. Our guest will be Dr. Rosemary Blieszner who will speak on the value of friends among seniors, a topic of research that she has pursued for many years. Social time begins around 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon and the program at 12:30 p.m.



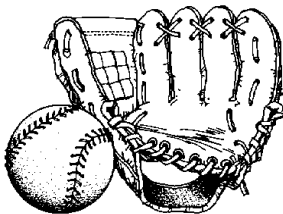
Our first bus trip will be to **Bramwell, WV on Saturday, May 10**, for the **Spring Tour of Historic Homes**. These beautiful homes belonged to 19th century coal barons and feature ornate woodwork, leaded and stained glass, ballrooms, turrets and gables. We'll leave at noon and return by 6 pm. **The registration deadline is May 2** and the cost is \$15. Registration packets will be mailed to all former OK travelers with additional copies available in the front hallway. Let's go traveling.....

Out to Lunch Bunch – May 27

We'll be meeting at the Hunan Restaurant in the University Mall on **Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 a.m.** for their delicious Chinese buffet. Contact Sandy Sheppard at 961-0748 or MicahsCloset@hotmail.com to make your reservation or sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin.

Take me out to the ballgame....

St. Michael is going to the **Salem Red Sox baseball game** on Saturday, June 28 for a game against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The game begins at 6:05 p.m. We have reserved a block of seats and the cost is \$7 per ticket. Please sign up on the *Welcome* form to reserve your ticket.



St. Michael's softball team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better.

Monday, May 12	7:15 p.m.	Christ Episcopal
Monday, May 19	6:15 p.m.	BFW
Monday, May 26	9:15 p.m.	Grace Covenant





Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School begins on June 22

The fun begins on Sunday, June 22 and continues through Thursday, June 26. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Look for the registration form in the bulletin and online in May.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 4 at 7:15 PM

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 4 at 7:15 p.m. Come learn more about the Workshop of Wonders and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

Confirmation Mini-Retreat on May 18

The final Confirmation Mini-Retreat of the school year will be on Sunday, May 18 from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The group will be discussing Martin Luther. All 6th through 8th graders are encouraged to attend.

Sunday Bible Study on May 18

On Sunday, May 18 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the Ten Commandments. Since the March Bible Study was canceled due to icy weather, we will be covering commandments 5 and 6 that were originally scheduled for March.

Congratulations to...

J.C. and Amelia Martin on the birth of their daughter, Emery Ann, on April 1. Emery weighed 7 lbs. 3 ounces and was 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.



Katherine Berg, who was selected for the All-District Band. Katherine, a bassoonist, was one of only nine Blacksburg High School Band members selected to perform with students from across central and Southwest Virginia.

Our 2013-14 graduates

Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized at a **graduates reception on June 8** at the first 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Elizabeth Berg, Steffan Bohn, Katy McGuigan and Will Sharpe will be graduating from Blacksburg High School. Leah Gay and Greg Linares are graduating from Virginia Tech and Robert Worley will be graduating from Radford University. Joanna Garcia will finish her Ph.D at Virginia Tech. In addition, we will recognize our December 2013 graduates: Samantha Bohanan and Caitlyn Lucky.



Celebrating the Joy of Easter

