



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Claimed, Gathered, Sent

St. Michael's Mission Statement

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.

Bishop Eaton has invited Lutheran congregations to participate in a conversation during the season of Lent focused on what the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its congregations, like St. Michael, can uniquely offer to the world. To help make this conversation possible, the ELCA has developed a study document named, "Called, Gathered, Sent" which helps participants explore what it means to be the church, to be Lutheran, to be the church together and to be the church for the sake of the world.

On the Wednesdays during Lent, we will invest a few moments during our Holden Evening Prayer service to reflect on each of these areas. Questions and ideas from the study guide will be posted on St. Michael's Facebook page each week and will be placed on the tables for possible discussion during our Wednesday night meals. To help you get started, here are a few questions to help you think about each area of discussion.

- **We are church.** - *How do you describe St. Michael to people who are not familiar with the congregation?*
- **We are Lutheran.** - *What does it mean to you to be Lutheran?*
- **We are church together.** - *Think of a ministry accomplished by the Synod or by the ELCA that St. Michael couldn't do alone.*
- **We are church for the sake of the world.** - *What does it mean to you to love and serve your neighbor?*

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmclc.us

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 Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Nancy Young and Mildred Wall who helped fold the February newsletter; and to Jim and Judy Clemens and Ben Simmers for their faithful weekly offering counting.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported snow removal, the new Town of Blacksburg storm water management fee, Lenten devotional books, the heat pump maintenance contract, benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, 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 11 families with funds towards five electric bills, two tanks of gas, three rent payments, and one water bills. 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.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank you for your generous donations of 182 cans of food and \$136 to help fight hunger in our community. As of February 18, the Souper Bowl of Caring website reports that 5400 organizations have collected nearly \$7 million in food and donations to help feed those who are hungry.

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 22 when they are distributed at the annual meeting.

Make Sure You Receive St. Michael's Weekly Email Newsletter

Each Thursday, St. Michael publishes a weekly email newsletter. We have discovered that in some cases, Gmail is routing the newsletter to your "Spam" folder or to the "Promotions" or "Social" tab. If you have signed up and are not receiving the E-newsletter each Thursday morning, please check these folders. If you would like to sign up, please click the "@news" button on the bottom of St. Michael's webpage.

Micah's Backpack March Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

During February we shared 1,106 bags of weekend food with 278 children and youth in our community. We've begun working with the Virginia Synod on an ambitious plan to feed every child in the Commonwealth on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The group also hopes to empower everyone interested in ending childhood hunger to continue the feeding beyond 10/31/2017. Feel free to check the work out at <http://www.vasynod.org/virginiafeedskids/>. Please note we will pack on Wednesday, April 1, at 6 p.m., due to the public school spring break.

In March, we will continue to collect boxed envelopes of oatmeal. Thank you for your generous donations in February. The collection box is in the church entryway.

Plans are beginning to take shape for our 2015 growing season. 2015 Raised Bed information packets are on the shelf in the hallway to the sanctuary. If you'd like to rent a raised bed for the 2015 season please let Jennie know.



Micah's Closet



Shopping for the spring will begin in mid to late March for April distribution to children at Prices Fork Elementary School, and those referred by the New River Valley Community Service program and Head Start. **In March, Micah's Closet will continue its collection of pajamas for boys and girls in sizes 4T to 12.** Thank you to our donors, shoppers and partners who make this special ministry happen.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 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. Special thanks to Panera for their monthly contribution of bread and pastries. **In March, we will collect cans of tuna.**



If you need more information about any of the articles in our St. Michael newsletter, please contact Sandy Birch, editor, at birch@vt.edu or 540-951-8951.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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March Servants

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Altar Care	McCartan/Brewer family				
9 AM Service					Palm Sunday
Greeters	Rick and Carrie Mayer	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Elaine Powers Sandy Birch	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe	Mac McCloud	Jane Swing	Congregation
Comm. Asst.	Carrie Mayer	William Allen	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Williams	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Alex Moehling	Camden Brewer	Sarah Moehling	Abby Brown
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Ryan Albert		M. McGuigan
Greeters	McCartan/Brewer family	McCartan/Brewer family	Betty Wingate Anna Rossomando	Moehling/Belue family	
Lay Reader	Jody Smiley	Mickey McGuigan	Anna Rossomando	Jeff Birch	Congregation
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Matt Belue Marty Gordon	Philip Isenhour James Pascoe	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Don Linkous Ray Howell
Youth Servant	MaKayla Dowdy		Sara Albert		Jack Graves
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Saks family	Apisa family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Katherine Berg	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Deloris Raines

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: March 4 – Matthew James and Jacob Dennis

Women of the ELCA

On Monday, March 16, at noon, we'll begin our new Bible study, "Gathered by God." Come to the Fellowship Hall at church for **lunch and learning** and lots of fellowship. Contact Sandy Birch if you need a ride.



Through March 22, **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 6th – 12th graders will meet after the 11 a.m. service on March 22 to assemble the Easter baskets.

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 toilet paper. Art supplies for children are always needed too.

O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Out-to-Lunch Bunch will gather together for lunch on **Tuesday, March 10 at noon** at the new Golden Corral Restaurant at the New River Mall. Contact Peggy Brown at 552-8141 or pabrown1943@comcast.net or make your reservation on the *Welcome* form in the Sunday bulletin. For the remainder of this year, we will alternate a Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon with an outing to a local restaurant with the Out-to-Lunch Bunch. All O.K.s are welcome to join in these dining ventures.



Possible trips planned for this summer and early fall include some more adventures in West Virginia...maybe a historic home tour in Bramwell, or the Appalachian Arts and Crafts Fair in Beckley. Another activity may include a play at the Wohlfahrt Theater in Wytheville. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and in future newsletters.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 22 at 9:50 a.m.

On Sunday, March 22, 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. If the meeting is canceled due to inclement weather, it will be held on Sunday, March 29. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2014 Annual Report and the 2015 Phone Directory, and complete our 2015 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 from Luther Memorial, Shiloh and New Mt. Zion, will gather for a time of fellowship and Holden Evening Prayer. Our midweek Lenten Sermon Series focuses on themes provided by Presiding Bishop Easton.

March 4 at St. Michael - "We are Lutheran"

March 11 at Luther Memorial - "We are Church Together, Part 1"

March 18 at St. Michael - "We are Church Together, Part 2"

March 25 at Luther Memorial - "We are Church for the Sake of the World"

If you'd like to help provide food for one of the two Lenten Midweek meals that St. Michael will be providing, you will have the opportunity to sign up on the back of the *Welcome* form in the Sunday bulletin.



Holy Week Services at St. Michael

March 29 - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

April 2 – Maundy Thursday service and meal beginning at 6 p.m.

April 3 – Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

Hands-On Holy Week at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 4

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 4 at 10:15 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt for children



Easter

Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter

on Sunday, April 5

Easter Services

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Celebration of the Resurrection

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.

Easter Gifts: Lilies and Micah's Caring Initiative

Orders are now being taken for lilies for Easter. In an effort to reduce the number of lilies that are not picked up after Easter, this year we will limiting our order of lilies to 25. The plants will cost \$12. If you would like to make a gift 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 22 or whenever the limit of 25 is reached.

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. All gifts in memory or in honor will be listed in the Easter bulletin.



Youth Group Luncheons March 1 and 22



On Sunday, March 1 and March 22, St. Michael's 6th through 12th grade youth will be enjoying lunch together, playing some games, talking about faith and putting their faith into action. On March 22, we'll be assembling Easter Baskets for the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. For more information, please talk to Lilly Goldsmith (lillyg1@vt.edu) or Anna Lehman (alehman@vt.edu).

Confirmation Retreat - March 6-7

The next overnight Confirmation Lock-in will be March 6-7 beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday night and finishing at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. The group will be discussing the Ten Commandments.

Bible Study on March 15

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on Moses. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, March 15 at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 19

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.

Some Music "Notes"



Come join the choir for rehearsals during Lent to prepare for Lent/Easter. We meet after the Wednesday Lenten services at 7:15-8:15 p.m.

The Handbell Choir will rehearse on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone 5th grade and up are welcome to come ring!

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 Jeff Birch at 230-5087 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.

