



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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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.

Developing Leaders, Maintaining Facilities

Last October, we began a process of evaluation and planning to determine the next best steps for growing and strengthening the ministry of St. Michael. A Life-long Faith Formation Task Force was created to identify ways to connect youth to Christ, to unite young adults around their faith, to equip parents to build faithful families, to convert faith into action in working adults and to connect seniors to one another and to God. After several months of work, the Task Force recommended that the congregation create a team of shepherds who would provide leadership and support for specific areas of ministry within the life of the congregation. The Congregational Council endorsed the idea and over the next few months, the Task Force will begin to develop the idea more fully. Watch for more specific information about how you can get involved in the months to come.

In addition to developing shepherding leaders for God's ministry at St. Michael, the Congregational Council is beginning to develop a plan to replace the roof on the sanctuary. After 25 years, the current roof is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced before we experience any water damage. A planning team will begin work on the project after Easter and hopefully bring a recommendation to the congregation for feedback and support within a few months. If you are interested in being a part of the team that looks at options for the new roof or if you have any questions, please let me know.

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 Suzanne Gay for setting up our Lenten Suppers and to everyone who has provided delicious soups, sandwiches and cookies; to Betty Falta, Mildred Wall, Nancy Young, and Frances Edge who folded the March newsletter; to Lynda Kinzey for helping with the assembly of the Annual Report and Directory; to Alice Schneider and the middle and high school youth for assembling the Easter baskets for the Salvation Army and the Women’s Resource Center and to everyone who contributed to the baskets; to Marty Gordon for keeping our church home looking so spiffy, and to Sheila McCartan, Dianne Krallman and Jennie Hodge for their fine management of Micah’s Caring Initiatives.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported our softball registration, snow removal, music supplies, office supplies, our 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 March, we assisted 23 families with funds towards 14 electric bills, 5 rent payments, 2 water bills, one tank of gas, and one emergency motel room. 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.

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.

Congratulations to...

Olivia Hodge and the Blacksburg High School Indoor Track Team which won their eighth state title in ten years (!) and were invited to compete in the New Balance Indoor National Championships in New York City.

Micah's Backpack March Report



www.micahsbackpack.org

Volunteers shared nearly 300 hours of their time preparing 1,074 gifts of weekend food while working with Micah's Backpack. We have begun the planning stages of our third summer of deliveries on Micah's Mobile Backpack. If you're interested in volunteering to pack or deliver, please contact jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Micah's Backpack will collect 100% juice boxes in April.

Please put your gifts in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. We send home over 2,300 juice boxes every month.

Micah's Garden

There are 12 raised beds available for this growing season. If you'd like to rent a raised bed for 2015, please let Jennie know. Thank you to the St. Mary's Youth Group for coming out to start this year's seeds of tomatoes, squash, carrots, and other vegetables. Thank you also to Seth and Laura Peery for working with the youth.



Micah's Soup for Seniors



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 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. In April, we will collect **cans of corn**.

Micah's Closet



Now that we're finished with snow shoveling, it's time to start thinking about t-shirts and shorts and the Spring Distribution of clothing. We are currently working with the schools to identify the children who can benefit from the support of Micah's Closet. There are several ways you can help this important ministry. If you'd like to shop, contact Sheila McCartan at mccartansheila@gmail.com and let her know. If you see a cute outfit while you are out and just have to share it with someone, we are looking for t-shirts and shorts in boys and girls sizes 4T-12. Bring them to church and put them in the collection box for Micah's Closet. If you have a group of friends or work associates who want to support one or more of Micah's children, let Sheila know. And finally, if you don't like to shop, but still want to help, you can support the ministry financially with a donation of cash or gift cards that we can share with our shoppers. Thank you so much for your continued support of our community and helping Micah's Closet be the heart and hands of our Lord in Blacksburg.

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April Servants

	April 5 Easter	April 12	April 19	April 26
Altar Care	Doug and Jody Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Sandy Birch Sandy Williams	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Gary and Sandie Worley	Gary and Sandie Worley
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Peggy Morgan	Jacob Dennis	Matthew James
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dean Rueschman	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Jessica Brown	Alex Moehling	Camden Brewer	David Christle
Comm. Asst.	Jeff Birch		Randy Robinson	
Greeters	Sandy and Jeff Birch	Moehling/Belue family	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Christle family
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Doug Smiley	Laura Gruss	Margaret Christle
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Moehling/Belue family	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Rosie Gruss	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Heather Pettus	Charlie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Katherine Berg	Martie Saks

April 5 – Easter Sunrise service – 7 a.m.: Communion assistant – Kris Wertz; Lay reader – Cindy Dowdy; Youth Servant – MaKayla Dowdy; Greeters – Jeff and Sandy Birch; Ushers – James and Wanda Pascoe

Unloading for Micah’s Backpack on April 1: Doug Smiley and Bill Knocke

Women of the ELCA

On Monday, April 20, at noon, we'll discover more about being "Gathered by God." 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.



Sunday, May 3 -Sisters Luncheon at noon at the church -fine food and fellowship

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

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In April, we encourage donations of plastic trash bags. Art supplies for children are always needed too.

Thank you for all the donations of Easter toys, candy and baskets. We assembled 40 baskets for children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army and 9 additional baskets for mothers at the Center.



O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together for a catered traditional Easter meal **on Tuesday, April 14 at noon**. We will continue our programs on "Important Stuff Seniors Should Know About" or maybe something about Easter. You'll have to come to find out.



Trips planned for this year, beginning in June, include destinations like the Settler's Museum in Atkins, VA and the Dutch Pantry in Rural Retreat, Beckley, WV for the annual Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair and a Coal Mine Tour, and the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater for "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers". Information about dates/times and costs will be available at the April luncheon.



Holy Week Services at St. Michael

April 2 – Maundy Thursday service and meal beginning at 6 p.m. We will enjoy pancakes and all the trimmings.

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 around 8 a.m. 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.

Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 11

Bring your rakes and work gloves and come out on Saturday, April 11 at 9 a.m. to help beautify our church grounds. Volunteers from the Big Event will be on site to help pick up limbs, weed and mulch, but we could use volunteers to help lead and direct the Big Event volunteers. For more information, contact Ron Brewer: RBSM517@nrvunwired.net.

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.

Bible Study on April 19

Since we weren't able to have the Bible Study on Moses in March, Pastor John will lead the Bible Study on Moses on April 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Prayerful Looking: Exploring the Intersection of Spirituality and the Arts

You are invited to a spirituality retreat called, "Prayerful Looking" at Luther Memorial on Saturday, April 18. The retreat will use poetry and the visual arts as catalysts to explore spirituality. "Prayerful Looking" will have two sessions and you are invited to attend one or both sessions.

- 9 – 1—*Prayerful Looking at Poetry*
- 12-1—*Lunch*
- 1 – 4—*Prayerful Looking at Paintings*
- **Participants may attend either or both sessions**

Where: Fellowship Hall, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (600 Prices Fork Rd.)

Who: All are invited.

Cost: Free, lunch provided

Leader: John Hougen is a former pastor and campus minister at the University of South Carolina where he served while Pastor John was a student. He is also a poet, artist, academic, and docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He holds a Ph.D in Religion and Literature from the University of Virginia.

Other: This event is free but it would be helpful for participants to register by sending an email to luther@lmlc.org or calling 951-1000. Participants are invited to bring a favorite poem or piece of art.



Vacation Bible School begins May 31

The adventure begins on Sunday, May 31 and continues through Thursday, June 4. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, sign up on the *Welcome form* in the bulletin or talk to Pastor John.

Seminary Partner Visited March 15

Our seminary partner, Ellen Clough, met with the congregation on Sunday, March 15. Ellen is a first year student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. She spent her high school years in Virginia and went to Lenior Rhyne University where she sensed a call to the ministry. Ellen spent a year working as a ministry intern in Wisconsin and a summer as the Virginia Synod Youth Ministry intern prior to going to the seminary in the fall of 2014. The Sunday School offering is shared with Ellen to support her studies. When asked what we could do, beyond prayer, to support her while she is in seminary, Ellen replied that she would love to get mail from time to time that wasn't her power bill. Contact Sandy if you'd like to send Ellen a little note from time to time.



Girl Scout Day

A Brownie and a Daisy were photographed at St. Michael recently. Pictured are Karma Hartwick and Tatiana Villegas-Brown. The Lutheran church recognizes Girl Scouts involvement with the church by providing such recognitions as "God and Me" and "God and Family" badges for young scouts. Karma's mom, Sharon, is the leader of the Daisy troop at St. Michael.

Thank You Advent Artists

We celebrate the talents of our artists who created our wonderful Advent calendar. Our "Advent artists" were James Akers, Barbara Corbett, Joyce Coupey, Maggie Maloney, Anna Rossomando, Parker Wertz, John Wertz, Mike and Michelle Berg and Gary Worley. If you'd like to help with the 2015 Calendar, contact Gary Worley (gworley@vt.edu).

