



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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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.

Micah's Backpack Leadership Transition

Thank you for the many ways you help Micah's Backpack show kids from low-resource families that their community cares about them. Whether you share your time, ideas, and/or financial support, together we've made a tremendous, positive impact. Young and young-at-heart, sprinters and marathoners, big dreamers and detail folks have made an impression on our participants and me.

In March, Micah's Backpack will begin a transition—one where I will need your help and hugs. At the end of the MCPS school year, my family will relocate to the greater Greensboro NC area. Although I will shift out of the day-to-day management of Micah's Backpack, I will continue to craft grants. I am grateful to stay on and write since I love sharing the story of MBP and all that we accomplish together.

In the coming weeks, Pastor John and I will begin the process of creating a job description and initiate the search for a new director. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we find a leader with an equal mix of generosity, compassion, hospitality and attention to detail.

It has been a joy and pleasure working with you these past 9 years! Together we responded with grace to the weekend hunger needs of 1,000s of kids in Blacksburg and Montgomery County.

Many thanks for being a part of an amazing community outreach and for all you do.

Jennie Hodge
jennie@michaedbackpack.org

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 Margaret Larsen, Betty Falta, Wanda Pascoe, Joyce Coupey and Mildred Wall who helped fold the February newsletter; to Jim and Judy Clemens and Ben Simmers for their faithful weekly offering counting; to all who helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper including our cooks: Mike Berg, Lynda Kinzey, Alice Schneider and Sandy Williams; to all who provided desserts for our Lenten suppers; to John Krallman for preparing our end-of-year financial statements; to the Boy Scouts who served on February 7, Boy Scout Sunday, along with their leaders, Sara and Jan Helge Bohn and John Kell.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported snow removal, Shrove Tuesday supplies, Lenten devotional books, Sunday School material, 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 17 families with funds towards 5 electric bills, 8 rent payments, one water bill, one tank of gas and two medical expenses. 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.

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 towards one of the following items or if you have any ideas for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

- Brass Ensemble for 11 AM Easter Worship Service - \$250
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Machine and Cabinet - \$1700
- Elements of the Circle of Grace
- Paths and Walkways - \$2,000 - \$4,000

Thank you for Kenneth and Judith Wolfe and to Gary and Sandy Worley for contributing to the bench for the Circle. Thank you to Frances Edge and the family of Janet Bryant for their contributions to the paths and walkways.

Sharing Our Time and Talents



In the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote about our unique talents and abilities. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

At St. Michael, some are lay readers, some are teachers, others greet and usher, while many cook delicious meals. Ray can build and fix anything, Ron knows how to keep the lawn and flower beds in order, and another member is an expert at excavation. This latter talent belongs to J.C. Martin, who donated his expertise, his company's equipment and his staff to install all the memorial markers in our Circle of Grace and to prepare the playground area for our children.

God continues to call God's servants like J.C. 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 13 when they are distributed at the annual meeting.

Put your gifts into Action at St. Michael!

Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank you for your generous donations of 55 cans of food and \$140 to help fight hunger in our community. As of February 28, the Souper Bowl of Caring website reports that 5,095 organizations have collected over \$9 million in food and donations to help feed those who are hungry.



Become
Part of the
St. Michael
Family

New Members Received on Sunday, March 20

If you are interested in joining the St. Michael family, please contact Pastor John. New members will be received on Sunday, March 20 at all three services.

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: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Micah's Backpack March Report



In February, we shared 6,336 meals with children from low-resource families at 10 schools. This month we received a \$2,800 grant from the ELCA Domestic Hunger Fund and a surprise grant of \$1,600 from Feeding America Southwest Virginia. Huge thanks go out to the Men In Mission who unload the truck after Feeding America shopping trips. Please message Jennie if you'd like more information on ways to help out jennie@micahsbackpack.org

During March, Micah's Backpack will collect fruit chews. We send home more than 540 snacks every weekend. Thank you for sharing 192 snacks in February!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 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@hubbell-ltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information. Special thanks to Panera for their monthly contribution of bread and pastries. During distribution in February, a resident at New River House thanked us profusely for the bag of food and said she depends on these monthly gifts of groceries. **In March, we will collect packages of instant oatmeal.**



Upcoming Confirmation Retreats March 13 and April 8-9

On Sunday, March 13 from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., there will be a confirmation retreat for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The group will be discussing "Worship and the Seasons of the Church Year". The next overnight Confirmation Lock-in will be April 8-9 beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday night and will be done in conjunction with other Lutheran Churches in the area and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech.

Upcoming Youth Event – March 20 at noon

On Sunday, March 20, at noon, St. Michael's 5th through 12th grade youth will be enjoying lunch together and putting their faith into action. We'll be assembling Easter Baskets for the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. For more information, please contact Alec Alderman, the youth coordinator at a.alderman@gmail.com.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 17

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.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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March Servants

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27-Easter
Altar Care	Doug and Jody Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	The Mayer family	Clifton Walters Clifton Walters Jr.	Sandie and Gary Worley
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Congregation	Jody Smiley
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Nancy Goad	Lylah Shelor	Jacob Dennis
11 AM Service				
Acolyte			Camden Brewer	Ryan Lund
Comm. Asst.	Jay Nagle		Kris Wertz	Sheila McCartan
Greeters	Ray Howell Betty Wingate	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Becky and Gary Steck	Mandy and Brian Lund
Lay Reader	Mac McCloud	Lauren Robinson	Congregation	Lori Anne Kirk
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Gary Steck	Ray Howell Brian Lund
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	Lilly Lund
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Apisa family	Donna Oliver	Saks family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: 3/2: Ron Brewer and Bill King

Easter sunrise service: Usher/greeters: Dickie Shepherd and Sandy Williams; Lay Reader: Dianne Krallman; Communion Assistant: Sandy Williams; Youth Servants: McKayla and Bryce Dowdy

Women of the ELCA

Our Ladies' Night Out dinner at Amelia's Pizzeria & Restaurant (1130 Cambria Street, Christiansburg) is rescheduled for Monday, March 14 at 6 p.m. The cost is only \$12 for a delicious Italian buffet, beverage and tip...and we get to take home the leftovers! Invite a friend for a fun evening.



On Monday, March 21, at noon, we'll continue our Bible study with Jody Smiley. Come to the Fellowship Hall at church for **lunch and learning** and lots of fellowship. Contact Sandy Birch if you need a ride.



Easter
Baskets

Through March 20, 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 5th – 12th graders will meet after the 11 a.m. service on March 20 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)

Our annual Easter luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 22 at noon**. We'll enjoy a delicious traditional meal and Easter program. Invite a friend to join in the fellowship.



It's time to plan a few adventures on our annual bus trips. Two possibilities are a trip to Black Dog Salvage (a store that specializes in the reclamation of all sorts of unique house parts) and the Grandin Village in Roanoke and a trip to Mayberry Days in Mt. Airy, NC. If you have some destination suggestions, contact Sandy Birch. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and

in future newsletters.

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 230-5587 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...

Bryan Katz who was selected to receive a 2016 Certificate of Teaching Excellence Award from the College of Engineering.

Emily Graves who celebrated her first communion on February 14.



Seth and Laura Peery on the birth of their son Stephen Seth Peery II on January 31. Stephen will be well taken care of by his big sisters Ada and Evie.

Enjoying Shrove Tuesday 2016





student in the 80's.

Lenten Service Schedule

Wednesday Night Lenten 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 and New Mt. Zion, will gather for a time of fellowship and Holden Evening Prayer. Our midweek Lenten Sermon Series focuses "Lutheran Trump Cards": key elements of the Lutheran approach to following Jesus. "Lutheran Trump Cards" is a book written by Pastor Dave Daubert, a graduate of Virginia Tech who attended St. Michael while a

This year we are taking a different approach to our Lenten meals. The good news is we'll be enjoying delicious specialties prepared by Kevin Long and his staff at the Cellar and no one has to cook! The suggested contribution for the catered meals will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and we ask that you sign up each week on the "Welcome" form or by emailing Suzanne (suzanneg@stmlc.us) so we can make sure we have enough food. Plan to come and enjoy fine fellowship, food and worship. A vegetarian entrée is always available.

March 9 Baked beef cannelloni, mushroom ravioli with brie sauce, salad

March 16 Lasagna (or maybe manicotti), salad, garlic bread



Holy Week Services at St. Michael

March 20 - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

March 24 – Maundy Thursday service and meal beginning at 6 p.m.

March 25 – Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

Hands-On Holy Week at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 26

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, March 26 at 10:15 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt for children



Easter

**Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter
on Sunday, March 27**

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 be 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 13 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.

