



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.

Filling Your Faith Toolbox with Knowledge

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks the familiar words, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." What we sometimes forget is that Jesus doesn't stop there, but continues by saying "and **teaching** them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)

Teaching is an important part of Jesus' command and so as people of God, we are called to be intentional about sharing the story of God's love for the world with others. As a church, we share the story of God's love for the world, through a variety of groups and classes. Here is a list of some of the learning opportunities at St. Michael. I hope you will connect with one of these opportunities or help start a new opportunity so that together we can learn more about Jesus and God's love for the world.

Faith Toolbox Sunday School for Youth and Adults, plus Parent Discussion Group - Every Sunday morning at 9:50 AM

Women of the ELCA Lunch and Learn - Lunch time Bible study on the third Mondays at noon

Pub Theology - Young adult dinner and faith discussion group which typically meets on third Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Sunday Night Bible Study - Topical Bible study on the third or fourth Sunday night at 7:15 PM

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Weekly Bible study on the Scripture readings for worship

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--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe and Mildred Wall for folding the January newsletter; to the altar flower/Heritage Hall team of Alice Schneider, Barbara Corbett, Judith Wolfe, and Sandy Birch; and to Betty Wingate and Pat Smith for delivering our donations to the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported our property insurance, Micah's Bus Insurance, pest control yearly contract, newsletter postage and permit, Faithchest supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped 12 families: 5 families with rent assistance, 3 with an electric bill, two with gasoline and one with medication expenses.

Time to Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Each year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans makes money available for eligible members to direct to charitable causes of their choice. With the beginning of the new year, Thrivent members need to make decisions about where their donations should go. Even if you made a selection in a previous year directing your donations to Micah's Backpack, St. Michael or another organization, you are required to affirm that choice for 2017. Thrivent Choice dollars can be directed at: <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or by calling 1.800.847.4836. If you have questions, please contact your local agent.



Altar Care

Not your mother's altar guild!

Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2017. No experience necessary... training is available. Assistants prepare the communion elements (usually twice a month) and change the altar cloths as necessary. Easy and fun. Pictured is Doug Smiley, a long time altar caregiver. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board. Questions can be addressed to Sandy Birch.



Thank you to everyone who shares their time in preparing our altar for communion services. You are a blessing.

Micah's Backpack January Report



Who says that all donations happen in December when people are trying to make all their charitable donations for tax purposes? That may be true for monetary donations, but not for food! MBP received lots and lots of food in January from food drives at various workplaces, from students conducting food drives at their schools, and from groups hosting food drives at Kroger. Huge thanks to students from Radford University who held a food drive on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Wade's in Christiansburg and Kroger in Blacksburg and to Blacksburg High School Health and Medical Sciences and Captain Louie's Future Leaders at Kipps Elementary for a huge food drive that filled up two cars!

We have been serving 287 students each week in January. That is down just a bit from the end of last year because Blacksburg High School received a huge food donation at the end of the year. They are using that food to serve their students for the time being instead of using MBP bags.

Remember to link you Kroger Plus card to MBP and to sign up for AmazonSmile so that a percentage of your purchases at each place will go to MBP.

During February, Micah's Backpack will collect granola bars. We send home more than 540 snacks every weekend. Thank you for sharing 65 food items in January!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

We will be making special Valentine Health Kits to give to the Seniors. They will be packed and decorated during a service project at Sunday School on February 12th. We will be taking donations of tissues, chapstick, lotion, gloves and hand sanitizers.



Because of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, we will be packing on **Monday, February 27th** and welcome anyone to help us pack and deliver.

Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information.

In February, we will collect chicken noodle soup.



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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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| <p>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p> |
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February Servants

| | February 5 | February 12 | February 19 | February 26 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Altar Care | Sandy Birch | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Fay and Clifton Walters | Butch Akers Dave Surface | Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett | Elaine Powers Wilma Pieper |
| Lay Reader | Keith Gay | Mac McCloud | Sandy Birch | Lori Anne Kirk |
| Comm. Asst. | Butch Akers | Lylah Shelor | Sandy Williams | Butch Akers |
| 11 AM Service | | | | |
| Acolyte | Megan Christle | | Camden Brewer | |
| Comm. Asst. | Corson Wertz | | Kris Wertz | |
| Greeters | Rebecca and Gary Steck | Ben Simmers Ray Howell | Wanda and James Pascoe | Josiah and Litha Tlou |
| Lay Reader | Margaret Christle | | Anna Rossomando | |
| Ushers | Rebecca and Gary Steck | Ben Simmers Ray Howell | Wanda and James Pascoe | Josiah and Litha Tlou |
| Youth Servant | Emily Graves | | Jack Graves | |
| 6:30 PM Service | No Service | | | |
| Greeters | | Berg Family | Saks Family | Graves Family |
| Lay Reader | | Mike Berg | Charlie Saks | Tacey Apisa |
| Comm. Asst. | | Michelle Berg | Martie Saks | Tacey Apisa |

Women of the ELCA

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** series will continue at noon, February 20th in the fellowship hall for lunch and a brief but always interesting Bible study. You will be ready to return to work or home by 1 p.m. Our next series is from Galatians. In this one "No Other Gospel", Paul explains that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ. The menu will be a wintertime warming soup and salad, topped off by dessert. We invite all the women of the church to come and bring a friend if you'd like. Sign up sheets will be in the bulletins.



Remember the Food Bank: we are collecting canned fruits.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In February, donations of paper products would be appreciated. The Center can also use any kind of art supplies for children at any time.



The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Save the date.....

The next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon will be **Tuesday, March 14** . . . the annual Spring luncheon. Contact Sandy at birch@vt.edu or 230-8823.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 19 at 9:50 a.m.

On Sunday, March 19, 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 26. At the Annual Meeting, we will honor Bishop Mauney for his 18 years of ministry as our Bishop, receive the 2016 Annual Report and the 2017 Phone Directory, and complete our 2017 Time and Talent Surveys.



Congratulations to... our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 8 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected: Sheila McCartan, President; Gary Worley, Vice-President/Secretary; John Krallman, Financial Officer.



Shrove Tuesday – February 28.....PANCAKES!!!

Shrove Tuesday is an annual celebration marking the final day before the season of Lent, a 40-day period which traditionally includes self-denial and reflection.

At St. Michael, we indulge in PANCAKES....lots and lots of pancakes and all the trimmings. Come and enjoy the wonderful food beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, at our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Ash Wednesday service will be March 1 at 7 p.m. with Wednesday Night Lenten Soup suppers and service beginning on March 8. Mark your calendars for an active and meaningful Season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday Service - March 1 at 7 p.m.



The Season of Lent: Sunday Night Bible Study on February 26

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on “The Season of Lent”. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, February 26 at 7:15 p.m. in the large classroom.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 5. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring \$1 to place in the Soup Pot and food for Micah’s Backpack and Soup for Seniors. Suggested items are: canned vegetables, fruit cups, Easy Mac, Tomato soup, vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup and ravioli. The money and canned goods will help relieve hunger in our community. Thank You!



Welcoming New Member on February 26

St. Michael will be welcoming new members into the congregation on Sunday, February 26 at all services. On that day, we will also have a welcome luncheon for all those who are new to the life of the congregation. If you are interested in affirming your faith and joining in the ministry of St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

Congratulations to...



Private Katie Garst who graduated from Marine Recruit Training at MCRD Parris Island, SC on January 13, 2017. She is receiving Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, NC through February 21. Upon completion she will spend one year training for her military occupation of electronics maintenance, at a Marine School (location unknown).

Sydney and David Beneski who welcomed their new daughter, **Elliette Grace**, on January 5, 2017. Proud grandparents are Neal and Elizabeth Fish.

Sharon and Duane Hartwick on the birth of their son, **Duane Michael Hartwick, Jr.**, born on January 20, 2017. Proud brothers and sisters are Tristan, Tyler, Karma and Madison.

Steve and Christine Ray on the Baptism of their daughter, Elizabeth, on Sunday January 8 at the 9 a.m. Service.



Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 23

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.

Early Childhood Head Start Volunteer Opportunity

During the week, St. Michael is home to a Mother's Morning Out Program and an Early Childhood Head Start Program. The Early Childhood Head Start provides care and learning opportunities for potentially at-risk children from 6 weeks of age to 3 years old. The program cares for 16 children each day through a partnership with Rainbow Riders Preschool and Total Action for Progress. To help these children get off to a good start in life, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing come give a little of their time to read a book, rock a child or play with one of our little friends. If you are interested in volunteering, you can download the volunteer form from our website.

<http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/how-do-i/downloads/ehs-volunteer-form-2017-v2/>