



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 41, Number 3

March 1, 2017

## Learning and Sharing God's Word in Lent

### 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.

**Favorite Bible Verse Bracket Challenge** - During the Season of Lent, St. Michael will sponsor our first Bible Verse Bracket Challenge. On Sunday March 5, we'll unveil the bracket and you'll have the opportunity to vote for your favorite Bible verse in each match up in the first round. The winners from the first round will be announced on Wednesday night at the Midweek Lenten Service. Each Sunday, we'll open the voting for the next round of match ups and announce our Favorite Bible Verse on Easter Sunday morning. Hopefully we'll have a little fun and learn a few new Bible verses along the way.

**Faith Toolbox Service Project** - On Sunday, March 12 at 5 p.m., you are invited to come enjoy dinner and help create Reading Kits for the students at the Early Childhood Head Start at St. Michael. We will decorate bags as a gift for the students, create bookmarks with literacy tips and assemble the kits. In addition, I will give an overview of the program and talk about opportunities to volunteer at Early Childhood Head Start. For more information on the project, you can talk to me or to Maggie Maloney.

**Giving, Instead of Giving Up** - While many people 'Give Up' something for Lent, this year I hope you will consider 'Giving' to support one of the helping ministries connected to St. Michael as a way of remembering all God has given us. Each week, we will highlight a different ministry.

March 5	Micah's Backpack	Fruit Chews
March 12	Food Bank	Pasta Sauce
March 19	Micah's Soup for Seniors	Peanut Butter
March 26	Micah's Closet	Kids Socks
April 5	Easter Baskets Project	Candy

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.  
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## **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 Margaret Larsen, Betty Falta, Wanda Pascoe, Judith Wolfe, Lynda Kinzey and Mildred Wall who helped fold the February newsletter; to Wanda Pascoe for folding the weekly bulletins; 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; to John Krallman for preparing our end-of-year financial statements; to those who donated and helped with the Valentine Health Kit Project for Micah’s Soup for Seniors.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in February supported the purchase of newsletter and bulletin paper, a new office printer, lawn equipment winter maintenance, 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 February, we assisted 18 families with funds towards 9 electric bills, 4 rent payments, 2 water bills, 2 gasoline bills and one funeral expense. 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.

### **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](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).

### **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 a.m. Easter Worship Service - \$250  
Organ Peddle Stop Replacement and Repair - \$1000

## Annual Meeting and Our Time and Talent Gifts



Mark 12:17 reads “Give to God the things that are God’s”. A familiar hymn that we sing reinforces those words as we sing “We give *Thee* but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; *All that we have is Thine alone, A Trust, O Lord, from Thee*”.

As we approach our annual meeting on March 19th, we are reminded about our time and talents that we can use in that **TRUST** that the Lord has given us.

We have so many opportunities to use that **TRUST** at St Michael. Some of us decide to:

- Participate in the service as worship assistants
- Help with mission and service opportunities
- Take part in fellowship and common interests
- Help with hospitality
- Share our musical gifts
- Serve in a ministry area group
- Teach others

The **Stewards Team** is asking all to consider using your time and talents and to fill out our Time and Talent Survey that will be distributed on Sunday March 19.

### All Bach Concert at Luther Memorial – April 9 at 3 p.m.

Luther Memorial will be hosting an all Bach concert on Palm Sunday, April 9, in honor of the 500th anniversary. Go the LMLC website (<http://www.lmlc.org/>) and you will see a blurb, click on the image to see a bigger pic of the poster. This should be a great concert.

### Visiting Theologian: Bishop James Mauney

Bishop James Mauney will be the Visiting Theologian at Luther Memorial on March 26-27. The topic for the weekend will be “The Christ Center: A 2017 Description of Luther’s Discovery, Gift, Warning, Church and Mission”. Everyone is invited to worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. where Bishop Mauney will be preaching and to a luncheon on Monday, March 27 at noon where Bishop Mauney will discuss, “Why My Next Mission Congregation Would Be Called, ‘The Christ Center’”.

### Congratulations to...

**Peggy and Bob Brown** who will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 24.



## Micah's Backpack Ministry In Action



This month we can all be grateful for a group of three eighth graders who held a food drive at Kroger. They gathered well over 1,000 items of food for the food pantry and a financial gift. The Food Drive was so successful, that the mom who was in charge of the group, had to make them stop soliciting donations because she couldn't fit any more food in her car. Kids have so much to teach us about how to be generous.

In February, we served right around 297 children each week. The number fluctuated just a bit, but remained fairly steady. That means we provided over 7,000 meals to hungry children this month.

Please keep in mind the following dates:

- March 11 NRV Home Expo Cooking Contest  
Featuring Anna Rossomando and other wonderful cooks. If they win, they will bring home the \$1000 prize for MBP!
- April 29 Downtown Blacksburg's Fork and Cork  
MBP will have a booth again this year and will be asking sponsors to donate to MBP by buying foods we need to fill up a giant wooden backpack.
- April 26 Give BIG NRV  
This is a day dedicated to reminding all of us to be generous with our monetary resources. It is a chance to give to MBP in a BIG way. See <https://cfnrv.givebig.org/c/NRV> for more information.

**During March, Micah's Backpack will collect fruit chews.** We send home around 600 snacks every weekend. Thank you!

## Micah's Soup for Seniors

Thanks to everyone for their help and donations for the Valentine Health Kits that were distributed to the Seniors at Warm Hearth. With your donations and a grant from Thrivent, we were able to decorate and pack 90 bags that included items such as tissues, lotion, hand sanitizer and chapstick. Along with our normal food and Panera bags, the Seniors were very grateful for the additional gifts.



For **March**, our packing and distribution will be on **Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup>**. We will **collect peanut butter** for the month of March.



## Upcoming Confirmation Retreats March 3 and April 30

On Friday, March 3 from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., we will have Late Night Confirmation for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The group will be discussing "Other Denominations and Faiths". On Sunday April 30 from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m., we will share in a Confirmation mini-retreat focused on "The Sacraments".

## Fools for Christ Lock-In – April 7-8

All youth who are 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited to the Fools for Christ Lock-in beginning on Friday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at Luther Memorial. The event will be done in conjunction with other Lutheran Churches in the area and Lutheran Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech. Come enjoy the fun, conversation about faith and life and do a few service projects on Saturday morning.

## 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.

## Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank you for your generous donations of 96 cans of food and \$140 to help fight hunger in our community. As of February 28, the Souper Bowl of Caring website reports that 5,700 organizations have collected over \$8.1 million in food and donations to help feed those who are hungry.



## Church Slow Pitch Softball



St. Michael will once again field a team in the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation's Church Slow Pitch Softball League. Registration opens for church slow pitch softball teams on Feb. 24 and closes on March 24. Play will begin around mid-April and conclude usually during the second week of July. Church participants, male or female, who are 14 years or older are eligible to play. Our team will play in the C league, a division appropriate for a mixture of older and younger players, both male and female. This is a great activity for moderate exercise and fun competition in a friendly social atmosphere. 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](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu). 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.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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## *March Servants*

	<b>March 5</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>March 19</b>	<b>March 26</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>				
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Mayer Family	Jackie and Neil Muir	Ben and Carol Crawford
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Judith Wolfe	Carrie Mayer	Peggy Morgan	Gary Worley
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Dianne Krallman	Lylah Shelor	Matthew James	Sandie Worley
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Camden Brewer			
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Shelia McCartan		Doug Smiley	
<b>Greeters</b>	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Wanda and James Pascoe	Ferrell Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Marty Gordon	Lori Ann Kirk	Sandy Birch	Kris Wertz
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	Philip Isenhour Randy Robinson	Wanda and James Pascoe	Daniel Ferrell John Kell
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Camden Brewer		Bryce Dowdy	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Donna Oliver	Berg Family	Saks Family	Graves Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Tacey Apisa	Mike Berg	Charlie Saks	Guille Yearwood
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg	Martie Saks	Guille Yearwood

## Women of the ELCA

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** series will meet at noon on March 20 for fellowship, lunch and a brief Bible study. We will begin with lunch and then be ready to conclude by 1 p.m. The next in the Galatians Bible study series, led by Jody Smiley, is "Children of God Through Faith" from Galatians 2:19 – 3:29.

We invite all the women of the church to come and bring a guest, too. Sign up forms will be in the bulletins.



Twenty women met at Olive Garden in January for fellowship and dinner. We had a great time visiting with each other and enjoyed our meals! We invite any of the women to join us and bring a friend when we dine out again in the summer!



Easter  
Baskets

**We will collect small toys, games, books and candy to fill Easter Baskets** for the children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. You can place the items in the box in the narthex or bring the items to a Wednesday night Lenten supper. We'll assemble the baskets on Sunday evening, April 9, at the monthly service event and supper.

We have received pictures from Rex Hartson, our Christ Episcopal partner, of some of the children at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation as they received their Christmas shoeboxes. It's such an inspiration to see their smiling faces as they receive them and such a meaningful project for us to join together as we celebrate Christ's birth. Thanks to each and every person who contributed.



**Remember the Food Bank:** For **March** canned or packaged pastas or sauces. Thank you.

**For the Women's Resource Center** let's collect hand, bath or shower soaps and liquids.





## Lenten Service Schedule

**Ash Wednesday Service – March 1 at 7 p.m.**

**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 theme will be “Previews of the Passion: Seeing the Passion through an Old Testament Lens”.

Again this year, 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 school-aged children and we ask that you sign up each week on the “Welcome” form or by emailing Suzanne ([suzanneg@stmlc.us](mailto:suzanneg@stmlc.us)) so we can make sure we have enough food. Plan to come and enjoy fine fellowship, food and worship. A vegetarian entree is always provided. Volunteers are invited to prepare a dessert for the suppers (and receive a complementary supper).

March 8	Lasagna, salad and garlic bread
March 15	Meatballs with ziti, steamed fresh vegetables, garlic bread
March 22	Chicken parmesan with pasta, salad, garlic bread
March 29	Baked beef cannelloni, mushroom ravioli with brie sauce, salad, garlic bread

**Lenten Devotional Books are now available in the back of the Sanctuary**

### O.Ks (Older Kids)

**Happy Go Lucky:** Our annual Easter luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 14 at noon**. We’ll enjoy a delicious traditional meal and Easter program. Invite a friend to join in the fellowship.



The next trip is planned for April 19 to the Caromont Farm, known for its cheeses and located 23 miles south of Charlottesville. Coming up on May 23, we’ll have a campus tour of Radford University to include the Art Gallery and Planetarium. On June 7, we’ll attend the Wohlfhart Dinner Theatre for “Then Sings My Soul”.

Watch for additional announcements in the bulletin and in future newsletters.