



# 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.

## **Share the Gift of Hope**

People on social media often share posts and pictures with their friends. Neighbors and co-workers often share information about their day-to-day lives. Family members often share their hurts and their dreams.

As followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to share the gift of hope with our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers and our family. We have the opportunity to share the good news that Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again. We have the opportunity to share the good news that light is more powerful than darkness. We have the opportunity to share the good news that God's ability to forgive is as vast as the heavens. In a world filled with uncertainty, anxiety and brokenness, we have the opportunity to be God's heart and hands and voices sharing the gift of hope and helping others to know that with God's help and God's guidance we can experience both a better life in the world today and an eternal future with God.

Here are a few ideas for how you can begin to share the gift of hope.

- ★ Share your favorite Bible story with a family member or friend.
- ★ Like and share the scripture verse image posted each Friday on St. Michael's Facebook page
- ★ Pray for and/or with someone who is struggling or celebrating.
- ★ Help with the Faith Toolbox Easter Basket Service Project on April 9 at 5 p.m.
- ★ Share a smile, an act of generous compassion, or a word of forgiveness with another person.
- ★ Personally invite someone to come to worship with you during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday.

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 Joyce Coupey for her beautiful artwork for the annual report cover and the weekly bulletin covers; Gary Worley for compiling our annual report; Lynda Kinzey for helping to assemble and bind the annual report; Keith Gay for updating the congregation's constitution; Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, Joyce Coupey, Judith Wolfe, Margaret Larsen, Mildred Wall and Lynda Kinzey for folding the March newsletter; to Emma Patterson for creating our beautiful new Lenten banners; and to everyone who set up, cleaned up, and provided desserts for our weekly Lenten meals.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported postage, worker's compensation insurance, lawn care equipment maintenance, Faith Toolbox service projects, Lenten Midweek Services, confirmation programs, church directory supplies, heat pump maintenance, 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 14 families with funds towards 10 electric bills, 2 rent payments, one water bill and one car insurance payment. 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.

### A Thank You

Thank you for the warm gloves, socks, hats, lovely homemade quilts, and the many other gifts you sent us at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center on the reservation. All the items have been distributed to many grateful residents. Thank you so much for your support.

Servants Together, Pastor Kay Ressel

## Micah's Backpack



This month seems to have flown by at MBP! We began the month by hosting a group of students from the University of Georgia who were spending their Spring Break serving people in our community. They did numerous projects throughout our area, but told me at the end of packing night that MBP was their favorite because we obviously believed in what we were doing and had fun doing it.

Also this month, a great group of chefs cooked up a storm at the NRV Home Expo Cook-off. Huge thanks to Anna Rossomando, Joe Ivers, Sandy Williams, John Kell, Jennifer Perdue, and John Wertz. They brought home the \$1000 prize for MBP.

This month, over 300 volunteers packed over 1400 bags for hungry children.

During April, **Micah's Backpack will collect small jars of peanut butter.**

## Micah's Garden

We have added a truckload of organic fertilizer to the garden. I hope soon to get it all plowed into the soil and start considering planting potatoes!



## Micah's Soup for Seniors



We continue to help over 90 Seniors at Warm Hearth by providing food at the end of the month. We also are able to give Panera donations to the Seniors each month. We are blessed to have around 20-25 faithful volunteers who help out each month to make this a successful project.

We could use volunteers who would be willing to help out during the month. If we get enough volunteers, we could alternate months so the time needed would be minimum. Please see Pastor or myself if you are interested:

- 1) Work up menus into an excel spreadsheet so we will know what to order each month. Approximately 1-2 hours of work towards the first of each month.
- 2) Pick up Panera - this would be once a month - Monday evening at 10:00 p.m. for approximately 1 hour each month.

In April, we will collect **cans of chicken noodle soup.**

## Micah's Closet

We have received information on 39 students from Prices Fork to support with our Spring distribution of clothing. Because we received a grant to support the building of an actual closet to store clothing, we already had several of the needed items available at significant savings. A group of volunteers spent time in March matching up the clothes we had with the children who needed them. Shoppers are now busy scouring the area for great deals on shorts, skirts and short sleeve shirts! We are planning to deliver the needed clothing items to the school in early April! If you would like to help Micah's Closet or would like more information to share with your local community group, you can contact Sheila McCartan at [hope@micahscloset.org](mailto:hope@micahscloset.org).



## Thrivent Action Teams Update

Action teams have been active in 2017. We received funding to help fill Valentine bags for seniors; books, art supplies, and bags for head start kids; and funds to shop for Micah's Closet. This was \$750 of support for these ministries. Some upcoming projects that need action teams are Micah's mobile backpack (purchase books), providing school supplies, and purchase worship resources for Across the Spectrum Worship. If you are a Thrivent member please consider applying for an Action Team Grant. The application process is easy and done completely online. Jody Smiley or Pastor John will be glad to answer any questions you have.

## Music News at St. Michael

The Choir welcomes new members at any time! We are currently practicing music for the remainder of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter!

**Choir Practice dates:** Sunday, April 2, 9:50 a.m., Wednesday, April 5, after Holden Evening Prayer, 7:15 p.m., Palm Sunday, April 9, gather 10:15 a.m. to warm up and vest. Lead the congregation in the procession into the church with a New Hosanna!

Come share the gift of music! Stay tuned for information about Hand Bell Camps this summer!

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2308 Merrimac Road  
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## *April Servants*

	<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 16-Easter</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>April 30</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Elaine Powers				
<b>9 AM Service</b>		Palm Sunday	Easter		
<b>Greeters</b>	Dianne Krallman Sandy Williams	Joe Garst Elaine Powers	Gary and Sandie Worley	Neil and Jackie Muir	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Congregation	Sandy Birch	Betty Falta	Peggy Morgan
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Judith Wolfe	Lori Anne Kirk	Dianne Krallman	Lylah Shelor
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Megan Christle	Camden Brewer			
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Randy Robinson	Kris Wertz	Jody Smiley		
<b>Greeters</b>	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Ben Simmers Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	J.D. and Andrea Robinson
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Anna Rossomando	Congregation	Doug Smiley	Kris Wertz	Mac McCloud
<b>Ushers</b>	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Ben Simmers Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	J.D. and Andrea Robinson
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Emily Graves		Lily Gruss		
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg Family	Donna Oliver		Graves Family	Berg Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Mike Berg
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Guille Yearwood	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg

Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am: Lay Reader: Peggy Morgan,  
Communion Assistant: Dianne Krallman, Greeters/Ushers: TBA

## Women of the ELCA

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** series will meet on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at church for fellowship, lunch and a brief Bible study. Lunch begins at noon and we'll finish by 1 p.m. We invite all the women of the church to come and you are welcome to bring a guest. We will have sign up sheets in the bulletins.



**Easter Baskets:** We will continue to collect small toys, games, books and candy to fill Easter baskets for the children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. There is a collection box for them in the narthex. The baskets will be assembled Sunday evening, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the monthly service event and supper. If you'd like to help please talk to Alice Schneider, Sandy Birch or Jody Smiley. The baskets will be delivered on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>.



The **Annual Sisters' Luncheon** will be held **Sunday, May 7, at noon**. The theme is "Friends are God's gift."

**Save the date** for this special fellowship event.

**Remember the Food Bank:** In April please bring canned vegetables, although any non-perishable canned or packaged goods are always welcome.

**For the Women's Resource Center** let's collect paper products – kleenex, toilet tissue, or paper towels.

**Thanks for all the donations!**

## WELCA Sole Hope Project

**Thank offering baggies** will be distributed on **Sunday, April 23**, and collected on **Bold Women's Sunday, May 14**. This year our offering will be designated for **Sole Hope**. In September our first Filling-your-Faith Toolbox Service project was a "shoe cutting party" to support Sole Hope (solehope.org). Sole Hope is a non-profit organization which recycles old jeans and tires into shoes for children in Uganda. At our party we made over 35 sets of shoes. We would love to be able to send \$350 to the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization gathering in August along with our shoes. Start saving your pocket change for this wonderful ministry!



## O.K.s (Older Kids)

### Out-to-Lunch-Bunch

Our postponed Happy-Go-Lucky Easter luncheon will be held **Tuesday, April 11**, at noon in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a traditional Easter feast and a happy program. Bring a friend.

### O.K.s On The Road



Our first O.K. trip is on **Wednesday, April 19**, to Caramont Farms, a working farm south of Charlottesville. We will learn about the farm and dairy operations and enjoy a cheese tasting. Wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes as you are sure to get them dirty on the farm. Lunch will be on our own at Pippin' Hill Farm and Vineyard featuring artisan cuisine that reflects their vineyard-to-table philosophy using seasonal, locally sourced, ingredients.

The **registration deadline is April 12** and the cost is \$35 which includes the tour fee. Registration forms are available in the hallway. You can also register on-line with Montgomery County Parks and Recreation.

### Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 8

Bring your rakes and work gloves and come out on Saturday, April 8 at 9 a.m. to help get the church grounds ready for Spring. Volunteers will be picking up limbs, weeding and mulching. We also need "supervisors" to assist the VT students who will be helping us out during the Big Event. For more information, contact Ron Brewer: [RBSM517@gmail.com](mailto:RBSM517@gmail.com).



**SPRING  
CLEAN-UP**

### Our New Lenten Banners

The Lenten banners that you will see displayed in the front of the sanctuary were designed by Pastor John and pieced and sewn from cotton and fleece fabrics by Emma Patterson. The four banners will be decorating the sanctuary throughout Holy Week. The various shades of purple in the banners represent the season of Lent, a mournful yet not bleak time in the life of the church. Purple hues vary from lavender to almost black and swirl across the banners in patterns reminiscent of stained glass. In the corner of each banner you will note the presence of light, in white fabric, which starts as a small glimmering across the deepness of purple and grows throughout the remaining weeks of Lent. As the light grows, it starts to transform the chaos of the mournful purple into organized patterns reflecting the joy of the coming Easter season. As it points toward the cross, the light also chases away the darkest shades of purple and minimizes them, just as the joy of God takes away our mourning and replaces it with peace and comfort.



## Welcome New Members to the St. Michael Family

**Peter and Kelly McCann** both moved to the New River Valley in 2003 to attend college. Peter graduated from Radford University and Kelly graduated from Virginia Tech. While Kelly was a student, she attended St. Michael. Both Peter and Kelly left upon graduation but returned a year later for work. It is through their jobs that they met in 2011 and Pastor John presided at their marriage ceremony in March 2014. Their beautiful and fun daughter, Ella Grace, turns two this month. Ella Grace loves dogs, baby dolls, cleaning, and coloring. Peter's family lives in Prince George and Seattle while Kelly's family lives in Williamsburg where her mom is the Assistant Pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. While they consider the NRV home, they spend as much time as possible visiting their families.



**David and Sydney Beneski** live in Pearisburg. They met three years ago and will have been married two years this coming May. Their little girl, Elliette, was born in January. David grew up in Blacksburg where he attended high school. He later went to Radford University and now is working at Virginia Tech. Sydney grew up in upstate New York and has been living in the area for about 7 years. She went to cosmetology school in Roanoke and now works at the Vintage Salon in Blacksburg.

### 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.





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

**April 13** – Maundy Thursday service and meal beginning at 6 p.m.

**April 14** – Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

### **Hands-On Holy Week at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15**

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

### **Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter on Sunday, April 16**

**Easter Services**

**Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.**

**Celebration of the Resurrection**  
**9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**



**Easter**



### **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.