



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.

Welcome to Rebecca Wicker

Before I accepted the call to be the pastor at St. Michael, I served as the pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Walterboro, South Carolina. It has been almost 14 years since we left Walterboro, but I keep in touch with a few people through Facebook.

At the end of December, I noticed that a member of Good Shepherd and a recent seminary graduate, Rebecca Wicker, was spending time in Walterboro while she went through the call process. At the same time, it was becoming obvious that St. Michael and the folks at Christ Lutheran Church in Radford could use some short-term ministry support. After a few phone calls, a wonderful conversation with our Council and thanks to the bequest given by Irene Ashley, I'm happy to announce that Rebecca will be joining the staff at St. Michael for the next four months to work 10-12 hours per week.

During her time at St. Michael, Rebecca will be working with our group preparing for the ELCA National Youth Gathering, helping with and leading activities for children, youth and their families and potentially assisting with worship leadership. At Christ, Radford, she will be leading worship, helping with ministry coordination and working with campus ministry.

This short-term experiment will not only help each congregation strengthen its ministry, but will also allow us to learn more about what it means to have part-time and shared staff.

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.

YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT



FAITH

In 2017, St. Michael launched Families of Faith for families with small children. The group gathers for a meal, to learn the stories of scripture, to discover music and for mutual support.



FELLOWSHIP

From the Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheons to Lenten Meals, God's people at St. Michael gather regularly to share in fellowship and to support one another.



WORSHIP

Each week, we offer three different opportunities at St. Michael. On Easter and on Christmas Eve, over 300 people celebrated the joy of God's love.



LEARNING

The Women of the ELCA Lunch and Learn each month, the weekly Bible Study and our online resources provide excellent ways to learn more about God's Word.



GRACE

St. Michael shared God's love and God's story with approximately 7300 people in 2017 through worship and acts of compassion.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS!

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta and Mildred Wall for folding the January newsletter; to Ron Brewer for fixing the light in the front hall closet; to the altar flower/Heritage Hall team of Alice Schneider, Barbara Corbett, Judith Wolfe, and Sandy Birch; to Betty Wingate and Pat Smith for delivering our donations to the Food Bank and the Women's Resource Center and to everyone participating in the Vision Team Planning groups.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported lawn equipment maintenance, stamps, pest control, heat pump maintenance, our property insurance, Micah's Bus Insurance, pest control yearly contract, newsletter postage and permit, 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 10 families: 1 family with rent assistance, 2 with water bills and 7 with electric bill expenses.

Altar Care



Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2018. No experience necessary - training is available. Assistants prepare the communion elements (usually twice a month) and change the altar cloths as necessary. Pictured are Becky and Gary Steck who served as our altar care assistants in January — and have signed up for a second month, too. Thank you Gary and Becky. The sign-up sheet is posted on



the hallway bulletin board. Questions can be directed to Sandy Birch (birch@vt.edu).

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

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 18 at 9:50 a.m.

On Sunday, March 18, 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 25. At the Annual Meeting, we receive the 2017 Annual Report, the 2018 Phone Directory and the report of our 20/20 Vision Planning teams.



Congratulations to... our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 8 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected: Fran Shepherd, President; Doug Smiley, Vice-President/Secretary; John Krallman, Financial Officer.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 22

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.

Micah's Backpack January Report



Neither snow, nor sleet, nor rain, nor any crazy weather stops Micah's Backpack from packing bags. Even in weeks of negative wind chill and icy roads, faithful volunteers still come out to pack bags so that hungry kids can have food to eat. Thank you everyone! (If there is extremely bad weather on a Thursday, check the Facebook page to make sure we are packing before coming out to the church.)

Last semester, almost 1,000 volunteers packed 5,474 bags. So many people are touched through the ministry of Micah's Backpack. Volunteers, families who receive the bags, donors, and even those who hear the story but have no direct contact with MBP are moved by the compassion of this community.

This month is **tuna** month. Feel free to bring cans of tuna to share with MBP kids. You can place the cans in the box in just outside the sanctuary.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Micah's Soup for Seniors continues to receive great support from our church members. We are also partnered with: Virginia Tech's Chi Delta Alpha Sorority, Virginia Tech's Pre-Pharmacy Club, Blacksburg Rotary Club, Panera (provides donated food each month) and Kroger (gives us a 10% discount each month on food purchases). We appreciate everyone's support as we move forward into another exciting year.



We will take donations of **peanut butter** for the month of **February**.

Here are our packing dates for the next several months:

February 27TH

March 27TH

April 24TH

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 4. 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!



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February Servants

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Altar Care	Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	JD and Andrea Robinson	Dianne Krallman Lylah Shelor	Mayer Family	Dave Surface Butch Akers
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Peggy Morgan	Carrie Mayer	Mac McCloud
Comm. Asst.	Lylah Shelor	Sandy Williams	Sandie Worley	Lori Anne Kirk
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Megan Christle	
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Kris Wertz	
Greeters	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	James and Wanda Pascoe	Hank and Alice Schneider	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	Bert Kinzey	Anna Rossomando	Emma Patterson
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	James and Wanda Pascoe	Hank and Alice Schneider	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Bryce Dowdy	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	No Service	Graves Family		Saks Family
Lay Reader	No Service	Tacey Apsia	Guille Yearwood	Charles Saks
Comm. Asst.	No Service	Tacey Apsia	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks

Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn: Our monthly Lunch and Learn will resume Monday, February 19, at noon. We will start with lunch and follow with a short Bible Study, which will conclude about 1 p.m. You are welcome to bring a friend. There will be a place to sign up on the bulletin insert.



The Food Bank: In February please bring **canned vegetables and pastas**, although the food bank is always grateful for any non-perishable foods to help those in our community.

Women's Resource Center: please bring **soap products – for hands, dishes or bath.**

Thank you for all the things you provide to help others in our community!



The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Out to Lunch Bunch

Our next luncheon will be **Tuesday, February 13, at noon at Lucie Monroe's** (in the Gables Shopping Center behind Cook-Out and down the sidewalk from Our Daily Bread). This Mediterranean cafe offers a variety of salads and sandwiches at very reasonable prices. A menu is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Sign up on the Sunday bulletin insert if you would like to attend or contact Peggy Brown (552-8141) to make a reservation.

Save the date...

The next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon will be **Tuesday, March 13**...the annual spring luncheon.

Upcoming Confirmation Mini-Retreat – February 18

On Sunday, February 18 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the New River Confirmation group will meet at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Christiansburg to learn more about the 10 Commandments. For more information or for a ride to the event, please talk to Pastor John.



Shrove Tuesday – February 13.....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 9, at our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Ash Wednesday service will be February 14 at 7 p.m. with Wednesday Night Lenten soup suppers and service beginning on February 21. Mark your calendars for an active and meaningful season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 14 at 7 PM



Midweek Lenten Meal and Holden Evening Prayer
Beginning February 21 – Meal at 6 PM & Worship at 6:45 PM
Meals provided by the Cellar Restaurant

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John: Lenten Series

During Lent, St. Michael will be exploring the theme “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John”. The themes for each week will be used in worship on Sunday and at the midweek Lenten services. In addition, there will be the opportunity for small group discussion around the topics and a downloadable prayer journal. Watch for more information in the bulletin and the weekly e-newsletter.



Week one:	God is Love	1 John 4:7-13
Week two:	The Word Became Flesh	1 John 4:16-21
Week three:	Close to the Father’s Heart	John 1:1-5, 14, 16-18
Week four:	I Have Called You Friends	John 5:19-24
Week five:	Abide in Me	John 15:12-17
Week six:	We Declare to You	John 15:1-11

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John: Sunday Night Bible Study on February 18

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John”. The Bible Study will take place on Sunday, February 18 at 7:15 p.m. in the large classroom.

Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music

On **Wednesday, February 7 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.**, families with young children are invited to gather for dinner, discussion and music. We'll enjoy a simple dinner together, share the story of Following Jesus and the Transfiguration, then Patrice will offer a music program called "God's Children Sing" for the kids while the parents have time for discussion and conversation. You don't need to worry about cooking, just bring yourself and your family.



On **Wednesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m.**, families with young children are invited to an activity and discussion time immediately prior to the midweek Lenten meal and service. We'll discuss the season of Lent, sing and have some fun.

Habitat for Humanity Project

St. Michael has an opportunity to join with other churches in the New River Valley to build a Habitat for Humanity house. The house will be a duplex built in Christiansburg off Depot Street. The project will start around April and be finished by fall. There are many ways to participate such as donating money, volunteering (no skills needed) and donating gifts-in-kind.

Thrivent has a long-term relationship with Habitat for Humanity and has been involved with almost 1,000 builds or repairs, providing over \$200 million since 2005. For this project, Thrivent will be providing a \$55,000 matching grant. The project will cost \$110,000 and use around 200 volunteers for almost 2,000 hours.



Please join us for **lunch and fellowship**, sponsored by Matthew Zeiger of Thrivent Financial, after the 11 a.m. worship on **February 25th** to learn more about ways that you can get involved. Matt will give an introduction to Thrivent and the ways that St. Michael and its members can benefit. In addition, Matt will join with Shelley Fortier of Habitat for Humanity to tell us about the exciting **Faith Build** for the summer of 2018 and how you can get involved.

If you are interested in participating in any way or would like more information contact Doug Smiley, smileydc@vt.edu.