



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.

50 for the 50th Projects

In 1968, St. Mark Lutheran Church and New St. Peter Lutheran Church merged to form St. Michael Lutheran Church. This year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our ministry together. On September 15th, there will be a wonderful worship service and meal with Bishop Bob Humphrey, and former pastors Linda (Mitchell) Motley and Glenn London planning to attend.

Across our 50 years, St. Michael has a strong history of helping others, so as a part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we are launching "50 for the 50th Projects", an opportunity each month to make a difference in the lives of others. The first "**50 for the 50th Project**" will be collecting **50 School Supplies** during the month of March. Each year we do a school supply drive for Price's Fork to start the year, but this year, the school is already running low of certain supplies. Please consider bringing one of the following items to help us reach our goal of 50 items in honor of our 50th Anniversary.

Needed Items: 24 packs of crayons; colored pencils; markers; dry erase markers; highlighters; scissors, tissues, hand sanitizer, and index cards

If you have an idea for a future "50 for the 50th Project", please let me know.

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 Wanda Pascoe and Mildred Wall for folding 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 everyone who shared their time and ideas to help develop our ministry vision plan; and to our musicians who share the gift of music at worship.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported the purchase of newsletter and bulletin paper, supplies for the pancake supper, Lenten devotional materials, supplies for our Families of Faith event, an outing for our youth group, bathroom repairs, heat pump repairs, 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 17 families with funds towards 10 electric bills, 6 rent payments and 1 water bill. 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.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 18 at 9:50 AM

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.





March 25 - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

March 29 – Maundy Thursday service and meal beginning at 6 p.m.

March 30 – Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

Come Celebrate the Joy of Easter on Sunday, April 1

Easter Services

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

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



Easter



Enjoy Easter Breakfast at 8 AM

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast at 8 a.m., 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.

Micah's Backpack Ministry in Action



A shout out this month goes to one of our partners, **Feeding America Southwest Virginia**. Feeding America is in part a food bank that secures large amounts of food for the hungry that is then sold to partners at a very low cost. Recently, Feeding America had available in their warehouse semi-truck loads of boxed foods that kids love. We were able to buy it for less than a dollar a box. That's two cans of ravioli, milk, juice, cereal, fruit cups and snacks for less than a dollar! Thank you Feeding America! And thank **you, volunteers**, who sorted all the foods into categories so we can pack it into bags.

In February, we packed 1,237 bags that represent 7,422 meals for hungry kids. Thank you Saint Michael Lutheran Church for making this possible!

This month, we are asking churches to **Go Green on Saint Patrick's Day** by donating **green beans** to MBP. Feel free to pick up some cans of green beans and bring them to church to donate to MBP kids. Your donations make a huge difference in the lives of children all over our community.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

The packing date for March is March 27th. We appreciate everyone's continued support of our program as we enter into our 6th year. We continue to support over 90 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera.



For **March**, we will be collecting **green beans**.

Micah's Closet



Micah's Closet is currently working with Price's Fork Elementary School to gather information on approximately 40 students for our spring distribution of clothing. Because your generosity, we already had several of the needed items available in our closet, so we are off to a good start for this year. If you would like to help Micah's Closet this spring, you are

invited to a shopping preparation event on Sunday, March 18 at noon. If you would like more information, please talk to Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley or Kris Wertz or email at hope@micahscloset.org.

New Youth Group Forming



Eight youth from St. Michael met on Sunday, February 25 to discuss activities and ideas for a new Youth Group at St. Michael and to enjoy an afternoon at Xtreme Springs in Christiansburg. After some wonderful conversation, the group decided to meet regularly for lunch, conversation and activities.

The next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 11 at noon** for lunch and a conversation about the **relationship between science and faith**. All Youth 6th – 12th grade and their friends are invited.

Details for the event on Sunday, March 25 at noon are still being finalized, so watch for updates in the e-newsletter and bulletin. For more information, please contact Pastor John.

Upcoming Confirmation Events March 8 and April 13

On Thursday, March 8 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., all 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to gather at Our Saviour Lutheran in Christiansburg for dinner and conversation around Holy Week and Easter. On Friday, April 13, we will have Late Night Confirmation at Luther Memorial. The group will be discussing how we talk about our faith.

Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music

On **Wednesday, March 7 and 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.



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.

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March Servants

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Altar Care				
9 AM Service				Palm Sunday
Greeters	Gary and Sandie Worley	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Clifton and Fay Walters	Mayer Family
Lay Reader	Matthew James	Mac McCloud	John Krallman	Congregation
Comm. Asst.	Jacob Dennis	Judith Wolfe	Dianne Krallman	Carrie Mayer
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Jack Graves		Emily Graves	Megan Christle
Comm. Asst.	Mickey McGuigan		Jeff Birch	Kris Wertz
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Ferrell Family	Gary and Rebecca Steck
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk	Doug Smiley	Kris Wertz	Congregation
Ushers	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Ray Howell	Daniel Ferrell John Kell	Gary and Rebecca Steck
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Emily Katz	Bryce Dowdy
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg Family	Graves Family		Saks Family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Mike Berg	Congregation
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Emily Graves	Michelle Berg	Martie Saks

Women of the ELCA

Lunch and Learn: March 19th is the date of our next Lunch and Learn. Lunch begins at noon with a short Bible study to follow. We will finish up about 1 p.m. You are welcome to bring a friend. There will be a place to sign up on the bulletin insert.



Easter Baskets: We will be collecting things to make up Easter baskets for children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. Treats, as well as small toys, books and games would be great to put in the baskets. We will also make a few baskets for Mothers at the WRC. We plan to fill the baskets after church on Sunday March 18th and would love some help!

The Women of the ELCA host potluck **Easter breakfast** between the sunrise and 9 a.m. services. Bring a dish to share and enjoy some fellowship and delicious food.

Looking Ahead: Next Lunch and Learn **April 23**.

The Food Bank: Please bring any foods that would be good for Easter dinner – **canned ham, canned sweet potatoes, packaged mashed potatoes, vegetables, fruits, and dessert fixings**. The food bank is always happy to receive donations of any non-perishable foods in order to provide help for those in our community.

Women's Resource Center: please bring **materials for art projects or crafts** suitable for children.

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

O.Ks (Older Kids)

Happy Go Lucky: Our annual Easter luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 13 at noon**. We will enjoy a delicious traditional meal and Easter program. Invite a friend to join in the fellowship.



Lenten Service Schedule



Wednesday Night Lenten Supper and Service

Supper at 6 p.m. and Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m.

Each Wednesday night and on Maundy Thursday, we enjoy 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@stmhc.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 7	Chicken parmesan with pasta, salad, garlic bread
March 14	Baked beef cannelloni, mushroom ravioli with brie sauce, salad, garlic bread
March 21	Lasagna, salad, garlic bread
March 29	Sub sandwiches, pasta salad (<i>Maundy Thursday Meal</i>)

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John – Part II: Sunday Night Bible Study on March 18

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



Church Slow Pitch Softball



Are you interested in playing for the St. Michael softball team in the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation’s Church Slow Pitch Softball League? Registration opens for church slow pitch softball teams on Feb. 26 and closes on March 30. 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 would 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.