



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

[hope@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.us)

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

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February 1, 2020

Greetings Dear Saints,

Valentine's Day occurs every February 14<sup>th</sup> across the U.S. and in other countries around the world. It is a time when couples exchange candy, flowers and romantic cards pledging their love to one another, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and where did these traditions come from?

One of the many legends contends that Valentine was a priest who lived in third century in Rome during the time of Emperor Claudius II who decreed that single men made better soldiers than those with a wife and family. In order that his army be strong, the emperor outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, believing the decree to be unjust, went against Claudius and performed marriages for young lovers in secret. When Claudius discovered what Valentine was doing he ordered him to be put to death.

Perhaps the day belongs to bishop Valentine of Terni who has many stories attributed to his name. One such story, hearing two lovers quarreling, Valentine offered them a rose and begged them to hold it between their hands together without being pricked by its thorns. After some time they returned and asked him to join them in marriage.

Another story is of a Valentine who helped Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. After being imprisoned himself, he sent the first "valentine" card after falling in love with the jailer's daughter who would visit him often. Before his death, it is alleged, that he wrote her a letter signed, "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.

Around Valentine's Day every year the lectionary gives us a lesson on love. Jesus, through the gospel of Matthew 5:20-37, gives us a gift of four love lessons. These lessons are not your usual sweet and sentimental Valentine, but are real life directions for better relationships. Jesus says love shows **no hostility**, is **not predatory**, is **faithful**, and is **unconditionally truthful**. This kind of love comes about when we act on Christ's behalf to extend "**God's love**" to others.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that "we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us." God's appeal is that of "reconciliation" in order to end our estrangement from God and from another. As ambassadors we have been entrusted with this message of love, God's true love. Therefore, we are to live our lives in healthy loving relationships that respect the dignity of all people. We are to tell others of God's love, allowing our lives to be examples of that same love. In addition, we are to teach that love through Christ's life, death, and resurrection found in scripture.

Jesus spends the entirety of his ministry teaching us how to live as God's children with the hope that our love would be revealed to a hurt and dying world, and that they would know we are his followers. By this, people will come to know Christ.

May we, at St Michael, be a people who lean into that same love that Jesus taught in order to be a church where true love is revealed.... the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessed Valentine's Day!

Pastor Michelle

Serving the community through  
faith, fellowship, worship,  
learning and grace.

## 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, Elaine Powers and Betty Wingate for folding the January newsletter; to John Krallman for his work throughout the year as our Financial Officer; to Dickie Shepherd for various “honey-do’s” around the church; to Ray Howell and Dickie Shepherd for installing a new kitchen sink and to John Kell for churchyard clean up.



### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported fellowship supplies, Sunday School materials, yearly bulk mail permit and postage for newsletters, heat pump maintenance, our property insurance, Micah’s Bus Insurance, annual pest control contract, 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 11 families: 1 with a water bill, 4 with rent assistance and 6 with electric bill expenses.

### Volunteers Invited to Host a 10 a.m. Coffee and Cookie Time

Volunteers are invited to host a Sunday School coffee and snack time between services. Your tasks would include preparing the coffee pots, setting out the cups and other supplies, and providing the muffins, cookies, brownies or other sweet treats. You don’t even have to make the treats...just thaw them right out of the church freezer...unless, of course, you’d like to bring or bake something special for the church family. Clean up before the 11 a.m. service would be nice too, but that task can be “negotiated.” Please contact Sandy Birch at [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu) or talk with her at church if you can help. A sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

## Altar Care

Volunteers are invited to serve as altar care assistants for 2020. No experience necessary – training is available. Assistants prepare the communion elements (usually twice a month) and change the altar cloths as necessary. The sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Questions can be directed to Sandy Birch ([birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) or Doug Smiley ([smileydc@vt.edu](mailto:smileydc@vt.edu)).



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

## Altar Flowers

The 2020 Altar Flowers chart has some opportunities for you to sponsor the flowers in honor or in memory of someone or in celebration of something. Please sign up on the Altar Flowers chart in the hallway.

## Exploring the Hallway at St. Michael

Check out the **bulletin board**. You'll always find current information about programs at St. Michael and in the Virginia Synod. Sometimes members of our St. Michael family "make the news" too and we'll post the articles. The bulletin board is also the place to sign up to sponsor altar flowers or assist with altar care.

**On the shelf**, you'll find current newsletters (share one with a visitor), offering envelopes (take a box) and current devotional material (help yourself). That's where you'll find the lost and found basket too.

**Below the shelf**, look for the recycle/reuse drawers. The pop tabs are delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke, the small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, hand lotion and related items are used by the Montgomery County Christmas Store and the Women's Resource Center, eyeglasses go to the Lions Club, old batteries are taken to the YMCA, and printer cartridges are recycled at Best Buy. Volunteers are always welcome to help deliver the recycled items. Contact Sandy Birch.

## Building Security

Many people are in and out of the church building daily. It is important for anyone leaving the building to double check that all lights are off and all doors are locked. We are fortunate that the Blacksburg Police regularly check our property but we don't want them spending extra time checking because someone left a light on. A church member also is often called by police to come and make sure nothing is missing. Remember to turn off lights and lock doors when leaving the building. Thank you.

## Micah's Backpack January Report



Happy New Year! We are excited to be back in the swing of things at Micah's Backpack preparing food bags for the weekends. Thank you to everyone who has joined us in December. As a reminder, if the weather seems iffy, we will post to Facebook any changes for packing and delivering, so make sure you have "liked" our page! We will do whatever we can to get the bags into the hands of our MBP kids.

MBP wants to thank the Blacksburg Young Professionals for collecting items for us at their monthly mixer. The YP group has also signed up to pack with us later this month. We are honored to be their Non-Profit of the Year and are grateful that they have chosen to help support us in our mission.

This month we would be grateful to receive donations of **tuna**. Please consider buying some tuna and sharing it with MBP – you can place it in the crate right outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

## Micah's Soup for Seniors

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of Micah's Soup for Seniors. We look forward to your help with packing and distribution over the next several months.

Here are the next packing dates:

February 25th

March 24th

April 28th

May 26th



For **February**, we will be collecting **Instant Oatmeal**.

## Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2



The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 2. 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!

**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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

|                      | <b>February 2</b>         | <b>February 9</b>           | <b>February 16</b>         | <b>February 23</b>                |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Care</b>    | Jane Swing                |                             |                            |                                   |
| <b>9 AM Service</b>  |                           |                             |                            |                                   |
| <b>Greeters</b>      | Gary and Sandie<br>Worley | Dave Surface<br>Butch Akers | Wilma Pieper<br>Jane Swing | Ben and Carol<br>Crawford         |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>    | Jane Swing                | Rachel Hahn                 | Dianne Krallman            | Lori Anne Kirk                    |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>   | Dianne Krallman           | George Hahn                 | Lylah Shelor               | Nancy Goad                        |
| <b>11 AM Service</b> |                           |                             |                            |                                   |
| <b>Acolyte</b>       | Emily Graves              |                             | Emily Graves               |                                   |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>   | Doug Smiley               |                             | Jeff Birch                 |                                   |
| <b>Greeters</b>      | Ray Howell<br>Cindy Lang  | Hank and Alice<br>Schneider | Gary and Becky<br>Steck    | Randy and<br>Sharon Robinson      |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>    | Jody Smiley               | Anna Rossomando             | Laura Gruss                | Emma Patterson                    |
| <b>Ushers</b>        | Ray Howell<br>Ben Simmers | Hank and Alice<br>Schneider | Gary and Becky<br>Steck    | Randy Robinson<br>Dickie Shepherd |
| <b>Youth Servant</b> | Bryce Dowdy               |                             | Danny Gruss                | Gesine Newman                     |

**Please Note:** Greeters/Ushers at both services please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate.

## Women of the ELCA

**Lunch and Learn:** On Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon, we will resume our regular lunch and Bible Study! All women are invited to come, bring a friend and enjoy lunch and an always-interesting Bible study led by Jody Smiley. Please sign up on the Welcome Sheet so we can prepare lunch for all!



**In January** – Anita Shepard, Bee Bedwell, Lorin Crowder, Wilma Pieper, Peggy Brown, Mildred Wall, Allie Riffe, Carol Howell, Cindy Lang, Inga Solberg, Barbara Corbett, Lynn Hickok, Suzanne Gay, Sandy Williams, Jody Smiley, Fran Shepherd, Anna Rossomando, Pastor Michelle, Frances Edge, Kay Edge, Alice Schneider and Elaine Powers – joined by Doug Smiley, enjoyed dinner, desserts, and lots of fellowship with friends at O’Charley’s. As always we welcome guests. Everyone had a great time. We plan on dinner out again in the summer. If you have any restaurant suggestions, please let us know! All women are invited.



**For the Food Bank:** In February, please bring **canned tuna or meats**; however, the food bank always welcomes all non-perishable foods.

**For the Women’s Resource Center:** **shower and hand soaps** would be great.

**Thanks to everyone for all the ways you help those in our community.**

## Thank You Note

*Dear Mission Partner,*

*Thank you so much for your support of Bedford Lutheran Church with your donations totaling \$600 for July through December 2019.*

*Our church under the leadership of Pastor Tim Feaser is moving forward with high hopes for becoming an organized church later in 2020.*

*Again, we appreciate your valuable Mission Partner support and continued prayers for our church. We are keeping you in our prayers as well as you move forward with your new pastor.*

*Yours in Christ, Robin Wood, Parish House Administrator/Treasurer  
Bedford Lutheran Church*

*Christmas Store Contributor,*

*Thank you for your generous donation to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. We would like to acknowledge your gift of \$128. We appreciate your support of our efforts to serve the community in helping our friends and neighbors. Your donation will be used to purchase goods provided to low-income families during the Christmas Season.*

*Generosity such as yours transforms the Christmas Store dream into reality. Again, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your contribution.*

*Sincerely, Pat Ballard, Treasurer  
The Christmas Store*

## Sincerest Thanks

On behalf of the **Mother's Morning Out** program, I would like to say thank you so much for your support of our program and wish list from the December newsletter. With your generous help, we were able to purchase many of the items on the list and the children have loved playing with the donated items! Please remember we are happy to work with any volunteers that would like to come read stories or do any special activities with the children. Be on the lookout for updates and pictures from our program. We would like to keep the church congregation up to date with the fun that's happening during the weekdays in the education wing.

Sincerely,  
Megan Meyers



## **Council Members**

Your Council members are ready to hear your comments and concerns. Council members are: Butch Akers, Margaret Christle, Jim Clemens, Elizabeth Graves, John Kell, Mickey McGuigan, Fran Shepherd, Doug Smiley and Becky Steck.

Current Officers:

President: Fran Shepherd

Vice President/Secretary: Doug Smiley

Financial Officer: John Krallman.

The next Council meeting is Sunday, February 9 at 12:15.

## **Families of Faith**

Activities will resume on February 5 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and will continue on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. All families with young children are invited for supper and activities.

## **NRV CARES**

NRV CARES is a free program for parents and child caregivers and children. A children's program is offered while parents and caregivers meet separately. Adult topics include: power struggles, routines, tantrums, stress, communication, misbehavior and cooperation. Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays from 5:30pm-7pm at St. Michael in the large classroom. Dinner begins at 5:30. For more information call Keli Lichty at 540-381-8310 or e-mail [keli@nrvcare.org](mailto:keli@nrvcare.org)



**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26, 2020**

### **Lent Schedule**

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25 at Luther Memorial at 6:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service with communion at St. Michael on February 26 at 7 p.m.
- Mid-Week Lenten Meal and Services at St. Michael on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 all beginning with a meal at 6:00 p.m. and the service at 6:45 p.m. Details coming soon.



## State Champion Tree – by John Kell

A tree on the St. Michael Lutheran Church grounds has been declared a state champion.

A Korean Evodia tree has been recognized as one of the largest of its species by the Virginia Big Tree Program, on-line at <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/> Use the 'search big trees' box to look for Korean evodia.

Trees earn points based on height, trunk circumference, and canopy diameter. Every foot of height earns 1 point, every inch of trunk circumference earns 1 point, and every foot of canopy diameter earns  $\frac{1}{4}$  point. The tree at the church is 66 feet tall, 46 inches in circumference, and has a canopy that is 40 feet wide (for 10 pts.) earning a total of 122 points.

Another Evodia tree on Burruss Street in Blacksburg has 125 pts. Since these two trees are within three points of each other, and since precision measurements are not easy to come by when measuring something uniquely shaped as a tree, these two trees are considered co-champions.

Korean Evodia is native to China and Korea. It flowers profusely in July so is much sought after by bees at that time of year, as not a lot of other trees are in bloom then. The seeds are hard and spherical, and remind some people of BB shot, so the tree is also known as Bee Bee Tree.

The previous state champion can still be found next to M&M Tire on Prices Fork Road.

Thanks to George Hahn for help with measuring the height.



# St. Michael Lutheran Church

February 2020

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Fri       | Sat       |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| <b>26</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Discussion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship   | <b>27</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out   | <b>28</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study<br><b>5:00 PM</b> Soup for Seniors Packing and Delivering<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Civil Air Patrol Awards Banquet in Fellowship Hall   | <b>29</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>2:45 PM</b> Music Lesson   | <b>30</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting | <b>31</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2</b><br>Souper Bowl of Caring<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Discussion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Choir Practice<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion   | <b>3</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>5:30 PM</b> NRV Cares Circle of Parents in the Large Classroom   | <b>4</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall   | <b>5</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>2:45 PM</b> Music Lesson<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Families of Faith                  | <b>6</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>New Member Sunday<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Discussion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Handbell Choir Practice<br><b>12:15 PM</b> Congregational Church Council Meeting | <b>10</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out   | <b>11</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study  | <b>12</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>2:45 PM</b> Music Lesson<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Practice                    | <b>13</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Discussion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Choir Practice<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>3:00 PM</b> Installation of Pastor Michelle                         | <b>17</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>12:00 PM</b> WELCA Lunch and Learn<br><b>5:30 PM</b> NRV Cares Circle of Parents in the Large Classroom | <b>18</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Price Family Historical Society  | <b>19</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>2:45 PM</b> Music Lesson<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Families of Faith                 | <b>20</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>Transfiguration of Our Lord<br><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Adult Discussion<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Choir Practice<br><b>10:00 AM</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Handbell Choir Practice | <b>24</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out   | <b>25</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study<br><b>5:00 PM</b> Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Luther Memorial | <b>26</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>2:45 PM</b> Music Lesson<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Service - Communion | <b>27</b><br><b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack<br><b>7:15 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b> |

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

Food Bank - Canned Tuna/Meats; Women's RC - Shower/Hand Soap; Micah's Backpack - Tuna; Soup for Seniors - Oatmeal