



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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April 1, 2021

Dear Saints,

Spring is the time when the Earth brings forth all its new life and hope renews itself. The days are longer, the air is warmer, and everyone starts to spend more time outdoors enjoying the sun, and each other. Daffodils and crocuses break through the softening earth, the trees have new buds and a definite hue of green, and the robin sings with great joy. It is a time for all to shake off the long winter and renew the hope in our lives.

I share with you a Spring mediation:

“Earth's Prodigality”

by Sr. Mary Brigh Cassidy

Nothing that I have ever done  
Could earn the privilege for me  
Of witnessing anew each year  
Green springing grass, fresh budding tree.  
No dreams I e'er might dream could bring  
This clear still blueness to the sky,  
Or send that fluff of downy clouds  
Sailing in lazy squadrons by.  
Yet mine is the warm breath of spring  
That perfumes every gentle breeze,  
The song of lark, the glow of flower,  
For Earth is prodigal in these.

A Prayer:

Spring is a time of new growth stirring in the heart of nature. When creation wakes and puts out feelers towards the sun and all of life is a glorious possibility. O, God, keep us in the spirit of amazement. Keep us believing when we cannot see; keep us hoping while we wait; keep us looking for your presence. Amen

Blessed Spring people of God,  
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 Keith Gay for compiling our annual report; to Lynda Kinzey for binding the annual reports; to Keith Gay for helping fold the March newsletter; to Anna Rossomondo for writing many thank you notes on behalf of the congregation; to Betty Wingate for delivering The Women’s Resource Center donations; to Lynda Kinzey for delivering the food pantry donations; to Sandie Worley for agreeing to be the new Micah’s Mini Pantry director; to Gary Worley and Jeff Birch for putting up the new Micah’s Mini Pantry; to Dickie and Fran Shepherd for installing a new mailbox; and to Elaine Powers for writing and organizing the newsletter each and every month (Suzanne added Elaine’s thank you!).

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported postage, office supplies, newsletter paper, envelopes, *Christ in Our Home*, *Spark Family*, and *Hope-Full Living* subscription renewals, Palm crosses, QuickBooks software update, snow removal, church directory supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, support for our mission partner Bedford Lutheran Church, 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 **4** families with funds towards **2** electric bills, **1** with rent assistance and **1** water bill. Thank you for your generous gifts which make this expression of God’s generous love possible.

### Synod Youth Assembly



The 2021 Virginia Synod Youth Assembly will be held on Saturday, June 12 in mid-afternoon (exact times TBA) online via Zoom. This is for youth in grades 7-12. Congregations are asked to designate two delegates for the sessions for The Synod Assembly. If you are interested in attending contact Fran Shepherd (fshepherd13@icloud) or

Dave Delaney at the Synod Office (delaney@vasynod.org)

### Congregational Meeting

Plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on April 25 at 7 p.m. on zoom. A zoom link and optional call in information will be sent closer to the date. Speak with any Church Council member if you have any questions about this important meeting.



### Micah's Backpack



MBP would like to thank everyone for their support through food donations and monetary gifts. We have been averaging approximately 250 bags per week during the months of February and March. This has been made possible by our congregation and the surrounding community. We were blessed this month with a donation of 1,400 food items (approximately a \$700 value) from the Blacksburg Christian Church. We are truly thankful for Pastor McCoy and his congregation's continued support of this wonderful communal ministry.

Spring is just around the corner which means summer isn't far behind. Micah's Mobile Backpack is gearing up for our Summer Feeding Program. We will be using "Izzy" the Bus to bring food to specific areas to serve our students. We may also have a designated day for pick up at the church. If either of these programs speaks to your heart, and you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, phone or text. We are still in the planning stage, so all suggestions and ideas are appreciated. Email: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org) Phone: 540-599-4682.

MBP has been approached by Jersey Mike's Subs in Blacksburg. They would like to host a fundraiser each month to benefit MBP. This partnership will continue through the rest of the year and hopefully through 2022. There will be one specific day each month where 10% of all purchases for the day will be given to MBP. Please check our Facebook page and our website: [www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org) in the coming days for more information on this wonderful partnership.

Last, but certainly not least, is another possible ministry need. Although it does not fall directly under Micah's Backpack, it is worth mentioning. Last year Pastor Michelle voiced her concerns about the need for hygiene products for our students. It was not something the MBP Director was looking to take on at the time. Recently some parents (and grandparents) have reached out about this very subject. It seems there is a need, and a concern, for students to have access to feminine hygiene products, deodorant, soap and oral hygiene products. I would appreciate any feedback, ideas, suggestions and opinions on this need. Do we need to address this as a congregation? Are there provisions being made by others? Is this a ministry we may want to pursue? Is there someone who would like to oversee this ministry? PLEASE let John Stramiello, MBP Director, know your thoughts. Email: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org)

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

## Micah's Mini Pantry

As mentioned in last month's St. Michael Messenger, Micah's Mini Pantry has become a reality and will roll out next month (May). The Mini Pantry has been constructed and will be packed outside of St. Michael Lutheran Church on Merrimac Road near the side entrance behind the Bell Tower. The pantry will consist of non-perishable food and some personal items which will be accessible to our church Justice and Mercy participants as well as those in need in the neighboring community. Donations of food and personal items to supply and stock the pantry are requested. We hope to build up and maintain reserves on hand as well.



Donations of non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats and proteins, and personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper and deodorant may be dropped off at St. Michael Lutheran Church on Mondays from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. during the Micah's Backpack donation drop off. *Please make sure to identify those donations supporting Micah's Mini Pantry by marking the bags or boxes with a note indicating the donations are for the Mini Pantry.* We will gladly accept donations at the drive-in service on April 25. Our message to **"take what you need, and leave what you can"** will allow participants not only a safe way to gather a few necessary food and personal items but also to leave something for others if they are able. Contact Sandie Worley at [sandie@vt.edu](mailto:sandie@vt.edu) or 540-961-2709 with any questions.

Thank you in advance for your interest in and support of this new outreach.

**God's Work - Our Hands!**

## Micah's Soup for Seniors



We are continuing to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We continue to receive food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church with 4 to 5 volunteers after which the staff at Warm Hearth picks up the bags 4 or 5 days later for distribution to the seniors. Currently we are packing generic bags and are not offering menu options as in the past. The bags contain quite a few basic items: tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers. This seems to be working well and we are pleased to have found a way to still help out the low-income seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner. We appreciate everyone's support as we feed those in need. We will be collecting **chicken noodle soup** in **April** and **May**. You may drop off donations at the church.

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

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## *Drive-in Services*

Join St. Michael for a drive-in Easter service on April 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Michael parking lot. The services will include communion. You can listen to the service on channel FM 88.9 on the radio.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

This is a special invitation for families with children. The students from The Well are planning an Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on the church grounds immediately following the Easter Drive-in Service at St. Michael. Make plans to stay for this fun activity.



**Easter**

On the fourth Sunday each month, we will continue to host drive-in services for the Blacksburg – Radford Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.

## Women of the ELCA

**WELCA Wednesdays: Lunch and Learn:** Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon. All women are invited to join our zoom group meeting to enjoy some face time with each other as well as an always interesting lesson and discussion; the topic will be "All Ate and Were Filled". Jesus was confident that the disciples would carry out his request to feed the hungry crowd. He knew they were equipped with everything they needed to do the job. We will explore the fact that God also equips us so we can confidently answer when we are called, "I will, with God's help and guidance". If you have any questions contact Jody Smiley at - [jdsmiley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net)



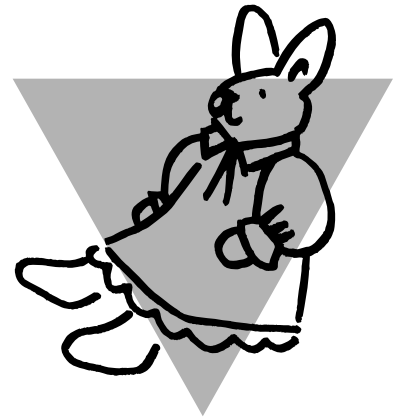
**Easter  
Baskets**

**Easter Baskets** – Thank you for your generous donations of Easter baskets for the Women’s Resource Center. The children will enjoy their Easter bunny treats!

**Looking forward to seeing you on WELCA Wednesday!**

## O.K.s (Older Kids)

We’re never too old for the Easter bunny. Be watchful this month for a visit . . . maybe before Easter, maybe after. We heard she’s retired, so you never know when she’ll turn up. Might even be May ☺ But she’ll come hop-hop-hoppin’ along this spring (if the knees hold up) bearing some Easter treats.



## Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 25

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. Please contact Lorin Crowder for more information. [lorincrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lorincrowder@gmail.com)

## Thank You Notes

*Dear Mission Partner,*

*Thank you so much for your support of Bedford Lutheran Church with your donations totaling \$400 for September through December 2020 and donations totaling \$200 for January and February 2021.*

*On behalf of Pastor Feaser and the congregation of Bedford Lutheran Church, I would like to sincerely thank St. Michael's congregation for your continued mission support through 2021 that we were made aware of in your January newsletter. Your support for our congregation over these many years has meant the world to us and we are eternally grateful.*

*We are continuing with our drive in worship as we anxiously await the day later this year (hopefully) when we can reunite once again and finally celebrate our organization as a congregation.*

*Again, we appreciate your valuable Mission Partner continued support and prayers for our church for 2021. We are keeping you in our prayers as well.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Robin Wood, Parish House Administrator/Treasurer*

*To my friends at St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for the beautiful stoles as I start my ministry journey. I have appreciated the continued support and prayers and I will always be thankful to God for the wonderful community at St. Michael. I look forward to serving together with Pastor Michelle as we continue a relationship between New Mt. Zion and St. Michael.*

*With peace & hope,*

*Pastor Bryan*

*The Family of Howard Williams would like to thank so many for the kind words of comfort, cards, phone calls, prayers, and the donations made in Howard's memory. We are blessed to be surrounded by a group of people that are so kind, caring and giving.*

*God bless all of you,*

*Sandy Williams and Family*



## **Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders**

**Let no debt remain outstanding**, except the continuing debt to love one another.

Romans 13:8

Like other forms of higher education, attending seminary generates considerable cost for tuition and expenses. Many pastors acquire considerable educational debt from attending seminary.

The average cost of seminary is \$36,000/year. The average debt for seminary graduates is \$45,000. This debt can create significant stress for pastors which may have impact on their health and performance. The Lilly Endowment is a national initiative to offset these economic challenges facing pastoral leaders.

St. Michael Pastor:

Even after much hard work and careful planning, Pastor Michelle has acquired substantial debt from attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She has been proactive in finding ways to pay this debt back quickly, including applying for and receiving a grant to defray debt through the Lilly Endowment. Through this program, she has engaged in sessions with financial counselors to learn strategies on how best to pay off the debt quickly. Even with these extra steps, it will take our Pastor 10 years to pay off this debt.

How can we help:

The Lilly Endowment suggests that we can help by making contributions in our offering to a fund to pay down educational debt that will be sent directly to the lender.

There will be more information and time for questions regarding this need during the congregational meeting on April 25.

## **Beginning In-Person Worship Services**

The Worship Committee and Church Council have developed plans to hold in-person worship services beginning on May 30th. Church Council will make the final decision at their April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We will hold the service outdoors in the parking lot near the Circle of Grace. You may bring lawn chairs from home or may use chairs from church. You will need to practice social distancing from other families. Masks must be worn at all times. The service will be broadcast on FM 88.9 so folks may remain in their cars if they prefer. For those who feel they need to stay home, the service will be recorded for later viewing. If there is inclement weather, the service will be moved into the Sanctuary. All required sanitizing will be done before each service and of course social distancing and masks will be required. Registration for our outdoor/indoor services will be required so that we can provide information to the Health department for contact tracing if needed.

On the fourth Sunday each month, we will continue to host drive-in services for Blacksburg – Radford Fellowship.

This plan complies with all requirements of the Governor's Order 72 (version 3/23/21) which allows for worship services to be held outdoors for no more than 100 people and indoors for no more than 50.



# St. Michael Lutheran Church

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday Sunday School Will Resume April 11 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org <b>10:00 AM</b> Drive-In Service at St. Michael	<b>29</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>30</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>31</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lesson <b>7:00 PM</b> St. Michael Quartet Rehearse and Record	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Maundy Thursday Service Live via Zoom	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Good Friday Tenebrae Service Live via Zoom	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Easter Sunday Sunday School Will Resume April 11 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org <b>10:00 AM</b> Drive-In Service at St. Michael <b>11:00 AM</b> Easter Egg Hunt for Children Immediately Following the Easter Service	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>6</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>7</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lesson <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>8</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>4:30 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org <b>12:15 PM</b> Congregational Church Council Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	<b>12</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>13</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>14</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lesson <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>15</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>4:30 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org <b>6:00 PM</b> Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	<b>19</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>20</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>21</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>12:00 PM</b> WELCA Lunch and Learn via Zoom <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lesson <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>22</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>4:30 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>23</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> St. Michael Scholarship Application Deadline Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org <b>10:00 AM</b> Drive-In Service at St. Michael <b>7:00 PM</b> Congregational Annual Meeting via Zoom	<b>26</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>27</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lesson <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> St. Michael Quartet Rehearse and Record	<b>29</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>4:30 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	<b>1</b>

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