



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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March 1, 2022

Blessed Saints,

During Lent we, like the children of Israel, will find ourselves in the wilderness wondering when it will end. The good news? God is faithful, always present through any wilderness, working to transform us for His final future. As a matter of fact, the word “Lent” was originally derived from the Old English word “lencten,” which means, “springtime.” So, the liturgical season of Lent is quite literally a springtime for us in our Christian journey.

Like the popular season of spring, Lent is a period marked by melting, warming and growing: Melting away of the frozen or unnecessary habits that lead us away from our relationship with God; Warming our hearts with the love of God, and then growing into the people God calls us to be over the course of 40 days. It is a time when we deliberately re-examine what it means to follow Christ.

We do this work by entering into the three disciplines of Lent: praying, fasting, and giving. These lead to actions of trust that increase our growth in Christ.

1. We pray for guidance, strength, and an increase of our dependency on God, teaching our hearts to trust God’s wisdom rather than our own understanding.
2. We are called to fast from things that keep us from God’s truth and from putting Jesus first in our lives.
3. We are to give to those in need as a sign of our hope in the coming kingdom of God. This helps us to develop a heart that trusts God more than the things of this world.

We will start our journey on Ash Wednesday when we gather for the imposition of ashes, a sign of our mortality, our passing sinful nature and the cross and a sign of our need for mercy and God’s gracious and promised salvation.

May God give us peace and courage to trust Him in our wilderness during Lent as we head towards the cross on Good Friday, and to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

In the abiding hope of the open tomb,  
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, Betty Wingate and Judith Wolfe for folding the February newsletters; to Jim and Judy Clemens for their faithful weekly offering counting; to Jim Clemens for updating the hymn board in the sanctuary each week; to Sandy Birch for updating the bulletin board in the front hallway each month; to Anna Rossomando for sending thank you notes to the community for food and monetary donations to Micah’s Backpack; to Jody Smiley for leading our WELCA Bible studies and adult Sunday School; and to Doug Smiley and Mickey McGuigan for picking up all the food from Feeding America Southwest Virginia for our Micah's programs.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported snow removal, communion supplies, stamps, food for Families of Faith gathering, outing for choir members, annual online church software, special singing masks for choir members, annual worker’s compensation insurance, repair of water fountain, Lenten devotionals, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our mission partner (Peace and Hope) 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 **13** families with funds towards **eight** electric bills, **three** with rent payments and **one** with gasoline assistance. 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.



Daylight saving time 2022 in Virginia will begin at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 13.



### **Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story**



We are in the planning stages of the Micah's Mobile Backpack Summer Program. Start date will be either June 1<sup>st</sup> or June 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in packing or assisting with delivery, please contact John Stramiello by the first week of May (sooner if possible).

Since we supply 500 plus snacks each week, and we assist two schools with snacks for their Snack Closets, we are still in need of snacks such as **individually wrapped peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, Cheez-It® baked crackers, pretzels, Goldfish, fruit snacks and granola bars**. We do have an abundance of fruit & grain bars at this time.

With all the challenges presented this year, the Micah's Backpack program continues to make a great impact in our community for our students and their families. Micah's Initiative will continue to grow and to overcome any future challenges with the continued support of our community.

For more information please contact John J. Stramiello at: 540-599-4682  
[hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org)

## Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute 90+ bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We appreciate everyone's support as we feed those in need. We will be collecting small cans of **tuna** in March. You may drop off those donations at the church.



## Micah's Mini Pantry



Micah's Mini Pantry has been serving the area for nearly one year. This has only been possible with your thoughtful donations and kindness. Thank you all for supporting this caring and giving ministry. Your generosity helps remember the needs of others in our community. All donations make our hearts happy We are grateful for you!

The colder months will continue for a while. Nice warm meals warm the body and provide extra nourishment as well. Please consider those warm meal choices. Donations include non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, snacks, hot chocolate, tea, popcorn, oatmeal, and other canned meats and proteins.

There continues to be a need for personal care items: **toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper, deodorant and feminine items, band-aids, sunscreen, antibiotic creams, and even can openers.**

Remember to **take what you need and leave what you can.** All donations are greatly appreciated!

Please continue to donate at the in-person church services and on Mondays from 10 a.m. until noon. Thank you!

Peace, love, and many blessings.

## O.K.s (Older Kids)

Save the date... **Tuesday, April 5 is our next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon.** We'll enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our in-house chef, Sandy Williams, along with beautiful music and an Easter-themed program.



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

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***March Sunday Servants***

	<b>March 6</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>March 20</b>	<b>March 27</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sandy Birch	and	Doug Smiley	
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Forest Sloan Jennifer Wayne	Wilma Pieper Butch Akers	Anna Rossomando Sandy Williams
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Bert Kinzey	Keith Gay	John Stramiello	Jody Smiley

**Please Note:** Greeters/Ushers please take the attendance, write down the number and place in the offering plate. Paper and pen are in the bookshelf drawer.

## Women of the ELCA

**WELCA Wednesday: Lunch and Learn:** Lunch and Learn for March will be held on **Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.** All St. Michael ladies are invited. For now, our plan is to meet at church for fellowship, a light lunch and Bible study. We will socially distance and wear our masks when not eating. A zoom link will be provided for those that cannot attend in person. If our plans change, they will be noted in the weekly *News and Notes* email. We will continue to explore “The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?” In March, our study is titled “Eternal life in the Gospel of John”. In the fourth Gospel Jesus uses the expression “eternal life” to talk about what he calls the “kingdom of God” in the other Gospels. The phrase does not just refer to life that is eternally long, but also (indeed, especially) to life that is eternally deep - life that is endless in value and meaning. We will look at some popular passages, including John 3:16 and the story of Jesus and the woman at the well to discover how our lives can be marked by love and purpose. If you have any questions and/or need the zoom link please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliey29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)



**Easter Baskets** – We'll be gathering items (candy, small toys, crayons, etc.) for Easter baskets for children whose families are in the care of the Women's Resource Center. Watch for the collection box near the end of the month.

## Lenten Worship Schedule

**Ash Wednesday** – March 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael

**Wednesday Worship Services** at 7 p.m.

March 9 at Luther Memorial

March 16 at St. Michael

March 23 at New Mt. Zion

March 30 at Christ Lutheran

April 6 at Shiloh Lutheran

**Maundy Thursday** – April 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service** – April 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael

**Easter Worship Service** – April 17 at 10 a.m. at St. Michael

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

## Thank You Notes

*Dear Members of St. Michael,*

*Thank you so much for your mission support of Bedford Lutheran Church totaling \$1200.00 for 2021. We also thank you for your donation in memory of Rev. Steve Schulz who passed away last year. Pastor Steve started our church in 2005 and retired in 2013.*

*On behalf of our Pastor, Tim Feasor, and the members of Bedford Lutheran Church, I would like to sincerely thank St. Michael's congregation for your mission support for our church over these many years. Your support meant the world to us, and we will remain eternally grateful.*

*Despite the pandemic, 2021 was an amazing year for Bedford Lutheran and 2022 will be an even better year. We were officially recognized as an organized church of the ELCA on September 26, 2021. We held a successful capital campaign in November and December for our new church building. We will have a groundbreaking ceremony on February 20<sup>th</sup> and we are to be in our new building before Christmas Eve.*

*Again, we so appreciate the valuable Mission Partner support and prayers that St. Michael provided for our church. We will never forget your faith that you maintained in our church. We wish you the very best.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Robin Wood, Parish House Administration/Treasurer  
Bedford Lutheran Church  
Bedford VA*

## Birth Announcement



Charles Merion Crowder arrived on January 31, 2022, at 11:01 a.m. He weighed 5 lb, 13 oz and was 19 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches long. Charley is the grandson of Jeff and Lorin Crowder and the son of Dan and Ellen Crowder. The family is overjoyed with Charley's arrival and eagerly supplies an abundance of affection!



## **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. [lorinhcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lorinhcrowder@gmail.com)

## **Cub Scout Pack 158**

SCOUT ME IN: An interest meeting to begin organizing Cub Pack 158 will be held at St. Michael on **Monday March 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.**

Cub Scouting is for boys and girls from kindergarten through 5th grade. The Cub Pack will bring younger children into the church and complete the awesome Troop and Crew we already sponsor.

With Cub Scouts, there are opportunities to spend time as a family and promote character development, citizenship training and personal fitness. Cub Scouts will make new friends in den meetings and pack meetings, play purposeful games, and learn new skills through age-appropriate activities outlined in the Cub Scout handbooks. Cub families will have opportunities to go camping and participate in outdoor adventures.

Note: Please let John Kell or Ben Crawford know if you can attend the brief meeting Monday, Mar. 7, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. and **also** if you know adults (with small children) who might be interested to invite to the meeting. [Ben.Crawford@vt.edu](mailto:Ben.Crawford@vt.edu) or 540 961-5733 and [JKell@Radford.edu](mailto:JKell@Radford.edu)

### **For Youth**

Want to escape the indoors?

Seeking fun and adventure?

Want to make new friends?

Join us. Be a Cub Scout.



## March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Transfiguration of Our Lord <b>9:00 AM</b> First Communion Class <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School for Adults and Children <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>1</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>5:30 PM</b> Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Service at St. Michael <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>3</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> First Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> First Communion Class <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School for Adults and Children <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice <b>11:00 AM</b> Safety and Security Meeting	<b>7</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>5:15 PM</b> Scout Troop (Cub Pack) Meeting	<b>8</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons	<b>9</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Mid-Week Lenten Service at Luther Memorial <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>10</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward Second Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> First Communion Class <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School for Adults and Children <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice <b>11:15 AM</b> Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>15</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>7:00 PM</b> Price Family Historical Society	<b>16</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Mid-Week Lenten Service at St. Michael <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>17</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Third Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> First Communion Class <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School for Adults and Children <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice <b>11:00 AM</b> Safety and Security Meeting <b>4:00 PM</b> Families of Faith	<b>21</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>22</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>10:00 AM</b> Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons	<b>23</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>12:00 PM</b> WELCA Lunch and Learn In Person and via Zoom <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Mid-Week Lenten Service at New Mt. Zion <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>24</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg
<b>27</b> First Communion Sunday Fourth Sunday in Lent <b>9:00 AM</b> First Communion Class <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School for Adults and Children <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service with Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Choir Practice <b>11:00 AM</b> Reception for First Communicants	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>29</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons	<b>30</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Backpack <b>7:00 PM</b> Mid-Week Lenten Service at Christ Lutheran in Radford <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>31</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop Meeting	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



# Ahh.....Water!

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." Water warming your daily shower..... water dripping in your coffee pot.....water quenching your thirst on a hot summer's day.....water washing your laundry, and dishes, and hands..... How often we use water freely from our faucets? How often do we give thanks for the abundance of water? Would we appreciate our water more if we had to walk 2 or 3 miles to get it? In many places around the world water contains harmful contaminants and must be boiled before consuming. Water is a precious gift from our Creator!

World Water Day is March 22 this year. Here are some ideas for appreciating and giving thanks for the water we use every day.

Drop a dime in a jar every time you turn on a faucet and collect the money for one of the ELCA water Good Gifts: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/water> .

Remember your baptism when you wash your face each morning.

Pray for those who walk miles to obtain water and consider how you might implement water saving measures in your home. [https://thewaterproject.org/water\\_conservation\\_tips](https://thewaterproject.org/water_conservation_tips)

Give thanks daily for the water in your life: that you gaze upon at the shore, that falls in a gentle rain, that is delivered to your house through something as convenient as a faucet!

△ This message was brought to you by the Virginia Synod Hunger Team. 2