



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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April 1, 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you for bringing your kiddos to worship. When my son was a young child, I did not take him to church, so I missed out on those early years of holding him while I worshiped God in the community of saints. Seeing all of you with your little ones as I look out across the sanctuary on Sunday mornings reminds me that God's family is most gifted when it is comprised of every age. The blessing and joy you bring to the church is perhaps not voiced enough by us.

May we recognize that Sunday mornings can be a struggle for you to get the kids fed, dressed, and out the door in time for church: that sometimes the sanctuary can feel more like walking into a game of *Survivor* than a meaningful worship experience.

We are grateful that you bring your toddlers with all their curiosity and inquisitiveness to church. We know it can be a battle when they squirm out of your arms and onto the floor to explore what is right outside of your reach. Know that it is times like these that we witness the kind of curiosity for what it means to be in a community of believers, worshipping together. We are in awe when we witness their curiosity that halts all other activities of exploration to study us, the adults around them, in a posture of praise towards God. Recognize it or not, in that moment they are being led and taught by the Holy Spirit in ways that are only suitable for their toddler selves. Our children learn to worship from watching us worship. They are playing a part in the body of Christ that no one else can. There are many parts but one body, so let them be curious, inquisitive, and right out of reach in order that the Spirit can do good work in them and in us.

We thank you for including your precocious preschoolers who ask questions that we adults are afraid to ask. If I am to be honest with you, I prepare every children's sermon with some amount of trepidation because of the questions that might be asked of me. I maintain that if we want to know how much we think we know about the faith then teach a children's Sunday School class and we will find out quickly. We recognize the gift that their questioning voices give to us as the Body of Christ. It is God at work in and through them that helps us as adults to dive deeper into Biblical literacy, into the truth of how serious we are in seeking answers, not only for them but for ourselves. So let them ask questions even if it is from underneath a pew, or from a table in the fellowship hall, or when clinging to a parent's leg while speaking in a small whispering voice, in order for God to work in them and in order for God work in us.

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We are filled with joy upon seeing the energy and enthusiasm of your elementary age children. We recognize the challenges they face in a world that changes much more quickly than they do. Our hearts are full of joy during the service when we hear them singing or speaking the liturgy. Their voices are a reminder of the legacy the church leaves behind for future generations. We know their endless energy can be hard for you to contain but we also know that this energy will propel the church to new heights that we have only dreamed of. So let their energy and enthusiasm find a home with us in order that the church's calling, the kingdom, and the good news of the gospel thrive in and through them and also in and through us.

We are humbled that you share your high school and college students with us. Just when they are trying to engage their faith in a real-world application, the church all too often lets them go. We forget how crucial this time is for both them and for the church, not just our church but the church universal. After they are confirmed, graduate from high school, or head off to college, it is easy for us to think we have done our part, but that is simply not true. We have only begun to walk with them in a lifelong journey of faith formation. We need their prophetic voices in the congregation to lead us to the new places God is calling the church. St. Michael Lutheran Church is a gift to us, and we are to foster that gift. We have been charged to leave behind a legacy to spread the love of Christ throughout world. All too often our young people feel like their voices do not matter in the church, and when this happens, the church they grew up in becomes their mother's and father's church. They leave to seek a new place where their voice, their witness, and their worship matters. May we as a congregation learn to hand them the keys to the church in order that they grow in and through Christ just as we grow in and through Christ.

May we always strive to be the body of Christ that includes all age groups and shares responsibility, seeking to pass on to our children the opportunity to worship alongside us. May our eyes well up with tears of joy for what God is doing in and through them and in and through us. I cannot think of a better way for God's family to enter the church building on a Sunday morning.

With hope in God for our future,
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 organizing our annual report; to Gary Worley for the cover photo on the annual report; to Lynda Kinzey for binding the annual reports; to Keith Gay, Linda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Betty Wingate and Judith Wolfe for folding 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 Judy Clemens for stuffing the weekly bulletins and to Dickie Shepherd for tightening the joinery on the loose pews.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported building maintenance supplies, office supplies, devotional subscription renewals, stamps, communion supplies, children’s sermon supplies, games for Families of Faith, septic system maintenance, QuickBooks software update, snow removal, church directory supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, 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 **13** families with funds towards **seven** electric bills, **two** with rent assistance, **two** with water bills, **one** with gasoline and **one** with a medical expense. Thank you for your generous gifts which make this expression of God’s generous love possible.

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

Congregational Meeting

Plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on April 3 at 11 a.m. Speak with any Church Council member if you have any questions about this important meeting.

Micah's Backpack



Micah's Backpack is in the beginning stages of developing the Micah's Mobile Backpack Summer Program for 2022. If you are interested in assisting with packing and/or delivering, please contact John Stramiello as soon as possible. The Micah's Backpack event at Jersey Mike's Subs for April will be Saturday the 30th. Please stop by and enjoy some great food while helping out a local business and Micah's Backpack! On March 9th MBP hosted the University of Georgia Impact team who assisted by packing bags for Micah's. Thank you to Jenny and Rob Henika and their children for their weekly dedication in helping Micah's. MBP needs snacks such as fruit & grain bars and fruit snacks. Donations are accepted at the church on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For further information contact John J. Stramiello, Director at 540-599-4682. Email: hope@micahsbackpack.org or stam@stmllc.us

Let No Child Go Hungry

Micah's Mini Pantry

Micah's Mini Pantry has been serving the area for one year. This has only been possible because of your thoughtful donations and kindness. Thank you all for supporting this caring and giving ministry. Your generosity contributes to the needs of others in our community. All donations make our hearts happy. We are grateful for you! Spring has arrived but serving warm, healthy meals is still necessary.

Please consider contributing those warm, nourishing 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 to include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soap, hair products, band-aids, sunscreen, antibiotic creams and hygiene products such as toilet paper, deodorant and feminine items. Another request has been for can openers.



Remember - **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. - noon. Thank you!

Contact Sandie Worley at sandie@vt.edu or 540-961-2709 with any questions. Thank you in advance for your interest in and continued support of this outreach.

God's Work - Our Hands

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

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April Sunday Servants

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Altar Care	Doug	Smiley and	Sandy	Birch
10:00 AM Service				
Greeters/Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Fran Shepherd	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Jenny Kellinger Sandy Williams	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper
Lay Reader	Mickey McGuigan	Anna Rossomando	Keith Gay	Forrest Sloan

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 for April will be held on **Wednesday, April 20**, at noon. All St. Michael ladies are invited. We'll meet at church for fellowship, a light lunch and Bible study. A zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend in person. We will continue to explore "The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?" If you have any questions and/or need the zoom link, please contact Jody Smiley (jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch (birch@vt.edu).



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter baskets for children under the care of the Women's Resource Center (WRC). We will be preparing the baskets during Sunday School on April 3 and delivering the baskets the following Monday. The WRC is always grateful for these yearly gifts.

This month we will be collecting boxes of cereal for the Women's Resource Center. The collection bin is in the narthex. A wish list for the Center is posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you to each of you for the many ways you help those in our community!

O.K.s (Older Kids)



Bunnies and Birthdays! The next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon will be Tuesday, April 5, at noon. Not only will we enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by our in-house chef, Sandy Williams, but we will also celebrate the 80's - 80th birthdays that is. Four of our O.K.s family will be celebrating their 80th birthdays this year:

Inga Solberg and Sondra Williams on April 26, Ray Howell on June 4, and Anna Rossomando on August 9. A special guest will be one of our church sisters who turns 90 in July! Here are some hints...her initials are J.W., and she speaks with a delightful English accent. Let's begin the partying in April. See you there...and bring a friend. As always, a \$5 donation for food is helpful, but not required. Did I mention there will be music too? Contact Sandy Birch to make your reservation.



Recycle, recycle



Pictured is Jeff Birch depositing about 40 pounds of **pop top tabs** at the bin at the Ronald McDonald House recently. Thank you everyone for saving those tabs. Keep it up. Also keep collecting those **small shampoo and conditioner bottles and bars of soap** from your travels. We use them all for small gifts for seniors who shop at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. We are also still collecting **eyeglasses** but **NOT printer cartridges or batteries**. Sorry. Our recycler only wants rechargeable batteries and is very specific about the type of printer cartridge. The recycle bins are in the fellowship hall near the kitchen window. One more thing - **flower vases** can be reused, too, for our “Friends with Flowers” program. We deliver our altar flowers to friends and family who are in the hospital or in nursing homes who just may need a tulip or two to brighten their day.



Congratulations to . . .



Parker Ferrell, who placed 1st at 220 lbs. in the VHSL (VA) State Wrestling Championships – Class 3. Parker, a sophomore at Christiansburg High School, is also ranked 15th in the country at 220.

Congratulations to . . .

Jennifer Wayne who was recently elected the Academic Council Chair of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE).

Youth News

Virginia Synod youth from Grades 5 through 12 are invited to a Youth Rally on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at College Lutheran Church in Salem VA. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and will include lunch. You must pre-register. Contact Pastor Michelle or Jada Brown for information.

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends of the Food Pantry,

We would like to express to you our sincere thanks for helping the Food Pantry serve our community in 2021. COVID continues but we have adjusted and are trying to serve our customers in the most safe and efficient way.

Your support is so important. You've made a big difference in the lives of hundreds of people by providing them with food and hope. We look forward to your continued trust and support.

Until all are fed,

Andrea Muscatello, Director, Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

Dear Pastor Stramiello and Members of the Congregation,

You are helping immigrant and refugee children THRIVE! Your gift of backpacks, markers, pencils, notebooks, scissors and more, has been put to work immediately, supporting unaccompanied children from Central America and Afghanistan. Your donation empowers enCircle's mission to support children, families, and adults across the Commonwealth and in Martinsburg, WV.

Sincerely,

Melissa Leecy, Director of Philanthropy, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia

Lenten and Easter Services

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| April 6
7 p.m. | Final Mid-week Lenten service at Shiloh Lutheran Church |
| April 10
10 a.m. | Palm Sunday
St. Michael |
| April 14
7 p.m. | Maundy Thursday
St. Michael |
| April 15
7 p.m. | Good Friday Tenebrae service for Blacksburg – Radford Lutheran Fellowship with Special Music before the service at 6:30 p.m.
St. Michael |
| April 17
10 a.m. | Easter Sunday
St. Michael |



April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM First Communion Class 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Congregation Meeting 4:00 PM Families of Faith Easter Fun	4 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon 3:00 PM Music Lessons 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	6 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service at Shiloh Lutheran 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	8	9 The Big Event
10 Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 AM First Communion Class 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Choir Practice 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting	11 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons	13 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Blacksburg-Radford Lutheran Fellowship Choir Practice	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service at St. Michael	15 6:30 PM Special Music for Good Friday prior to Service 7:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service at St. Michael	16
17 Easter Day 9:00 AM First Communion Class 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Easter Worship Service with Communion	18 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	19 3:00 PM Music Lessons 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	20 12:00 PM WELCA Lunch and Learn In Person and via Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	21 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	22	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Safety and Security Meeting	25 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	26 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 3:00 PM Music Lessons	27 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Choir Practice	28 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	29	30 Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg