



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 46, Number 5

May 1, 2022

St. Michael's Easter cross, which we decorate with fresh flowers each Easter morning, was created over 40 years ago by Barney Clemens, father of Jim Clemens. It was made from the trunk of the Chrismon tree from the previous year and has served us well. The next time you are sitting quietly in the memorial garden to the right of the Circle of Grace, note that there is a memorial to Barney and Timmy Clemens. You might want to send Barney a little thank you prayer.



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 Jody Smiley, Kris Wertz and Fran Shepherd for organizing the Micah’s Closet spring distribution of clothing for students at Price’s Fork Elementary School; to Jody Smiley for leading the monthly Women of the ELCA Lunch and Learn get togethers; to Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe and Betty Wingate for folding the April newsletter; to all those who planned the Easter Week Services; to Patrice Yearwood, soloists, musicians and choirs for the wonderful music at the Tenebrae and Sunday Easter Services; to Sandie Worley for decorating the church narthex throughout the Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter; to Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett who baked the cupcakes and Jane McGuigan who provided the punch for the first communion reception; and to the Lutheran Men in Mission John Kell, Keith Gay and Doug Smiley for spreading mulch in the church gardens.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported office supplies, newsletter paper, piano repair and tuning, Micah’s Closet clothing, palms for Palm Sunday, Easter lilies, new lights for the parking lot, a new water fountain, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, Peace and Hope Ministry, MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff.

Core
Ministry
Fund



The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for 13 families: two** with water bill assistance, **three** with rent assistance, and **eight** with electric bills. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the need.

Congratulations to...

Rich Gruss, who was one of only five Radford University faculty honored with the Dalton Eminent Scholar award on April 8. Rich has been an Assistant Professor in the Management Department at Radford since 2017. The Dalton award recognizes his outstanding achievements in research and scholarship.



Micah's Backpack



We are continuing to develop our Micah's Mobile Backpack Summer Program for 2022. If you are interested in assisting us in packing and/or delivering, please contact me as soon as possible. We continue to pack an average of 250 bags per week for our students in ten schools. Since

January we have packed 3,146 bags, which equates to 18,876 meals and 44,044 items of food. Thank you to our congregation, our community, and our volunteers. Without you all this could not be possible.

We have been blessed to be joined by some of the VT Football coaching staff. A big THANK YOU to Coach Joe, Coach Crist, Coach Glenn and Coach Price for joining the players in helping us pack.

Please stay tuned for more exciting events for Micah's Backpack Program and Micah's Caring Initiative.

For more information contact: John J. Stramiello, MBP Director, 540-599-4682 or hope@micahsbackpack.org

No Child Should Go Hungry

Micah's Mini Pantry

Thank you for showering Micah's Mini Pantry with all of your recent donations! We are blooming with many items to share with the community! This has only been possible with your thoughtful kindness and generosity. Any donations make our hearts happy. ☺ We are grateful for you!

Warmer weather has arrived but serving healthy meals is still necessary. Please consider contributing those nourishing meal choice donations including 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. They include - 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 - **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!

Peace, love, and many blessings **God's Work - Our Hands**



Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting ready to make changes to the menu and also to add some personal care items to the bags. The menu has been the same for several years so we are looking forward to the changes and feel the new items will benefit the seniors. We are adding more single serve portions, such as small cans of vegetables, small microwavable rice and potatoes, beanie weenies, small boxes of cereal and small cans of beef stew. Most of our seniors live alone so this will allow them to more easily fix their dinners and lunches without waste. Also, every other month, we will add some personal care items. This change and our decision to alter the menu came about after having conversations with the seniors on what items they needed. We will be asking for donations from the congregation to fund the personal care items and will use Thrivent grants to make up the difference.

We are excited about the changes and look forward to our continued support of Micah's Soup for Seniors program at Warm Hearth. We invite anyone interested in packing and distributing the bags to join us the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Next packing dates: May 24th, June 28th and July 26th

Upcoming personal items to donate: **June** - Bars of Soap and wash cloths / **August** - Combs and brushes / **October**- Tissues (small) and hand lotions

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 2308 Merrimac Road
 Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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May Sunday Servants

10:00 am	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Altar Care	Sandy Birch and Doug Smiley				
Greeters	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Gary Steck Becky Steck	Doug Smiley Jody Smiley	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Anna Rossamando Jane Swing
Lay Reader	Jane Swing	John Stramiello	Bert Kinzey	Jennifer Wayne	Jody Smiley
Communion Assistant	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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.

Mowing Schedule: Mowers, please check with Jim Clemens if you have not received a schedule for May.

Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out is Back!! We'll gather on **Tuesday, May 24** at 6 p.m. at Amelia's Pizzeria & Restaurant (1130 Cambria St.) in Christiansburg. The restaurant features specialty pizzas, seafood and chicken dishes, pasta classics like baked ziti and manicotti, subs, calzones and a variety of salads. We've reserved the banquet room at the restaurant, but due to spacing and staffing considerations, there is a limit to the number of diners so please make your reservation with Sandy (birch@vt.edu) as soon as possible. It will be wonderful to enjoy fellowship around the dinner table again....and nobody has to cook!



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Easter Baskets for the children under the care of the Women's Resource Center. We also prepared 8 baskets for moms at the Center. Thank you also to our basket assembly crew.... parents of the children in their first communion class and members of the Sunday School classes.





Congratulations to Tatiana Villegas-Brown, Ada Peery, and Lilia Villegas-Brown who celebrated their first communion on March 27. They were honored at a cupcake and punch reception after church.



At the March Lunch and Learn, the Women of the ELCA said their farewells to and shared best wishes with Alice Schneider, our long-time leader and inspiration. Not only was Alice our St. Michael WELCA leader, but she also chaired the New River Conference for many years, sharing her enthusiasm and organizational skills with other WELCA groups in the conference. Hank and Alice have moved to North Carolina and we will miss them both.

The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO): It is not too early to make your plans for the VSWO convention on August 12th – 13th, 2022 at the Hotel 24 South (previously the Stonewall Jackson) in Staunton. The VSWO will be celebrating coming together in person for the first time in over 2 years. This is a great venue and the town of Staunton is a wonderful place to explore. Please mark your calendars. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Jody Smiley (jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or visit vswow.org.

We will continue bringing boxes of cereal for the Women's Resource Center. The collection box is in the narthex.

Thank You Note

Each Sunday, we have the opportunity to donate our altar flowers to friends and family in hospitals, nursing facilities, or at their homes who are recovering from illness or sadness or just need a “pick-me-up pansy”. We recently received a thank you from a family who received a vase:



Thank you, St. Michael for the flowers. They are a lovely way to show caring. They really, really lasted a long time. Maybe that is trying to tell us something. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. May there be good things in your lives.

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15

Thanks for your service to our church members who are currently serving in the military: Katie Garst Prewitt (Marines) and Michelle Pasier (Air Force).

O.K.s (Older Kids)

At the Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon in April, we were visited by Patricia Cottontail, sister of Peter, who set the record straight about bunnies, eggs, and Easter. The forty folks who attended the luncheon also enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our resident chef, Sandy Williams, and beautiful music by the O.K.s in the St. Michael choir. *Wondrous Love* abounded that day.



Pictured are Jody, Lynn, and Barb, our servers, and Sandy, head chef at the banquet table.

Older kids: here's a great opportunity for service. The Families of Faith meet monthly on a Sunday evening and enjoy activities and a meal together. As a way for us to get to know our younger members and help the parents have more time for the activities, it has been suggested that we prepare the meals for our young families. It will be even better if those meals come with stories. For example, Sandy and Jeff plan to prepare their grandkids' favorite fettuccine dish and will share a story or two about those grandkids. If you're interested in this opportunity, please talk to Sandy Birch.

Tenebrae Choirs and Soloists



May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Choir Practice 11:00 AM Reception for First Communicants 11:00 AM Safety and Security Meeting	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:15 PM "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	4 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	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	6	7
8 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:15 PM "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons	11 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	13	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:15 AM Church Council Meeting 4:00 PM Families of Faith	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:30 PM Cub Scout Meeting	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 2:15 PM "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	18 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	19 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 11:00 AM Safety and Security Meeting 3:00 PM Patrice's Class Music Recital	23 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	24 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 2:15 PM "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM WELCA Out to Dinner at Amelia's	25 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	26 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	27	28 Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg
29 9:00 AM Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion	30 Memorial Day	31 2:15 PM "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons 6:30 PM "Growing Young" Book Study	1	2 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Scout Troop Meeting	3	4