



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Until Easter Morning...

Based on the Hebrew word, *hallelu yah*, meaning “Praise the Lord,” *alleluia* has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church and was prominent in early Christian liturgies. Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent in the Western church, singing or saying the word *alleluia* has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days. This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that the joyful nature of *alleluia* is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice.

The omission of *alleluia* during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The custom of actually bidding it farewell, however, developed in the Middle Ages.

Alleluia is appropriately bid farewell on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday (the Transfiguration of Our Lord, also called the last Sunday after the Epiphany in the Lutheran liturgical calendar). This is the last Sunday when *alleluia* will be used until Easter Sunday.

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 Fran Shepherd, Jane Swing and Judith Wolfe for helping with the February newsletter; 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 for picking up all the food from Feeding America Southwest Virginia for our Micah's programs.

Because of your gifts

Core
Ministry
Fund



Your generous gifts in February supported communion supplies, office and music supplies, stamps, job advertisements for St. Michael in two newspaper publications, food for Families of Faith gathering, monthly copier lease, annual online church software, annual worker's compensation insurance, survey work for the sewer project, continuing education opportunities for Pastor Michelle and our Music Director, Patrice Yearwood, 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 **19** families with funds towards **fourteen** electric bills, **four** with water bills 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 2023 in Virginia will begin at 2:00 a. m. on Sunday, April 9, 2023



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Due to a conflict of scheduling, beginning the week of February 19th, Micah's Backpack will be CHANGING our evening packing to THURSDAYS! **Our next packing on Thursdays will be March 3rd** and continue on Thursdays through the end of the school year. This will most likely carry into the 2023-2024 school year. PLEASE SHARE THIS IMPORTANT POST!

This past week we were joined by the VT Special Teams Football players. Please check our Facebook page for pictures. Since the beginning of the school year, we have packed 4,461 bags, 26,766 meals and 62,454 items of food.

We have been blessed by many sororities and fraternities and groups packing with us. I invite each of you to stop by on a Wednesday evening and engage with these young adults. Many of these students return on a regular basis, even after they have fulfilled their quota for volunteer hours. Please stop by and welcome them. Cookies are always welcome!

We are in the planning stages of our Micah's Mobile Backpack Program for the summer months. We are in need of volunteers to pack and to deliver the food. If you are interested in volunteering in June, July and August please contact me as soon as possible. These months are crucial in assisting our students experiencing food insecurity.

Please check our website and our Facebook Page for updates and upcoming events.

For more information please contact John J. Stramiello at: 540-599-4682
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 almost two years. 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!

We want to thank everyone for all the wonderful donations for 2022!

Donations of non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned pasta, small boxes of cereal, canned vegetables, canned meats and proteins, and household items (small travel size such as laundry soap, dish soap, disinfectant wipes are very welcomed.

Please remember to check all expiration dates before donating.

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)

Sometime in April is the **Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon.** Sandy Birch is having knee replacement surgery so will reschedule an April date for the luncheon when she is back on her feet.



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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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March Sunday Servants

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
10:00 AM Service				
Altar Care	Gary and Becky Steck	Doug Smiley	Sandy Birch	Inga Solberg
Greeters	Elaine Powers Joe Garst	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Dickie and Fran Shepherd	Mark and Jeanette Pasier
Lay Reader	Jane Swing	John Stramiello	Gary Worley	Trey Gustafuson
Communion Assistant	Butch Akers	Jennifer Wayne	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley
Youth Servant	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Ada Peery	Lilia Villegas-Brown

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 Wednesdays (Lunch & Learn: We will meet on **Wednesday, March 15th at noon.** All St Michael women are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and a Bible study. In March we will continue our study of the Ten Commandments. Our session is called “Reviving the soul- Sanctity of life and love”, Commandments 5 and 6.

Lunch, desert and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu



Montgomery County Food Bank and Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry: In March we are asking for donations of **canned fruit.** The food bank always appreciates receiving any non-perishable food items.

Women’s Resource Center: In March we are collecting **Clorox/Lysol wipes.**

The collections for the Food Bank and the Women’s Resource Center are located in the Fellowship Hall next to the kitchen window. As always thank you for your donations.



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 – February 22 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael
Wednesday Worship Services at 6:45 p.m. at St. Michael
March 1
March 8
March 15
March 22
March 29

Maundy Thursday – April 6 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael
Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael
Easter Worship Service – April 9 at 10 a.m. at St. Michael

Lenten mid-week Meals and Services



meals.

Beginning Wednesday, March 1, Lenten mid-week meals and services will take place every Wednesday at St. Michael throughout Lent. The meal will begin at 6:00 and the service will begin at 6:45 p.m. **We are asking for a suggested donation of \$5 for adults for the meal so we can cover the cost of the catered**

Your help is needed setting up for the Lenten meals and cleaning up (after the church service) throughout the Lenten season. If we have 3 or 4 helpers on each end of the meal, the work will go quickly. Please consider helping out one Wednesday (or as many as you can). Look for the sign up on the Welcome Sheet each week.

Many hands make light work!



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

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship Coming Up in April



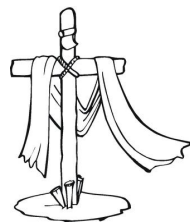
Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. Please contact Lorin Crowder for more information. lorinhcrowder@gmail.com

The Men (and Women) in Mission Movers

Over the third weekend in February, members of St. Michael moved Anna Rossomando from her long-time home in Christiansburg to her new duplex just a few minutes away from church in Price's Fork. Lots of memories were packed into lots of boxes and bins and eventually into a 26' rental truck. Happy homecoming Anna.



Pictured are (front row): Matthew James, Mark Pasier, Haley and Ty (from Micah's Backpack), Keith Gay and (back row) Philip Isenhour, Jeff Birch, John Kell, Dickie and Fran Shepherd, Forrest Sloan. Not pictured, because they finished their work the day before, are Jody Smiley, Lynn Hickok, Barbara Corbett and Sandy Birch.



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 First Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice	27 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	28 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	1 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Lenten Meal and Evening Prayer Service 7:30pm Choir Practice	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	3 6:00pm Cub Scouts First Aid Training	4
5 Second Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	6 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom	7 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	8 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Lenten Meal and Evening Prayer Service 7:30pm Choir Practice	9 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins Third Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting	13 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	14 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	15 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm WELCA Lunch and Learn 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Lenten Meal and Evening Prayer Service 7:30pm Choir Practice	16 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	17	18
19 Fourth Sunday of Lent 9:00am Sunday School for Adults 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Coffee Hour Fellowship 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	20 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	21 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	22 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Lenten Meal and Evening Prayer Service 7:30pm Choir Practice	23 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	24	25
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