



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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May 1, 2023

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Have you ever asked yourself how life is different now that the tomb is empty?

The fifty days of Easter are filled with the theme of new life that follow naturally from the Lenten mystery of the impending tomb. What was once hidden and unseen in the season of Lent blooms forth, and the beauty of new growth reverberates in our life as well as in the natural world throughout the northerner hemisphere.

The Holy Spirit emerges more fully during the season of Easter, bringing with it the power to transform our lives and reshape the world. Imagery of breath, wind, and Spirit provide bookends for this season starting with the story of Thomas and the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit through the breath of Jesus and ending with the disciples in Acts on the Day of Pentecost.

The Old Testament frequently described God as a helper who comes to the aid of his people (*Psalm 10:14; 30:10; 54:4; 63:7*). Jesus later promised that this help would become even more present, profound, and personal to God's people. This promise becomes reality when his Father sends "another Helper, to be with us forever" (*John 14:16*).

The Helper (Greek: *parakletos*) is a distinctive title for the Holy Spirit, who was poured out on the day of Pentecost. It is the Spirit of Christ who resides in the heart of every true believer (*Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14*). This Helper is our ever-present source of counsel, instruction, guidance, discernment, gifting, comfort, transformation, strength and power. Thanks to the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can be bold and brave, knowing that this Mighty Helper gives us all the help we need.

O God, you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Come Holy Spirit,
Pastor Michelle Stramiello

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 Suzanne Gay, Meg Peterson, Fran Shepherd, Doug Smiley and Jane Swing for printing and mailing 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; and to John Kell for making our church grounds look so lovely.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported office supplies, newsletter paper, devotional subscriptions, altar flowers, palms for Palm Sunday, Easter lilies, Easter musicians, the sewer project, a \$500 donation to Lutheran World Relief, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, our ministry partner, Peace and Hope Ministry 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 14 families: two** with water bill bills, **six** with electric bills, and **six** with rent 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 the need.

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20

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

Micah's Soup for Seniors



We continue to pack and distribute approximately 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from Feeding America, Food Lion and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and we encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time.

We will continue to supply extra personal care items along with special items every other month.

We look forward to continuing to help out the seniors at Warm Hearth.

Packing Dates:

May 23rd

June 27th

July 25th

Requested Donation Items:

May: Shampoo/Conditioner

June: Nail Care

O.K.s (Older Kids)

Our spring **Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon** will be **Tuesday, May 9 at noon.** The menu will be prepared by several of our excellent St. Michael chefs: Baked spiral ham with Gary Worley's famous mac and cheese, Barb Corbett and Lynn Hickoks's delicious green beans, Fran Shepherd's super salad, and John Kell's popular pies. All for only a \$5 donation.

Our lively program will be all about flowers and friends with a guest speaker, Daphne Williams (VT Horticulture '98), who recently joined the Hahn Gardens staff at Virginia Tech. Flowers and fine food and friends. It just doesn't get any better.



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May Sunday Servants

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
10:00 AM Service				
Altar Care	Gary and Becky Steck	Doug Smiley	Doug Smiley	Inga Solberg
Greeters	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Butch Akers	Joe Garst Elaine Powers	Gary and Becky Steck
Lay Reader	Trey Gustafson	Forest Sloan	Sandy Birch	John Stramiello
Communion Assistant	Jane Swing	John Stramiello	Jody Smiley	Butch Akers
Youth Servant	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Gesine Newman

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: Contact Harley Atwell in the church office.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Wednesdays (Lunch & Learn: We will meet on **Wednesday, May 17th at noon.** All St. Michael women are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and we will work on a service project. At the VSWO convention in 2022 our project for the coming year was to make small stuffed bears. The Charity bears are given to the children of domestic



and sexual abuse. The bears will be used as a comfort and a healing tool by counselors when working with a child. The pattern can be found at this link:

*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

[www.shinyhappyworld.com/2014/04/warren-charity-bear-free-teddy-bear-](http://www.shinyhappyworld.com/2014/04/warren-charity-bear-free-teddy-bear-pattern.html)

[pattern.html](http://www.shinyhappyworld.com/2014/04/warren-charity-bear-free-teddy-bear-pattern.html)

IMPORTANT: Two pockets have been added to the bear that are not on the original pattern. A small pocket on the front sewn over the heart, and a larger pocket on the back between the bears shoulders. These pockets are very important, so please don't eliminate them. They are used by the counselors when working with a child. We will have fabric available to work with but if you have “good” scissors please bring them. We will be cutting out the patterns for the women that are “sewers” so they can work on them at home. The bears will be taken to the 2023 VSWO convention and given to Project Horizon located in Lexington, VA. Lunch, desert and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsimiley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.



The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be gathering for our 2023 convention/gathering at Roanoke College on July 21st-22nd. Keep an eye out for the Call to Convention.. We will have worship together, three awareness sessions, have something for the non-voting members, entertainment on Friday night, do a little business and of course lots of fun and fellowship!

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

Women's Resource Center: In May we are collecting **Toilet Paper**.

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

During Sunday School on Palm Sunday, several members of St. Michael assembled 33 Easter baskets for children and mothers at the Women's Resource Center. Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the baskets. One grandmother, who is sheltering with her grandchildren, told the WRC staff how grateful she was that her grandchildren received such generous gifts . . . gifts she was unable to provide.



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”.

Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time

Make plans to attend the Coffee Hour Fellowship immediately following the Sunday service on **Sunday, May 14th** for snacks and fellowship. We will be honoring our graduates. If you would like to help setup, make a plate of cookies, or help clean up please contact Jody Smiley or Sandy Birch.



Congratulations to . . .

Graduates . . . Lily Gruss and Megan Christle who will graduate from Blacksburg High School this May. Lily has decided to go to the University of Mary Washington. She's planning to study biology and hopefully focus on marine biology. Megan will be attending Virginia Tech this fall and will be participating in the Liberal Arts & Human Sciences Honors College program. She plans to major in political science and will continue to sing and dance! Lily and Megan have often shared their beautiful voices with the congregation during special services like Christmas Eve.



Carlie Simmers who will be receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Relations with a minor in Professional Sales from Virginia Tech this May. She will be receiving this degree with magna cum laude honor. Prior to attending Virginia Tech, Carlie received an associate degree from New River Community College. After graduating, she will be working for Dehart Tile in Christiansburg as an Inside Sales Associate. During her time at Virginia Tech, Carlie was an active member of the Public Relations Student Society of America as well as the Tau Sigma Honor Society.

Bryan Katz who was promoted from Associate Professor of Practice to Professor of Practice, Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Virginia Tech.



Easter



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice	1 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom and Fellowship Hall	2 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	3 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	4 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	5	6
7 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Choir Practice	8 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	9 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	10 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	11 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting	15 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	16 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Micah's Caring Initiative Meeting 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	17 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	18 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	19 5:30pm Patrice Senior Recital (Megan Christle & Lily Gruss)	20
21 9:00am Sunday School for Adults 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 2:00pm Music Recital (Patrice's students) 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	22 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	23 Music Lessons (Patrice) 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	24 Music Lessons (Patrice) 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	25 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	26	27
28 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	29 Memorial Day 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	30 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	31 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	1	2	3