

St. Michael Messenger February, 2024



St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540.951.8951 hope@stmlc.us
www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org



Please join us on **Sunday, February 4, for a meal after church and a mini-retreat** in which we will look toward the future as we ask the questions: where have we been, where are we, where do we want to go, and how do we get there? This will be a time to remember who we are and to dream about where we want to go. Be sure to join us.



February 13th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm
February 14th Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm
February 21st Lenten mid-week Meal (6:00 pm) and Service (6:45 pm)
February 28th Lenten mid-week Meal (6:00 pm) and Service (6:45 pm)

Who likes pancakes?

Everyone is invited to the fellowship hall on Tuesday, February 13, at 6 p.m. for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Shrove Tuesday marks the final day before the season of Lent. Bring your family and friends to indulge in pancakes and all the trimmings.

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. St. Michael will have an Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 7 p.m.



Lenten mid-week meals and services

Beginning Wednesday, February 21, 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 will be using Holden Evening Prayer for our service. All are welcome.

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 the members of our Church Council that completed their terms in 2023 and to our current council members; to all those serving on our working groups; to our call committee; to our wonderful choir, our Music Director, Patrice Yearwood and our organist Dallin Baldwin.

Because of your Gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported, office supplies, cups and coffee for fellowship, Altar flowers, postage, building maintenance, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Peace and Hope Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff.



The Justice and Mercy Fund

The Justice and Mercy Fund continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we provided assistance for 10 families: three with rent, four with electric bills, and three with water. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as needed.

Congregation Council Member and Officer Election Results for 2024

The votes are in. In December, the congregation elected Keith Gay, Jenny Kellinger, and Doug Smiley, to serve on the council. Also, at their January meeting, the council elected officers for 2024: President - Doug Smiley; Vice President - Keith Gay; Secretary - Jada Brown; and Financial Officer - Forrest Sloan. Council officers are also the officers of the congregation.





Donations/Collections for February

Food Banks: Boxed Meals

Women's Resource Center: Lysol or Clorox wipes

Soup for Seniors: Soft Granola Bars



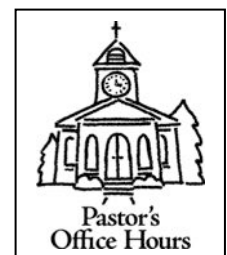
On Thursdays there is lots of action at St. Michael as the Music/Drama & Arts class meets to sing, move and create. You can see the final product(s) on **MARCH 23, 2024, 3:00 p.m.**

UPCOMING *Events*

Events for February at St. Michael

| | |
|--|---|
| 2/1-Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (7 am) | Weekly Events: Meeting at St. Michael |
| 2/4-Meal and mini retreat (11:15 am) | Monday-Cub Scouts (7:00 pm) |
| 2/11-Scout Sunday-Reception following service | Tuesday-Packing Micah's Backpack (6:00 pm) |
| 2/11-Souper Bowl of Caring Collection | Wednesday-Choir (7:00 pm) |
| 2/11-Church Council Meeting (11:15 am) | Thursday-Micah's Music/Drama and Art (5:30 pm) |
| 2/13-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (6:00 pm) | Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm) |
| 2/13-Ash Wednesday Service (7:00 pm) | Sunday-Adult Sunday School (9:00 am) |
| 2/18- Community Engagement WG (11:15 am) | Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events. |
| 2/18-Confirmation Class at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm) | |
| 2/21-Lunch and Learn (Noon) | |
| 2/21-Lenten Mid-Week meal/service (6:00 pm) | |
| 2/27- Soup for Seniors Packing (10 am) | |
| 2/28- Lenten Mid-Week meal/service (6:00 pm) | |

Pastor Wes' Schedule: Pastor Wes Jamison will normally be available on Sundays, Tuesdays, and one other (changing) day during the week. His email address is pastorwes@stmhc.us and his cell number is 540.392.5632. Please let Pastor Wes know by phone if there is a pastoral emergency.





Scout Sunday, February 11th

Scouts from troops that meet at St. Michael will be our Sunday Servants on February 11th. A reception will follow the worship service. Please make plans to come and meet these amazing youth.

February Sunday Servants

| | February 4 | February 11 | February 18 | February 25 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10:00 AM Service | | | | |
| Altar Care | Jane Swing | Doug Smiley | Inga Solberg | Gary and Becky Steck |
| Greeters | Dickie and Fran Shepherd | Scouts | Ben and Carol Crawford | Elaine Powers Joe Garst |
| Lay Reader | Jane Swing | Scouts | George Santopietro | Jody Smiley |
| Communion Assistant | William Allen | Jennifer Wayne | Jay Nagle | Joe Garst |
| Youth Servant | Tatiana Villegas-Brown | Gesine Newman | Lilia Villegas-Brown | Gesine Newman |

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate.



WELCA-Lunch & Learn

We will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at noon for Lunch and Learn. All St. Michael ladies and friends are welcome. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and a Bible Study. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or Sandy Birch, birch@vt.edu.

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 11th. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Plan to bring canned goods and a dollar or two that day to put in the Soup Pot at church. You can also contribute by mail or online via the church website. Food for Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors can be dropped off at the church. Suggested items: fruit cups, individual microwavable mac and cheese, 10 ½



oz cans of soup, and granola bars. The money and canned goods will help relieve hunger in our community.

Winter Weather Reminder



Winter weather sometimes requires a change in the worship schedule. When that happens, it will be announced through the following outlets:

- Post on Facebook
- Email to Congregation
- Voicemail Message on Church Phone
- Change to the Church On-Line Calendar
- Post on Local TV Networks: Channel 7 and Channel 10

Sharing the Story of Micah's Caring Initiative



Packing for Micah's Backpack is off to a great start in 2024. Last Tuesday our dedicated group of volunteers braved the cold and the snow to pack bags at St. Michael. We can imagine the need for food is higher when the students are out of school due to the inclement weather. Most of the schools were able to send home the MBP bags on Thursday before the next round of weather moved into our area.

During the 2023-24 school year we have packed 9,474 gifts of food for children in our community. That's 56,844 meals! All of our work would not be possible without the support of our community, the members of St. Michael Lutheran Church and our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible. I hope you stay safe and stay warm. Spring is just around the corner! Marian Brown, Director PH: 804-921-1432 Email: marian@stmlc.us Email: hope@micahsbackpack.org



Soup for Seniors packs and distributes approximately 85 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth Village. We will be packing the bags at St. Michael on **February 27th at 10:00 a.m.** We encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time. Thank you to all that donate and support Soup for Seniors. You help brightens the day of the seniors we serve at Warm Hearth.



Thanks to all the amazing donations! MMP is in need of Hearty Soup, Ramen, Canned vegetables, fruits and pastas, mini boxes of cereal for those who are in need. **With cold weather on the way donations of hats and gloves are appreciated.** Please remember if you are donating from your own pantry to check all expiration dates.



Micah's Closet will be looking for shoppers to help purchase clothing in March. Keep on the look out for more information on ways you can help.

Micah's Snack Closets: The Snack Closets expanded to serve all the elementary schools in Blacksburg. It is well received and is greatly appreciated. We continue to get positive feedback from all the schools we serve. This program was initially funded by the Robert Schulman Bequest for Children.

Reminder: If you have any articles, upcoming events, congratulations/celebrations to share, or anything else for the newsletter please pass it along to Jody Smiley. Photos and logos are greatly appreciated.