



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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God's Work, Our Hands: Micah's Backpack

Thanks to your generosity and support, Micah's Backpack is making an impact in our community by providing weekend meals to 16 children in need during the school year. In the fall, we plan to provide weekend meals to 30 children in need and hope to be in partnership with all five Blacksburg Elementary Schools. Now that our first year is finished, I wanted you to see the impact Micah's Backpack is making.

Here are the results of Micah's Backpack first year of ministry.

- 3 elementary schools participate
- 16 students participate
- 298 backpacks of food were sent home
- 1,788 meals provided
- **\$5,783.80 in donations**
- **\$2,873.05 in food expenditures**
- \$9.64 cost per backpack per week
- 12 supporting ministry partners including schools, other churches and local businesses
- 6,000 volunteer hours packing, transporting backpacks, meeting, and planning

Thank you for helping St. Michael and Micah's Backpack do God's work with our hands.

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to:

Care for all God's people in need,
Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament
Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,
Invite others into Christ's community,
Serve God in our daily lives, and
Tell the story of God's love for all.

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Carol Crawford who cleaned the kitchen; Nancy Franz who shared God’s Word at our two worship services on June 7; Dave and Ann Surface and Sandie Worley for helping with newsletter mailings; Jody Smiley and Lori Anne Kirk for representing St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; Bob Brown for building us a new closet in the fellowship hall; Leona Criner for donating boxes of table decorations and paper supplies; everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June provided materials and food for Vacation Bible School, landscaping work, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** contributed to electric bills for eight families, a water bill for one family, rent for another family, and gasoline for an 11th family. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Some thank you notes

*Dear Members and Friends of St. Michael,
Thank you to all of you for your support of the Montgomery Relay for Life. You donated over \$500 to the Keep the Memory Team. The team as a whole raised \$4,420 to fight cancer. The Montgomery County Relay fundraising total is now at \$130,117. Donations are still gladly accepted until August 1. Thank you for all you do to help fight cancer, to provide care for those who struggle with cancer, and to celebrate those who have survived this difficult disease in their lives.*

Thank you, Nancy Franz

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,
We give thanks to God for your faithful gifts and prayer and support. This spring we celebrated the installation of our first ever Choir Director. We now have a choir which regularly meets and sings on Sunday mornings. On a regular basis we have people seeing needs and stepping up to share their gifts for the sake of the gospel. It is a great joy as this group of individuals grows together as a congregation in the body of Christ. Thanks be to God for all you do to make this possible.*

Peace. Rev. Paul Walters, Grace Lutheran Church

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July Servants

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
<i>Acolytes</i>	Andrew Bales	Seth Brewer	Matthew Pasier	Katie McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Doug and Jody Smiley			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Alice Schneider			
<i>Youth Servant</i>	MaKayla Dowdy	Matt Sharpe	Cam Nagle	Delanie Veit
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Sandy Birch	Jennie/Olivia Hodge	Jacob Dennis	Lori Anne Kirk
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Ben & Carol Crawford	The Hodge family	Gary & Sandie Worley	
	McGuigan family			
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Carrie Mayer	Maggie Maloney	Fred Spengler	M. McGuigan
<i>Ushers</i>	Ray Howell Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd Cindy Lang	James Pascoe Jennie Kelly Burn Gross Roscoe Turman	Ben and Grace Simmers Philip Isenhour Joanne Pascoe	Dave and Ann Surface Hank Schneider Jeff Birch

Weed control: Weeks ending July 11 –Lynn Hickok; July 25 – Jennie Hodge
Mowing schedule: Doug Smiley – front on 7/4; William Allen – back on 7/11; Matthew James/Jacob Dennis – front on 7/18; Jay Nagle – back on 7/25
Rear lot: Jeff Crowder – 7/6; Ron Brewer – 7/13; Dave Surface – 7/20; Tom Hodge –7/2

Women of the ELCA

The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Roanoke College on July 17-19. The theme of the convention is "Gathered at the Wellspring, Washed by the Word". If you are interested in attending, talk with Jody Smiley, VSWO state president, or Alice Schneider, New River Conference chair.



Donations of new or gently used children's books for the Roanoke Rescue Mission will be collected at the conference and we welcome contributions from the congregation in June and July.



For the last 10 years, the Women of the ELCA have been enjoying a "Ladies Night Out" in August. This summer, let's try something different. **On July 15, at 6 p.m., we're going to Hawaii ...sort of.... as all the women of St. Michael are invited to a**

"Ladies Luau" at the home of Alice Schneider.

We'll enjoy Hawaiian delicacies such as Huli Huli Chicken, Island Rice, Tropical Fruit Salad and more. A

\$5 donation towards the meal supplies will be appreciated, with any extra funds used to purchase children's books for the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Please join us for a fun evening of food and friendship. Hula dancing optional.

Remember the Food Bank: July is canned fruits and vegetables month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In July, we will continue our donations of baby items: baby food and diapers.

"Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on July 12 at 10:00 a.m

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's "Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share, come enjoy fine food and fellowship with the St. Michael family and see our recently completed classroom addition.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up, organize the serving, and clean up after the first Sunday Brunch sponsored by the Women of the ELCA: Peggy Brown, Judy Clemens, Jody Smiley, Judith Wolfe, Alice Schneider, Betty Gross and Randy Robinson (honorary WELCA member).



O.K.s (Older Kids) on the Go



OKs
on the Go!

The O.K.s enjoyed a tour of the Volvo truck plant in Dublin and lunch at Claytor Lake on June 24. The next adventure is to the Taubman Art Museum and the Farmer's Market in Roanoke on Tuesday, July 14. **The registration deadline is July 7** and the cost is \$16.00 which includes transportation and admission. Lunch is on our own at Norah's Café located in the museum. Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

On Sunday, August 9, the OKs will travel to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater and "rock around the clock" with original music featuring top hits from the 40's, 50's and 60's in "Golden Oldies".

Congratulations to....

Fran and Jerry Gallimore who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27.

Bryan Katz, who received the "Outstanding Young Alumni Award" from the Virginia Tech Department of Civil Environmental Engineering, for outstanding achievement and leadership. He works as a transportation engineer for SAIC and teaches in the Department of Civil Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Katie Katz, who was awarded the "Most Outstanding Graduate Nursing Student Award" at Radford University. In May, Katie earned her Masters of Science in Nursing and has accepted a position as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Family Health Clinic in Radford. She will also teach undergraduate nursing at Radford and work occasionally at the Montgomery Regional Hospital ICU.

Kris Wertz, who was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Student for School Counseling" at Radford University. Kris also received the Outstanding Preservice Teacher Award from the Virginia Tech Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, teaching honorary.

Cory Dolph, who recently graduated from Whitworth University in Spokane, WA, with a degree in Physics. Cory plans to pursue a career as a Navy nuclear officer.

St. Michael Directory Updates

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Sandra Hough
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Chris and Maggie Maloney
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Christmas in July

On Sunday, July 26, St. Michael will celebrate Christmas in July. Come and sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols and hear the story of Christ's birth unfold again. There is no tree to put up and no lights to hang..... just the celebration of Christ's birth and the joy of Christmas!



CHRISTMAS

Christmas in July Mission Project: School Supplies for Children in Need

In July and August, St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork, Kipps and Lafayette-Elliston Elementary Schools.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissue
Black and White Composition Notebooks	
3-ring Binders	

All supplies will be welcome. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

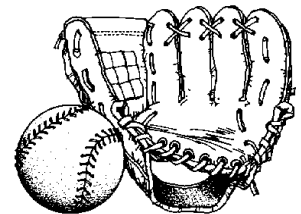
A Wohlfahrt Haus Christmas: Christmas in New York

Once again, St. Michael will sponsor a trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 6, for the annual Christmas show. This year will be a new original revue, "Christmas in New York." The cost will be \$36 for the show (\$24 for children) and four-course lunch and we've already reserved the best seats in the house. Please make your reservation on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the church bulletin. We only have 22 tickets and will be carpooling to the event. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Birch. Payment will not be due until October.

Take me out to the ballgame....

The team invites everyone out to the Jaycee Park softball field for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better.

July 6 at 8:15 p.m. vs. BCF
July 7 at 6:15 p.m. BJCC/LDS (make-up game)
July 13 at 7:15 p.m. vs. Fieldstone UMC
July 14 at 9:15 p.m. vs. Harvest Hornets (make-up game)
The Tournament begins on Tuesday, July 21.



Senior High and Middle School Youth Group Pool Party

All Senior High and Middle School Youth (including rising 6th graders) are invited to a cookout and pool party at the home of Chris and Cindy Dowdy on Sunday, July 12 at 3 p.m. For more information, talk to Kris Wertz.



Vacation Bible School a Great Success

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers at Vacation Bible School. Over 40 youth and adults enjoyed learning about God's power for our lives. See the pictures on the back of the July calendar and on the St. Michael website.

Summer Sunday School: Songs of Faithfulness

During the summer, St. Michael's regular Sunday School takes a break. This summer at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor John will teach a series of short classes for adults on "Songs of Faithfulness". Come and learn how these hymns relate to our lives of faithfulness. Child care will be provided.

July 26

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

August 16 and 23

"How Firm a Foundation" and "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

Meet Brandy Buckles, our 11 a.m. accompanist

Does she look familiar? Brandy has been our 9 a.m. accompanist this past year, and will now also serve as our 11 a.m. accompanist. Brandy will complete her senior year at Virginia Tech in the coming year and plans to continue her education at Tech in graduate school.



A New Piano for Worship

After three months of searching, the Council decided to purchase a new Kawai CA 51 electronic piano to support the worship life of the congregation. We explored a number of options including new and used grand pianos, but ultimately decided that the Kawai CA 51 offered us the best sound quality at the most affordable price. Not only was the electronic piano more affordable, but it never requires tuning and thus reduces the long-term cost of ownership. Between Memorial gifts and designated gifts, we had two-thirds of the cost of the piano on-hand, so the Council decided to move ahead with the purchase and fund the remaining third of the cost through additional designated gifts and the Property Improvement line in the Spending Plan. As you have experienced, the new piano is a wonderful addition to our ministry and will serve us well for years to come.

Classroom Addition In Use

With only a few remaining final items to be completed, we were able to use our new Classroom Addition for Vacation Bible School. The next time you are at church, go take a tour of the new space.



3rd – 5th grade Sunday School class visits Heritage Hall on May 31

On Sunday, May 31, the Sunday School class visited with residents of Heritage Hall Nursing Home. The students gave the residents stuffed animals, handmade cards, and sang a number of their favorite songs. Many of the residents, remembering their Sunday School days, sang along with the children. Pictured from left to right are Parker Wertz, Seth Brewer, Erik Bohn, Corson Wertz, Lexi Simmers, Olivia Hodge, Bryce Apisa, Alex Moehling and Sarah Moehling.

