



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## We Are The Church Together

One of the joys of being a part of the larger church is our connection to other wonderful ministries around the state and around the country. Here are a few examples of the ministry we help support.

- I shared the story of Micah's Backpack at the Virginia Synod Assembly at a workshop which inspired other churches in Virginia to start similar programs. With the help of the Synod, Micah's Backpack is helping to fight hunger around the state.
- Micah's Backpack received a \$4000 ELCA Domestic Hunger grant in support of our feeding ministry. An article about Micah's Backpack will be featured in the fall *Lifelines* newsletter which is distributed to over 10,000 ELCA congregations.
- The Virginia Synod provides some of the best youth ministry programs in the country. Each year hundreds of Virginia youth grow in faith at these events. This summer three of our youth participated in the Junior High Servant Event at Virginia Beach.
- There are over 187 Lutheran campus ministry programs around the country. The Lutheran Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech is based at Luther Memorial and receives financial support from Luther Memorial, the ELCA, the Virginia Synod and St. Michael.

This is only a snapshot of the ministry being accomplished through the larger church. Your generosity and support makes ministry happen everyday around the state and around the country.

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 God has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.*

### **Thank you to some "quiet" servants**

To Fran and Dickie Shepherd for hosting the summer family at their Newport home, Sandy and Howard Williams for hosting the middle-agers gathering, Sandy and Jeff Birch for hosting the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon, and Rick and Carrie Mayer for hosting the 20-30-40 somethings dinner; the Caring and Sharing team for setting up our "Second Sunday" summer brunch in July; all our lawn mowers and weed pullers this summer; everyone who contributed childrens books for the Roanoke Rescue; Jim and Judy Clemens who update our hymn boards in the sanctuary each Sunday and the students (Erin Albert, Elizabeth Berg, Sean Brewer) who went on the July mission trip to Virginia Beach.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for Micah's Backpack, 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** assisted 15 families; 7 with rent assistance, 7 with help with their electric bills, and one with gas funds. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

### **St. Michael Wish List**

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. Gifts may be given for these items in thanksgiving for God's goodness or in memory/honor of a loved one, friend or occasion. If you have an interest in contributing toward one of the following items or if you have an idea for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

Two library bookshelves - \$200 each

Additional shelving for Micah's Backpack - \$50

Picture Frames for the Gallery of Gifts - \$30 each

Thank you to Joe and Mildred Wall for providing six folding tables for Micah's Backpack in loving memory of Mildred's son Bucky Meredith.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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## *August Servants*

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
<b>Altar Care</b>	Pasier Family				
<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Shirley Linkous Carol Crawford	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	J.C. and Amelia Martin	J.C. and Amelia Martin
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Lori Anne Kirk	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis	Keith Gay	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Will Sharpe	Parker Wertz	Seth Brewer	Corson Wertz	Elizabeth Berg
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	John Krallman		Randy Robinson		
<b>Greeters</b>	Stephanie Gardner/S. Birch	Stephanie Gardner/Birch	Brewer family	Brewer family	Berg family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Andrea Robinson	Fred Spengler	Joanne Pascoe	John Krallman	Katherine Berg
<b>Ushers</b>	Jeff Birch Dickie Shepherd Jennie Brogan Jeff Robinson	Joanne Pascoe Burn Gross James Pascoe David Hillis	Grace and Ben Simmers Ray Howell Cindy Lang	Dave and Ann Surface Rick Mayer Jay Nagle	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour Jennie Brogan Don Linkous
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Lexi Simmers	Delanie Veit	Carlie Simmers	Cameron Nagle	Parker Wertz

Weeding team: Week of 8/7 – Rick Mayer; week of 8/21 – Jeff Robinson

Mowing: 8/7 – James/Dennis (front); 8/14 – Jay Nagle (back); 8/21 – J.C. Martin (front);  
8/28 – Jim Clemens (back)

Rear lot: 8/2 – Jeff Crowder; 8/9 – Mike Berg; 8/16 – Joe Young; 8/23 – Jim Clemens;  
8/30 – Dave Surface

## Women of the ELCA



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Remember the Food Bank:** August is “boxes of macaroni and cheese” month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

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

At the WELCA family picnic, Dickie Shepherd took us on an adventurous drive through the forest behind their home.



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



**OKs  
on the Go!**

On Friday, August 27, the O.K.s are traveling to Beckley, West Virginia, for the Appalachian Festival. A day packed with arts, crafts, entertainment and food is highlighted by a quilt display. The cost is \$10 and the registration deadline is August 20. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information about our Montgomery Parks and Recreation trips. The next trip will be to the Mansion at Fort Chiswell on September 30. Twenty O.K.s enjoyed a picnic at Claytor Lake in July followed by a tour of the Claytor Lake Dam.

There are a few seats remaining for the **trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 5, for the annual Christmas show, “Christmas in the Mountains”**. If you want to reserve a place, contact Sandy Birch soon.

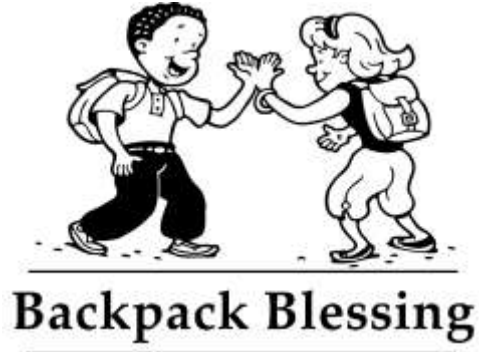
## Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheons continue through the summer

Save the **Second Tuesday** in August for fun, fellowship and a tasty catered luncheon. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, with lunch at noon. A \$5 contribution to the meal is appreciated, but not required.

Tuesday, August 10 The conclusion of our series on healthy bodies. We’ll be so healthy and happy, we’ll just glow.

## Backpack Blessing on August 29

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 29. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.



## Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary



St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork Elementary School on Monday, August 23. If you would be interested in helping, you can sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin.

## School Supplies for Children in Need

St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork, Kipps and Eastern Montgomery Elementary Schools. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 22. The collection box is in the church foyer. Thank you.



### 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                        |                            |



## A new pictorial directory is coming

St. Michael will be producing its own pictorial directory this year and the picture taking will begin at the Second Sunday Summer Brunch on August 8. There will be other times to schedule the photos, but we hope to capture many of our members “on film” that day. There will be no sales involved and everyone can receive a digital copy of their photo.

### “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on August 8 at 10 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 8 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy fine food and fellowship with the St. Michael family. New pictorial directory photos will be taken during the brunch. We are producing our own directory this time and Joe Young has volunteered to be our photographer.



### Summer Sunday School Schedule

This summer, we will have Sunday School on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month beginning at 9:50 a.m. The class for youth will focus on each Sunday's Scripture reading. The class for adults will focus on understanding other religions and denominations. Here is the schedule for August.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Adult Class Topic</u>	<u>Youth Class Topic</u>
August 15	Islam	Luke 1:46-55
August 22	Buddist	Luke 13:10-17

### Sunday School Returns September 12

Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 12 at 9:50 a.m. **During worship, we will have Bible Sunday and make age appropriate Bibles available to youth and others within the congregation.** If you enjoy working with youth and would like to be a part of a teaching team for the fall, please sign up on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the bulletin, or talk to Pastor John.

## St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 20 and Saturday, August 21. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working the game at the booth, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin or talk with Carol Crawford at 961-5733.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame on August 14

St. Michael is going to a Pulaski Mariners Game on Saturday, August 14. The game begins at 7:00 p.m. Reserved Seat tickets are \$6 per person. Sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin. The deadline for signing up is August 8.

WE'RE GOING TO A



BALL GAME!

## New Members Received on Sunday, August 29

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, August 29. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please speak with Pastor John for more information.

## An invitation to a summer concert in Floyd on August 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Linda Mitchell Motley and her congregation invite us to the Oak Grove Pavilion at Zion Lutheran in Floyd to enjoy "No Strings Attached", an award-winning quartet based in Roanoke and Blacksburg. The event is free of charge, but a donation is collected during intermission to support local charities.

## Congratulations to...

**Kevan Harris**, who retired from the Montgomery County Schools following 31 years of teaching at Auburn High School.

**Sarah and Matt Gallimore** on the birth of their first child, Amber Jane, who was born June 7. Fran and Jerry Gallimore are the proud grandparents.

**Scott McGuigan**, a member of the State Championship Blacksburg High School soccer team, who was awarded Region IV Honorable Mention along with two of his teammates.



## Enduring Generosity

We are pleased to announce that St. Michael is one of several pilot congregations in the Virginia Synod who will be participating in the *Congregational Engagement Process*, a program offered by the Mission Office for Planned Giving and the ELCA Foundation. This yearlong process will help us strengthen our current understanding of stewardship and complement it with an emphasis of planned gifts. We pray that our participation will be a blessing for you and for St. Michael.

Through the *Congregational Engagement Process* we will

- Be better prepared to respond to God's call to be good stewards of our gifts
- Strengthen and increase giving for ministry
- Create a climate of giving and generosity with expanded giving opportunities
- Discover a variety of ways to care for self, loved ones, and others
- Expect new gifts through wills and estate planning
- Strengthen community and celebrate growth in giving
- Find great joy in what we do and what we are about
- Annually recognize and give thanks for gifts to the congregation and for ministries of the wider church
- Become examples of generosity for future generations
- Discover how generosity can help us accomplish God's work with our hands

The opportunity before us will be life-giving, challenging, and inspiring. Your participation in the Congregational Engagement Process can help you witness to your faith and make ministry happen in our community and around the world. Pr. George Sims, Director of the Mission Office for Planned Giving, will be leading us through this process. George came to Virginia in 1988 to serve Reformation Lutheran Church, New Market. From 1975-1988 he served congregations in North and South Carolina. In 2001 he accepted a call by the Church Council of the ELCA, on behalf of the ELCA Foundation, to serve as a representative of the Foundation and Director of the Mission Office for Planned Giving in the Virginia Synod.

You will discover more about the Congregational Engagement Process over the next few months. You can expect, on a monthly basis, to learn about the ways this program can benefit you, your loved ones, and your Church. Please feel free to talk to Pastor John or to any of the members of Council for additional information.

**God's Work. Our Hands.**

Ambassadors for Christ: Encouraging Generosity for Generations