



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Two Days at the Fair

Each year, I spend two days at the Price's Fork Fair working with volunteers from the church to play games with kids and paint faces. We make available faith-themed coloring books, Bibles, grief resources, family devotionals and general information about St. Michael. This year we gave away over 100 Lord's Prayer coloring books and talked to approximately 400 people. Through the games, face painting, conversation and resources, we share the story of God's love for the world, we proclaim God's caring through our actions and we follow Jesus' example to love our neighbors. For me, our fair booth is a wonderful example of a ministry of presence.



I know at times when we think of ministry, we think of programs like Micah's Backpack, or the Justice and Mercy Fund or Sunday School, but my two days at the fair reminded me that being present with someone else, even in very simple ways, can be a powerful witness to God's love. Whether we realize it or not, our presence at home or at school or at work is a ministry opportunity. Each time that you say "Good Morning!", or listen to a friend who is hurting, or play a game with a child, you are acting as God's heart and hands and voices in the world. Your presence helps make Christ known each and every day.

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 Andrea Robinson who organized the **Price’s Fork Teacher’s Breakfast** and all who brought food; to all the volunteers at the **Price’s Fork Fair**: Jennie Brogan, Joyce Coupey, Carol and Ben Crawford, Dianne Krallman, Lori Anne Kirk, Ashley Parks, Elaine Powers, Delores Raines, Doug Veit, Kris, Corson and Parker Wertz, Eric Young and Joe Young; to everyone who provided food for the family luncheon following the funeral of Alice Noonkester and Sandy Birch and Kim Marion who served; and to everyone who donated school supplies for children at three of our elementary schools.



### Thank you for . . .

*Building a Playset* - On Saturday, July 24, Tom Hodge, Ray Howell, James and Wanda Pascoe, Pastor John, and Corson and Parker Wertz gathered at the home of a special family in Ellett Valley to assemble a large playground set. Thank you for making the children very happy.

*Donating Micah's Backpack Shelving* - Thank you to Greta Price for providing shelving units for Micah’s Backpack in memory of John Price.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided funds for Micah’s Backpack supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. 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. In August, we assisted 21 families; 17 with their electric bills, one with automobile expenses, and three with rent. In addition, the fund provided school clothing for a number of needy students in the county.

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### *September Servants*

	<b>September 5</b>	<b>September 12</b>	<b>September 19</b>	<b>September 26</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Inga Solberg			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn	Cliff and Fay Walters	Cliff and Fay Walters
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe	Lori Anne Kirk	Maggie Maloney
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sarah Crowder	Will Sharpe	Corson Wertz	Seth Brewer
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jeff Birch		Lorin Crowder	
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy Birch & Anna Rossomando	Sandy Birch & Deloris Raines	Tim & Mary Kate Law Jordan	Tim & Mary Kate Law Jordan
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Lauren Robinson	Jay Nagle	Sarah Crowder	Jennie Brogan
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell M. McGuigan Cindy Lang	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Jennie Brogan	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous Jeff Birch	Philip Isenhour Hank Schneider Dave/Ann Surface
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Mazzy Price	Matt Sharpe	Jessica, Maddie, Abby	Delanie Veit

Weed control: Week of 9/4 – Joe Young; week of 9/18 – Jennie Hodge  
 Mowing: James/Dennis–front on 9/4; Jay Nagle – back on 9/11; JC Martin – front on 9/18; Joe Young – back on 9/25  
 Rear lot: Jeff Crowder - 9/6; Mike Berg - 9/13; Joe Young - 9/20; Jim Clemens - 9/27  
 Micah’s Backpack unloading: 9/13 – Paiser/Surface; 9/27 – Crawford/Brewer



## Women of the ELCA

All women of St. Michael are invited to the first fall meeting on September 21 at 6 p.m. at the home of Sandy Birch. Directions to the Birch home are available on the hallway shelf. A light salad supper will be provided. We will be planning our activities for the coming year and all ideas are welcome.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 24 at 2 p.m. at Our Saviours in Christiansburg. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference.

**Remember the Food Bank:** September is **soup** month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In September, we'll collect paper supplies: toilet paper and paper towels. The collection basket is in the hallway.

During the next few months, the congregation will again be encouraged **to fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. The reservation is located in the poorest county in the United States, where family income averages \$3,700 and unemployment is 93%. Last year, we donated 236 Christmas boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on the bulletin board. This year we also plan to send Christmas gift boxes to Rev. Karen Rupp, a Lutheran pastor who oversees a homeless shelter on the reservation. These boxes will be for older children and adults. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex.



*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8*

## Men in Mission



The Men in Mission will be serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Sunday, September 19. Prior to dinner, we will participate in a tour of the facility and learn more about all the programs provided for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. If you can help, please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu). We will be leaving the church about 3 p.m. that day.

The Men in Mission are also unloading the food truck for Micah's Backpack on Mondays at 6 p.m. If you would like to assist, please contact Jeff.

## The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Second Tuesday Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons continue on Tuesday, September 14. This fall, we will sample the cuisine of some American cities – beginning with New Orleans in September. So bring a friend and join us for Mardi Gras in September. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required).



**OKs  
on the Go!**

On Thursday, September 30, the O.K.s travel to the Mansion at Fort Chiswell for lunch and a tour. The cost of the trip is \$22 and the registration deadline is September 23. The mansion has been a familiar landmark since settlers drove their wagons west along the Old Wilderness Road and we now drive along I-81. There are still seats available for this trip.

We're walking...we're walking....around the church using both an indoor and outdoor "track". Walk with us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Walkers and canes welcome!



The next **O.K. dinner is planned for Wednesday, September 29**, at 6 p.m. at Amelia's Pizzeria and Restaurant in Cambria (Christiansburg). The food is delicious (much, much more than pizza) and the cost of our own personal buffet in the private dining room will be \$10 which includes beverages and gratuity...yes, really...only \$10! Did I tell you the food is really good? Reserve your place at the table on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin or contact Sandy Birch.

## Congratulations to....



Our accompanist, Brandy Buckles, who married Jeff Baxter on **August 15**. She is now **Brandy Buckles Baxter**, or "B-cubed" to some of us. (try to say her name quickly)

Ross and Hallie Brown who celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 1.

Dot and Phil Keister who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 16.

MaKayla Dowdy, who was named Little Miss Prices Fork at the Prices Fork Community Fair on August 21.



David Hillis, who hiked and rode a horse to the top of Mt. Rogers (5,729 feet) one day following a helicopter ride through the New River Valley the day before. David is enjoying these exciting adventures before he goes into hospice care for his incurable cancer. St. Michael is sponsoring a fund for David to help with his burial expenses and contributions can be made using the special giving envelopes found in the pews.

## **Youth Nights on September 12 and 26 Youth Ministry News**

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sunday, September 12 and 26 at 5 p.m. Come enjoy the fun and learn a little more about God's love for you. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at [pastorjohn@stmhc.us](mailto:pastorjohn@stmhc.us).



## **Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX September 12 and 26**

LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh in **C**hrist (**X**) – will meet on September 12 at 5 p.m. to plan the activities for the year. For more information, please talk to Carrie Mayer, Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.



## **Sunday School Begins on September 12**

St. Michael's Sunday School program for all ages will begin a new year on Sunday, September 12 at 9:50 a.m. This year, we will have classes for Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade and Adults. Join your friends and come learn more about God's Word in Sunday School.

## **Adult Sunday School Class to Build a Toolbox for a Life of Proclamation**

This year, the Adult Sunday School class will build a toolbox for a life of proclamation by focusing on learning the Bible, learning more about Lutheran teachings and learning about living out our faith in the modern world. Hopefully as we fill our toolbox we will grow in our understanding of what we believe and feel more comfortable sharing our faith in Jesus with others.

## **Bible Sunday on September 12**

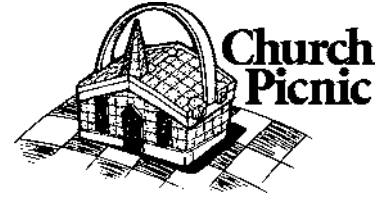
As you begin a new Sunday School year, enjoy reading a new Bible. From storybook Bibles, to Early Reader Bibles to Large Print Bibles, St. Michael will have a variety of translations and styles available, so if you need a new Bible, plan to pick one up at worship on September 12.

## **Sunday Night Bible Study on September 19**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on "Words of Hope in Times of Grief" on Sunday, September 19 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home.

## St. Michael Picnic on September 26

The annual St. Michael Picnic will take place on September 26 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited to bring a friend and a dish to share as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.



### **Make a Joyful Noise**



Anyone who likes to sing or play the hand chimes and would be willing to serve God through leading in worship is invited to be a member of our choirs. The St. Michael Choir will meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the fall beginning on September 9; the hand chimes choir on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:15 p.m. beginning on September 8. Eric Young, our choir director, has ordered some new music and is looking forward to seeing you at practice.

### **Blessing of the Animals on October 3 at 3 PM**

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 3 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. The Blessing of Animals is generally held on October 4, the day that the church remembers St. Francis of Assisi or somewhere near that date. This service gives Christians an opportunity to give thanks to God for our pets who bring us joy and offer us unconditional love. To keep some semblance of harmony and order at this service, please do not let your pet roam free, even if he or she is "well-behaved."

### Lost and Found

#### Virginia Synod Youth Event for 7th and 8th Graders

All 7th and 8th graders and their friends are invited to "Lost and Found," a weekend retreat for 7th and 8th graders sponsored by the Virginia Synod, November 19-21. Around 600 youth from around Virginia will gather to talk about faith and life, to sing, to worship and have a good time. The cost for the weekend is \$75. If you are interested in attending Lost and Found, please talk to Pastor John. The deadline for registration is October 15.

### **Care of Creation Toolbox**

Our recycling center in the hallway is working well. Please continue to bring in your pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, small bottles of shampoos for the Roanoke Rescue Mission, used printer cartridges, used eyeglasses which will be donated to the Lions Club International for distribution to needy brothers and sisters around the world, flower vases, and old cell phones. Cell phones represent about 65,000 tons of electronic garbage every year. Simply by recycling the phones, we could save enough energy to power more than 194,000 homes for an entire year.. In addition to cash rebates to the Justice and Mercy Fund, a tree will be planted for every 24 qualifying phones and print cartridges we collect.

## **Let's Walk ( or run or cycle) from Blacksburg to Bethlehem** 6,114 miles by Christmas

Walking is healthy, it reduces stress and helps us control our weight. Walking with a friend is fun. Walking keeps us limber and feeling good. Just 30 minutes of walking, three times a week will help us live longer, so the Older Kids would like to challenge the congregation to walk with us to Bethlehem this fall – well, not literally, but let's travel the 6,114 mile distance to Bethlehem. Beginning September 12 and extending to December 21 – 100 days – we will be encouraging everyone to walk (or run or cycle) a little or a lot. Tally sheets will be provided for individuals to record their distances and progress will be charted on the hallway bulletin board each week.



A ¼ mile track has been established in the church parking lot and a 1/10 mile walk inside the church building has been determined. On September 14, the OKs will “start the parade” at their Mardi Gras luncheon and start adding up those miles. Those with walkers and canes are welcome! Walking trails around Virginia Tech and the town have been established and maps are available on the hallway bulletin board. Contact Sandy to measure the mileage on your favorite walk.



### **Church Volleyball Team Forming**

St. Michael will have an Adult Co-ed Volleyball team which will play in the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation League this fall. If you are interested in playing, please sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin. Games will be played on Thursday nights and should begin in late September or early October. See Pastor John for more information.

### Invitations

Hank and Alice Schneider invite the church family to follow the progress of their little 1-year-old grandson Johnathan on <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/johnathannoyes>. Johnathan is fighting a cancerous tumor and our prayers are with him and his parents, Carole and Mark Noyes. The Noyes can be contacted at 2908 Oak Bridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610.

**The congregation is invited to the Opening at the Floyd Artists' Association reception on Friday, September 3, from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Association gallery in The Station in Floyd. The featured artist for the month of September is Linda Mitchell Motley, former pastor at St. Michael. Linda will display her handcrafted jewelry at the gallery throughout September.**