



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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September 1, 2011

Learning the Story, Serving Others

On Sunday, September 11 at 9:50 a.m., we will kick-off a new year of Sunday School with a covered dish brunch. I hope you will bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship. Our scripture theme for the day will be 1 John 3:18, "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" and our emphasis will be on serving – from those who serve as Sunday School teachers and students to all those who use their gifts to serve God in the community. We will have a brief installation service for our Sunday School teachers during the Kick-Off Brunch, have time for the students to meet their teachers and take a moment to share God's love with others.

In addition to the beginning of our Sunday School year, that day will also be the Tenth Anniversary of the attacks on September 11th. As a way of recognizing the sacrifice, caring and commitment of those who serve in our community, we will join together to say "Thank You!" to those who stand ready to provide assistance in times of crisis. Joyce Coupey is creating "Thank You" cards for St. Michael to send to first responders in our community. During the brunch, you will have the opportunity to sign these cards of appreciation. After worship, the cards and a few dozen freshly baked cookies will be delivered to local emergency personnel. If you'd like to help provide cookies, there will be a place to sign up on the "Welcome" sheet on Sunday, September 4.

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 all who brought food for the teachers at Price’s Fork Elementary; to all the volunteers at the Price’s Fork Fair: Joyce Coupey, Fran Shepherd, Joanne Pascoe, Nia Indelicato, Kris Wertz, Olivia Hodge, Joe Young, Dianne Krallman, Joanna Garcia, Gary Worley, Brandon Raines, Carol Crawford and Ben Crawford; Corson Wertz, Parker Wertz, and Olivia Hodge who helped organize school supplies and to everyone who donated school supplies for children at three of our elementary schools.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, Bibles for Sunday School, printer paper, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, 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 14 families; 5 with their electric bills, 2 with automobile expenses, 2 with a water bill, and 5 with rent.

Volunteers needed for Feeding America

Join the volunteers from Micah’s Backpack for fun, fellowship and food sorting at Feed American (the food bank) in Salem on September 26, October 24, and November 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. Feel free to invite friends to join James, the Quality Control Coordinator at Feeding America, and Jennie Hodge, the Micah’s Backpack Director, for three hours of sorting, inspecting and packing donated food destined for soup kitchens and other agencies. Contact Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org or at 953-2225 if interested.



Directory Update: Pastor John’s home phone number has changed. If you want to get in touch with him, please call 320-5982.

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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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September Servants

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Altar Care	Lorin Crowder			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Rick and Carrie Mayer	Rick and Carrie Mayer	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe	Amy Dandro Emily and Katie	Lori Anne Kirk
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	Corson Wertz	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Jeff Birch		Lorin Crowder	
Greeters	Sandy Birch Anna Rossomando	Deloris Raines Anna Rossomando	Wanda and James Pascoe	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Margaret Christle	Doug Smiley	M. McGuigan	Jennie Brogan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	R. Robinson James Pascoe	Don Linkous Jeff Birch	Dave and Ann Surface
Youth Servant	Megan Christle	Delanie Veit	Jessica, Maddie, Abby Brown	Jayden Hayley

Mowing: William Allen–back on 9/3; James/Dennis – front on 9/10; Jay Nagle – back on 9/17; Joe Young – front on 9/24

Rear lot: Jim Clemens - 9/5; Dave Surface - 9/12; Jeff Crowder - 9/19; Mike Berg - 9/26



Women of the ELCA

All women of St. Michael are invited to the **first fall meeting on September 15 at 6 p.m.** at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Rd. in Blacksburg). 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 9 at 3 p.m. at Zion Lutheran in Floyd. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference. We will be carpooling from the church at 1:45 p.m. Pastor Linda Mitchell Motley will be leading a Bible study based on the theme of the gathering, "Renewal for the soul". A potluck salad supper will be shared.

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.



Thank you to everyone who provided school supplies for children at Price's Fork, Kipps, and Eastern Montgomery Elementary Schools. We distributed 11 backpacks, 49 boxes of crayons, 92 glue sticks and bottles of glue, 640 pencils, 106 folders, 80 subject notebooks, 13 binders, and lots more needed supplies.

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. Last year, we donated 312 Christmas boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations and community groups. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on the bulletin board. 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 are unloading the food truck for Micah's Backpack on the second and fourth Mondays at 6 p.m. If you would like to assist, please contact Jeff at jbbirch@vt.edu or at 951-3455. The unloading schedule for fall is: September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 14, 28; and December 2.

The O.K.s(Older Kids)

Second Tuesday Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons continue on Tuesday, September 13. This fall, we will continue to sample the cuisine of some American cities – Seattle will be featured in September. So bring a friend and join us for Seattle Seafair in September. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required).



**OKs
on the Go!**

On Wednesday, September 21, the O.K.s travel to Mt. Airy, Andy Griffith's home town, and take a ride in Barney's Squad Car, tour "Mayberry" including stops at Floyd's Barber Shop, Snappy Lunch where we can get a famous "Pork Chop Sandwich", and the Andy Griffith museum and home place. The registration deadline is September 14 and the cost is \$20. Lunch is extra. On October 5, we'll enjoy a local tour of the National Weather Station and the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority to see how recycling really works...and enjoy a great lunch buffet at Amelia's in Christiansburg. The registration deadline is September 28 and the cost is \$8 (and about \$8 for lunch).

Celebrating Charlie Edge's 90th
birthday at the August
Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon.



Congratulations to....

Glen Goad, who retired from Kroger after 37 years of service.

Daniel Ehrich, who recently graduated from the Culinary Arts program at Virginia Western. Chef Daniel will be moving to Maryland soon to begin his professional career.

The Hallway Recycling Center

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 and other personal hygiene products 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.

Wanted: a volunteer to manage our recycling center; duties are minimal, rewards are environmentally fulfilling. See Sandy Birch for details.

Youth Ministry News Youth Night on September 25

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, September 25 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@stmlc.us.



Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX September 25

LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh in **C**hrist (**X**) – will meet on September 25 at 5 p.m. to plan the activities for the year. For more information, please talk to Kris Wertz.



Sunday School Begins with a Kick-Off Brunch on September 11

St. Michael's Sunday School program for all ages will begin a new year on Sunday, September 11 at 9:50 a.m. with a potluck brunch. We'll have some activities to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of 9/11. This year, we will have classes for Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, 3rd through 5th Grade, 6th through 12th Grade and Adults. Join your friends and come learn more about God's Word in Sunday School.

Adult Sunday School Class

The Adult Sunday School class will be discussing people and places in the Bible. If there are specific people or places you'd like to discuss as a part of the class, please place the name on the "Welcome" sheet or email the name to Pastor John.

Need a New Bible? Get One on September 11

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 11.

Sunday Night Bible Study on September 18

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the story of Joseph in the Old Testament on Sunday, September 18 at 7 p.m. at the church.

Happy Birthday St. Michael Dinner on October 2

The annual St. Michael Celebration will take place on October 2 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael and recognize our founding mothers and fathers at both the worship services and the celebration.



This will also be the annual Birthday Dinner, an Italian Festa. Come enjoy baked ziti, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together. At the birthday dinner, the folks born in January sit together, the folks born in February share a table, ...well, you get the idea. A free will offering will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The event is hosted by the Women of the ELCA.

The St. Michael family is invited to sign up to provide a birthday dessert for one of the birthday months on the sign-up form on the hallway bulletin board.

Buon Compleanno St. Michael!
(that's Happy Birthday St. Michael in Italian)



**Being a part of the music program
at St. Michael is as easy as 1-2-3**

1. Sign up for musical opportunities that you and your family would like to be a part of such as the St. Michael choir, family choir, men's or women's choir, family handchimes, youth choir, instrumental ensembles, solos and duets. Keep a lookout for the sign-up form.
2. Two practices – that's it! Come to just two practices in preparation for service music.
3. Share your talents with the congregation on a Sunday.

Minimum practice – maximum reward! Being a part of the music program at St. Michael has never been easier or more fun! No previous musical experience is necessary. Unlock your God-given musical gifts and share God's message through music. If you have any questions, talk with Eric Young or email him at ericyoung@stmlc.us.

**St. Michael Choir practice begins on
Tuesday night, September 6 at 6:30 pm.**

Some thank you notes

Thank you for helping make the Peanut Butter from Heaven Campaign a huge success! Blacksburg Christian Church, Blacksburg Jewish Community Center, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Community Christian Church, and New Mt. Zion joined St. Michael to collect 387 jars of peanut butter to help feed hungry children on the weekend through Micah's Backpack.

*Sincerely,
Jennie Hodge - Micah's Backpack Director*

Dear Members of St. Michael: Thank you for your generous scholarship that will help me as I begin my studies at Radford University. I would also like to thank you for welcoming me into your church community!

*Sincerely,
Keely Jones*

Dear friends: Thank you for your donations of cleaning supplies, toiletries and baby food to the Women's Resource Center. Your contribution helps in our endeavor to create a community free of domestic and sexual violence. ...We could not do this work without your partnership and your support.

*Forever thankful,
Pat Brown, Executive Director*

Dear Friends of MCEAP at St. Michael Lutheran Church: The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) acknowledges receipt of your generous monthly contribution of \$260.Contributions such as yours have enabled MCEAP to have a significant impact in the lives of an ever-increasing number of our friends and neighbors at a time when they are unable to help themselves. We appreciate your financial support of this vital. mission of emergency assistance, but most of all for your care and concern for your fellow citizens in their time of need.

*Sincerely,
Anjanette Hodges, Treasurer, MCEAP*

Friends at St. Michael, The joy that the children had on their faces at Open House Monday night was so heartwarming. Thanks to your generous donations of backpacks and school supplies, each child at Kipps will begin school with the supplies they need. I had the privilege of distributing many of the backpacks and the parents were very thankful and relieved. We are so blessed to have your partnership as we meet the needs of our children.



*God Bless you.
Amy Ruppert
PreK Teacher - Kipps Elementary School*

Let's Walk (or run or cycle) from Blacksburg to Bethlehem again 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 18 and extending to December 24 –**14 weeks** – 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 13, the OKs will “start the parade” at their Happy-Go-Lucky 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.

Blessing of the Animals on October 2 at 3 PM

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 2 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.