



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 35, Number 6

June 1, 2012



Sky Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

6:15 PM to 8:15 PM

Classes for all ages from Preschool to Adults

Light Supper begins at 6:15 PM

Come enjoy a week of fun, fellowship and learning up in the Sky!

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 the bold women who served during our worship services on May 13: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; Freddie and Donna Oliver, David and Ann Surface, Linda Elliott, Bill Greer, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Suzie Jones and Suzanne Gay who have helped with recent newsletter mailings.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in May supported Micah’s Backpack food, additional mortgage payments, Faith chests and contents for our newly baptized members, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund, our facilities maintenance and mortgage, and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **32** families (a record): 25 with electric bills, 6 with rent, and one with a tank of gasoline. 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.

A Thank You

Thank you Pastor John and the St. Michael family for all the prayers and support upon the death of Stanley. It meant so much to us. Also, a special thanks to the choir and members of the church who prepared a luncheon for us. God’s blessings to all.

The family of Stanley Larsen

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.

Raised Garden Enclosure for Micah's Garden - \$20 (up to 12 needed)

Coolers with wheels for Micah’s Garden - \$50 (need 5)

Food Scale for Micah’s Garden - \$25

Heavy Duty Garden Hose - \$25 (need 2)

Little Tykes: Preschool Baby Swings - \$30 (need 2)

Little Tykes: Preschool Easy Store Large Slide - \$100

Little Tykes: Preschool Hide and Slide Climber - \$180

Thank you to Clare Dannenberg for donating a cooler; Jeff and Sandy Birch and Pat Smith for donating to Micah’s Garden.

A lot has been happening in Micah's Garden! Fifteen gardeners have begun to grow food. All this growing will bring in fresh food for the gardeners and our friends and neighbors who use three food pantries in the Blacksburg area.

On May 12, Jeff Birch and Ray Howell led a group of Men in Mission volunteers including Mark Pasier, Gary Worley and James Pascoe (pictured), Pastor John and Tom Hodge, who built a deck to hold the cistern. A thank you to Bob Brown who designed the deck and to Rick and Carole Wall who generously gave the cistern to Micah's Garden! The cistern will provide easy access to water for our gardeners and will make Micah's Garden successful. Thanks to the anonymous donors who gave the storage shed and the water pump too. In mid-May, Eddie Boes gave a presentation on Square Foot Gardening and Anna Rossomando is helping out a group of volunteers with recipe cards to go along with the produce we donate. Lastly, our friends at the Blacksburg High School Agriculture Department donated three flats of peppers, oregano and basil for planting. Feel free to contact Jennie Hodge at jennie@micahsbackpack.org if you'd like a raised bed to plant or to help out with the community plots.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



www.micahsbackpack.org

Here are some sample e-mail messages from volunteers who love their work with Micah's Backpack.

A new volunteer wrote: "What a great time I had last night!!!!..It was amazing to experience! (and fun too!!!)"

A veteran volunteer wrote, "What a smooth operation you are running with the packing. It has really evolved. We just sailed through there filling our bags. It is such a pleasure to

work with you." From a BMS 8th grader who had been volunteering for his Civics Community Service Project, "I still want to help. Could you pick me up this Thursday?"

Feel free to come out on a Wednesday night during the summer. We will pack from June 20 to August 15 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Beautiful things happen at Micah's Backpack as our community gathers to feed hungry kids.

Micah's Backpack salutes Mike Berg, who we now call the Food Drive King. In May, Mike coordinated food drives through the Chemistry Department at Virginia Tech which brought in over 1,361 items. For the school year, Mike and his students and colleagues have collected 1,767 food items – enough to fill 110 backpacks! We also send a huge thanks to Nia Indelicato who wrote two successful grants to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley: one for Micah's Backpack and one for Micah's Garden.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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June Servants

	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Hodge family	Gary and Sandie Worlie	Ben and Carol Crawford	Ben and Carol Crawford
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay – R D. Rueschman- C	Matthew James-R	Jacob Dennis –R Nancy Goad - C	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Corson Wertz	Noah Moehling	Alex Moehling	Parker Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Jeff Birch	Sheila McCartan
Greeters	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Moehling/Belue family	Laura Gruss and family
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	Anna Rossomando	Jennie Brogan	M. McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Ben/Grace Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Jessica, Abby, Maddie Brown		Noah Moehling	Camden Brewer

Mowing: 6/1–James/Dennis (front); 6/8–Jay Nagle (back); 6/15–J.D. Robinson (front);
6/22- William Allen (back); 6/29-James/Dennis (front)
Rear Lot: 6/4–Charlie Saks; 6/11-Doug Goldsmith; 6/18-Dave Surface; 6/25-Jeff
Crowder

Congratulations Graduates

Several members of our St. Michael family graduated this spring. Showing that perseverance pays off, **Abby Penner** graduated from Blacksburg High School and plans to attend Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon where she will pursue an Associates Degree and certificate in early childhood education. **Lauren Robinson** graduated with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Teaching Physical and Health Education with a minor in Special Education. While at Radford, Lauren was honored as a Distinguished Woman and participated in several activities and camps related to her major. She



plans to attend graduate school at Radford University to pursue a Master's Degree in Special Education. **Daniel Crowder** graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor's Degree in History. While attending Tech, he served as Vice President of the VT Cave Club and the Operations Officer of the Marching Virginians. He plans to travel, perhaps going to Australia or New Zealand to work. **Isaac Nagle** earned a double major in History and Sociology and a double minor in Religious Studies and Africana Studies from Virginia Tech. He will be the area coordinator for Young Life in Franklin County. **Mary Kate Law** received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Virginia Tech. She is finishing up a one-year internship at the Baltimore Veterans Hospital and specialized in the treatment of traumatic stress. While her career plans are still developing as she interviews for jobs, she hopes to continue supporting individuals as they make positive changes in their lives. **Luke Harris** completed his Doctorate in Dental Medicine from Temple University.

Congratulations also to our fall 2011 graduates. **John Gay** graduated last December from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs with his Master's Degree in International Relations with an emphasis on Middle East Studies. He is currently working at the Center for the National Interest in Washington D.C. **Amy Woods** earned her Master's Degree in Nursing from the Research College of Nursing. Amy is the Director of Surgical Services at LewisGale Hospital-Montgomery.

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on June 10 at 10:00 AM Honoring our 2011-2012 Graduates

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 10 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael. In addition to enjoying the food and fellowship, we will be recognizing our 2011-2012 high school and college graduates.



Women of the ELCA

Nearly \$500! Our Thank offering! Thank you to everyone who saved their change in the little thank offering boxes last month. This special offering will be divided between the Malaria Nets project and special programs for women and children sponsored by the Women of the ELCA. All of our pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters really added up.



The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Roanoke College on July 20-22. If you are interested in attending, additional information and registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. You can also talk with Jody Smiley or Alice Schneider, New River Conference chair as well.

Donations of new and used bikes and quilts and blankets for the Pine Ridge Reservation are encouraged during the convention. If you have an item to donate, please talk with Alice or Jody.

Over 30 sisters attended the annual Sisters in Christ luncheon in May as we celebrated our sisterhood. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious salads and desserts to share. Three of our sisters were recognized as our Bold Women of 2012: Dianne Krallman, Olivia Hodge and Jennie Hodge. They were celebrated for their inspiring leadership of Micah's Backpack.



Remember the Food Bank: June is "kid-friendly food" month – bring fruit or pudding cups, small cans of pasta, cookies, etc., though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In June, we'll collect baby food.



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



Our next trip is Tuesday, June 19 to Mabry Mill and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Along the way, the bus will stop at the Farmers Market, Nancy's Fudge Shop and the Bread Basket. The registration deadline is June 12 and the cost is \$12. Lunch is on your own at the Mabry Mill Restaurant. The July trip is to the Volvo Truck Plant and then lunch at Claytor Lake (registration deadline is July 3). Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for the trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information. Pictured are the O.K.s at the Mill Mountain Zoo in April.



Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

On **Tuesday, June 5**, we will celebrate Christmas in June. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Our guests will be Glenn and LaVina Tyndall, two of the founders of the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Consider bringing a mom or dad gift (stationary, kitchen towel, lotion, socks, gloves, etc.) to donate to the Store.



Take me out to the ballgame....



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

Monday, June 4	6:15 p .m.	First Wesleyan
Monday, June 11	7:15 p.m.	BJCC-LDS
Monday, June 18	8:15 p.m.	Slusser's Chapel
Monday, June 25	8:15 p.m.	Christ Episcopal

Power in the Spirit is July 12 - 14 at Roanoke College

"Welcoming the Stranger" is the theme for Power in the Spirit, an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. This year's keynote speaker is Rev. Ruben Duran and the Bible Study Leader is Bishop Margaret Payne. Additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board.

Sky Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults: Everything is Possible with God

Come and discover how all things are possible with God at SKY Vacation Bible School. The fun begins on Sunday, June 10 and continues through Thursday, June 14. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Look for the registration form in the bulletin and online.



Thank You Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this an exciting year. From the pre-school class to the adults, the story of God's love and presence in our lives has been proclaimed. We appreciate all those who shared their time and talents this year including: Pastor John and Nia Indelicato for leading our opening music, Cindy Dowdy, Margaret Christle, and Lisa Moehling for teaching the K-2 class, Maggie Maloney and Nia Indelicato for teaching the grade 3-5 class, Kris Wertz and Jody Smiley for leading the middle and high school class, and Pastor John for leading the adult class. Thank you also to all the substitute teachers.

Congratulations to our St. Michael Scholarship Recipients

Our two recipients for 2012 are Lilly Goldsmith and Abby Penner. Lilly just completed her first year at Virginia Tech in Environmental Science. She was very active in Girl Scouts and extremely involved with youth activities at Shiloh Lutheran and in the Virginia Synod with such activities as Lost and Found and Winter Celebration. Abby graduated from Blacksburg High School last Saturday and is looking forward to her studies at Virginia Highlands Community College where she will study early childhood education.

We're only an email away . . .

John Wertz, Jr., Pastor	pastorjohn@stmhc.us
Sandy Birch, Lay Associate in Ministry	birch@vt.edu
Suzanne Gay, Administrative Assistant	suzanneg@stmhc.us
Jim Clemens, Congregational President	jclemens@vt.edu