



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

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## **Growing, Changing, Moving**

Over the last few years, Vacation Bible School has grown larger and larger and this year we had over 80 youth and adults participating in Sky. This was our largest week of VBS ever! Thank you to everyone who shared their time and talents to help children and adults discover that anything is possible with God. It was a wonderful week!

If you haven't been out to Micah's Garden lately, take a walk to the back corner of the property and look at all the wonderful fresh food that is growing. Tomatoes, potatoes, and lettuce are going strong and we have already started donating food to The Interfaith Food Pantry in Blacksburg and the Spiritual Roots Food Pantry in Christiansburg. If you are growing food at home and would like to donate some of what you grow, please contact Jennie Hodge: [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

Over the next month, our playground will be changing. The new playground equipment for young children and a new swing set will be installed in mid-July. If you'd like to help with the installation, please let me know.

On a personal note, our family is in the process of building a new house near Price's Fork. We have sold our current house and will be moving to a rental home for the next several months. It is an exciting time for us. Our phone numbers will stay the same, but we will have a new mailing address will be included in the Messenger next month.

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 Pastor John and Lori Anne Kirk for representing St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; everyone who helped with Vacation Bible School (VBS) including Jody Smiley, our VBS coordinator, all our teachers and assistants, and Deloris Raines and her kitchen crew; Jody Smiley, Mike Berg and Carrie Mayer for serving on the St. Michael Scholarship Committee; Lynn Price for weeding our flower beds and planting new flowers; Jeff Crowder, Hank Schneider and Sandy Williams for preparing the Faithchests for our newly baptized members.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in June provided materials and food for Vacation Bible School, Faithchest supplies, devotional subscriptions, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted **12** families; four with electric bills, rent for five families, gasoline for three families, and contributed to the Friends of the Farmer's Market Double Value Program.. This new program for food stamp shoppers at the Blacksburg farmer's market enables them to get healthy food from the market. 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, please contact Pastor John.

Raised Garden Enclosure for Micah's Garden - \$20

Coolers with wheels for Micah's Garden - \$50

Little Tykes: Preschool Baby Swing - \$30

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

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

Thank you to Todd and Inga Solberg, Freddie and Donna Oliver, the Gruss family, the Hodge family, Pat Smith, Thrivent, and the Community Foundation of the NRV for donating to Micah's Garden. Thank you also to Jay and Becci Nagle and Lance and Katie Lafon for donating garden hoses, and to Jay and Becci for donating a preschool baby swing and a food scale.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
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***July Servants***

	<b>July 1</b>	<b>July 8</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>July 22</b>	<b>July 29</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sandy Birch and Alice Schneider				
<b>9 AM Service</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	William Allen Sandy Birch	William Allen Nancy Goad	William Allen Nancy Goad	Sandra Hough Linda Elliott	Sandra Hough Linda Elliott
<b>Lay Reader Comm. Asst</b>	Keith Gay Patty Renneckar	Judith Wolfe William Allen	Lori Anne Kirk D. Rueschman	Gary Worley Sandy Worley	Jennie and Olivia Hodge
<b>11 AM Service</b>					
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sarah Moehling	Noah Moehling	Parker Wertz	David Christle	Seth Brewer
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sandy Birch		D. Krallman		
<b>Greeters</b>	Birch family	Charlie and Martie Saks	Wanda and James Pascoe	Gruss family	Berg family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Corson Wertz	Fred Spengler	Joanne Pascoe	Suzie Jones	Joanna Garcia
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	Jeff Birch Hank Schneider	M. McGuigan D. Goldsmith	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Abbey Birch		Bronzson Lawson		

Mowing: 7/6-Jay Nagle (back); 7/13- JD Robinson (front); 7/20-William Allen (back);  
7/27 - James/Dennis (front)  
Rear Lot: 7/2-Mike Berg; 7/9-Charlie Saks; 7/16-Doug Goldsmith; 7/23 – Dave Surface;  
7/30-Jeff Crowder

## Women of the ELCA



The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Roanoke College on July 20-22. The theme of the convention is "Responding with Love to 25 Years of Shared Service" to celebrate 25 years of Women of the ELCA. If you are interested in attending, talk with Jody Smiley or Alice Schnieder. Nia Indelicato will serve as our delegate. Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board.

**Donations of quilts and blankets for the Pine Ridge Reservation will be collected during the convention and we welcome contributions from the congregation.**

**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 8 at 10:00 a.m.**

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's "Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 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.



Thank you to everyone who helped set up, organize the serving, and clean up after the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch sponsored by the Women of the ELCA.



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



**OKs  
on the Go!**

Our July trip will be to the VOLVO truck plant and Claytor Lake for lunch. The registration deadline is July 3 and the cost is \$10.

The Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for the remaining trips are available on the hallway bulletin board. You are encouraged to sign up soon as several of the tours are "filling up". Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information.

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

Our July luncheon will be Tuesday, July 10 at Claytor Lake. Talk with Sandy Birch if you need a ride or need directions. Come enjoy Bible study, a delicious picnic and some quiet time by the lake.



## **Christmas in July Sunday, July 29**

On Sunday, July 29, 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 in July: Gifts of Caring Peanut Butter for Heaven**

During July, in conjunction with Feeding America, Micah's Backpack will participate in a food drive to collect 15 oz. jars of peanut butter for the upcoming school year called Peanut Butter from Heaven. In honor of Christmas in July, bring in a small jar of peanut butter to help stock the Micah's Backpack shelves for the upcoming school year! Last school year, we sent home over 2,400 jars of peanut butter. For questions, please talk to Jennie Hodge: 953-2225 or [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).



### **Reservations for the Wohlfahrt Haus Theater Christmas Show**

St. Michael will again sponsor a **trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 2 for the annual Christmas show, "Country Christmas Celebration"**. 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 Anna Rossomando ([annaleerossomando171@gmail.com](mailto:annaleerossomando171@gmail.com)). Payment will not be due until October.

### **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.



In June, Micah's Garden gave over 30 pounds of radishes, cabbage, broccoli, and lettuce to our partner food pantries. Thank you to everyone who served by planting and harvesting produce to share. Thank you to

home gardeners who shared as well including Bob Brown who gave 75 tomato plants to Micah's Garden.

The last bit of the Garden's infrastructure was improved by Eddie Boes when he created a spigot inside the garden fence and designed a way to measure the amount of water in the cistern.

Are you a home gardener with extra produce in the growing season? Feel free to bring your harvest to St. Michael for distribution to Giving Tree Food Pantry, Interfaith Food Pantry, and Spiritual Roots Food Pantry.

Contact Jennie Hodge at [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org) to set up a time to drop off produce or sign up to maintain plots or deliver fresh produce.

### **Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story**



[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)

In June, Micah's Backpack received its largest gift-to-date: a grant from the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Endowment for \$14,000. Clare Dannenberg, a faithful Micah's Backpack volunteer and Blacksburg Presbyterian (BPC) member, shared the possibility of an endowment request with Jennie and Pastor John. The trio wrote a grant and met with the BPC Endowment Committee. This month they awarded the gift and

urged Micah's Backpack to continue helping food-insecure children in our community. Many thanks to Clare and BPC for their dedication and support of Micah's Backpack and the friends and neighbors we feed.

For the summer months, Micah's Backpack will meet on Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. Feel free to come out, pack gifts of weekend food, and have a fun time!

During June, Micah's Backpack gave nearly 1,000 meals to participants at Valley Interfaith Child Care Center and students at our 5 elementary schools. Middle and high school students helped pack during VBS and got the Micah's Backpack stock and shelves ready for the summer weekend food distribution.

In July, we will collect 15 oz. jars of peanut butter. Thank you for sending in tuna during June. If you have any questions about Micah's Backpack email Jennie at [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org)

## Congratulations to....

**Justin Dolph** , who graduated from Bridgewater College with undergraduate degrees in Physics and Math. He will be attending graduate school in the fall at the University of Virginia and plans to earn a PhD in Physics and Applied Sciences.

**Carlie Simmers**, who was one of 10 fifth-graders at Kipps Elementary School recognized with a “Good Citizen Award”, presented by Draper Aden Associates. She joins her sister Lexi, and cousins Lauren Robinson and Lindsay Robinson who were recognized as Draper Aden’s good citizens in their fifth grade years. Students were chosen for being responsible, acting with kindness and caring, and showing respect. A family tradition!

**Ben Simmers** who was recognized for 40 years of service to the Blacksburg Rescue Squad.

**Matthew Paisier**, who was named to the All-Timesland Cross Country Second Team.

## School Supplies for Children in Need

In July and August, St. Michael will be working in partnership with other congregation in our area to collecting school supplies for children in need in Montgomery County. The supplies we collect will go to students at Price’s Fork Elementary School. The collection box is in the narthex. 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	

## Some thank you notes

*Thank you to everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy following the death of my mother, Laura Pascoe. Sincerely, Joanne Pascoe*

*Thank you very much for the St. Michael scholarship. I look forward to being able to use it to better my upcoming year at Virginia Highlands. Sincerely, Abigaille Penner*

*I feel very honored to have been chosen as one of the scholarship recipients this year. I appreciate your support as I finish my college education. This will really help my parents and me financially. Thank you again, H. Lillian Goldsmith*





## Sky Vacation Bible School: Everything is Possible with God

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers at Vacation Bible School. Over 80 youth and adults enjoyed learning about God's power for our lives. Go to the St. Michael website for lots of pictures of Vacation Bible School: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).



## Softball Team

Congratulations to the softball on a wonderful year!

