



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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New Beginnings, New Ministries

Fall is a time for new beginnings in our community. The students return to school. Football season begins. The leaves start to change. At St. Michael, the choir begins to practice again. Sunday School classes start back on September 9. Micah's Backpack delivers the first bags of food to hungry students on September 7. This year, we are also starting three new and exciting ministries.

Fun with Friends is a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools to provide a mother's morning out program for families of children with special needs. Students will receive socialization, art and music therapy and the parents will get a short time to rest, recharge and run errands. The first day for students was August 27 and the group meets Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. The congregation envisioned a program like this as a part of the Growing with Faith campaign and I am excited to see Fun with Friends begin to help families in our community.

On September 9 at 6:30 p.m., we will gather for the first **Sunday Evening Worship**. This simple communion service will be a wonderful opportunity for people with schedules which prevent them from worshipping on Sunday morning. If you know anyone who might enjoy this service, please invite them to come.

Micah's Soup for Seniors is a new feeding ministry St. Michael is launching in partnership with Warm Hearth, AARP, Thrivent and the local Agency on Aging to provide food to low income seniors. The first monthly distribution of food will take place on Tuesday, September 25. If you are interested in helping feed hungry seniors, please contact Dianne Krallman: Dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com.

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: Anna, Sandy, Pastor, Michelle, Alice, Suzanne, Peggy, Jody, Judy, Nancy, Betty, Carrie and Fay; to all the volunteers at the Price’s Fork Fair: Nia (chair), Joanna, Pastor, Joyce, Olivia, Betty; to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price's Fork Elementary; to Ron Brewer and Scot Ifert who assembled the children's playground and to Ray and Tommy Howell who poured the concrete footers; to the Caring and Sharing Team who set up and cleaned up the July and August Sunday brunches.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, youth mission trip, monthly devotion subscription, music supplies, 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. Our 100 Wells Challenge totaled \$436.

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 19 families; 10 with their electric bills, 3 with a water bill, 3 with rent, 2 with gas, and food for one family who lost all their refrigerated items in the power outage.

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

Thank You Notes

Thank you to our St. Michael family for all your cards and prayers; you have eased the pain of our loss of Henderson and we are so very grateful to you all. Thank you also to everyone who prepared the luncheon for us following his funeral.

Sincerely, Shirley Linkous

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.

Music Stand \$40

Thank you to Seth and Laura Peery for donating a Little Tykes swing; Todd and Inga Solberg for providing a Little Tykes swing and a Micah’s Garden enclosure; and Fred Spengler for donating a Little Tykes swing and a Little Tykes Slide and Climber.

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September Servants

	September 2	September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30
Altar Care	Inga Solberg				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	J.C. and Amelia Martin	J.C. and Amelia Martin	Jan Helge and Sara Bohn
Lay Reader Comm. Asst	Keith Gay Patty Renneckar	Carrie Mayer Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Gary Worley Sandy Worley	Margaret Larsen William Allen
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	David Christle	Alex Moehling	Noah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Kris Wertz		
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Birch family	Berg family	Gruss family	Birch Family
Lay Reader	Anna Rossomando	Jennie Brogan	Mike Berg	Kris Wertz	Nia Indelicato
Ushers	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	M. McGuigan D. Goldsmith	James Pascoe Hank Schneider	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Megan Christle		

Mowing schedule: 9/7 - JD Robinson (front); 9/14 - William Allen (back);
9/21 - James/Dennis (front); 9/28: - Jay Nagle (back)

Rear: 9/3 - Jeff Crowder; 9/10- Mike Berg; 9/17 –Charlie Saks; 9/24 –Doug Goldsmith

Women of the ELCA



All women of St. Michael are invited to the **first fall meeting on Tuesday, September 18 at 7 p.m.** at the church. 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, September 23 at 2:45 p.m. at St. Michael. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference. A potluck salad supper will be

shared and ice cream sundaes will be served.

The women of St. Michael, at the May sisters luncheon, responded to the theme of the gathering, **"Respond with Love to 25 Years of Shared Service"**, by creating their list of 25 Ways St. Michael helps the community and the world. The list included:

1. Micah's Backpack
2. Micah's Garden
3. Nia's literacy program
4. Food bank
5. Justice and Mercy
6. Thanksgiving dinner
7. Women's Resource Center
8. Men in Mission projects
9. Serving dinner at the Rescue Mission
10. "To Our House" for homeless men
11. Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
12. Easter Baskets
13. Breakfast for Price's Fork Elementary teachers
14. Price's Fork Community Fair
15. School supplies
16. Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
17. Christmas Store
18. Souper Bowl
19. Angel tree
20. Flowers for Heritage Hall
21. VT Engage for Hunger
22. Thank offering for WELCA
23. Help for seminary students
24. ChildFund for two foster children
25. Vacation Bible School

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. We delivered 12 backpacks, 1624 crayons, 225 glue sticks and bottles of glue, 940 pencils, 150 spiral notebooks, 12 binders, and lots more needed supplies. The complete list is posted on St. Michael's website.

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 Reservation** in South Dakota. Last year, we donated 310 Christmas boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on the bulletin board. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex. Information about Pine Ridge can be found at www.pineridgesioux.com.



The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon



**OKs
on the Go!**

Second Tuesday Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons continue on Tuesday, September 11. We will have a Virginia Tech tailgate party this month. Come enjoy the fellowship and fine food. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required).

Our next O.K. trip is September 25 to Shatley Springs, followed by an adventure at the Frontier Museum in Staunton on October 2.

Congratulations to....

Nia Indelicato, who was elected to the Board of the Virginia Synodical Womens Organization (VSWO) at the recent convention at Roanoke College.

Matt and Sarah Gallimore on the birth of their daughter, Crystal Summer Gallimore on July 25. She was welcomed by her big sister Amber and her grandparents, Jerry and Fran Gallimore.

MaKayla Dowdy, who was selected for the Blacksburg Dixie Softball All-Star Team. She also plays for Extreme Force in Roanoke, and was selected MVP for one of the games in her last softball tournament.

Bryce Dowdy, who was selected as the Price's Fork Fair Cutest Baby Boy between the ages of 1 and 2.

Youth Night on September 23 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, September 23 at 5:15 p.m. (*please note the new time*). 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.



Men in Mission

Thanks to all the volunteers who are unloading the food truck for Micah's Backpack. Thank you to Ron, Scott, Pastor, Ray, Tommy, and Bob who worked on the childrens' playground. Planning ahead to November: we will serve dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Sunday, November 25. Watch for future announcements.

Sunday School Begins on September 9 Have Fun as a Leader in Sunday School



Have fun sharing your faith with children as a leader for Sunday School. Be a part of a teaching team for one of our Sunday School classes. Planning is getting underway, so sign up on the “Welcome” form or talk to Pastor John if you want to be a member of the Sunday School team.

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.

Bible Sunday on September 9

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 9.

Sunday Night Bible Study on September 16

On Sunday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the *Difficult Teachings of Jesus: Turning the Other Cheek* - Matthew 5:39.

Happy Birthday St. Michael Dinner on September 30



The annual St. Michael Celebration will take place on September 30 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.

This will also be the annual Birthday Dinner, an Italian Festa. Come enjoy baked ziti, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together. A bocce tournament is also scheduled -- a great Italian game for all ages.

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.

You are 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)



Micah's Garden continued to produce a lot of fresh food for our friends and neighbors in August! We shared over 1,100 pounds of tomatoes, squash, zucchini, green beans, peppers, and potatoes. Over 100 pounds of tomatoes came from some of the plants Bob Brown gave Micah's Garden back in the spring. Feel free to check out new pictures and information at micahsgarden.org.

Volunteers gather on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. to have fun harvesting. Feel free to contact Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org if you'd like to help with maintaining the 6 community plots or delivering fresh produce or if you'd like to donate surplus produce from your home garden.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

During August, Micah's Backpack gave 108 gifts of weekend food to children at Valley Interfaith Child Care Center and students at our 5 elementary schools. We will start packing on Thursday nights for the new school year on September 7 at 6 p.m.



www.micahsbackpack.org

For September, we will collect granola bars in the Micah's Backpack collection box in the narthex. Every month Micah's Backpack sends home over 1,700 snacks and kids love granola bars. Thank you for donating 55 cans of tuna during August. Together with our interfaith partners at Blacksburg Christian Church, Luther Memorial, and New Life Christian Fellowship, we collected 259 jars of peanut butter too.

Thank you to Jeff Birch for organizing the Men In Mission to unload and shelve the food from Feeding America every month!

John Galbraith, a Micah's Backpack and Micah's Garden volunteer from St Mary's, writes that 13 frisbees went out to the children of Blacksburg's sister city in Nicaragua. Feel free to put a gently used or new frisbee in the F3 collection box in the hallway. John sends a big thank you to St Michael for supporting this project.

If you have any questions about Micah's Backpack, contact Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Welcome Patrice Yearwood
St. Michael's new Music Director
patricey@stmlc.us



Choir practice – Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals on October 7 at 3 PM

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. The Blessing of Animals is generally held on or around 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.



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 early October. The deadline for registration is September 16. See Pastor John for more information.

Care of Creation

Did You Know . . .

- St. Michael uses 100% recycled copier paper.
- Our bulletins are designed to minimize the amount of paper used each week.
- Nearly every light bulb in the church is a high efficiency bulb.
- The water for Micah's Garden comes from the water retention pond for the Blacksburg Middle School and Blacksburg High School property.
- The paper and cardboard used by the church office and Micah's Backpack is recycled by volunteers.
- Our air conditioning and heating system is controlled by a computer which allows us to program our system to automatically turn on and off to match the church schedule. This system saves money and reduces waste.

We're only an email away . . .

John Wertz, Jr., Pastor	pastorjohn@stmlc.us
Sandy Birch, Lay Associate in Ministry	birch@vt.edu
Jennie Hodge Micah's Garden and Micah's Backpack coordinator	jennie@micahsbackpack.org
Patrice Yearwood, Music Director	patricey@stmlc.us
Suzanne Gay, Administrative Assistant	suzanneg@stmlc.us
Jim Clemens, Congregational President	jclemens@vt.edu