



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Micah's Mobile Backpack and the Community Foundation

Each year when summer rolls around, people ask “How does Micah’s Backpack help feed students in the summer?” and each summer, the various pilot programs we have tried have enjoyed limited success. As we evaluated each attempt, it became clear that a major hurdle to success was problems with transportation. With that problem in mind, Micah’s Backpack applied for and received the 2012 Carolyn Pearsall White Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation to start a new ministry called Micah’s Mobile Backpack. The \$10,000 grant will allow Micah’s Backpack to purchase and refurbish a bus for summer meal deliveries, and to develop a route in collaboration with families to ensure regular and effective delivery.

In announcing the grant, Jessica Wirgau, Executive Director of the Community Foundation, praised the work of Micah’s Backpack and this new summer program. “Micah’s Backpack,” she said, “has had a tremendous impact in Blacksburg and continues to come up with creative ways to provide nutritious meals for children in need. We are so pleased to award our very first Community Impact Grant to Micah’s Mobile Backpack.” I am grateful to the Community Foundation for their generous support of Micah’s Mobile Backpack and to all the partners who make the ministry of Micah’s Backpack possible. It is only through the efforts of the hundreds of volunteers who pack food on Thursday nights, through the generosity of the people of St. Michael and other individual donors and through the support of approximately 100 community organizations that Micah’s Backpack is able to provide weekend meals to 225 students per week in Blacksburg. Thank you !

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 everyone who provided birthday cakes for the birthday celebration; Pastor John and Gary Federer who secured the children’s playground equipment and Sandy and Jeff Birch who gave it a final cleaning; Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Shirley Linkous and Linda Elliott who help fold the newsletter; Jim and Judy Clemens and Ben Simmers who serve as tellers for our Sunday offerings.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided volleyball team registration, Micah’s Backpack food, new choir music, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, support of our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we assisted **24 families**: 10 with electric service, 2 with a water bill, 9 with rent, 2 with car expenses and one with prescription costs.

St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. 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.

Needed items: 3 Choir Robes - \$100 each
 New Church Sign for the Bell Tower - \$325

New or gently used **frisbees** are being collected for children in Nicaragua. The collection box is in the hallway.

Congratulations to.....

Jody Smiley, who recently was selected to serve on the Women of the ELCA National Board. Jody is past-president of the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO).

Ross and Hallie Brown who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on September 1.

Colin Lord and Katy Mitchell who were married on September 15 in Lexington, VA.



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October Servants

	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Altar Care				
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Jan Helge & Sara Bohn	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Rick and Carrie Mayer
Worship Asst. Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Jacob Dennis Nancy Goad	Matthew James D. Rueschman	Betty Falta Matthew James
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Noah Moehling	Seth Brewer	Sarah Moehling	Parker Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Doug Smiley	Sandy Birch
Greeters	James and Wanda Pascoe	James and Wanda Pascoe	Sharon Robinson Lauren Robinson	Martie and Charlie Saks
Lay Reader	Jay Nagle	Fred Spengler	Lauren Robinson	Charlie Saks
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Ben and Grace Simmers	Randy Robinson Doug Goldsmith	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer	Delanie Veit	Jessica, Maddie, Abby Brown	Abbey Birch

Mowing: 10/5-JD Robinson (front); 10/12-William Allen (back); 10/19-James/Dennis (front); 10/26-Jay Nagle (back)

Rear Lot: 10/1-Dave Surface; 10/8-Jeff Crowder; 10/15-Mike Berg; 10/22-Charlie Saks; 10/29-Doug Goldsmith

Micah's unloading: 10/15-Gary Schroeder and David Sunshine

Women of the ELCA



Ladies' Night Out will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 2 at 6 p.m., at Famous Anthony's (in the back "banquet" room) at Gables Shopping Center – famous for ½ price burgers and hot dogs on Tuesday and other reasonably priced menu items. Join the sisters for fun and fellowship. This year, we will study the book *Kindred Sisters*, making connections between the lives and faith of women in the New Testament and contemporary

women of all ages. Gatherings of the Women of the ELCA will be held on the first Tuesday of the month during 2012-2013 (usually). The schedule is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Remember the Food Bank: October is cereal month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In October, we'll continue to collect paper supplies, e.g., toilet paper, paper towels. The collection basket is in the hallway.

In October, the WELCA members at St. Michael are encouraging our congregation **to fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program (ages 4-6) on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. This gift box is often the only gift a child receives.



The contents of each box should be worth about \$15 (e.g., about 14-15 items from the Dollar Tree), including books and other educational items (especially those that help them with reading or arithmetic), crayons, pens, pencils, water colors, coloring books, toys (nothing that requires batteries, no toy guns), candy, games, personal hygiene items like toothbrushes and toothpaste, warm hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. Boxes can also be filled for older children or adults, but in that case, please identify the box with an appropriate label, e.g., "teenage girl". These Christmas boxes will be sent to Rev. Karen Rupp, who oversees a homeless shelter on the reservation.

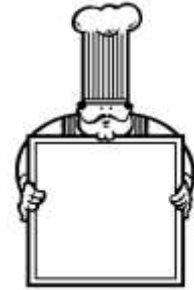
Plastic shoe boxes are available in the narthex. We will be collecting the filled and unwrapped boxes through mid-November and on Sunday, November 18, we will prepare the boxes for mailing at our annual Party with a Purpose.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the New River Conference Fall Gathering on September 23. Over 40 Women of the ELCA attended the event at St. Michael.

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

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, October 9 at noon** and celebrate Oktoberfest with delicious German food. Wearing your lederhosen is optional. Our service partner guest will be from MCEAP.



**OKs
on the Go!**

Some O.K.s recently traveled to Lexington for a carriage ride, lunch and some shopping in the historic district. On September 25, a group enjoyed a family style meal at Shatley Springs and a tour of the Ashe County Cheese Factory and St. Mary's Church, home of beautiful Fresco paintings by Ben Long. On October 2, a group of travelers will visit the Frontier Museum in Staunton and explore the historic district in the town.



Make a Joyful Noise



Anyone who likes to sing and would be willing to serve God through leading in worship is invited to be a member of the choir. This fall, the St. Michael Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. If you would like more information about the choir or if you would like to be a part of a one-time ensemble, please contact Patrice at patricey@stmlc.us

Blessing of the Animals on October 7

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. This is the day that the church remembers St. Francis of Assisi. The 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.



Sunday Night Bible Study on October 21 at 7:30 P.M.

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, October 21 at 7:30 p.m on Luke 9:60 - '*Let the dead bury the dead*'.



Youth Nights on October 14 and 28 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, October 28, at 5:15 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 Opportunities for Service

Over the next few months, there will be several opportunities for youth in 6th – 12th grades to help with ministries at St. Michael and for adults who want to help assist with or lead some events. If you are interested in any of the events listed below, please contact Sheila McCartan at rbsm517@nrnunwired.net. We will set some preparation meetings for each event as it gets closer.

In preparation for the Christmas holiday, we are looking for youth who are interested in **crafts and leading activities**. We need your help preparing for our annual "Journey to Bethlehem" event that follows the **Christmas Program** (December 16th).

To assist our busy parents, we are planning a **Holiday Helpers: Parent's Night Out** in December (tentatively set for December 15th). Youth are needed to keep our 5th grade and younger members entertained for an evening while the parents have a quiet dinner out or have time for some private shopping adventures.

7th and 8th Grade Synod Youth Event: Lost and Found

From November 16 to 18, Pastor John will be taking a group of 7th and 8th graders to *Lost and Found*, the Synod youth event for 7th and 8th graders. We will join with 500 youth from around the Synod for worship, fun and conversation. The cost for the event is \$60 and the registration deadline is October 22. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

Confirmation Ministry

All youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in confirmation as we learn more about what it means to live a life of faith. The first lock-in of the year will begin on Friday, October 12 at 7 p.m. and conclude by 9 a.m. on Saturday. The topic for the lock-in will be: The Lord's Prayer. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

**Sunday School for All Ages Begins at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary
Everyone is Welcome!!**



Sharing our Treasures

As God is calling us to be His heart, hands and voices in the world, the Stewards Team is asking you to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to ministry at St. Michael in 2013. Estimating your giving provides you with the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide what God is calling you to give in response. **You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship in October.** With your help, we will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us.

Thinking Ahead: Considering End of Life Issues

Beginning on Sunday, October 7, St. Michael and Luther Memorial will partner to present a series called: "Thinking Ahead: Considering End of Life Issues". This four week series will share information on topics like: Legal Issues, Financial Planning, Medical Directives, Hospice, Funeral Practices and Grief. The complementary lunch will begin at 12:15 p.m. and the program will conclude by 1:30 p.m. If you are planning to attend any or all of the sessions, please sign up on the "Welcome" form, email Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us or call the church at 951-8951.

Sunday, October 7 at Luther Memorial

Leaving a Legacy: Legal Issues, Financial Planning and Planned Giving
Greg Campbell, Kent Bond, Ellen Hinlicky

Sunday, October 14 at St. Michael

Approaching Death: Medical Issues, End of Life Directives, Hospice
Dr. Lucian Robinson, Good Samaritan, Katie Katz

Sunday, October 21 at Luther Memorial

Memorial Services and Interment: Funeral Practices, Burial, Cremation
Kenneth McCoy, Jo Burroughs

Sunday, October 28 at St. Michael

Recovering from the Loss: Grief
Rhoda Janosik, Gary Schroeder, John Wertz

Hope for the Holidays – a Grief Support Group

Hope for the Holidays, a grief support group open to all, is a safe place to share your loss. You are invited to be a part of the group from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Luther Memorial on Thursday evenings from October 25 to January 10 (no meeting on November 8, 22, or Christmas week and New Years). There is no charge, but participants are asked to preregister by October 10 by calling Rhoda Janosik, LCSW,MSW, at 540-230-5376. It is important that individuals come at least to the 1st or 2nd sessions to get to know one another. Then if you must miss a session, it's easier to "catch up."



Micah's Garden continued to produce a lot of fresh food in September! During the summer season, we have shared almost 1,500 pounds of tomatoes, squash, zucchini, green beans, and peppers. Big thanks to Sandy Birch and James Pascoe for helping make Micah's Garden successful -- 20 pounds of tomatoes came from a friend who heard the story of

Micah's Garden from Sandy. James Pascoe created a tube to make filling the cistern a lot easier. Feel free to check out new pictures and information at micahsgarden.org.

Things will begin to wrap up with Micah's Garden for this growing season. An amazing amount of fresh food went out to our friends and neighbors who use three food pantries. If you are interested in growing in your own plot for next year, please let Jennie know at jennie@micahsbackpack.org. There are seven plots available for 2013 right now.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

In September, Micah's Backpack received very exciting news. We applied for and won the inaugural Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. In 2013, Summer Feeding will become a reality in Blacksburg and Montgomery County thanks to this amazing partnership with the Community Foundation. Please see the additional information in Pastor John's message about this partnership to alleviate childhood weekend hunger.



www.micahsbackpack.org

September started with a bang for Micah's Backpack. In the first three weeks of school we increased the number of children and youth fed by a little over 10% -- 221 children and youth received gifts of weekend meals and snacks in over 1,000 bags distributed this month.

Nine groups donated food from food drives including residents of Blacksburg who attended the first Cash Mob to include a non-profit collection. Friends gathered to support local downtown Blacksburg businesses and Micah's Backpack by bringing peanut butter and juice boxes to the gathering.

For October we will collect microwave popcorn. Thank you for all the granola bars given in September. The Micah's Backpack collection box is in the narthex.

Thank you for your generous support of Micah's Backpack with your time, talent, and treasure. If you have any questions about Micah's Backpack email Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org.