



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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When In Our Music God is Glorified

As some of you know, our accompanist, Brandy Baxter, recently completed her graduate work and began looking for a position in the schools as a choral director. Last week, she called to let me know the good news that she had been hired as a middle school and high school choral director in Wythe County. As you might imagine, I was thrilled for Brandy, but I was also a little sad because I knew that it would be difficult for her to be both a full-time teacher and church accompanist for an active congregation like St. Michael. After prayerfully considering whether she could do both, Brandy has decided that she needs to concentrate on her new career. Her last Sunday playing in worship will be Sunday, August 18. Even though this will be her last Sunday as accompanist at the morning services, we are not saying good-bye. Brandy will continue to lead the Young Adult Bible Study and will fill-in on the keyboard from time to time when we need help. I give thanks for Brandy's ministry at St. Michael over the last six years. She is an extremely talented musician and a gifted worship leader.

Over the next few months, we will begin looking for a new accompanist to play for our morning worship services. During the search, Patrice Yearwood will serve both as Music Director and accompanist. Patrice's ability to serve in the dual role affords us the opportunity to take our time and find the right person to be a part of our ministry team. If you know an accompanist who might be interested in the position, please let me know.

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 God has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To the Caring and Sharing team for setting up our “Second Sunday” summer brunch in July; all our lawn mowers this summer – William Allen, Mike Berg, Jeff Crowder, Jacob Dennis, Matthew James, Jay Nagle, Dave Surface, Doug Goldsmith, J.D. Robinson, Charlie Saks, Guille Yearwood; everyone who contributed soup and fruit bars to Micah’s Backpack in June and July; Sandy Willams, Carol Wall, and Suzanne Gay who helped with the July newsletter mailing.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for landscaping and yard maintenance, scholarships, 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 26 families; 7 with rent assistance and 19 with help with their electric bills. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Some thank you notes

To my dear St. Michael family,

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and steadfast support during the four years of my PhD program. As my time at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro draws to a close, I want you to know that your love sustained me when I was ready (many times) to give up and come home. When I DID come home to sing and pray with you, your encouragement lifted me up and gave me strength to continue.

I’ve accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at East Tennessee State University teaching and working with undergraduate pre-service teachers in PreK-Third Grade classrooms. I’m excited about this next chapter of my life and grateful to every member of my St. Michael family who cheered me on. I am ready to “sing to the Lord a new song.”

With heartfelt thanksgiving, I wish each of you joyful hearts and peace.

Carol Bland

New address: 1185 W. Mountain View Road, Apt. 1301, Johnson City, TN 37604.

New e-mail: carol.m.bland@gmail.com.

St. Michael Family,

Thank you so much for the scholarship award. I really appreciate all of your support as I begin this stage of my life. I’m super excited to officially join the Hokie Nation and I’m glad that I will always be close to St. Michael. Thanks!

Love, Emily Garst

Growing with Faith: Expanding God's Mission Update

In May 2011, St. Michael invited the congregation to support Growing with Faith, a three year project to support renovation, debt reduction and future ministries. Because of your generous support for Growing with Faith, St. Michael has been able to launch the Fun with Friends program for families of preschoolers with special needs, seal the parking lot, replace the exterior metal doors to the fellowship hall and front hallway, make our monthly mortgage payments and reduce the principal on our loan from \$567,312 on January 1, 2011 to \$459,518 on July 15, 2013. The next project to be completed is the installation of the new carpet in the fellowship hall which will begin on August 9. If you are interested in making a gift to help with the cost of covering the outside trim (the final project to be completed), debt reduction, and mortgage payments, you can make a donation to the Growing with Faith Fund using the offering envelopes in the pews or online at: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/> . If you have any questions about Growing with Faith, please talk to any of the members of the Congregational Council.

Congratulations to...

Margaret Christle, who was recently appointed Librarian at Blacksburg High School.

Carrie Mayer, who will serve as the new drama coach at Blacksburg High School as well as teach English. **Carrie and daughter Alexa** are appearing in the Summer Musical Enterprise production of *Shrek The Musical* on August 8-11 and August 15-18 at the Haymarket Theater at Virginia Tech.

Matthew Pasier, who was named to the Timesland First Team in Cross Country. Matthew will run track and cross country at VMI this fall.

Carol Bland, who has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at East Tennessee State University.

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.

Choir folders - \$20 (2 needed)

Thank you to Keith and Suzanne Gay for donating two rolling carts for Micah's Mobile Backpack and to Joe and Mildred Wall for providing a light-weight wheelchair.

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August Servants

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Sandra Hough Shirley Linkous	Sandra Hough Shirley Linkous	Clifton and Shelane Walters	Clifton and Shelane Walters
Lay Reader Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Peggy Morgan Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Nancy Goad	Gary Worley Sandie Worley
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	Lilly Gruss	Seth Brewer	David Christle
Comm. Asst.	Margaret Christle		Laura Gruss	
Greeters	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Ben and Grace Simmers	A. Rossomando Judy Clemens	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Seth Peery	Guille Yearwood	A. Rossomando	Margaret Christle
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Jeff Birch James Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Megan Christle		Rosie Gruss	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger

Mowing: 8/2–William Allen (back); 8/9–James/Dennis (front); 8/16–Jay Nagle (back); 8/23- JD Robinson (front); 8/30–William Allen (back)Rear Lot: 8/5–Charlie Saks; 8/12-Doug Goldsmith; 8/19-Guille Yearwood; 8/26-Dave Surface

Women of the ELCA



Remember the Food Bank: August is “macaroni & cheese” month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In August, we will donate toilet paper.

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

Claytor Lake picnic – Tuesday, August 13. Good food, fine fellowship, a Bible study, beautiful scenery and BINGO! The deadline to catch the bus to the lake is August 6 (best way to travel) and the bus trip includes a tour of the newly opened Montgomery County Courthouse. Sign-up forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. Contact Sandy if you’d like to come, but cannot take the bus. The next trip is to the Wolf Creek Indian Village in October.



Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon on Tuesday, August 13 – at the lake.

and there’s another opportunity to dine together.....

O.K.s Dine Out at O’Charley’s on Tuesday, August 27

At the June luncheon at the Inn at Virginia Tech, a group of the Happy-Go-Lucky lunchers thought it would be great to dine out together more often. So we’re going to give it a try. The Older Kids will meet at O’Charley’s at 11:30 a.m. (150 Laurel Ave. in Christiansburg) on Tuesday, August 27. Each diner will order off the menu and receive a separate bill; lunch prices range from about \$7 to \$16 plus a drink. We need to give the restaurant a head count, so please contact Sandy Sheppard at 961-0748 or TracingMyRoots@comcast.net to make your reservation. Let her know if you need a ride too.

St. Michael at the Price’s Fork Fair on August 16-17

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price’s Fork Fair on Friday, August 16 and Saturday, August 17. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working at the booth, please sign up on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the bulletin, talk with Pastor John or contact Fran Gallimore (gerfran59@gmail.com). Volunteers always have a great time.



New Members Received on Sunday, August 18

St. Michael will be receiving new members at all services on Sunday, August 18. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please speak with Pastor John for more information.

Backpack Blessing on September 1

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, September 1. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.



Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary



St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork Elementary School on Tuesday, September 3. If you can help provide food, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin.

School Supplies for Children in Need

St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork Elementary School. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 25. The collection box is in the church foyer. Thank you.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissues
Notebooks	3-ring Binders
Black and White Composition Books	

Sunday School Begins on September 8 Have Fun as a Leader in Sunday School

For the upcoming Sunday School year, we are considering new materials and formats. If you are interesting in helping with Sunday School for youth in the fall or in discussing potential new approaches, you are welcome to attend the Sunday School planning meeting on August 4 at 10 a.m. or talk to Pastor John.



Sunday Bible Study on August 18

On Sunday, August 18 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the Difficult Teachings of Jesus: Mark 12:13-17 - Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's.



Volunteers grew, harvested, and delivered almost 200 pounds of basil, beans, beets, blueberries, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, lettuce, peppers, spinach, Swiss chard, and zucchini to Giving Tree, Interfaith, and Spiritual Roots food pantries. We also shared carrots and blueberries with the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. There are

volunteer opportunities through the fall to help with maintaining the garden, so feel free to contact Jennie if you'd like to help grow food for friends and neighbors in need. jennie@micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

In the third week of July, 145 kids received gifts of weekend meals and snacks when visiting Micah's Mobile Backpack! On average, Micah's Mobile Backpack has been sharing food with 100 kids weekly. Volunteer pickers worked with our friends at 3 Birds Berry Farm to supply enough blueberries for all the kids who visit on Fridays to have a cup of blueberries. Thank you to Lynn Hickok, Betty Falta, William Allen, Will Sharpe, three generations of the Nagle family, Olivia Hodge, Fran Shepherd, Keith and Suzanne Gay, Dianne Krallman, and Mike Berg for volunteering in July!



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect **small jars of peanut butter in August**. During the summer months, we use a client choice menu that lets children and youth who visit Micah's Mobile Pantry select some of the food that goes into their bag. Lots of kids choose peanut butter every week. Please put your gift of peanut butter in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the church entry. Thank you for your gifts of 75 cans of chicken noodle soup in July!

Soup for Seniors

Thanks to the 15 volunteers in July who packed and distributed over 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We continue to use food donated by Panera Bread and items collected by Boy Scout troop 348 and Warm Hearth.



What great gifts we have received! The next packing date is Tuesday, August 27 at 5:00 p.m. with distribution at 6 p.m. Come and share in this wonderful time of fellowship and service. For more information, contact Dianne Krallman at dkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com.



As a resident of Warm Hearth, I would like you to know how much we appreciate Soup for Seniors. I am sure all who participate appreciate it, but for some it is a lifesaver. You are the excitement at the end of the month. Thank you for caring. May God bless you all. Joyce Coupey

St. Michael Church Choir begins practices in September



The *St. Michael Choir* will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 p.m with a time of refreshments, fellowship and singing. In the next few months, we hope to begin a **9:00 a.m. service choir** this year. Details on this soon. Everyone interested in singing and making a *joyful noise* to the Lord is welcome! Contact Patrice Yearwood (payearwood@aol.com) if you need more information.

The *Chimes/Handbell Choir* will begin in late September. Look for more information about this too! In addition, *Youth Music* will start on Wednesdays in September too. Come make music at St. Michael!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Come and join Lutherans from around the area for an evening of baseball on August 10 in Pulaski sponsored by Thrivent. Admission for the game between the Pulaski Mariners vs. the Princeton (W.Va.) Rays will be \$7 (\$3 for the game and \$4 for a hot dog, chips and drink. For children under 6, the only charge is \$4 for the food). Thrivent representatives will be at the gate to give out the discount tickets to Thrivent members. The social get-together will start at 5:30 p.m. The game will start at 7 p.m. Donations are also welcome for the area backpack feeding programs. Thrivent will match the amount of donations from this evening up to a total of \$200. For more information, please talk to Jody Smiley: esmiley@vt.edu or to make a reservation, contact the Rev. Linda Motley at lindamotley@swva.net or 540-763-5671.

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on August 11 at 10 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 11 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 **and be among the first to walk on the new carpet which is being installed on Saturday, August 10!**



Help with the Fellowship Hall Carpet Installation Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10

Beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, we’ll be moving furniture and removing the 30-year-old carpet in the fellowship hall. All volunteers are welcome. Professional installers will work on Saturday morning and then volunteers are needed at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening to replace all the furniture. We also plan to do some cleaning and organizing of closets too. Contact Pastor John if you can help on either or both days.