



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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New for the Fall

One of our ministry goals at St. Michael is to help people discover and develop the tools they need to live a whole, healthy life of faith. With that goal in mind, we are introducing several new programs this fall to help people connect to God's Word, be transformed by God's presence and be equipped for the ministry God is calling each of us to do.

Emphasis on Learning

- Sunday School for youth is being rebuilt and the new experience will feel more like Vacation Bible School with more music and activities. In the adult class, we'll explore the scripture readings from worship in more depth.
- Faith Toolbox 2.0 - I will be teaching a series of Wednesday night classes designed to help strengthen faith practices. Beginning on September 11, I will teach a three week class on prayer. There will be a light supper at 5:30 p.m. followed by the class from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Expanding Music Ministries

- Youth Music - Patrice will be leading a music for youth on Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. during the Faith Toolbox class. Watch for more information in the bulletin and online.
- 9 a.m. Choir - A new choir will sing at the 9 a.m. service once a month. Practices will be from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. two Wednesdays per month.

Opportunities for Fellowship

- The *After Church Lunch Bunch* will provide an opportunity for people to share in a meal and in fellowship. The lunch bunch will gather September 15 at Bull and Bones at 12:15 p.m.
- The Women of the ELCA are launching a Lunch and Learn program. The details are inside the newsletter.

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 volunteers at the Price’s Fork Fair: Fran Gallimore (chair), Pastor John, Joyce Coupey and Elizabeth Berg (our face painters); to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price's Fork Elementary; to Ron Brewer and Pastor John who cleaned out the storage shed; to Ron Brewer who moved the church mailbox to a more convenient place for the mail carrier; to the Caring and Sharing Team who set up and cleaned up the July and August Sunday brunches; to Wanda and Stephanie Pascoe who helped fold bulletins and Mildred Wall, Wanda Pascoe, Carole Wall, Frances Edge, Nancy Young and Sandy Williams who helped with the August newsletter mailing.

Carpet and cleaning – thank you all



The new carpet in the fellowship hall looks terrific. Thank you to everyone who helped clean out the room and take up the old carpet on Friday and put everything back on Saturday in time for the brunch on Sunday: Jeff and Lorin Crowder, Betty Falta, Sandy Williams, Fran and Dickie Shepherd, the Brewer family, Matt Belue, Doug and Jody Smiley, Gary and Sandie Worley, James, Wanda and Stephanie Pascoe, Keith and Suzanne Gay, Corson and Parker Wertz, Pastor John, and Guille, Reed and Emory Yearwood. Thank you to Suzie Jones for cleaning out cupboards and closets and Philip Isenhour for putting the computers back together. Guille and his team did a great job installing the carpet. Thank you all!!

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, youth mission trip, heat pump maintenance, 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.

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 24 families; 15 with their electric bills, 1 with a water bill, 6 with rent, and 2 with car expenses.

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

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September Servants

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Altar Care	Brewer/McCartan family				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Steve and Amy Woods	Steve and Amy Woods	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Ben and Carol Crawford
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Dianne Krallman	Jacob Dennis	Gary Worley	Matthew James
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	John Krallman	Nancy Goad	Sandie Worley	Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Lilly Gruss	Camden Brewer	Abbey Birch	Sarah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Kris Wertz		Seth Brewer
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Ben and Grace Simmers	Sandy Birch Anna Rossomando	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Lauren Robinson	Guille Yearwood	Lorin Crowder	Cindy Dowdy
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James Pascoe Don Linkous	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Wendy Goldsmith Doug Goldsmith
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Jessica, Maddie Abby Brown		MaKayla Dowdy
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter	Saks family	Berg family
Lay Reader	Sandy Birch	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg
Comm. Asst.	Jeff Birch	Patty Renneckar	Kelly Belanger	Martie Saks	Mike Berg

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

Women of the ELCA



Lunch and Learn - Beginning in September, the Women of the ELCA will sponsor a noon-time Bible study, fellowship and lunch on **the third Monday of the month** at Sandy Birch's home (301 Airport Rd. in Blacksburg). **Our first meeting will be Monday, September 16.** A salad lunch will be provided and we will share in a Bible study entitled, "In Good Company". There will be a "shuttle bus" (also known as Sandy's mini-van) from the Tech campus departing from the University Bookstore at 11:50 a.m. The meeting will be over by 1 p.m. All women of St. Michael are invited.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference. We will celebrate with a "high tea" -- delicious finger sandwiches and pastries and an excellent program.

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. Your gifts are extremely helpful to students and families in our community.



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 304 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.

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.

3 - Industrial 5-shelf units for food storage for Micah's Backpack - \$172 each

Thank you to Christine McCauley and Pat Smith who provided choir folders and Dickie and Fran Shepherd, Betty Falta and an anonymous donor who provided funds for the air conditioner repair on the Micah's Summer Backpack bus.

The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

Second Tuesday Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons continue on Tuesday, September 10. We will enjoy another “gourmet” school lunch. Continuing our theme of *good health*, our guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Harrell of the Hearing Clinic who will share his expertise about healthy hearing. Come enjoy the fellowship and fine food. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required).

Pictured below are the folks who gathered for the annual picnic at Claytor Lake in August.



Soup for Seniors

Thanks to the 16 volunteers who packed and distributed over 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. Thank you also to all volunteers (including Panera Bread) who donate food, time and resources to make this happen each month. The next packing date is Tuesday, September 24 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.



We are beginning our 2nd year of Soup for Seniors and are always open to any suggestions to improve the program.

Congratulations to....

Nia Indelicato, who has accepted a position as a grant writer in Little Rock, AR. We will miss Nia's leadership at St. Michael and wish her well in her new adventures.

Elizabeth Berg, who has been appointed to serve on the congregational council with the departure of Nia Indelicato.

Joanna Garcia, on the birth of her son, Benjamin Louis Garcia on July 26. Joanna and her adopted son recently returned home from Florida, his birth state.

Katie and Bryan Katz, on the birth of their son, Ethan Jeffrey Katz, on August 16. Ethan joins big sister Emily who wanted to name him "Pink".



The **St. Michael Softball Team** who finished the season "almost upsetting" the number 1 team in the play-offs. Thank you to all who played on the team and shared your time and talents on Monday nights.



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 early October. The deadline for registration is September 15. See Pastor John for more information.

St. Michael Church Choir begins Wednesday, September 4

The St. Michael Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. with a time of refreshments, fellowship and singing. We are also forming a choir to sing once a month at the 9:00 a.m. service and a Youth Choir. The first practice for the 9:00 a.m. service choir will be September 11. 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. Come make music at St. Michael!



After Church Lunch Bunch

On Sunday, September 15, everyone is invited to eat lunch with St. Michael's new After Church Lunch Bunch. Plan to meet at Bull and Bones beginning around 12:15 p.m. What a wonderful opportunity to meet a new friend or catch up with an old one. We have reserved the private room so it will be easy to visit with everyone. Please sign up on the *Welcome* form if you'd like to attend or contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@comcast.net.

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 students 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.



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



Have fun sharing your faith with children as a leader for Sunday School. This year, Sunday School will look and feel more like Vacation Bible School, so there will be new opportunities to help out in short-term ways. Watch the bulletin and the *Welcome* form to see how you can help.

This year, the Adult Class will focus on the Scripture readings for worship. Join your friends and come learn more about God's Word in Sunday School.

Bible Sunday on September 8

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. If you need a new Bible, plan to pick one up at worship on September 8.

Happy 45th Birthday St. Michael Luncheon on September 29



The annual St. Michael Celebration will take place on St. Michael Day, September 29 immediately following the 11 a.m. service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael. Watch for an exhibit of our "founding families" in the education wing.

This will also be the annual Birthday Luncheon, an Italian Festa. Come enjoy baked ziti, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together.

At the birthday luncheon, 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)



Volunteers harvested and shared almost 700 pounds of wonderful, fresh veggies with the Giving Tree, Interfaith, Spiritual Roots Food Pantries and 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

This summer Micah's Backpack shared close to 9,000 gifts of weekend meals with kids in our community. Thank you to our friends at Wall Brothers Farm who shared sweet corn weekly for the month of August. The corn was a huge hit! Thanks also to the growers and harvesters at Micah's Garden who shared over 100 pounds of carrots, silver queen corn, green beans, potatoes, and tomatoes with kids who visit the mobile pantry. Micah's Mobile Backpack was a huge success because of the dedication of volunteers like William Allen, Betty Falta, and Fran Shepherd.



www.micahsbackpack.org

We will start packing on Thursday nights for the **new school year on September 12 at 6 p.m.**

For September, we will collect microwave popcorn in the Micah's Backpack collection box in the narthex. Thank you for your gift of 23 jars of peanut butter in August.

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

An Invitation from MOPS, a Micah's Backpack Partner

The MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group of Blacksburg United Methodist Church invites mothers of children, kindergarten age and younger, to join us. They generally meet twice a month on Mondays, September through April, from 9:30 – 11:45 p.m. at the Christian Life Center on Harding Ave. MOPS is a Christian organization, but mothers of all faiths are welcome. The group offers breakfast, devotional, speakers, crafting and fellowship time. Childcare is provided on-site at no additional charge. Dues are \$90 per year and financial assistance is available. The first meeting is September 9, but it is possible to join at any time during the year. Contact Allison at bumcmops@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday Night Bible Study on September 15

On Sunday, September 15 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the Lord's Prayer.

St. Michael Pictorial Directory



We will begin to take pictures for the 2014 St. Michael Directory on Sunday, September 29, between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services and during the St. Michael Day Celebration. Pictures will also be taken after the 6:30 p.m. service. Individuals or families are also welcome to use a personal photo or keep the photo from the current directory. Thank you to Joe Young for serving as our "official" church digital photographer. There will be more picture-taking opportunities in October too.

Welcome to the St. Michael Family

On August 18, we welcomed ten new members to St. Michael. Five members of our family will be introduced this month and five will be introduced in October.



Anita Shepard moved to Christiansburg in April of this year at the urging of her daughter, Tricia, after retiring from work with Charles County Public Schools in La Plata, Maryland. Now that she is here, Anita is enjoying being near Tricia, Dan and granddaughter, Anya, who just turned three. The entire family is looking forward to meeting Anya's new baby sister this September. Being in Virginia also makes it easier to visit with her son, Jason, and daughter-in-law, Rachel, who live in High Point, N.C. Anita enjoys decorating, gardening, and meeting new friends and neighbors.



Roger and Sandy Sheppard were born and raised in Ohio and graduated from Ohio State University. They married in 1970 and moved to West Virginia in 1976 where Roger began his teaching career in the Biology Department at Concord College. Sandy completed her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Virginia Tech and taught both elementary school and courses in educational psychology at various colleges before devoting her time to her other love – arts and crafts such as painting, calligraphy, weaving, knitting, sewing, and now making wall-quilts.

In 2000, Roger and Sandy built a house in Blacksburg and Roger commuted to his job at Concord College, until he retired in 2006. One of the highlights of his career was taking students on marine biology trips to St. Croix and Belize. Roger loves to teach and after his retirement from Concord, he taught part-time at Radford University and now teaches part-time at Virginia Tech. Roger enjoys working in the yard, taking nature photos, playing golf and watching the History Channel. Both Sandy and Roger enjoy researching their family history and have discovered ancestors in Floyd County. They love living in Blacksburg and meeting and working with the warm and friendly people at St. Michael.

Ray and Betty Wingate are native Virginians; Ray was raised in Crockett and Betty grew up in Blacksburg. Ray graduated from Rural Retreat High School and then was drafted into the US Army. He served in Vietnam and later at the Pentagon. After Ray was discharged from the service, he and Betty were married in 1972. Betty graduated from Blacksburg High School and worked at an apartment complex for 14 years and has been employed in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Virginia Tech for the past 25 years. Ray was employed with VDOT for over 28 years as a surveyor and bridge inspector until he lost his eyesight in 2001. They have one son, Jeffrey Lee Wingate, who lives in Radford and is a contractor with Snyder and Associates in Blacksburg.



Welcome to the Family!!