



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Nurturing Faith, Sharing Gifts, Helping Our Neighbor

Faith Toolbox - St. Michael's new Faith Toolbox series is an opportunity to get practical tips for building a stronger, healthier life of faith in the world. In September, the series focused on prayer and in October, it will focus on a plan for nurturing faith in families called, "Faith 5". Faith 5 invites families to be intentional about creating a home where every person feels loved, valued and heard. If you'd like to learn more about Faith 5 and the impact you can make on your family, plan to attend the Faith Toolbox: Faith 5 on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 16 and 23 at 6 p.m.. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and there will be music and activities for kids from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m..

Reach Up, Reach Out - Over the next few weeks, you'll begin to hear more about the ways in which the people of God at St. Michael continue to reach up toward new heights of ministry and the ways in which your generosity helps us reach out to share God's love with the world around us.



Micah's Closet - When the temperatures begin to fall, many students find themselves without adequate clothing. Micah's Closet is a new ministry being developed to provide new clothing to students in need at the change of seasons. The planning team is currently forming. If you are interested in getting involved with this new helping ministry, please contact Sandy Sheppard: tracingMyRoots@comcast.net. The hope is that we will be able to distribute the first sets of clothing this November.

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; Mildred Wall, Frances Edge, Judith Wolfe and Shirley Linkous who help fold the newsletter; Wanda Pascoe and Linda Elliott for folding the weekly bulletins; everyone who helped with the Price’s Fork Teacher’s Breakfast; Jim and Judy Clemens and Ben Simmers who serve as tellers for our Sunday offerings; Sandie and Gary Worley who installed the new curtains in the fellowship hall; Anna Rossomando, Lynn Hickock, Barbara Corbett and Sandy Birch who framed our history exhibit in the Gallery of Gifts in the education addition.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided volleyball team registration, Sunday School curriculum and devotionals, 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**: 13 with electric service, 1 with a water bill, 5 with rent, and 5 with car expenses.

With Appreciation

Thank you to Wanda Pascoe for serving as our church custodian for the past four years. She kept our facilities clean, bright and welcoming. Our new custodian is Marty Gordon. Welcome Marty!

Thank you to Nancy Young and Pat Smith for providing Micah’s Backpack Shelves.

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October Servants

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Altar Care	Doug and Jody Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	J.C. and Amelia Martin	Carol and Ben Crawford	Sandy Birch Shirley Linkous
Lay Reader Comm. Asst.	Keith Gay William Allen	Carrie Mayer Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Nancy Goad	Betty Falta Matthew James
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Alex Moehling	Noah Moehling	Lilly Gruss	Camden Brewer
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson		Laura Gruss	Sheila McCartan
Greeters	Betty and Ray Wingate	Moehling/Belue family	A. Rossomando Judy Clemens	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Seth Peery	Doug Smiley	Fred Spengler	Mickey McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Matt Belue Doug Goldsmith	Philip Isenhour Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Sarah Albert		Rosie Gruss	Emily Graves
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Gary Fetter
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Rennekar	Kelly Belanger
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Mike Berg	Patty Rennekar	Gary Fetter

Mowing: 10/4-James/Dennis (front); 10/11-Jay Nagle (back); 10/18-JD Robinson (front); 10/25-William Allen (back)

Rear Lot: 10/7-Dave Surface; 10/14-Jeff Crowder; 10/21-Mike Berg; 10/28-Charlie Saks;
Micah's unloading: 10/8-David Surface and Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA



All Women of the congregation are invited to the
New River Fall Gathering
Sunday, October 13

The “Gathering of Many Generations” will be held at Luther Memorial, with registration beginning at 2:30 p.m. A “high tea” will be enjoyed prior to the program. This will be a fun fellowship event with our sisters in the New River conference. For more information, contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995.

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, October 21, at noon at Sandy Birch’s home. A salad lunch will be provided. We will share in a Bible study entitled, “In Good Company” and plan WELCA activities and projects for the year. Rides are available; contact Sandy at birch@vt.edu or 230-8823.

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 and November, 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). Plastic shoe boxes are available in the narthex. We will be collecting the filled and unwrapped boxes through mid-November and on Sunday, November 24, we will prepare the boxes for mailing at our annual Party with a Purpose.

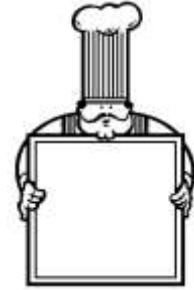
Thank you to everyone who contributed school supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary School. We collected over a 1,000 items including 130 glue sticks, 48 packs of crayons, 54 spiral notebooks, 280 pencils, and 24 packages of markers.

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

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

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, October 8 at noon** and “tailgate” with favorite football season foods including chicken with Anna's delicious barbeque sauce. Our guest speaker will talk about spiritual health.



**OKs
on the Go!**

The **Out to Lunch Bunch** will be going to the Red Lobster restaurant in Christiansburg on Tuesday, October 22. We'll meet at 11:30 a.m. so everyone can be seated and order before the noon lunch crowd arrives. There are seven different lunch special for \$7.99 and a wide variety of other menu items. To reserve your spot at the lunch table, contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@comcast.net or 961-0748 or check the box on the St. Michael Welcome form.

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

Walking to Build a Whole Healthy Life

Walking is healthy, it reduces stress and helps us control our weight. Walking with a friend is fun. Walking keeps us limber and feeling good. Just 30 minutes of walking, three times a week will help us live longer, so the Older Kids would like to challenge the congregation to walk with us to Bethlehem this fall – well, not literally, but let's travel the 6,114 mile distance to Bethlehem. Beginning October 1 and extending to December 24 –11 weeks – we will be encouraging everyone to walk (or run or cycle) a little or a lot. Tally sheets will be provided for individuals to record their distances and progress will be charted on the hallway bulletin board each week.



A $\frac{1}{4}$ mile track has been established in the church parking lot and a $\frac{1}{10}$ mile walk inside the church building has been determined. Walking trails around Virginia Tech and the town have been established and maps are available on the hallway bulletin board.

The new walkway alongside the church to the new Blacksburg High School is also a great path for us. It's about a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk. Contact Sandy Birch to measure the mileage on your favorite walk.

We're walking....we're walking.....

Celebrating Reformation Sunday and Confirmation

On Sunday, October 27, we will remember Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation by celebrating Reformation Sunday. During worship that day, we will also confirm our 9th graders who have completed St. Michael's confirmation program.

Upcoming Youth Retreats

Confirmation Lock-in - All youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in the first confirmation lock-in of the year beginning on Friday, October 11 at 7 p.m. We will conclude by 9 a.m. on Saturday. The topic for the lock-in will be: Famous Faces of the Old Testament. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.



7th and 8th Grade Synod Youth Event: Lost and Found - From November 22-24, 7th and 8th graders from around the Synod will gather for worship, fun and conversation at *Lost and Found*.. The cost for the event is \$75 and the early registration deadline is October 21. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

9th - 12th Grade Synod Youth Event: Winter Celebration - Winter Celebration gathers several hundred youth and adults from around the state for large group and small group experiences with lots of worship, singing, and faith sharing. The event is offered on January 22-24, 2014 and on January 31 - Feb. 2, 2014 and the cost is \$75. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor John and let him know which week would be best for you.

Congratulations to.....

Stuart Worley and Sarah McQuail who were married on September 14. Proud parents are Gary and Sandie Worley. Stuart and Sarah reside in Columbus, GA.

Billy Brown, who recently retired from the Radford Arsenal.

Ross and Hallie Brown who celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on September 1.



Katie and Eddie Boes on the birth of their daughter Charlee Katherine on September 20. She joins her big sister Marlee.

Anita Shephard on the birth of her granddaughter Keira on September 16. Happy parents are Tricia and Dan Foley and big sister Anya.

Sunday Night Bible Study on October 20 at 7:15 P.M.

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study on the Apostle's Creed in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, October 21, at 7:15 p.m.



As the growing season winds down, volunteers harvested and shared almost 300 pounds of beans, cabbage, carrots, cucumber, okra, onions, peppers, and tomatoes. A group of twenty students volunteered through VT Engage's Get on the Bus in mid-September to weed the plots and pathways. Thank you to Laura Peery, the Gruss family, and Lynn Hickok and her nephew for harvesting and making deliveries to our partner food pantries.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

By the last week of September, Micah's Backpack grew by 13% to share 6 weekend meals and snacks with 266 kids weekly. During the first month of school, 4,614 meals went home. Becci Nagle, Olivia Hodge, Dianne Krallman, Sandy and Roger Sheppard, and Mike and Elizabeth Berg volunteered on Thursdays in September! We also partnered with the inaugural Hokie Half Marathon to run two water stations for over 1,200 racers.



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect spaghetti or any kind of canned pasta in October. We share over 1,125 cans of spaghetti every month. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the hallway. Thank you for your gifts of 50 microwave popcorn packages in September!

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.

Micah's Soup for Seniors



September marked the first year anniversary for Soup for Seniors. Over 1,080 bags of food and approximately 18,400 food items were shared with over 90 seniors at Warm Hearth during the year. We have enjoyed some very generous gifts of food, money and service time from our volunteers with this program and are looking forward to another successful year.

The next packing date is Tuesday, October 22 at 5 p.m. with distribution beginning around 6 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome!



Welcome to the family

We are excited to welcome Josiah and Litha Tlou to the St. Michael family. **Josiah and Litha** moved to Blacksburg in 1978 from Chicago, Illinois. Josiah graduated from the University of Illinois, Champaign – Urbana in 1976. Both of them have worked at Virginia Tech since their arrival in Blacksburg. Josiah officially retired in 2004 from the School of Education, but Litha is still working at the University Bookstore. Originally, the Tlous came from Zimbabwe (former Rhodesia). They were married in a Lutheran Church in 1959, and have four grown children, two boys and two girls and one granddaughter. Litha and Josiah travel a lot to see the children since they live far away from them.



At Virginia Tech, Josiah was involved with International Education for USAID projects in Botswana, Malawi, Kenya, and Zambia. He is now involved in another USAID project in the new country of South Sudan with the University of Juba in up-grading their university teaching faculty. Josiah still goes to his office to work on “unfinished business” in international education.



On Sunday, September 15, we celebrated the baptism of **Nicholas** (10 months) and **Ashton** (2) **Bullock**. Pictured are the boys with their parents **April and Hal** and big sister **Alexis** (12), a seventh grader at Christiansburg Middle School. The family also includes son **Kameryn** (9).

Alexis enjoys hunting with her papaw and everything chocolate while Kameryn likes sports, fishing and water-skiing, Ashton enjoys Virginia Tech, his new tricycle and getting into everything and Nicholas enjoys everything a 10-month-old could possibly enjoy including babbling and smiling (a lot!). Hal is also an avid fan of Virginia Tech while April is a University of Maryland fan. The family enjoys football, grilling and cooking together, and making homemade fudge – a Bullock specialty.

Welcome to the family!