



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Identifying the Questions

Some questions have easy answers. For example, I am the last person to commune when I am leading worship, because my mother taught me that the host of a meal eats last.

Some questions have slightly more complex, but straightforward answers. For example, St. Michael has a few younger youth who commune and a few older youth who do not, because we decided a number of years ago, that determining when someone starts communing was a family decision, not an institutional decision. Whenever a youth expresses an interest in communion, I meet with that young person and their family to begin an intentional process of learning and preparation.

Some questions invite discussion and exploration, but have no easy answers. For example, I have a wealth of resources I can share about grief and loss, but for most people facing grief and loss is an on-going process, not a five step system with a clean beginning and a clear ending.

As a community of God's people, we have the opportunity to explore the questions of faith and life together. The key to that exploration, however, is knowing which questions need answering. While I can certainly pose questions that are interesting to me, I would like your help identifying the questions that we want to answer as a people of God at St. Michael. What are you curious about? Where would you like to see a stronger connection made between God's Word and daily life? What sections of scripture or practices of faith need more explanation? Please write your questions on a piece of paper or send me an email or catch me after worship. I look forward to hearing your questions and to exploring the answers as a community of God's people.

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 bold women who served during our worship services on May 11: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; to Wanda Pascoe, Lynda Kinzey, Mildred Wall, Betty Falta and Frances Edge who helped with last month’s newsletter folding; to Ron Brewer and family for all of their landscaping work including the new trim around the St. Michael sign in our front yard; to Wanda Pascoe for keeping our cleaning supplies in stock; to Judy Clemens for cleaning and organizing the nursery; to Erik Bohn, Betty Falta and Fran Shepherd for writing letters of support for Micah’s Backpack and Garden grant requests with the Community Foundation of the New River Valley; to James Pascoe for working on the Micah’s Garden water pump and filling the cistern.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in May supported our new baby ministry, Faithchest supplies, softball T-shirts, vacuum cleaner repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund, our facilities maintenance and mortgage, and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **22** families; 14 with electric bills, 6 with rent, 1 with a water bill, and 1 with funeral expenses. 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.

Helping our Neighbors

Remember the Food Bank: June is “kid-friendly food” month – bring fruit or pudding cups, small cans of pasta, cookies, etc., though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In June, we’ll collect baby food.

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.

Pull Down Screen for Fellowship Hall	\$225
Kitchen Playset for the Nursery	\$100



Six raised beds are available for individuals or families interested in gardening. The tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers and beans are starting to grow! Watch for opportunities to help with harvesting and delivering in June, July, and August. Thank you to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley for fully funding our grant request

“Going Green” to help with our plans for a greenhouse. Lots of opportunities to help with harvest and maintenance are available so contact Jennie Hodge at jennie@micahsbackpack.org for more information.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

This month we shared over 7,704 meals plus snacks with 26 children and youth in our community. We partnered with the VT students leaving Pritchard Hall for a Moving Out Food Drive and collected over 2,750 food items for Micah's Backpack and almost 1,000 items for Giving Tree and Spiritual Roots food pantries. Thank you to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley for fully funding our grant request “Feeding Kids’ Bodies and Minds” so that we may purchase books to distribute this summer on Micah’s Mobile Backpack.



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect 100% juice boxes in June. Please put your gift in the Micah's Backpack collection bin in the entry hallway. In May, St. Michael collected over 71 Easy Macs for the program. Thank you!

Congratulations to Micah’s Backpack, voted the “Best church outreach program” and second place for “Best community service project by a civic group or other nonprofit” by Roanoke Times readers in the Best of the New River Valley 2014.

Thank You from Micah’s Closet



The ministry of Micah’s Closet is making a powerful impact in the lives of the students who are receiving new school clothing and we give thanks to Sandy Sheppard for all the work she has put in to get this ministry started. As we prepare for the next distribution of clothing with the start of the 2014-2015 school, Sandy has decided to take a step back from her role as organizer, so if anyone is interested in a leadership role with Micah's Closet, please talk to Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary.



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June Servants

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Altar Care	Joanna Garcia				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Rick and Carrie Mayer	Clifton and Fay Walters	Clifton and Fay Walters	Dave Surface Jane Swing	Dave Surface Jane Swing
Lay Reader	Betty Falta	Judith Wolfe	Peggy Morgan	Matthew James	John Krallman
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dean Rueschman	Nancy Goad	Jacob Dennis	Dianne Krallman
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	David Christle	Seth Brewer	Maddie Brown	Noah Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCarten	Kris Wertz	Ryan Albert		
Greeters	McCartan/Brewer family	Christle family	Anna Rossomando Cindy Lane	Ray and Betty Wingate	Moehling/Belue family
Lay Reader	Joanna Garcia	Margaret Christle	Gary Schroeder	Jeff Birch	Doug Smiley
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Randy Robinson Philip Isenhour	Mickie McGuigan Don Linkous	Wanda and James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Lily Gruss	Megan Christle	Sara Albert		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Sandy Birch	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Sandy Birch	Charlie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Mike Berg	Sandy Birch	Martie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks

Mowing: 6/6–Jeff Crowder (back); 6/13–James/Dennis (front); 6/20–Jay Nagle (back);
6/27- J.D. Robinson (front)

Rear Lot: 6/2–Mike Berg; 6/9-Charlie Saks; 6/16-Dave Surface; 6/23-Guille Yearwood;
6/30-Mike Berg

Unloading for Micah’s Backpack: David Surface and Jeff Birch

Congratulations Graduates



Several members of our St. Michael family graduated this spring. Our Blacksburg High School graduates included **Steffen Gunnar Bøhn**, who will be attending the Universitet i Oslo, in Norway. He will be pursuing a degree in biochemistry. While at BHS, Steffen enjoyed being part of the marching band, theatre (member of the International Thespian Society), track, National Honor Society, and Beta Club. In addition, Steffen is an Eagle Scout, and a black belt in taekwondo. **Elizabeth Berg** will be attending Virginia Tech and will study visual arts, graphic arts or industrial design. While attending BHS, she participated in the marching band, varsity softball, and was president of the Key Club. Elizabeth enjoys volunteering and is a loyal volunteer with Micah's Backpack. Another BHS graduate, **Katy McGuigan**, will be going to Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall. She was very active in DECA, a business and marketing organization, and represented the school in three regional, three state and three international competitions, traveling to Florida, Utah and California for the latter competitions. **Will Sharpe** plans to attend Virginia Tech and study political science. He will be a member of the Corp of Cadets and has received the Emerging Leader Scholarship as well as a three year Army ROTC scholarship. Will played four years of football at BHS and was a state finalist with DECA. **Robert Worley** graduated from Radford University with a BS degree in Media Studies – Film Production. He was a resident advisor and worked on many video and film projects for Radford's activities. Robert will reside in Blacksburg, working on his portfolio, looking for internships, and applying to graduate programs. **Leah Gay** graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Apparel Project Development and Merchandising Management and is pursuing a career in fashion media. **Greg Linares**, a member of the St. Michael softball team, also graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Psychology. After graduation, he will move on to graduate school at Virginia Tech's National Capital Region campus and pursue a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. **Joanna Garcia** completed her studies at Virginia Tech with a PhD in Accounting and Information Systems. For her dissertation, she studied the interaction of corporate social responsibility and corporate lobbying. At the end of June, Joanna and her son Ben will be moving to Waterloo, Ontario, where she's taken a position as Assistant Professor in the School of Accounting and Finance at the University of Waterloo.

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on June 8 at 10:00 AM Honoring 2013-14 Graduates

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 8 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with the St. Michael family as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.



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



Our next trip is Tuesday, June 3, to Claytor Lake. We have reserved the large pavilion at the state park and will enjoy a Bible study, a picnic lunch, and BINGO! We will also tour the historic Howe House with interactive exhibits describing the ecology of the lake. The pavilion is handicapped accessible and there is also an accessible path down to the lake.

Participants are encouraged to sign up for the bus trip to the lake, but you can also drive yourselves to the state park. **This luncheon at Claytor Lake will be our June Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon also.**

On Wednesday, June 25, the OKs are going to the Barter Theater for the Wizard of Oz. Lunch will proceed the play at Bob's at the Barter. The registration deadline is June 11 and the cost of \$52 includes lunch, transportation and theater admission. Two trips are planned for August: WDBJ7/Center in the Square on August 11 and the Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair in West Virginia on August 22. Registration forms for the trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (230-8823 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

Out to Lunch Bunch – Ruby Tuesday Tuesday, June 24 at noon

Place: Ruby Tuesday, 2380 Roanoke St., Christiansburg

Cost: \$7.99 unlimited salad bar (add soup or mini sandwich for a dollar), plus drink, plus tip. There are also many other menu selections.

Reservations: contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@comcast.net or 961-0748.

Welcome Ferrell Family to the St. Michael Family

Daniel and Kiah are both employees of Montgomery County Public Schools, where they work as Special Education teachers. Their children are Parker (9) and William (5). Parker is in the 3rd grade at Kipps Elementary and has fallen in love with youth wrestling. William currently attends St. John Newmann Academy and will transition to kindergarten at Kipps Elementary in the fall. William is a free spirit who enjoys anything active. Kiah is from Marion, VA and Daniel is from Blacksburg. They have been married going on 10 years and all four are active and love anything outdoors.

“What a wonderful community of people and the exact kind of environment we have been looking for. We’re honored to be a part of the family and look forward to our relationship with the church and with Jesus.”



Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who is saving their change in the little **thank offering boxes**. Please return the boxes by Sunday, June 8. This special offering will be sent to the ELCA to purchase sheep for impoverished families in developing countries. The warm, durable wool from sheep can be woven into hats, sweaters, coats and blankets to keep families warm and dry, the wool can be sold at local markets for extra income, and sheep's milk can be used to make nutritious dairy products. All of our pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters really add up.



The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held in Harrisonburg, VA on August 15-16. We will be **sewing pillow case dresses for little girls and shorts for little boys in Africa** which will be collected at the convention. On Monday, June 23, during VBS, we will be cutting out fabric and donated pillow cases for the dresses and shorts. We welcome all to join the project. Donations of pillow cases and fabric are also welcome.



The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Charlotte, NC on July 24 – 27. Several members of St. Michael will be attending and welcome more along for the ride. The theme is “of many generations” and will feature enriching workshops, stirring worship, engaging Bible studies and more. Some have called these gatherings a “life-changing event.” More information is available on the hallway bulletin board or talk with Jody Smiley, WELCA national board member.



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious salads to share for the Sisters in Christ luncheon in May. Pictured above is the Women's Chorus at the 11 a.m. Bold Women Service on May 11. Thank you to Jody Smiley for preparing our Bold Women sermon and all the women who participated in the services: Jane Swing, Judith Wolfe, Meghan Christle, Betty Falta, Michelle Pasier, Amy Dandro, Katie Garst, Peggy Morgan, Sandy Birch, Joanna Garcia, Cindy Dowdy, MaKayla Dowdy, Carlie Simmers, Lexi Simmers, Jody Smiley, Anna Rossomando, Elaine Powers, Judy Wunderlich, Lorin Crowder, Suzanne Gay, Dianne Krallman, Abby Brown, and Kris Wertz.



Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School begins on June 22

The fun begins on Sunday, June 22 and continues through Thursday, June 26. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Look for the registration form in the bulletin and online in May.

Thank You Sunday School Teachers!

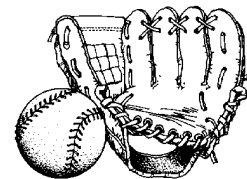
Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this an exciting year. From the pre-school class to the adults, the story of God's love and presence in our lives has been proclaimed. We appreciate all those who shared their time and talents this year including: Pastor John and Patrice Yearwood for leading our opening music, Margaret Christle, Cindy Dowdy, Maggie Maloney, Sheila McCartan, Kris Wertz for teaching our primary grades, Jody Smiley for leading the middle and high school class, and Pastor John for leading the adult class. Thank you also to all the substitute teachers.

Take me out to the ballgame....

St. Michael is going to the **Salem Red Sox baseball game** on Saturday, June 28 for a game against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The game begins at 6:05 p.m. We have reserve a block of seats and the cost is \$7 per ticket. Please sign up on the *Welcome* form to reserve your ticket.

The St. Michael team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for some exciting ball.

Monday, June 2	7:15 p.m.	BCOC
Monday, June 9	8:15 p.m.	Slusser's Chapel
Monday, June 16	7:15 p.m.	BJCC-LDS
Monday, June 23	8:15 p.m.	BCF
Monday, June 30	8:15 p.m.	Christ Episcopal



Power in the Spirit is July 10-12 at Roanoke College



Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders — teachers, organists and choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultants, pastors and others — will find POWER IN

THE SPIRIT especially nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. The Theme for this year is: *Changed by the Good News*. The Keynote Speaker is ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the Bible Study Leader is the Rev. Rolf Jacobson. To register go to vasynod.org or look for the registration form in the front hallway at the church.