



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Circle of Grace

A few years ago, St. Michael began to discuss the possibility of creating a sacred space to allow families to scatter the cremated remains of a loved one on the church grounds. Unlike a columbarium which offers individual niches where containers of ashes are placed, Kay Edge designed a space called the “Circle of Grace” where the ashes are literally returned to the earth. In addition to the circle, the design provides for a memorial wall and a beautiful cross sculpture. The Circle of Grace will be built near the existing Memorial Garden between the parking lot, the sanctuary and the edge of the historic cemetery.

This month, construction will begin on the Circle of Grace. On Sunday, July 13, at the Second Sunday Summer Brunch, Kay and I will make a presentation on the Circle of Grace and have the latest drawings available for you to see. In the weeks following that presentation, you are invited to be a part of the team which will finalize details for the usage of the Circle of Grace. In the future, as funding becomes available, we will add the memorial wall and the cross sculpture. If you are interested in learning more about the Circle of Grace or in serving on the implementation team, 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 He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to Jeff Birch and Ron Brewer for designing and installing shelving units in the back of Micah’s Mobile Backpack; to Tom Hodge, Rick Mayer and Margaret Christle for serving on the St. Michael Scholarship Committee; to all our lawn mowing crew; Mildred Wall, Margaret Larsen, Linda Elliott, Wanda Pascoe and Betty Falta for folding the June newsletter; to the volunteers who unpacked the trucks for Micah’s Backpack and to all the Vacation Bible School staff: Laura Gruss (story telling), Maggie Maloney and Joanna Garcia (crafts), Scott McGuigan, Seth Brewer, and Jody Smiley (games), Lorin Crowder, Tammy Veit, Elizabeth Graves, Fran Shepherd (guides), Patrice Yearwood (music), Matt Sharpe, David Christle, Corson Wertz, Parker Wertz, Camden Brewer (help where needed), Cindy Dowdy, Jada Brown, Judy Clemens, Kris Wertz (pre-school), and Linda Elliott, Ron Brewer, Deloris Raines, Wendy Goldsmith, Sandy Birch and Jackie Muir (kitchen duty).

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June supported Vacation Bible School supplies, 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 June, we provided assistance for **26** families; 16 with electric bills, 4 with rent, 4 with a water bill, one with gasoline and one with medication. 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.

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 \$175

Welcome to Victoria Slusher

Our new nursery assistant is Victoria Slusher. Victoria works at Rainbow Riders while pursuing her college studies. She grew up at College Lutheran Church in Salem, VA and is thrilled to be a part of the ministry team at St. Michael.





School Supplies for Children in Need

In July and August, St. Michael will be working in partnership with other congregations in our area to collect school supplies for children in need in Montgomery County. The supplies we collect will go to students at Price's Fork Elementary School. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

Needed Items

Backpacks	Pencils	Crayons
Wide Rule Notebook Paper	School Scissors	Colored Pencils
Pencils School Scissors	Anti-bacterial soap	Tissue
Glue Sticks	Pocket folders with prongs	
Black and white composition notebooks		

Workshop of Wonders VBS a Great Success

Approximately 70 youth and adults participated in this year's Vacation Bible School, the Workshop of Wonders. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts to make it such a wonderful week!





Seasonal Gardening, Community Gathering, Feeding All

Feel free to use this link <http://vols.pt/GEERQv> to sign up to help harvest or deliver fresh veggies from Micah's Garden to Interfaith, Giving Tree, and Spiritual Roots food pantries.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

This school year we reached a milestone: over 10,500 backpacks shared with hungry children and youth in our community! Thank you for your support of Micah's Backpack. Your time, talent, and treasure make a positive impact on the lives of many. Big thanks to Heather Pettus for recommending Micah's Mobile Backpack to the Adobe Foundation. Our grant was fully funded thanks to her support. The grant will help cover the cost of summer food and fresh blueberries.



www.micahsbackpack.org



Micah's Backpack will collect small jars of peanut butter in July for the Peanut Butter from Heaven Campaign. Our interfaith partners in the community will collect with us to help keep the shelves of Micah's Mobile Backpack stocked!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! **In July, the congregation is invited to bring cans of tuna fish** for the program. Thanks!



Thank you to the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and the Adobe Corporation

Two grants totaling over \$15,000 were awarded recently by the Manna Team at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and the Adobe Corporation for Micah's Caring Initiative ministries. The majority of the funding will go to Micah's Backpack and Micah's Mobile Backpack ensuring that all food costs for the summer program will be covered.

Thank you to Thrivent: Care in Communities Grants

Thrivent recently announced several grants for St. Michael for the following projects and programs: Micah's Soup for Seniors, Micah's Closet, Micah's Backpack, the Outreach Booth at the Price's Fork Fair, School Supplies for Price's Fork Elementary, and Christmas Boxes for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

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July Servants

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Altar Care				
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Betty Falta Elaine Powers	Betty Falta Elaine Powers	Neil and Jackie Muir	Neil and Jackie Muir
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Jane Swing	Kris Wertz	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Sandy Williams	Nancy Goad	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	Abby Brown	Jessica Brown	Maddie Brown
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Mickey McGuigan	
Greeters	Judy Clemens Sandy Birch	Carlie and Lexi Simmers	Ben and Grace Simmers	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Cindy Dowdy	Doug Veit	Anna Rossomando	Seth Peery
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	James Pascoe Wanda Pascoe	Marty Gordon Jeff Birch	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	MaKayla Dowdy		Emily Graves	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Charlie and Martie Saks	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Charlie Saks	Mike Berg		Guille Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks	Mike Berg	Deloris Raines	Guille Yearwood

Mowing: 7/4–Jeff Crowder (back); 7/11–James/Dennis (front); 7/18–Jay Nagle (back); 7/25–J.D. Robinson (front)

Rear Lot: 7/7–Charlie Saks; 7/4–Dave Surface; 7/15–Dave Surface; 7/21–Guille Yearwood; 7/28–Mike Berg

Unpacking for Micah’s Backpack: July 9 – Jeff Birch and Doug Smiley

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on July 13 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 13 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael. We will be celebrating the construction of our new Circle of Grace garden.



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



Two trips are planned for August: WDBJ7/Center in the Square on August 11 (registration deadline is August 1) and the Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair and Tamarack in West Virginia on August 22 (registration deadline is August 15). After visiting the digital broadcast center at WDBJ, we’ll have lunch at the City Market followed by a tour of the new Center in the Square with its aquarium systems, rooftop gardens and the Butterfly Garden. The ride to Beckley for the Fair passes through some lovely scenery and the crafts at both the Fair and Tamarack are exceptional. 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.

The O.K.s at Claytor Lake in June

Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons will resume on August 12 with our traditional Back-to-School "gourmet lunch". The cooks are taking a vacation in July ☺.



Out to Lunch Bunch on Thursday, July 10 The Himalayan Curry Café and Blue Ridge Quilt Festival

We’ll gather for lunch first at the newest restaurant in town, The Himalayan Curry Café in the University Mall (to the left of the main entrance). A quote from a recent article (posted on the hallway bulletin board) states, “a distinguishing trait of the curry is that, unlike most Indian food, oils and spices are used sparingly in order to make it a healthy option”. Customers have rated the restaurant very highly; prices are very reasonable. We’ll meet at 11:30 a.m. Then we’ll go to the Blue Ridge Quilt Festival at Blacksburg Middle School for a guided tour. The quilts are magnificent – all works of art. The group rate entrance fee is \$5/person; payable at the door. The festival is held every other year – this is a “don’t miss” event. For reservations, contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@gmail.com or 961-0748.

Congratulations to

Emily Garst, recipient of the 2014 St. Michael Scholarship. Emily just completed her freshman year at Virginia Tech, majoring in engineering. She is a member of Hypatia, the female engineering living and learning community at VT and in the fall she will work as a mentor to the incoming freshman engineering students. Emily joined the Virginia Tech Club Gymnastics team and continues to coach gymnastics at Virginia Techniques.



Stephanie Pascoe, who graduated in May from Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, NC, with a bachelor's degree in Sports, Entertainment and Event Management.

All of **St. Michael's graduates** who were honored at the June Second Sunday Summer Brunch. Pictured are Joanna Garcia, Elizabeth Berg, Will Sharpe, Steffan Bohn, Robert Worley and Katy McGuigan.



Fran Shepherd who recently retired after forty years of teaching, with 30 of those years at Price's Fork Elementary. Fran has taught kindergarten through third grade in the classroom, and for the past 27 years, served as a Reading Specialist teaching grades K – 5.

MaKayla Dowdy and her Amateur Softball Association (ASA) team, the Scrappers, who received a bid to play in the ASA National Championship Tournament after an undefeated season.



MaKayla and her teammates will be traveling to Johnson City, TN on July 26 and are trying to raise funds to help offset the expenses of this weeklong tournament. If you would like to help, see MaKayla or someone in her family. Thank you.

Middle School Mission Trip to Virginia Beach

From July 27 to August 1, Pastor John will be leading middle school students on a Mission Trip to Virginia Beach. The cost is \$55 for the week. For more information about taking part in the trip, look under the "Latest News" section at www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Women of the ELCA

The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg on August 15-16. If you are interested in attending, additional information and registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. You can also talk with Jody Smiley or Alice Schneider. The convention theme is "Who Are We? Bold Women of Many Generations." The banquet speaker will be Ellen Hinlicky who will give a presentation on "Well-behaved Women Rarely Make (Church) History" – stories and pictures of some of the most amazing and courageous women throughout the history of the Christian church.



We will deliver our pillow case dresses to the convention. The goal of VSWO is to make 1,000 dresses for little girls of Africa and St. Michael's Women of the ELCA plan to contribute a good number. Visit the website: www.littledressesforafrica.org and look at pictures of the little girls who have received dresses and imagine the joy these children will have when they receive our dresses. We are also making shorts for little boys too. Kits containing the materials for two dresses are available in the front hallway. All volunteers are welcome to help sew.

Remember the Food Bank: July continues with "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 July, we'll continue to collect baby food.

At the Second Sunday Summer Brunch in June, **Alice Schneider and Jody Smiley were recognized as St. Michael's Bold Women for 2014.** Alice has served as the leader of our WELCA organization for many years and is also chair of the New River Conference group. Jody has been a leader in the St. Michael and New River organizations also, served as president of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization and now holds a board position with the national Women of the ELCA. We give thanks to God for Jody and Alice for their faithful and bold leadership at St. Michael and in Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Thank Offering Thank you



Our coins added up to \$375...enough for three sheep for families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity and caring. You can learn more about the ELCA Good Gifts program that provides assistance to people around the world at: <https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts>.