



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Next Steps in Answering God's Call to Mission and Ministry

Over the last ten years, we have invested our time and our resources in building on the strength of God's grace, in growing our lives of faith and our facilities, and in helping our neighbors in need.

As we look to the future, we have the opportunity to map out a course that will guide us over the next two to four years as we seek to be God's heart and hands and voices in the world. To discover our next, best steps in ministry, it will be important to ask ourselves these five questions.

1. What is our mission?
2. What are our strengths, gifts and competencies?
3. What kind of future is God inviting us to build?
4. Where are we headed next?
5. What steps do we need to take to get there?

To help us answer these questions, the Congregational Council has invited Pastor David Derrick from St. Philip Lutheran Church in Roanoke to lead the entire congregation through a planning retreat on Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11. Together, we will talk about who God is calling us to be, look at the ministry opportunities that are before us and discover the steps we need to take to grow and strengthen our ministry in the community and in the world. Additional details about the retreat will be in the September newsletter, but please mark your calendars and plan to share your ideas to help strengthen and grow our response to God's love.

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 and cleaning up our Second Sunday Summer Brunch in July; our lawn team – Mike Berg, Jim Clemens, Jeff Crowder, Jacob Dennis, Matthew James, Jay Nagle, Dave Surface, J.D. Robinson, Charlie Saks, Guille Yearwood; Mildred Wall, Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen, Nancy Young, Betty Falta and Martie Saks who helped with the July newsletter mailing; the Brewer-McCartan family who created the beautiful landscaping around our St. Michael sign in the front yard; Lynda Kinzey who helped with office tasks.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for the Circle of Grace construction, St. Michael scholarship, office supplies, 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 11 families; 7 with their electric bills, one with a water bill, and three with car expenses. In addition, we used J&M funds to purchase sewing supplies for the dresses for Africa.

A Thank You

Pastor John and Members,

We would like to thank you for your many acts of kindness at the birth of Emery. First, our wonderful visit with Alice Schneider when she brought the altar rose and basket of gifts from the congregation. Most of all, thank you for all of Emery's gifts at her baptism – the hope chest, Bible and memory book. We will cherish these gifts. Thank you for the Christian love we feel at St. Michael. J.C., Amelia and Emery Martin. Emery is pictured with her mom and dad at her baptism on June 29.



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

\$150 remaining

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
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August Servants

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Altar Care	Betty Falta				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Sandy Birch Sandra Hough	Sandy Birch Sandra Hough	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Gary and Sandie Worley
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Peggy Morgan	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dean Rueschman	Sandy Williams	Nancy Goad	Jane Swing
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	Seth Brewer	Alex Moehling	Noah Moehling	Abby Brown
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCarten		Doug Smiley		
Greeters	McCartan/Brewer family	Jeff and Sandy Birch	Moehling/Belue family	Anna Rossomando Cindy Lang	Ben and Grace Simmers
Lay Reader	Laura Gruss	Gary Schroeder	Laura Peery	Mickey McGuigan	Lorin Crowder
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	Matt Belue Marty Gordon	Don Linkous Philip Isenhour
Youth Servant	Lily Gruss		Jack Graves		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Sandy Birch	Berg family	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines
Lay Reader	Sandy Birch	Mike Berg	Charlie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Sandy Birch	Mike Berg	Martie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Deloris Raines

Mowing: 8/1–Jeff Crowder (back); 8/8–James/Dennis (front); 8/15–Jay Nagle (back);
8/22- J.D. Robinson (front); 8/29-Jeff Crowder (back)
Rear Lot: 8/4–Charlie Saks; 8/11-Dave Surface; 8/18-Guille Yearwood; 8/25-Mike Berg
Unloading for Micah’s Backpack (August 12): David Surface and Ron Brewer

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.

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.

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 trips are great fun....bring a friend....join the rest of the kids.

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon on Tuesday, August 12 Back to school “gourmet school lunch”

Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Pastor John will present a program on planning our funerals. We’re just getting prepared for a long...long....time away in the future.



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

Out to Lunch Bunch at El Rodeo on Tuesday, August 26

On Tuesday, August 26, the Out to Lunch Bunch will meet at El Rodeo at First & Main at 12:30 p.m. for a plentiful Mexican feast. Entrees are reasonably priced and tasty. To make a reservation, contact Sandy Sheppard at TracingMyRoots@gmail.com or 961-0748 or sign up on the *Welcome* form.

Workshop of Wonders Re-Opens on September 7

Have Fun as a Leader in Sunday School



For the upcoming Sunday School year, we will have music, art, drama and service workshops with each month focused around a specific theme. If you enjoy working with art, music, drama or service projects and are available one Sunday a month, please talk to Pastor John to discover how you might be able to get involved.

St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair on August 15-16

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 15 and Saturday, August 16. 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* form in the bulletin, talk with Pastor John or contact Fran Gallimore (gerfran59@gmail.com). Volunteers always have a great time.



Fellowship Meal Prior to the 6:30 PM Service

On Sunday, August 24, you are invited to a Fellowship Meal at 5:30 p.m. A meat main course will be provided. Come, bring a side dish to share, get to know the folks who worship at the 6:30 p.m. service and then stay and enjoy the service. If you are planning to attend, please sign up on the *Welcome* form or email Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us so that we can make sure we have enough food.

Circle of Grace Planning Team

Now that the first phase of the Circle of Grace scattering garden is nearly complete, we will be gathering a team of interested people for a meeting to discuss guidelines for its use. We will also discuss the long-term care of the Circle of Grace and consider ways to move the remaining phases of the project forward. If you are interested in being a part of the team, please contact Pastor John or sign up on the *Welcome* form.



Backpack Blessing on August 10

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 10. 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.



Backpack Blessing

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 Thursday, August 7. If you can help provide food, please sign up on the *Welcome* 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 10. 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	

Great Week at Confirmation Camp



Our confirmation students, Camden Brewer, David Christle and Matt Sharpe had a great week at camp. Thank you for helping share the gift of camp with these students.





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. Thank you to Seth and Laura Peery for organizing the vegetables to plant. So far this summer we've grown, harvested, and shared nearly 350 pounds of blueberries, cucumbers, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini with folks who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack, Giving Tree, Interfaith, and Spiritual Roots food pantries.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

In late June we launched our second year of Micah's Mobile Backpack! By the end of the summer school break we shared over 3,720 meals plus snacks with children in our community. We also shared over 300 pounds of blueberries, cucumbers, squash, and zucchini with the children and their families. Many thanks to William Allen, our volunteer bus driver, Betty Falta and Olivia Hodge, our faithful volunteer helpers, and to Fran Shepherd and the teachers of Price's Fork Elementary School for organizing the book mobile from the bus. Thank you for sharing of 45 small jars of peanut butter during the Peanut Better from Heaven Campaign. Together with our interfaith partners, we collected over 100 jars. Micah's Backpack will continue to collect **peanut butter in August**.



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Soup for Seniors



Thanks to the volunteers in July who packed and distributed 94 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We continue to use food donated by the congregation and Panera Bread. What great gifts we have received! The next packing date is Tuesday, August 26 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. **Soup for Seniors will collect chicken noodle soup in August.**

Micah's Closet

As the students return to school in August, our partners at Price's Fork Elementary School will begin to determine who needs assistance from Micah's Closet. We anticipate receiving that information in early September and deliver clothing as the seasons begin to change in early October. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sheila McCartan at rbsm51@nrvunwired.net.



"Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on August 10 at 10 a.m.



You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's "Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 10 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy fine food and fellowship. We will be celebrating Pastor John's 10th anniversary with our St. Michael family. Yes, it's been 10 years since Pastor, Kris, Corson and Parker joined us. Ten wonderful years (plus a few months)... a very good reason to party.

August **10**

at **10** a.m.

to celebrate **10** years

St. Michael Church Choir begins practices in September

Come one, come all....singers, that is, and join the St. Michael church choir for 2014-2015! The first meeting will be soon after Labor Day – watch for announcements or contact Patrice at patricey@stmhc.us or 320-8397. We are also seeking instrumentalists to help with music.



Sunday Bible Study on August 17

On Sunday, August 17 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on Vocation: Seeing our Daily Life as a Response to God's Love.

St. Michael's Website, Facebook Page, and Email Newsletter

If you are looking for the most current, up-to-date information on the ministries of St. Michael, be sure to check the St. Michael website: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org, like the St. Michael Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch>, or read the weekly, "Happening at St. Michael" email newsletter. If you aren't currently receiving "Happening at St. Michael", email the church at: hope@stmhc.us to be added to the distribution list.