



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **New Sunday School Year and New Plans for the Future**

**New Sunday School Year** - This month we return to the Workshop of Wonders for Sunday School. Each week, we'll explore our theme in one of four workshops - service, music, art or drama. On September 7, we will be assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief as we explore the theme, "Gearing Up for a Life of Faith". Everyone from preschoolers to adults is invited to come and be a part of the Workshop of Wonders.

**New Plans for Future Ministry at St. Michael** - On Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11, the entire congregation is invited to be a part of a planning retreat. We will talk about who God is calling us to be, to 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. 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?

Plan to come and share your ideas to help 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.

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, Fran Shepherd, Maddie Brown, Pastor John and Joyce Coupey (our face painters), Mac McCloud and Deloris Raines; to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price's Fork Elementary; Corson and Parker Wertz for counting and packing up all the school supplies; to the Caring and Sharing Team who set up and cleaned up the August Second Sunday Brunch; Mildred Wall, Margaret Larsen, Judith Wolfe and Sandy Birch who helped with the August newsletter mailing; all the seamstresses who sewed the wonderful little dresses for children in Africa; to everyone who provided food for the Price’s Fork Elementary School faculty and staff; to everyone who provided food for the memorial service for Marguerite Smiley; Jim Clemens, Ron Brewer and Ray Howell who restructured the playground swing set.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, office supplies, 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 16 families; 9 with their electric bills, one with a water bill, 4 with rent, one with medication and one with car expenses. Justice and Mercy funds were also used for supplies for the dresses for Africa and school supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary School.

*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*

### Lutherans Mark Week of Service, September 1-7

The Virginia Synod will be observing a Week of Service from September 1-7. This is part of an ELCA churchwide emphasis which highlights the call for the church to be engaged in serving the world for the sake of Christ. St. Michael and Luther Memorial will be offering several organized opportunities for service.

- **Saturday, September 6**—Volunteers will gather at the Valley Interfaith Childcare Center (948 Heather Drive) from 9-11 a.m. to work in the playground and do deep cleaning in classrooms.
- **Saturday, September 6**—Volunteers will be harvesting vegetables and weeding in Micah’s Garden from 9-11 a.m. Vegetables are donated to local food pantries.
- **Sunday, September 7**—Kick off the new year of Sunday School with Service. Everyone is invited to help put together personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

If you are interested in helping with one of the projects on Saturday, please sign up on the *Welcome form* or talk to Pastor John for more information and plan to come to Sunday School on September 7 to kick off the new year doing God's work with our hands.

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## *September Servants*

	<b>September 7</b>	<b>September 14</b>	<b>September 21</b>	<b>September 28</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Inga Solberg			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Ben and Carol Crawford	William Allen Nancy Goad	William Allen Nancy Goad	Clifton and Shelane Walters
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	John Krallman	Gary Worley	Peggy Morgan
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sandy Williams	Dianne Krallman	Sandie Worley	William Allen
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sarah Moehling	Alex Moehling	Camden Brewer	Jessica Brown
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Randy Robinson		Kris Wertz	
<b>Greeters</b>	Peggy and Bob Brown	Moehling/Belue family	McCartan/Brewer family	Josiah and Litha Tlou
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Seth Peery	Jay Nagle	Margaret Christle	Marty Gordon
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Matt Belue Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	M. McGuigan James Pascoe
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Noah Moehling		Megan Christle	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Saks family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Katherine Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Mike Berg	Michelle Berg	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks

Mowing schedule: 9/5-James/Dennis(front); 9/12-Jay Nagle(back); 9/19-J.D. Robinson(front);9/26-Jeff Crowder(back)

Rear: 9/1 – Charlie Saks;9/8-Dave Surface;9/15-Guille Yearwood; 9/22-Mike Berg; 9/29-Charlie Saks

## Women of the ELCA



Our noon-time Bible study, **Lunch and Learn**, returns on **Monday, September 15** at the church. Led by Jody Smiley, we will continue to study bold women of the Bible while enjoying a light lunch and fellowship. There will be a “shuttle bus” departing from campus at 11:50 a.m. The meeting will be over before 1 p.m. so participants can return to their work places on time. All women of St. Michael (and friends) are invited. Contact Sandy (birch@vt.edu) if you need a ride.

**The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 26 at 2:45 p.m. at Shiloh Lutheran Church.** 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 continue to 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. We delivered 7 backpacks, 1056 crayons, 237 glue sticks and bottles of glue, 1,200 pencils, 191 spiral notebooks, 207 markers and highlighters, and lots more needed supplies. The complete list is posted on St. Michael’s website.

Thank you to all the seamstresses who created pillow case **dresses for little girls in Africa:** Joyce Coupey, Carol Crawford, Dot McKinnon, Jane Swing, Gisela Mittman, Alice Schneider, Katherine Berg, Frances Edge, and others who helped cut out the dress patterns. All the dresses were works of art! We contributed 70 dresses and 10 pairs of boys shorts to the project. Over 2,600 dresses were donated by the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) to the nation-wide WELCA project.

Joyce Coupey is interested in continuing the Africa project; particularly sewing shorts for little boys. Please consider **donating gently used adult crew neck t-shirts** which will be used for the shorts. The t-shirts can be any color or pattern. Look for the collection box in the hallway. Joyce’s granddaughter recently returned from a mission trip to Nairobi and shared with her grandmother the acute need for children’s clothing.



**Congratulations to Jody Smiley who was elected Vice President of the Women of the ELCA** at the Triennial Convention held in Charlotte, NC in July. Alice Schneider and Sandy Birch also attended the Triennial Gathering and participated in worship activities and fellowship with over 2,000 Lutheran women from around the country (especially Minnesota!) and world.

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 shipped 311 boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex.



## The O.K.s (Older Kids)

### Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

**Second Tuesday Happy-Go-Lucky catered luncheons continue on Tuesday, September 9.** This luncheon will be a Virginia Tech tailgate featuring Anna's special bar-b-que. Our guest speakers are Isabel Berney and Sandy Schlaudecker representing the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge. The Alliance is a non-profit organization of area residents dedicated to helping us make funeral arrangements that are dignified, meaningful – **and affordable.** For more information, go to [www.funerals.org/affiliates/fcavbr](http://www.funerals.org/affiliates/fcavbr).



**OKs  
on the Go!**

A great trip is planned for September. On Tuesday, September 23, we're going to **Lewisburg, WV** to walk along a quaint main street offering a surprising selection of art galleries, antique shops and clothing boutiques. Lewisburg was recently voted America's Coolest Small Town by Frommer's Budget Travel Magazine. We'll have lunch at the historic General Lewis Inn and learn more about the history of this top southern mountain town tucked away in the hills of the Greenbrier Valley. The **deadline for registration is September 16** and the cost is \$18 (lunch extra). Next month, on October 7, we'll be traveling to Pipestem State Park and riding the aerial tramway, carrying us 3,600 feet along the Bluestone River Gorge below. We'll visit the nature center, the lookout tower with an inspiring view of some West Virginia scenery, and several artisan shops. The **registration deadline is September 30** and the cost is \$25 including the tram ride fee (lunch extra). Registration forms are available on the church bulletin board. Pictured are some O.K.s on the August trip to the WDBJ TV station in Roanoke.



### Out to Lunch Bunch

Our next adventure is to Riner, VA for lunch on **Tuesday, September 30, at Buffalo and More at noon.** For reservations, contact Peggy Brown at 552-8141 or [pabrown1943@comcast.net](mailto:pabrown1943@comcast.net) or sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin.

### Workshop of Wonders Re-Opens on September 7



For the upcoming Sunday School year, we will have music, art, drama and service activities with each month focused around a specific theme. All children and youth are invited to join in the fun and learning as we build with God in our Workshop of Wonders. On September 7, we will be taking part in the ELCA Day of Service by assembling personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

### Sunday Night Bible Study on September 21

On Sunday, September 21 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom entitled "Gearing Up for a Life of Faith: Advice from the Sermon on the Mount" (Matt 5-7).



## Happy 46<sup>th</sup> Birthday St. Michael Luncheon on September 28



The annual St. Michael Celebration and Birthday Luncheon will take place on September 28 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.

Come enjoy delicious food catered by the Cellar Restaurant, tasty birthday cakes provided by St. Michael members, and wonderful fellowship together.

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.

### St. Michael Pictorial Directory

We will begin to take pictures for the 2015 St. Michael Directory on Sunday, September 28, 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.



### Celebrating 10 Years of Ministry at St. Michael



Parker, Pastor, Kris and Corson enjoy the August 10 brunch with their St. Michael family

### A Thank You Note

*To my St. Michael family,  
Thank you so very much for the generous scholarship. I'm excited to continue my studies at Virginia Tech this fall and am so appreciative of the money that you are providing for me. I look forward to continuing my journey in life with Christ by my side. I'm grateful to have such a loving and caring Church community at St. Michael. St. Michael will always hold an important place in my heart.*

*Sincerely, Emily Garst, 2014 St. Michael Scholarship Recipient*



In August we shared over 500 pounds of beans, cucumbers, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. We also had our first successful watermelon harvest. All the veggies we grow cooperatively go home with folks who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack, Giving Tree, Interfaith, and Spiritual Roots food pantries.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Thank you for your generous support of Peanut Butter from Heaven. By the end of the summer, together with our interfaith partners and the VT Athletics Videography Department, we collected over 300 small jars of peanut butter to share!

Our seventh year feeding and caring about kids in our community started in August! We shared nearly 2,700 meals over two weeks. The VT Women's Soccer team came out to kick off their season by volunteering and other VT sports teams will be partnering with us throughout the year. We send out a monthly Micah's Backpack update and feel free to contact Jennie ([jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org)) if you'd like to receive the monthly email report.



[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)

We will be packing on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. Join us!

**For September, we will collect vegetable soup** in the Micah's Backpack collection box in the entry hallway.

## Micah's Soup for Seniors



Thanks to the volunteers in August who packed and distributed 95 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, September 23 at 5:00 p.m. with distribution at 5:45 p.m. Come and share in this wonderful time of fellowship and service. For more information, contact Dianne Krallman at [dkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com](mailto:dkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com). **Soup for Seniors will collect boxes of saltine crackers in September.**

## Micah's Closet

The goal of Micah's Closet is to provide up to a week's worth of new school clothes to children in need, through a partnership with schools and individuals. Studies show that children in need are more likely to have higher self-confidence and maintain higher school attendance if their clothes are as nice as clothing worn by their peers. Our partners at Price's Fork Elementary School are determining who needs assistance from Micah's Closet. We anticipate receiving that information soon and deliver clothing as the seasons begin to change in early October. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sheila McCartan at [mccartansheila@gmail.com](mailto:mccartansheila@gmail.com). Shoppers who have already volunteered will be contacted soon.





## St. Michael Church Choir begins Wednesday, September 10

The St. Michael Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:15 p.m. Everyone interested in singing and making a joyful noise to the Lord is welcome! Contact Patrice Yearwood ([payearwood@aol.com](mailto:payearwood@aol.com)) if you need more information. Come make music at St. Michael!



## 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 14. See Pastor John for more information.

## Kroger Community Rewards Program Has Changed

For a number of years, members of St. Michael have contributed to Micah's Backpack and the Justice and Mercy Fund through Kroger Cares reloadable gift cards. Kroger has just announced a change to their program. Effective September 1, we will be able to support these two programs just by scanning our Kroger Plus cards. Enrollment is quick and easy. Just visit the secure website: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to enroll your individual Kroger Plus card to one of St. Michael's accounts. Members can now designate their contribution to Micah's Backpack using #83513 or Justice and Mercy using #82386 or search for Micah's Backpack or Justice and Mercy on the appropriate screen. Any remaining balances on a Kroger Cares gift card may still be used for Kroger purchases, but St. Michael will not receive any credit. Over the years, thousands of dollars from Kroger Cares gift cards have been added to our Justice and Mercy and Micah's Backpack funds. Thank you to all who have donated through this community program. Instructions on using the rewards program are also available on the hallway bulletin board.



## Thank you for the Generous Gifts of School Supplies to Price's Fork Elementary School!

