



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Which Way Do We Want to Go?

The first time we took the boys to Disney when they were old enough to tell us what they wanted to do, the options were a little overwhelming. When we entered the park, there were so many rides, so many shows, so many experiences, that they couldn't decide which way to go first. Without a clear consensus, we stood at the crossroads for a moment while we tried to make a choice.

As I talked with the Congregational Council several months ago about the future, we realized that in many ways we were standing at a crossroads and we needed help making a decision about which way we wanted to go. We are blessed to have an enormous number of ministry opportunities and possibilities before us. The new high school has opened in our backyard. Fifty to sixty new homes are planned for the land to the right of the church. We have more young children and teenagers connected to St. Michael than ever before. The question for us, therefore, is which way is God calling us to go and how should we invest the resources God has given us to achieve the most faithful results.

I invite you to come help us pick a direction and plan for the next steps in our ministry. On Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11, the entire congregation is invited to be a part of a planning retreat. With the help of Pastor David Derrick from St. Philip Lutheran Church in Roanoke, 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. With your help, we'll pick a direction and begin taking the next steps in our ministry together.

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, Betty Falta, Linda Elliott, Lynda Kinzey, Joyce Coupey 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; Lisa Moehling who designed and created the bulletin board in the narthex; Shirley Linkous who has created the 9 a.m. greeter schedule for the past 10 years (and is now “retiring”); and Sheila McCartan and Ron Brewer who have repaired and refinished the front doors of the church.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided volleyball team registration, Day of Service supplies, music supplies, 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 **26 families**: 15 with electric service, 2 with a water bill, 8 with rent, and 1 with car expenses.

Shorts for Africa

New or gently used adult size **crew-necked T-shirts** are being collected in the front hallway. Joyce Coupey will convert the shirts into shorts for children in Africa.

Some Thank You Notes

Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to St. Michael for Mother’s memorial service and reception and the caring thoughts, words, prayers and cards from church members. Doug, Jody, Tim and Dixon Smiley

*Thank you for your continued support! You really helped us start off our school year well stocked. We could not have done this without you.
Love, Price’s Fork Elementary School Faculty and Staff*

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October Servants

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Altar Care	McCartan/Brewer family			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Clifton and Shelane Walters	Amy and Steve Woods	Amy and Steve Woods	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Jane Swing	Carrie Mayer	Peggy Morgan
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dean Reuschman	Sandy Williams	Jacob Dennis
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Abby Brown	Sarah Moehling	Alex Moehling
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		M. McGuigan	Laura Gruss
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Judy Clemens A. Rossomando	Moehling/Belue family	Gruss family
Lay Reader	Hank Schneider	Jeff Birch	Doug Veit	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Marty Gordon Ray Howell	Philip Isenhour Dickie Shepherd	James and Wanda Pascoe	Don Linkous R. Robinson
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Noah Moehling	Lily Gruss
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Saks family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Katherine Berg	Charlie Saks	G. Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Heather Pettus	Marty Saks	G. Yearwood

Mowing: 10/3-James/Dennis (front); 10/10-Jay Nagle (back); 10/17-JD Robinson (front);
10/24-Jeff Crowder (back); 10-31-James/Dennis

Rear Lot: 10/6-Dave Surface; 10/13-Guille Yearwood; 10/20-Mike Berg; 10/27-Charlie
Saks

Women of the ELCA



All Women of the congregation are invited to the 2014 New River Valley Fall Gathering on Sunday, October 26.

The “Gathering of Many Generations” will be held at Shiloh Lutheran Church, with registration beginning at 2:15 p.m. A “high tea” will be enjoyed prior to the program led by Judy Castele, Executive Director of Project Horizon. This will

be a fun fellowship event with our sisters in the New River conference. Canned or packaged foods will be collected for the local food bank. For more information, contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995. Rides are available.

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, October 20, at noon at the church. We will participate in a Bible study entitled, “In Good Company”, a celebration of bold women of the Bible and enjoy a light meal.

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 collect baby food and diapers.

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.

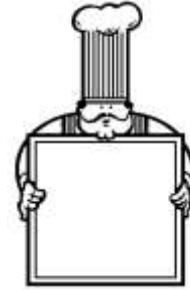


The contents of each box should be worth about \$15 (e.g., about 14-15 items from the Dollar Tree), including books and other educational items (especially those that help them with reading or arithmetic). Plastic shoe boxes are available in the front hallway. We will be collecting the filled and unwrapped boxes through mid-November and on Sunday, November 23, during Sunday School, we will prepare the boxes for mailing.

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

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, October 14 at noon**. Our topic will be scams, and in particular, how unkind folks take advantage of seniors.



Valuable information about funeral planning, provided by the Funeral Consumer's Alliance, is available on the church bulletin board.



The last trip of the year will be on October 7 to Pipestem State Park, one of West Virginia's most beautiful state parks. A highlight of the trip will be a ride on the Aerial tramway which will carry us 3,600 feet along the Bluestone River Gorge below.

Out To Lunch Bunch – October 28

The **Out to Lunch Bunch** will be going to Cabo Fish Taco (117 S. Main St. in Blacksburg) on Tuesday, October 28 at noon. To reserve your spot at the lunch table, contact Peggy Brown at 552-8141 or pabrown1943@comcast.net or check the box on the *Welcome* form. Come enjoy the fellowship and tasty Tex-Mex food in a historic Blacksburg building.

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

Bible Sunday, October 26

One of Martin Luther's major accomplishments during the Reformation was to translate the Bible into the language of the people so that everyone could read and explore scripture for themselves. Each year on the last Sunday in October, we celebrate Reformation Sunday and this year, we will also make Bibles available for anyone who needs a new Bible. There will be a variety of translations available from kids story Bibles to the New Revised Standard translations that we use in worship. If you need a new Bible or know someone who does, plan to pick one up on Reformation Sunday.

Sunday Night Bible Study on October 19 at 7:15 P.M.

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, October 19 at 7:15 p.m., on "Letting God's Light Shine".

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

This month we shared just under 1,000 backpacks with 240 children in our community. Thank you to Olivia Hodge who wrote and won a Youth Service America Grant to help us expand the Micah's Mobile Backpack route next summer! Also big thanks to Doug Smiley for helping Micah's Backpack become part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. Please use #07544 if you'd like to designate Micah's Backpack during your workplace giving. 100% of gifts go toward feeding kids.



www.micahsbackpack.org

Micah's Backpack will collect spaghettiOs in 14.75 oz. cans or smaller in October.

Thank you for your gifts of vegetable soup 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.



As the growing season begins to wind down, we shared beets, peppers, and squash this month. We have crested the 1,400 pound mark! 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 Soup for Seniors

Congratulations to everyone associated with the Micah's Soup for Seniors program. We have successfully finished our second full year of the program and are ready to embark on our third year. We have provided over 2,100 bags of food to an average of 90-95 seniors during these two years. It has been an exciting and joyful journey.



We have been privileged to have an excellent community of volunteers, support groups and seniors. Our seniors at Warm Hearth are an extraordinary group of individuals who look forward to seeing us as much as we enjoy our time with them. They are a caring and grateful community who help take care of each other within the group. Recently, a new gentleman moved into one of our service houses and there were numerous residents who made sure we contacted him to give him one of our extra bags. One resident even gave the gentleman some of her food to tide him over until we arrived. We look forward to another rewarding year. Thanks again to everyone who has helped make this a successful program. The next **packing date is Tuesday, October 28** at 5 p.m. with distribution beginning around 6 p.m. This month, we will continue to **collect boxes of crackers**.

Sharing Your Gifts Makes Ministry Happen



In October, the Stewards team is inviting you to think about the ways that your gifts make ministry happen at St. Michael and in the world. There will be an opportunity in worship for you to list one of your gifts and identify a way that your gift helps to serve the Lord. In addition, you will have a chance to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to ministry at St. Michael in 2015. Estimating your giving provides you with the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide what God is calling you to give in response. **You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship on October 26.** With your help, we will combine our gifts to make ministry happen in our community.

Some Music "notes"



- * Come sing with us! The **St. Michael Choir** practices on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.
- * Want to sing with the choir but cannot make it to Wednesday rehearsals? Choir practice will also take place once/month on Sundays at 10 a.m. In October, we'll meet at 10 a.m. on October 12.
- * The **Hymn Choir** will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 19.
- * The **Handbell Choir** will begin to ring soon! We will have our first rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 26.
- * The **Music Workshop** will meet again on Sunday, October 5, during Sunday School. The youth will sing songs, play instruments, make music together and sing the prelude during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Welcome to St. Michael's New Organist Timmy Akinola

On Sunday, September 7, St. Michael welcomed a new organist to our ministry team. Timmy Akinola is a student at Virginia Tech pursuing a PhD in Biological Systems Engineering. Born in Nigeria, Timmy began playing the piano and organ about 10 years ago and is mostly self taught. Timmy has played for his church at home and for a congregation in New York City.



Youth Ministry at St. Michael Welcomes New Youth Leaders

This fall, St. Michael welcomed two new leaders to help with youth ministry - Lilly Goldsmith and Anna Lehman. Lilly and Anna are both students at Virginia Tech, members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry group and long-time participants in Virginia Synodical Youth events. They will be helping Jody Smiley with Sunday School for Middle School and High School youth (allowing us to have discussion groups for each age group), assisting with the Confirmation Lock-ins and helping to plan and to lead our participation in Synod youth events.

Youth Group Halloween Party and Service Project



All Middle School and High School youth are invited to a Halloween Party immediately following worship on Sunday, October 19. We'll have pizza for lunch, play some games and take part in a brief service project. If you have questions, contact Lilly at: lillyg1@vt.edu.

Confirmation Lock-In - October 24-25

All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to attend the Confirmation Lock-In beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 24 as we discuss the New Testament and lessons from the early church. The lock-in ends at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 25.

Confirmation Sunday on October 26

At St. Michael, youth participate in Confirmation instruction during their 6th, 7th and 8th grade years and then have the opportunity to affirm the baptismal promises made by their parents and baptismal sponsors on Reformation Sunday during their 9th grade year. This year, Reformation Sunday is on October 26 and we'll have the opportunity to join in welcoming several 9th grade students into membership in the congregation.



2014-2015 Virginia Synod Youth Events

Did you know that the Virginia Synod Youth Events are considered among the best Lutheran Youth Events in the entire country. This year, there will be three opportunities for youth to experience these wonderful faith and community building events. For more information or to register, please talk to Lilly at: lillyg1@vt.edu or to Pastor John: pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Lost and Found (7th/8th Graders) - Nov. 21-23, 2014

Winter Celebration (9th-12th Graders) - Jan. 16-18, 2015 or Jan. 23-25, 2015

Seventh Day (5th/6th Graders) - March 7-8, 2015