



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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St. Michael's Mission Statement

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.

Say "Thank You!"

There is a sign in my office that says:

God Loves You!

Be at Peace!

Have Fun!

Say "Thank You!"

Those four simple, guiding ideas came to me one day about 15 years ago and I've had them on my wall as a constant reminder ever since as a way to help me remember who I am, what God's love means for my life and how God calls us to live.

This month, I want to take a moment to focus on the fourth idea on my list - Say "Thank You" - and give thanks for the ministry leaders who make it possible for us to be God's heart and hands and voices in the world. We are blessed with a wise Congregational Council and with talented staff members. Thanks to their gifts, we feed hungry children and adults. We care for young children and share the faith. We care for our facilities and grounds. We conduct the day-to-day business of the congregation and keep our finances in good order. We walk with people who are struggling and share in moments of joy. We gather for worship and share beautiful music with one another and with God. It is an honor and a pleasure to be in ministry with each of them and with all of you. Thank you!

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmlc.us

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 our wonderful musicians, Timmy Akinola, Matthew James, Reed Yearwood, the St. Michael Choir and Hand Bell choir, our music director, Patrice Yearwood, and our soloist, John Krallman, for providing beautiful music for Holy Week and Easter; to our Maundy Thursday supper cooks and set-up and clean-up crews; to our Good Friday readers and Easter Sunday Servants; to Wanda Pascoe, Lynda Kinzey, Margaret Larsen and Joyce Coupey who folded Holy Week and Easter bulletins; to Lynda Kinzey, Betty Falta, Mildred Wall, Nancy Young, Wanda Pascoe and Margaret Larsen who folded April newsletters; to Ron Brewer who supervised the Tech students from the Big Event during the spring clean-up day on April 11, assisted by Anita Shepard, Sheila McCartan, Camden and Seth Brewer, Marty Gordon and Pastor John; to everyone who provided Easter lilies and funds for Micah’s Backpack, Micah’s Soup for Seniors and Micah’s Closet as Easter gifts. Pictured below are Ron Brewer, getting the fellowship hall ready for the pancake supper, Carol, Fran, and Suzanne working in the kitchen, the chimes choir practicing, and Pastor with Reed Yearwood. Reed provides the music for our 6:30 p.m. worship service each Sunday.



Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported palms for Palm Sunday, special musicians for an Easter service, devotional subscriptions, landscaping mulch, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministry staff. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for 21 families:** 11 with electric bills, 7 with rent assistance, two with car expenses, and 1 water bill.

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.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) machine and Cabinet - \$1700



New Look and Ways to Share the Story for Micah's Caring Initiative

As part of a partnership with Make a Mark, a 12-hour volunteer led design-a-thon, we have a brand new logo for Micah's Caring Initiative, updated logos for the 5 programs, and a new landing page is in the works! Additionally, as part of a grant request process, Jennie collaborated with a volunteer graphic designer to create a video that shares the story of the Micah's Caring Initiative.

You can check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mNHO6E14sEA> . We've released brand new brochures as well that are placed throughout the church. Feel free to share them and thank you for all you do to help us show our friends and neighbors that we care about them!

Micah's Backpack April Report

In April, we shared over 8,100 meals with 274 children in our community. Our youth volunteer, Olivia Hodge, was honored at the NRV Leading Lights in part for her volunteer efforts at Micah's Backpack and Garden. The NRV Leading Lights made a gift of \$1,000 to Micah's Backpack in her name. **In May, Micah's Backpack will continue to collect 100 % juice boxes.** Thank you for sharing 74 food items in April!



Micah's Garden



2015 Raised Bed information packets are on the shelf in the hallway to the sanctuary. Many thanks to Ron Brewer for supervising the BIG Event volunteers who came out to St. Michael to spruce up our grounds and prepare Micah's Garden. Ellen Krupar, a Pamplin Librarian and Micah's Backpack volunteer, did a wonderful job recruiting volunteers. Thanks also to William Allen for transporting the volunteers on Micah's Mobile Backpack. If you'd like to rent a raised bed for 2015, please contact Jennie at jennie@micahsbackpack.org.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary. Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information. **We'll collect tomato soup in May.**



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May Servants

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Altar Care	Smiley and Birch families				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Fay and Clifton Walters	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Sandy Williams Shirley Linkous	Eddie and Katie Boes	Jackie and Neil Muir
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	WELCA	Mac McCloud	Dianne Krallman	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	WELCA	Corson Wertz	John Krallman	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Seth Brewer	Jessica Brown		Camden Brewer	Abby Brown
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Laura Gruss	Jody Smiley	Doug Smiley
Greeters	Ray Howell Don Linkous	Judy Clemens Cindy Dowdy	Betty Wingate Anna Rossomando	James and Wanda Pascoe	Marty Gordon Philip Isenhour
Lay Reader	Laura Peery	WELCA	Andrea Robinson	Kris Wertz	Seth Peery
Ushers	Don Linkous Ray Howell	WELCA	Don Linkous Anna Rossomando	James and Wanda Pascoe	Marty Gordon Philip Isenhour
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Lily Gruss	Emily Graves	Jack Graves
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Jennie Brogan	Apisa family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Jennie Brogan	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Katherine Berg	Guille Yearwood	Jennie Brogan	Deloris Raines

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: May 6 – Jeff Crowder, Bill King
Mowing schedule: 5/01-J.D. Robinson(front); 5/08-Daniel Ferrell (back); 5/15-James/Dennis(front); 5/22-Jay Nagle(back); 5/29-J.D. Robinson(front)
Rear: 5/04-Charlie Saks; 5/1 -Dave Surface; 5/18-Guille Yearwood; 5/25-Mike Berg

Women of the ELCA

All women are invited to the **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on Sunday, May 3** in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Bring a neighbor, friend, grandmother, aunt, daughter, or niece to this fun fellowship event. Beverages and dessert will be provided for the salad potluck luncheon.



On Sunday, May 10, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Thank Offering “baggies” will also be distributed **on Sunday, May 10 – Bold Women Sunday.** Our thank offering will be designated for malaria nets for our synod partner in Papua New Guinea. Together we can touch lives and fight malaria.

Remember the Food Bank: May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In May, let’s continue our donations of trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size).

O.K. (Older Kids) News

Out-To-Lunch Bunch

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together **on May 12 at noon at the new CineBowl & Grille at First & Main.** You can choose from the menu or take advantage of the \$5 special – hamburger and fries. A staff member will also give us a tour of the new entertainment facility.

Please make your reservation with Peggy Brown at pabrown1943@comcast.net or 552-8141 or sign up on the St. Michael *Welcome form* in the bulletin. Feel free to stay for a \$6 movie after lunch.



Our first bus trip will be on June 24 to the Settlers Museum of Southwest Virginia (called a “gem of a museum!” by Google reviews) in Atkins and the Dutch Pantry in Rural Retreat (an Amish restaurant and shop). **The registration deadline is June 16** and the cost is \$20 plus lunch. Registration forms will be available soon in the front hallway. Let’s go traveling.....



Vacation Bible School begins May 31

The adventure begins on Sunday, May 31 and continues through Thursday, June 4. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. If you are interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, sign up on the *Welcome form* in the bulletin or talk to Pastor John.

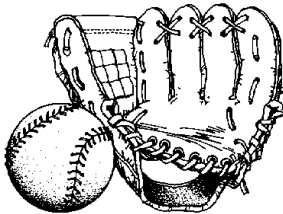
Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 3 at 1:30 PM

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 3 at 1:30 p.m. Come learn more about G Force and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley or Pastor John.

Sunday Bible Study on May 17

On Sunday, May 17 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on Jacob and Esau. Come learn about these brothers and their complicated family.

Take me out to the ballgame....



The team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better.

Monday, May 4	6:15 p.m.	First Wesleyan
Monday, May 11	7:15 p.m.	BUMC
Monday, May 18	6:15 p.m.	BCOC
Monday, May 25	8:15 p.m.	Christ Episcopal

Congratulations to...

Chris and Maggie Maloney on the birth of their daughter, Louisa Cate Grace, on April 1. Big brother Miles is looking forward to playing with little sister “Lulu”.

Olivia Hodge, who was recognized as the Leading Lights high school student volunteer of the year. Leading Lights recognizes volunteers in the New River Valley who are making community-changing impacts and serving as role models to inspire others. Olivia, a long time volunteer with Micah’s Backpack and Micah’s Garden, also organized a toothbrush drive at Blacksburg High School and serves as the vice president of the Better Community Club.

Margaret Christle and Eric Young who were named Teachers of the Year at Auburn Middle School and Price’s Fork Elementary School respectively. Margaret is the head librarian at Auburn while Eric serves as the music teacher at PFES.



Our 2014-2015 graduates

Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized at a **graduates reception on June 14** at the first 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Brandon Walters will be graduating from Blacksburg High School while Erin Albert will graduate from Auburn High School. Duane Hartwick and Lilly Goldsmith are graduating from Virginia Tech. Lori Anne Kirk will be graduating from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Michelle Pasier is graduating from Roanoke College. In addition, we will recognize our December 2014 graduates: Sarah Crowder, Kelley Robinson and Stephanie Pascoe.

Jan Helge Bohn, Associate Professor in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, who received the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education. Virginia Tech recognizes faculty members whose exceptional performance enhances and contributes to the university's three-part mission of learning , discovery, and engagement.

2015 Conference Gathering: Finding My Voice; Sharing My Faith

Each of us has a voice for speaking the name of Jesus to others, and we already have the stories about Jesus working in our lives! Come meet Bishop Mauney, Pastor Dave Delaney and Ellen Hinlicky as they lead us through a series of small group discussions focused on various ways to find your voice and share your faith.

The event begins at **3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3** and will conclude by 6 p.m. Everyone from youth to adults is invited to participate.



Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



New Worship Opportunity at St. Michael

Across the Spectrum is a worship and fellowship event inclusive of all people with all abilities and learning styles. This event was born out of a desire to provide a safe place of worship for people of all learning styles and persons on the autism spectrum, as well as their loved ones.

Across the Spectrum currently meets at Christ Lutheran Church in Radford and beginning in June will expand to St. Michael. This worship and fellowship event is led by Pastor Drew Tucker (Christ, Radford) and includes activities that provide multiple access points so that all people, regardless of ability, can find ways to engage God.

So, what does *Across the Spectrum* look like?

Multi-sensory stations that help to engage with more than just words, but pictures, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures.

Worship at your own pace in order to provide comfortable, accessible opportunities to learn more about God. There are no required activities, only an invitation to participate as God leads you.

Image-driven bulletins so that people of all abilities can see what activities are available. Some examples are:



(prayer)



(song)



(scripture)

Come and experience *Across the Spectrum* on **June 7 at 3 p.m.** in the fellowship hall at St. Michael and discover a new way to connect to God's love.

For more information about *Across the Spectrum*, you can contact:

Pastor John: pastorjohn@stmlc.us

or

Pastor Andrew Tucker: pastor@clcradford.org