



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmlc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

---

Volume 38, Number 6

June 1, 2015

---

## **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.

## **Under One Roof**

St. Michael is blessed to have a wonderful facility that hosts a wide range of ministries. Under one roof, we gather to worship God by lifting our voices in prayer and song. Under one roof, we gather to meet and to share in friendship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Under one roof, we gather to use our gifts to make a difference in the lives of local students and senior adults.

In the transition from spring to summer, we will see some of the ministries under our roof begin to change. The Sunday School year has drawn to a close, but the songs, crafts and games of Vacation Bible School begin to fill the building. Micah's Closet has completed its spring clothing distribution to 31 children, just as Micah's Garden begins to grow. The Sunday Night Bible Study goes on a summer hiatus, just as the possibility of a Summer Mom's Retreat begins to come into focus. Fun with Friends, our partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools is moving to Kipps in the fall, just as we begin to partner with Christ Lutheran, Radford, to host *Across the Spectrum*, a worship experience for people of all abilities.

Our church building itself may not change much from day to day, but to me one of the joys of ministry at St. Michael is discovering all the new and wonderful ways that God's people can unite under our roof to be God's heart and hands and voices in the world.

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 all the bold women who served during our worship services on May 10: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; to Wanda Pascoe, Mildred Wall, Betty Falta, Judith Wolfe and Joyce Coupey who helped with last month’s newsletter folding; to Ron Brewer for his landscaping work including mulching and trimming; to Wanda Pascoe for keeping our cleaning supplies in stock; to Judy Wunderlich for faithfully recycling all our paper and cardboard for so many years.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in May supported our heat pump maintenance, seeds and mulch for Micah’s Garden, summer clothing for Micah’s Closet, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, 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 May, we provided assistance for **23** families; 14 with electric bills, 4 with rent, 3 with a water bill, and 2 with car expenses. 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.

### Helping our Neighbors

**Remember the Food Bank:** June is “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 June, we’ll collect baby food.

### 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.

Ten 70 Qt. Heavy Duty Bins for food storage and transport on Micah’s Mobile Backpack  
@ \$25.00 each

1 new battery for Micah’s Mobile Backpack bus - \$300

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

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



In May we partnered with Pritchard Hall residents on their Move Out Food Drive. Freshman students leaving the largest dorm on VT's campus shared their unopened, shelf stable food with us and the Giving Tree Food Pantry. Micah's Backpack collected over 1,750 items that we will in turn share with the 275 kids who participate. May 28 is our last packing night for the academic year and we switch to Wednesday nights on June 10.

If you have ever wondered what it is like to pack bags of food for Micah's Backpack, check out the You Tube Packing Video created by one of our student volunteers for a class project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyD9qjMghUw>

The student wore a Go-Pro camera so you can really get a feel for what it is like to volunteer. In addition to the link above, you can also find the video on St. Michael's Facebook page.



Micah's Mobile Backpack will begin an expanded route on June 4. We will partner with Harding Ave and Price's Fork Elementary School faculty and staff to offer a bookmobile! We will also continue our partnership with 3 Bird's Berry Farm to offer fresh, organic blueberries to the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. Feel free to use this link if you'd like to help with blueberry picking: [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org).

## Micah's Garden

2015 Raised Bed information packets are on the shelf in the hallway to the sanctuary. If you'd like to rent a raised bed for the 2015 season (there are 5 available), please let Jennie know. Thank you to the Blacksburg High School Horticultural classes who walked over from the school and shared tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers with us. Also thank you to the Peerys for leading the potato and onion planting event!



**In June and July Micah's Backpack will collect small jars of peanut butter** for Peanut Butter from Heaven . Thank you for sharing 110 juice boxes in May!

## Micah's Soup for Seniors



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary. **In June, we will collect instant oatmeal.**

## Thank You from Micah's Closet



The spring clothing distribution was exciting for Micah's Closet. We were able to provide 5 pairs of shorts and 7 shirts to 20 children at Price's Fork elementary School and 11 children at Blacksburg Head Start for a total of 372 clothing items. Your support of this ministry is very much appreciated by the children and their families. It is a wonderful way to share God's love with our community! Thank you to all who donated clothing or provided financial support!

A special thanks for our shoppers: Sandy and Abbey Birch, Judy Clemens, Susan Donkers, Suzanne Gay, Lynn Hickok, Lynda Kinzey, Wanda Pascoe, Kris Wertz, Betty Wingate and the teachers at Price's Fork.

Micah's Closet is developing a partnership with Caleb's Closet. This is a new ministry started by Tried Stone Christian Center. Caleb's Closet is taking donations of gently used clothing for Men, Women and Children of all ages. Their plans are to open their clothing bank the first Saturday of every month. They will make the clothing available at no charge and also provide a meal to the families. **Micah's Closet will be sponsoring a gently used clothing drive at St Michael on Sunday, June 7th between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.** Bring your clean, gently used clothing in bags or boxes and we will provide a receipt representing your donation. All clothing gathered on June 7th will be delivered to Caleb's Closet.

If you have any questions about Micah's Closet or Caleb's Closet, contact Sheila McCartan at [mccartansheila@gmail.com](mailto:mccartansheila@gmail.com).

## Congratulations to....

**Doug Smiley**, who was nominated for the Governor's Innovation Award, for saving Virginia Tech nearly \$1 million in 2014 in the disposal of a high level radioactive source in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Doug is the university's Radiation Safety Officer, a position he has occupied for the past thirty five years.

**Seth Brewer**, who was recognized by the Rotary Club of Christiansburg-Blacksburg with a Junior Class Academic Achievement Award, presented to the top 5 percent of the junior class at Christiansburg High School.

**Judy and Bob Wunderlich**, who have retired and are moving to their new home in St. Petes Beach, Florida.

**Kelly and Peter McCann** on the birth of their daughter, Ella Grace, on April 22.

**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

<p><b>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</b></p>
--

***June Servants***

	<b>June 7</b>	<b>June 14</b>	<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 28</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Inga Solberg			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Dianne Krallman Sandy Williams	Lylah Shelor and Elaine Powers	Mayer family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Peggy Morgan	Jane Swing	Matthew James	Jennie Hodge
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Dean Rueschman	Joe Garst	Carrie Mayer
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Camden Brewer		Jessica Brown	Abby Brown
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Seth Brewer		Corson Wertz	
<b>Greeters</b>	McCartan/Brewer family	James and Wanda Pascoe	J.D. and Andrea Robinson	Randy and Sharon Robinson
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mickey McGuigan	Marty Gordon	Jeff Birch	Anna Rossomando
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Ron Brewer	James and Wanda Pascoe	J.D. Robinson Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg family	Donna Oliver	Deloris Raines	Saks family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Heather Pettus	Charlie Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Guille Yearwood	Katherine Berg	Martie Saks

Unloading for Micah’s Backpack on June 3: Ron Brewer and Dave Surface  
 Mowing: 6/5–Daniel Ferrell (back); 6/12–James/Dennis (front); 6/19–Jay Nagle (back);  
 6/26- J.D. Robinson (front)  
 Rear Lot: 6/1–Charlie Saks; 6/8-Dave Surface; 6/15- Guille Yearwood; 6/22-Mike Berg;  
 6/29-Charlie Saks

## Congratulations Graduates



Several members of our St. Michael family graduated this spring. **Erin Albert** graduated from Auburn High School and will be attending Virginia Tech, majoring in general biosciences. In high school, Erin participated in volleyball, tennis, the yearbook staff and National Honor Society. **Andrew Bales** graduated from Giles High School and will continue his education at New River Community College. Andrew played the trombone in the school band for seven years and plans to follow his uncle Tommy Howell and join the Marines in two years. Our Blacksburg High School graduate was **Brandon Walters** who will be attending Bridgewater College on a basketball scholarship. At BHS, he played on the varsity basketball and soccer teams and was a member of DECA. **Lilly Goldsmith** graduated from Virginia Tech majoring in Natural Resources Conservation with an option in Environmental Education and minors in Forestry and Horticulture. She will be attending the University of Georgia to earn a Masters Degree in Agricultural and Environmental Education. **Duane Hartwick** received his Bachelor of Science in Fish and Wildlife Conservation from the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment. He plans to continue working for the U.S. Forest Service again this summer and hopes a permanent position opens up with the Service. **Michelle Pasier** graduated from Roanoke College with a B.S. degree in Biochemistry. This fall, she will start working towards a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Virginia Tech. **Cara Walters** earned her B.S. in Business Administration from Virginia College Online. She is the Assistant Athletic Director of Game Operations in the Athletic Department at Virginia Tech. **Lori Anne Kirk** graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA with a Master of Divinity degree with concentrations in multicultural, interfaith and urban ministry. Her future plans include continuing her work in congregational ministry and chaplaincy. **Amy Woods** earned her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) from Radford University. She is the Assistant Chief Nursing Officer at LewisGale Medical Center in Salem. In February, **Stephanie Pascoe** graduated from Johnson and Wales University with a B.S. in Sports Entertainment and Event Management. She is currently residing in Cornelius, NC, and seeking employment in facilities operations in a sports or entertainment setting.

### “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on June 14 at 10:00 AM Honoring 2014-2015 Graduates

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 14 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with the St. Michael family as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.



## O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together for a catered meal **on Tuesday, June 9 at noon.** Joyce Coupey will help us find ways to share our stories with our families...how to pass along our history. After all, we are fascinating and memorable people!



Our first trip is Wednesday, June 24, as we travel south on I-81 to the Settlers Museum of Southwest Virginia in Atkins. Called "a gem of a museum", we'll learn about 1890's farm life while touring a fully restored farm and one-room school house and have a guided tour of the herb gardens. Then back up I-81 to Rural Retreat for lunch at the Dutch Pantry, an Amish restaurant and general store. The **registration deadline is June 16** and the cost is \$20. Lunch will be extra. Registration forms and additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board. The other planned trips are to the Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair and the Underground Exhibition Coal Mine in Beckley, WV in August, and the musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, at the Wohlfahrt Haus Theater in October.

## Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who is saving their change in the little **thank offering plastic baggies**. Please return the bags by Sunday, June 7. This special offering will be used to purchase malaria nets for our partner synod in Papua New Guinea. All of our pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters really add up.



The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held in Yorktown, VA on August 14-15. The convention theme is "Bold Women Called By Christ". We will be making cloth bags for foster children this year and patterns are available on [vswowebly.com](http://vswowebly.com). If you are interested in attending the convention or in sewing a cloth bag, please contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995 or [aa\\_schneid@yahoo.com](mailto:aa_schneid@yahoo.com). More information is also available on the hallway bulletin board.



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious salads to share for the Sisters in Christ luncheon in May. Pictured above are the Women's choirs at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Bold Women Service on May 10. Thank you to all the women who participated.



## 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.

## Thank You Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this an exciting year. From the pre-school class to the adults, the story of God's love and presence in our lives has been proclaimed. We appreciate all those who shared their time and talents this year including: Pastor John and Patrice Yearwood for leading our opening music, Margaret Christle, Cindy Dowdy, Maggie Maloney, Sheila McCartan, Kris Wertz for teaching our primary grades, Lilly Goldsmith, Anna Lehman and Jody Smiley for leading the middle and high school class, and Pastor John for leading the adult class. Thank you also to everyone who filled in and helped with service projects.

## Summer Youth Mission Trips

Pastor John will be leading two mission trips this summer for youth. The first trip will be a One-Day Mission Trip to Danville on Thursday, June 18. The participants will focus on the problem of homelessness and hunger by preparing meals for a homeless shelter and by helping to prepare and serve a meal for a soup kitchen. This trip is limited to 15 people and is open to all 6th through 12th graders. The registration deadline is June 8 or when the trip registration reaches 15 people.

The Junior High Servant Event at Virginia Beach will take place July 26 - 31. During the week, the group will undertake several projects to learn about and help with the problems of homelessness and hunger. The cost for the week is \$60 and the registration deadline is July 13.

For more information about either trip, please talk to Pastor John: [pastorjohn@stmhc.us](mailto:pastorjohn@stmhc.us).

## Take me out to the ballgame....

St. Michael is going to the **Salem Red Sox baseball game** on July 25. The game begins at 6:05 p.m. We have reserved a block of seats and the cost is \$8 per ticket. Please sign up on the *Welcome* form to reserve your ticket.

The St. Michael team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for some exciting ball.

Monday, June 1	8:15 p.m.	BCF
Monday, June 8	6:15 p.m.	NRVCC
Monday, June 15	7:15 p.m.	BJCC-LDS
Monday, June 22	6:15 p.m.	Slusser's Chapel
Monday, June 29	Tournament begins	

