



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 38, Number 7

July 1, 2015

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## Brothers and Sisters in Christ

### **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.

While I was at Confirmation Camp, I had the opportunity to speak with a few colleagues from Charleston, South Carolina about their experiences in the days following the shooting at Emmanuel AME Church. Initially, we compared notes about what it is like to do ministry in a community where a shooting has happened and what they could expect in the days and weeks to come. They then began to speak about their friend and classmate, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, and about the response of the local AME congregations and the Charleston community to the shooting.

As we talked, I learned about a pastor, a senator, a husband and a father who faithfully preached the Gospel and worked for the good of the whole community. I heard about the local AME congregations, who in response to the shooting, opened their church doors and welcomed all people to come together and pray for peace and unity. I heard stories of a community coming together, not to riot, but to grieve and to look for ways to move forward together.

In Galatians 3:28, Paul reminds us that in Christ "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." I know that racism, injustice and intolerance are generational problems that aren't overcome quickly, but I invite you to join me and the people in Charleston in praying that we, and all people, will see past the social and cultural characteristics that often divide us and instead treat one another as brothers and sisters united by God's love in one family of faith.

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 Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers; to Betty Wingate who organized the meals for Vacation Bible School; to Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to Tom Hodge, Rick Mayer, Litha and Josiah Tlou for serving on the St. Michael Scholarship Committee; to all our lawn mowing crew; Donna Oliver, Mildred Wall, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Nancy Young, Frances Edge and Joyce Coupey for folding the June newsletter; to the volunteers who unpacked the trucks for Micah’s Backpack; to Ray Howell for fixing an electrical problem; to everyone who brought food for the Simmers funeral luncheon.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in June supported Vacation Bible School supplies, 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 June, we provided assistance for **13** families; 8 with electric bills, one with rent, and four with a water bill. We also used the fund to purchase personal care kit supplies for Nepal. 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.

### **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.

8 - 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 - \$300

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

Thank you to Kenneth and Judith Wolfe for providing two bins for Micah’s Mobile Backpack.

### **Thank you to Thrivent Care in Communities and Action Team Grants**

Thrivent recently announced several grants for St. Michael for the following projects and programs: Micah’s Closet, Micah’s Backpack Summer Reading Project, the Outreach Booth at the Price’s Fork Fair, School Supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary, Micah’s Mobile Food, Danville Mission Project, Health Kits for Nepal and the Family Bible Project.



## School Supplies for Children in Need

In July and August, St. Michael will be working in partnership with other congregations in our area to collect school supplies for children in need in Montgomery County. The supplies we collect will go to students at Price's Fork Elementary School. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

### *Needed Items*

|                                       |                            |                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Backpacks                             | Pencils                    | Crayons         |
| Wide Rule Notebook Paper              | School Scissors            | Colored Pencils |
| Pencils School Scissors               | Anti-bacterial soap        | Tissue          |
| Glue Sticks                           | Pocket folders with prongs |                 |
| Black and white composition notebooks |                            |                 |

## Christmas in July Sunday, July 26

On Sunday, July 26, St. Michael will celebrate Christmas in July. Come and sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols and hear the story of Christ's birth unfold again. There is no tree to put up and no lights to hang..... just the celebration of Christ's birth and the joy of Christmas.



## Vacation Bible School a Great Success



Over 80 youth and adults participated in this year's Vacation Bible School. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts to make it such a wonderful week!

## Thank Offering Thank you

Our coins weighed 29.7 pounds and added up to \$328.31. Along with cash donations, our total gift for malaria nets for our partner synod in Papua New Guinea totaled \$593.31! WOW! Thank you for your generosity and caring.

**Needed: Clean, tear-free, plastic grocery bags for Micah's Mobile Backpack and Micah's Backpack. We reuse over 300 each weekend in the summer and 600 per weekend in the academic year. Please leave them in the church hallway. Many thanks.**



## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Our friends Connie Cummings and Joe Ivers have issued a Matching Challenge Gift for Micah's Backpack infrastructure needs. Gifts made during the Challenge will be doubled by them up to \$1,000! Feel free to double your impact and help us bring weekend food to kids in our community. You may use <http://micahsbackpack.org/giving/>, mail a check, or leave one in the offering plate earmarked for the Cummings and Ivers Challenge.



In June, we shared nearly 22 pounds of lettuce, kale, and Swiss chard with neighbors who visit Spiritual Roots Food Pantry. We also gave 200 servings of blueberries to the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. As crops begin to produce, there will be opportunities to help with harvesting and delivering to food pantries. E-mail [jennie@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:jennie@micahsbackpack.org) if you'd like more information or to help out.

Blueberry picking has started and spots remain if you'd like to share an hour to help. Volunteers pick at 3 Bird's Berry Farm so we can offer fresh, organic blueberries to the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. Feel free to use this link to sign up: <http://vols.pt/FbEm7u>.

If you have a bountiful home garden harvest and would like to share with our neighbors, let Jennie know. We will bring it to our food pantry partners or share in our outreach programs.



In June, we began our 3rd summer of delivering weekend meals and books directly to kids in our community. By our second week, we reached a milestone: 146 kids fed! Thank you to William Allen and Bryan Katz who serve as our volunteer drivers. Another round of thanks goes to William Allen, Jessie Brown, Betty Falta, Pat Garst, Olivia Hodge, Wanda Pascoe (pictured with one of the children), and Fran Shepherd for volunteering on the bus.



**In July, Micah's Backpack will collect small jars of peanut butter for Peanut Butter from Heaven.**

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:30 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary.



**In June, we will collect cans of green beans.**

**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
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## *July Servants*

|                        | July 5                        | July 12                    | July 19                        | July 26                        |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Altar Care</b>      |                               |                            |                                |                                |
| <b>9 AM Service</b>    |                               |                            |                                |                                |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Sandy Birch<br>William Allen  | Elaine Powers<br>Joe Garst | Lynn Hickok<br>Barbara Corbett | Neil and Jackie<br>Muir        |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Mac McCloud                   | Dianne Krallman            | Gary Worley                    | Lori Anne Kirk                 |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | William Allen                 | Sandy Williams             | Sandie Worley                  | Lylah Shelor                   |
| <b>11 AM Service</b>   |                               |                            |                                |                                |
| <b>Acolyte</b>         | Camden Brewer                 |                            |                                |                                |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | Sheila McCarten               |                            | Jody Smiley                    |                                |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | McCarten/Brewer<br>family     | James and Wanda<br>Pascoe  | Sandy and Jeff<br>Birch        | Gruss family                   |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Doug Smiley                   | Andrea Robinson            | Lori Anne Kirk                 | Laura Gruss                    |
| <b>Ushers</b>          | Dickie Shepherd<br>Ray Howell | James and<br>Wanda Pascoe  | Marty Gordon<br>Jeff Birch     | Philip Isenhour<br>Don Linkous |
| <b>Youth Servant</b>   | Emily Graves                  |                            | Jack Graves                    |                                |
| <b>6:30 PM Service</b> |                               |                            |                                |                                |
| <b>Greeters</b>        | Berg family                   | Deloris Raines             | Donna Oliver                   | Saks family                    |
| <b>Lay Reader</b>      | Mike Berg                     | Guille Yearwood            | Tacey Apisa                    | Charlie Saks                   |
| <b>Comm. Asst.</b>     | Michelle Berg                 | Guille Yearwood            | Deloris Raines                 | Martie Saks                    |

Mowing: 7/3–Daniel Ferrell (back); 7/10–James/Dennis (front); 7/17–Jay Nagle (back); 7/24–J.D. Robinson (front); 7/31–Daniel Ferrell (back)

Rear Lot ; 7/6–Dave Surface; 7/13–Guille Yearwood; 7/20–Mike Berg; 7/27–Charlie Saks

## “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on July 12 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael.



## O.K.s (Older Kids) on the Go



Nine folks participated in our first bus trip of the season to the Settler’s Museum of Southwest Virginia. The next trip is on Friday, August 28, to the Appalachian Arts & Crafts Fair and a visit to the Underground Exhibition Coal Mine and Mountain Homestead in Beckley, West Virginia. The beautiful scenery on the drive to Beckley is worth the fee alone. The registration deadline is August 20.

Registration forms for the trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (230-8823 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information.

Pictured below are the O.K.s standing on the Appalachian Trail which passes through the Settler’s Museum of Southwest Virginia. On the right, several O.K.s got in trouble in the old schoolhouse on the museum grounds and had to stand with their noses to the blackboard.



## Out to Lunch Bunch at Sal’s on Tuesday, July 14

We’ll gather for lunch at Sal’s at First and Main in Blacksburg on Tuesday, July 14, at 12:15 p.m. We’ll enjoy fresh, authentic Italian specialties and fine fellowship. Please make your reservation with Peggy Brown at [pabrown1943@comcast.net](mailto:pabrown1943@comcast.net) or 552-8141 or sign up on the St. Michael *Welcome form* in the bulletin.

## Women of the ELCA



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 [vswo.weebly.com](http://vswo.weebly.com). If you are interested in attending the convention or in sewing a cloth bag or donating a gym bag or small suitcase, 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. The cloth bags, gym bags and suitcases will be donated to programs for foster children who often do not have suitable bags to carry their belongings.

Save the date! **Monday, July 20, at 6 p.m. is Ladies Night Out.** Our restaurant will be announced in future bulletins and e-mails.

**Remember the Food Bank:** July continues with "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 July, we'll continue to collect baby food.

### Congratulations to .....

**Jennie Brogan and Ethan Hodge**, recipients of the 2015 St. Michael Scholarships. Jennie is attending Widener University in Chester, PA, pursuing a Ph.D. in Human Sexuality Studies, clinical track, and plans to enter the counseling field upon graduation. Ethan, a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church and a Micah's Backpack volunteer, will be attending Virginia Tech this fall with interests in a variety of engineering fields.

**Bert Kinzey**, on the publication of his 116<sup>th</sup> book (yes, you read that right – 116 books!). The title of the book is "Colors & Markings of the F-14 Tomcat, Part 1, Atlantic Coast Squadrons" and covers every Atlantic Fleet, Atlantic Reserve and Test & Evaluation Squadrons. Bert is a retired air defense officer in the U.S. Army. To learn more, visit [www.detailandscale.com](http://www.detailandscale.com).

all of the **St. Michael's graduates** who were honored at the June Second Sunday Summer Brunch. Pictured are the family of Duane Hartwick (Sharon and the kids), Clifton Walters, representing his two sisters, Cara and Amy, and nephew, Brandon, Lori Anne Kirk, and Wanda Pascoe, standing in for daughter Stephanie.

**Erin Albert**, a member of the Auburn High School girls tennis team, which won the state 1A championship.

**Anna Rossomando** and Thompson "Tom" McCullough who announced their engagement and August wedding plans.



## Welcome to the St. Michael Family!

On June 21, four new members joined the St. Michael family.

**Lylah Shelor** has worked for Virginia Tech in the Department of Information Technology for 32 years. She is married to Mac Shelor and has one daughter, two stepdaughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Lylah loves to travel and has visited all the continental United States with the exception of Alaska.

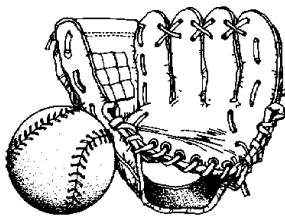


**John Kell** has been active in Boy Scout Troop 158 which meets at St. Michael, serving as Treasurer of the troop since 2011. He and many of the scouts have worked with Micah's Backpack at St. Michael as well. John has lived in Blacksburg since 1988 and has taught in the Biology Department at Radford University for over 23 years. He and his wife Susan live in Prices Fork with their two teenagers, Julia and Paul. John enjoys birdwatching, gardening and reading.

**Gary and Becky Steck** have lived in Blacksburg since 1998. Gary was born in Seattle while Becky was born just down the road in Radford. Becky works at MOOG and Gary works at Virginia Tech in the Department of Athletics. Gary's son Thomas is a third year medical school student at the University of Washington and their daughter Courtney will start veterinary technology classes in the fall at Blue Ridge Community College. Becky is an avid gardener, Gary enjoys exercise and softball, and they both love to travel.



## 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 or e-mail Suzanne at [suzanneg@stmlc.us](mailto:suzanneg@stmlc.us).

The St. Michael softball team invites everyone out to the Jaycee field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for the church softball tournament which begins on Monday, July 13. Watch for times and dates in the church bulletin and the pastor's weekly e-mail. **The team is undefeated!** Pictured are the players at the July 20 game. Go team!

