



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Ministry Partnerships

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.

As I look around the ministry landscape today, I see an extraordinary rise in the amount of ministry being accomplished through partnerships. For St. Michael, this is nothing new. From the SHARE cooperative food purchasing program, to the Community Thanksgiving meal, to our support of Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech, to Virginia Synod Youth Events, to the ELCA World Hunger Fund to the new Across the Spectrum Service, St. Michael has a long history of working with others to be God's heart and hands and voices in the world. In the Blacksburg community and in communities around the country, St. Michael is well known for sponsoring Micah's Backpack which claims over 200 partners and hundreds of individuals who give time and resources to feed hungry children in our community.

In August, we are entering into a new partnership that will expand our ministry to families and young children in our community. While there are still a number of hurdles to clear before everything is official, we are working with Total Action for Progress (TAP) and Rainbow Riders to launch an Early Childhood Head Start program at St. Michael for children from 6 weeks to 3 years old. This new program will serve families at or below the poverty line. Our goal is to address root causes of poverty by allowing parents to work or go to school and by providing early intervention and educational services to children who are at risk.

At the 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch on August 9, I will have an update on our progress in creating the partnership and more details about this exciting new program which will complement our existing Mother's Morning Out program and the Head Start for Preschool aged students at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmlc.us

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To the Caring and Sharing team for setting and cleaning up our Second Sunday Summer Brunch in July; our lawn team – Mike Berg, Jim Clemens, Daniel Ferrell, Jacob Dennis, Matthew James, Jay Nagle, Dave Surface, J.D. Robinson, Charlie Saks, Guille Yearwood; to Mildred Wall, Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen, Frances Edge, Betty Falta, Judith Wolfe and Joyce Coupey who helped with the July newsletter mailing; to the St. Michael softball team for representing us with great sportsmanship and fine playing in an undefeated regular season; to Betty Wingate for sprucing up our bulletin boards and to Braden Birch and Ron and Seth Brewer for all their yard work.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for a new lawnmower, devotional booklets, a new copier, two St. Michael scholarships, office supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted 16 families; 8 with their electric bills, 6 with rent, one with a water bill, and one 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.

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.

Eight 70 Qt. Heavy Duty Bins for food storage and transport on Micah's Mobile Backpack @ \$25.00 each
Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Machine and Cabinet - \$1700

Thank you to Meg and Harvey Petersen for donating a new battery for Micah's Mobile Backpack in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Olivia Hodge who was recognized as a Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Regional Honoree by the Sodexo Foundation. In honor of her recognition, Micah's Backpack as awarded a gift of \$1000.

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August Servants

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Altar Care	Elaine Powers/Jody and Doug Smiley				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Sandra Hough Sandy Williams	Nancy Goad Elaine Powers	Cliff and Fay Walters	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Gary and Sandie Worley
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe	Peggy Morgan	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Joe Garst	Sandy Williams	Nancy Goad	Jane Swing
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Camden Brewer		Seth Brewer		Abby Brown
Comm. Asst.	Seth Brewer		Jay Nagle		
Greeters	Brewer/McCartan family	Wanda and James Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Anna Rossomando Betty Wingate	Ben Simmers Randy Robinson
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Marty Gordon	Laura Peery	Mickey McGuigan	Seth Peery
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Philip Isenhour Anna Rossomando	Sharon and Randy Robinson
Youth Servant	Lily Gruss		Emily Graves		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Deloris Raines	Berg family	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Heather Pettus	Mike Berg	Charlie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Katherine Berg	Michelle Berg	Martie Saks	Guille Yearwood	Deloris Raines

Mowing: 8/7–James/Dennis (front); 8/14–Jay Nagle (back); 8/21- J.D. Robinson (front);
8/28-Daniel Farrell (back)

Rear Lot: 8/3–Dave Surface; 8/10–Guille Yearwood; 8/17–Mike Berg; 8/24–Charlie Saks;
8/31–Dave Surface

Unloading for Micah’s Backpack (August 5): Doug Smiley and Dickie Shepherd

Women of the ELCA



Remember the Food Bank: August is “macaroni & cheese” month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In August, we will donate toilet paper.

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. 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. More information is also available on the hallway bulletin board. Ready-to-sew kits will also be available. 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. Thank you to Joyce Coupey for sewing the first 10 bags on display in the church.

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



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 \$28 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) for more information. The trips are great fun....bring a friend.....join the rest of the kids.

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon on Tuesday, August 11 Back to school “gourmet school lunch”

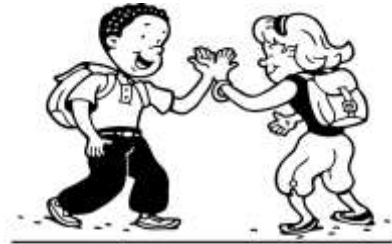
Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Really tasty food (mac and cheese supreme!) and fine conversation ... and a great program. Jim Montgomery, a local attorney who concentrates his practice in the field of estate planning and elder law, will share his expertise on "End of Life" issues...stuff we need to know.



The Blacksburg Chapter of AARP and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech invite us to stimulate our thinking about what it means to age successfully! On September 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., we have the opportunity to attend an event called “**LivingWell@50+**” and enjoy all sorts of learning and fun activities, e.g., wine tasting, Facebook, music from the Crooked Road, mindfulness, and a catered lunch. The cost is only \$30/person. For more information, visit www.blacksburgaarp.org or talk to Sandy Birch. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board.

Backpack Blessing on August 9

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 9. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.



Backpack Blessing

Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary



St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork Elementary School on Thursday, August 6. If you can help provide food, please sign up on the insert in the bulletin.

School Supplies for Children in Need

St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork Elementary School. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 9. The collection box is in the church foyer. Thank you.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissues
Notebooks	3-ring Binders
Black and White Composition Books	

Parenting Bible Workshop on August 29

All mothers are invited to a Parenting Bible Workshop on Saturday, August 29 from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Child care will be provided. Come discover Scripture passages which are helpful for parenting, receive a new Bible with notes and introductions and spend the morning talking about parenting, highlighting and tabbing passages focused on building qualities like: compassion, forgiveness, generosity and humility. The cost of the retreat is \$10. For more information, email Maggie Maloney: maggiesatch@gmail.com. To register, email Suzanne: suzanneg@stmlc.us.





Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Thank you to everyone who made a gift during the Cummings & Ivers Challenge Gift period. We hit our goal two weeks early and raised \$2,050 toward our infrastructure needs!



Thank you to Heather Pettus for recommending Micah's Caring Initiative to her colleagues at Adobe. We received our second grant from the Adobe Employee Community Foundation. They sent a check for over \$11,000 to help us feed and clothe our friends and neighbors in need!



We shared 6 meals and snacks with approximately 170 kids every weekend in July! Our friends at 3 Birds Berry Farm hosted a mini-field trip for some of our kids at the end of the month. The teachers and brand new principals of Harding Avenue and Price's Fork Elementary Schools helped share books too!

Volunteers picked and shared over 260 pounds of blueberries from 3 Birds Berry Farm! The kids who visit the Mobile Backpack love them and often ask for them before they check out books or fill out the next weekend's menu.

Thank you to Hank Schneider and his colleagues at Long and Foster for supporting Micah's Backpack with two huge Kroger food drives, an in-house food drive, packing on Wednesday night, and harvesting in Micah's Garden.

During August, Micah's Backpack will continue to collect small jars of peanut butter for Peanut Butter from Heaven . Clean, intact plastic grocery bags are also needed too. Thanks.



In July we shared over 400 pounds of green beans, lettuce, kale, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini with neighbors who visit Spiritual Roots and Giving Tree food pantries. Laura Peery also grew flowers that we gave to our friends at Warm Hearth.

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.

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary.



In August, we will collect microwaveable mac and cheese.



Thank you to all who participated in the gently-used clothing drive for Caleb's Closet. With your help, we supplied 11 bags and four boxes of men, women's, and children's clothing that will be shared with the community.

While we share gifts of clothing with local school children twice a year, there is another part of Micah's Closet that is quietly active year-round. Thus far, in 2015, 13 children on the Autism Spectrum have received a total of 164 new clothing items including shorts, shirts, jeans, shoes, socks and underwear. Thank you to Judy Clemens for leading this activity and thank you all for your continued support of Micah's Closet.



Sunday Bible Study on August 16 on Ephesians

On Sunday, August 16 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on the Book of Ephesians.

Stay Connected!

Our Website, Facebook Page, Email Newsletter and Bulletin Boards

If you are looking for the most current, up-to-date information on the ministries of St. Michael, be sure to check the St. Michael website: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org (useful when the newsletter is late in arriving), "Like" the St. Michael Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch>, or read the weekly, "Happening at St. Michael" email newsletter. If you aren't currently receiving "Happening at St. Michael", email the church at: hope@stmhc.us to be added to the distribution list. Also, current information is always posted on the hallway bulletin boards – check them out!



Get Connected too – met a new friend at church?...need some information?...there are "Let's Connect" forms at the back of the sanctuary for you to use to help us get and stay connected to one another.



"Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on August 9 at 10 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's "Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 9 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy fine food and fellowship. We will get an update of new projects and ministries starting in the fall at St. Michael.

St. Michael Church Music

There will be lots of music at St. Michael Lutheran Church starting in August and continuing all year long...AND there is something for everyone.



Adult and Youth Choir meets about every other Sunday, sometimes two Sundays in a row beginning August 30 and September 6. Practice begins at 10:00 a.m. or a little before to prepare songs for that Sunday and the future. Rehearsal CD's and/or music you can tap into on your computer to learn your part will be available soon. Let's get that singing started!

Handbells We will have 2 practices in November (November 15, 22 at 10:00 a.m.) and then play the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 29. We will also prepare music for Christmas and plan an Advent rehearsal schedule on Wednesdays. Let's get that ringing started!

Children's music Preschool-grade 5 will meet this year on the 2nd Sunday of each month and have fun with colored bells, singing, instruments and games. Come to the first class on September 13 at 10:00 a.m. and stay for the 11:00 service to share some VBS music and colored bells.

Hymn Choir This group will sing favorite hymns at the 9:00 a.m. service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We will meet 8:30 a.m. prior to the 9:00 service on the 2nd Sunday of each month starting September 13.

Instrumental Music We are looking for those of you that can play an instrument to get an instrumental group started at St. Michael. Please email me (patricey@stmhc.us) and let me know you are interested and what instrument you can play and we will build an orchestra, trio, combo or whatever works with our numbers and instruments. Reformation Sunday, October 25 is our first "gig" so get ready.

St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair on August 12-22



St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 21 and Saturday, August 22. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working at the booth, please sign up on the *Welcome form* in the bulletin, talk with Pastor John or contact Fran Gallimore (gerfran59@gmail.com). Volunteers always have a great time.