



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 9

September 1, 2015

At the Core of our Ministry

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 our mission statement makes clear, the people of God at St. Michael are invested in serving God by responding to God's love with thankful hearts, by caring for people in need, and by sharing God's Word with our neighbors.

Our mission and ministry now extend into the community through the Micah's Caring Initiative Ministries, through Mother's Morning Out and the Early Childhood Preschool, and through our support of the Virginia Synod and Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech. Each of those expressions of God's love in action is supported and sustained by the core ministries of St. Michael like worship, youth ministry, Christian education and pastoral care. In worship, we hear of God's generous love for us and discover why we care for people in need. Through youth ministry, we connect the next generation of believers to God's family of faith and invite others into community. Our classes and discussion groups which offer Christian education tell the story of God's love for all and the pastoral and shepherding care provided through the congregation helps unite us as the body of Christ. From this base of faithfulness, we are able to go out and be God's heart and hands and voices in the world in powerful ways.

To accomplish our mission, St. Michael draws support from worshipers, from partners in the community and from friends around the country. Over the next few months, you'll hear more about how our core ministries make an impact in the lives of individuals and you'll discover how with your help we can continue to grow the wonderful ministry of St. Michael. Thank you for your partnership in this powerful ministry that we share and for the ways that you make God's love known to 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 volunteers at the Price’s Fork Fair: Fran Gallimore, Fran Shepherd, Pastor John, Kris Wertz, Bill Greer, Linda Elliott, Mac McCloud, Margaret and Megan Christle, Dianne Krallman; to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price’s Fork Elementary; Parker Wertz for counting the school supplies; to the Caring and Sharing Team who set up and cleaned up the August Second Sunday Brunch; Betty Falta, Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen and Mildred Wall, who helped with the August newsletter mailing; to Joyce Coupey, Deloris Raines and Alice Schneider who sewed all the bags for the foster children; to everyone who provided food for the Price’s Fork Elementary School faculty and staff; to Pat Smith for faithfully delivering our food bank and Women’s Resource Center donations.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, the youth mission trip, utility bills, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. 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. In August, we assisted 21 families; 13 with their electric bills, 3 with a water bill, 4 with rent, and one with car expenses.

A Thank You



Dear Members of St Michael Lutheran Church,
Thank you to everyone who contributed to my Eagle Scout Service Project. The outdoor classroom at St. Michael was made possible by your generous support. I hope that the outdoor classroom will be utilized and bring years of enjoyment to the congregation. Sincerely, Alex Moehling

Pictured is Alex with his family in the outdoor classroom. They have since moved to Summerville, SC where Matt has accepted a new position at the Charleston Naval Base. The family will be very missed at St. Michael.

The 6:30 p.m. worshippers have already requested that pastor conduct a service or two in this wonderful outdoor facility across the parking lot.

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

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

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

September Servants

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Altar Care	Brewer/McCartan family			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Ben and Carol Crawford	William Allen Nancy Goad	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Neil and Jackie Muir
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Mac McCloud	Jennie Hodge
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dianne Krallman	Matthew James	Judith Wolfe
11 AM Service				
Acolyte			Camden Brewer	
Comm. Asst.	Corson Wertz		Sheila McCartan	
Greeters	Ray Howell Sandy Birch	Judy Clemens Cindy Lang	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Gruss family
Lay Reader	Jeff Birch	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Christle	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Philip Isenhour Marty Gordon	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers	M. McGuigan James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Megan Christle	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Saks family	Deloris Raines	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Katherine Berg	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa	Heather Pettus
Comm. Asst.	Mike Berg	Martie Saks	Deloris Raines	Michelle Berg

Mowing schedule: 9/4-James/Dennis(front); 9/11-Jay Nagle(back); 9/18-J.D. Robinson(front);9/25-Daniel Ferrell(back)

Rear: 9/7 –Guille Yearwood;9/14-Mike Berg; 9/21-Charlie Saks; 9/28-Dave Surface

Unpacking for Micah’s Backpack: 9/2 – Ron Brewer and Jeff Birch

Women of the ELCA



Our noon-time Bible study, **Lunch and Learn, returns on Monday, September 21** at noon at the church. Jody Smiley has prepared a special study for us while we enjoy a light lunch and fellowship. The meeting will be over before 1 p.m. so participants can return to their work places on time. All women of St. Michael (and friends) are invited. Contact Sandy (birch@vt.edu) if you need a ride.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 11 at St. Michael. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference.

Remember the Food Bank: September is **soup** month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In September, we'll collect paper supplies: toilet paper and paper towels. The collection basket is in the hallway.

Thank you to everyone who provided school supplies for children at Price's Fork. We delivered 5 backpacks, 62 boxes of crayons, 131 glue sticks and bottles of glue, 585 pencils, 131 spiral notebooks, 192 folders, and lots more needed supplies. The complete list is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

During the next few months, the congregation will again be encouraged to **fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Reservation** in South Dakota. Last year, we shipped nearly 300 boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex.



The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Out to Lunch Bunch

Our next adventure is to Cabo Fish Taco for lunch on **Thursday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m.** For reservations, contact Peggy Brown at 552-8141 or sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin.



The O.K.s. are encouraged to sign-up for the **LivingWell@50** Conference at Virginia Tech on Tuesday, September 8. Visit www.blacksburgaarp.org or talk with Sandy.



**OKs
on the Go!**

On Thursday, October 8, the O.K.s. will be traveling to the Wohlfahrt Haus Theater for the musical, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, set in the Oregon wilderness. A four course lunch is served prior to and during the production. The registration deadline is October 1 and the cost is \$52 which includes the lunch, musical and transportation.

Remember when you were young and were assigned to the "kid's table" at big family dinners? Well, we've got a **Older Kid's Table** this month in the back of the sanctuary which is covered with important information and brochures for seniors. Pick up your copies now.

Sunday Night Bible Study on September 27

On Sunday, September 27th at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom on the book of James.

Happy 47th Birthday St. Michael Luncheon on September 27



The annual St. Michael Celebration and Birthday Luncheon will take place on September 27 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.

Come enjoy delicious food catered by the Cellar Restaurant, tasty birthday desserts provided by St. Michael members, and wonderful fellowship together.

A free will offering will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The event is hosted by the Women of the ELCA.

You are invited to **sign up to provide a birthday dessert** for one of the birthday months on the sign-up form on the hallway bulletin board.

Church Volleyball Team Forming

St. Michael will have an Adult Co-ed Volleyball team which will play in the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation League this fall. If you are interested in playing, please sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin. Games will be played on Tuesday nights and should begin in mid-September. The deadline for registration is Sept. 3. See Ron Brewer for more information.



Sunday School Returns September 13



All children, youth and adults are invited to come kick-off the new year of Sunday School on September 13th at 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary. On that day, we'll have a class for adults focused on generosity and abundant joy in 2 Corinthians 8 and the church in Macedonia. There will be a class for Middle School and High School youth and Patrice will lead the Elementary and Preschool youth in Songs and Stories. If you have questions about any of the classes, please contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

During September, Micah's Backpack will collect chicken or vegetable soup. Thank you for sharing 77 jars of small peanut butter. Lylah Shelor and her colleagues collected an additional 74 jars and all told our partners gave over 615 jars during the Peanut Butter from Heaven campaign.

In August we said farewell to our summer intern, Catherine Christian, and we began preparations for the 2015-16 School Year. Schools will finish collecting permission slips from participants and we plan to feed approximately 300 students in Blacksburg schools.



Thank you to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church for granting our request for funding. Their Manna Committee provided a grant across all the Micah's Caring Initiative programs for \$12,000.

Beginning in September, we will be packing on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. Come and share your time to make a difference!



In August we shared over 450 pounds of beets, green beans, lettuce, kale, squash, tomatoes, zucchini, and watermelon with neighbors who visited Spiritual Roots Food Pantry and Giving Tree food pantries.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

Thanks to the volunteers in August who packed and distributed 95 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We continue to use food donated by the congregation and Panera Bread. What great gifts we have received! The next packing date is Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. with distribution at 5:45 p.m. Come and share in this wonderful time of fellowship and service. For more information, contact Dianne Krallman at dkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com.



Soup for Seniors will collect boxes of saltine crackers in September.

Micah's Closet



The goal of Micah's Closet is to provide up to a week's worth of new school clothes to children in need at times of seasonal changes, through a partnership with schools and individuals. Our partners at Price's Fork Elementary School are determining who needs assistance from Micah's Closet. We anticipate receiving that information soon and shopping for clothing in the next month. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sheila McCartan at mccartansheila@gmail.com. Shoppers who have already volunteered will be contacted soon.

St. Michael Church Music

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



Adult and Youth Choir meets on the 1st and 4th Sundays, 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 starting September 13.

Instrumental Music We are seeking those of you who 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. 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.



Kroger Community Rewards Program – Need to Renew Your Card Number

For a number of years, members of St. Michael have contributed to Micah's Backpack and the Justice and Mercy Fund through Kroger Cares and our Kroger Plus cards. But we must renew our card numbers each year. Just visit the secure website: krogercommunityrewards.com to update your individual Kroger Plus card to one of St. Michael's accounts. Members can now designate their contribution to Micah's Backpack using #83513 or Justice and Mercy using #82386 or search for Micah's Backpack or Justice and Mercy on the appropriate screen. Over the years, thousands of dollars from Kroger Cares gift cards have been added to our Justice and Mercy and Micah's Backpack funds. Thank you to all who have donated through this community program. Instructions on using the rewards program are also available on the hallway bulletin board.



Thank you for the Generous Gifts of School Supplies to Price's Fork Elementary School!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies to help the students at Price's Fork Elementary School. Because of your generous gifts, Price's Fork received 585 pencils, 192 folders, 131 spiral notebooks, 119 glue sticks, 104 pens, 62 boxes of crayons, 43 composition books, 40 pairs of scissors and 137 other items to help students get back to school.



Lutherans Mark Week of Service, September 5-13

The Virginia Synod will be observing a Week of Service from September 5-13. This is part of an ELCA churchwide emphasis which highlights the call for the church to be engaged in serving the world for the sake of Christ. Here are two service opportunities through Micah's Caring Initiative during the week.

- **Micah's Backpack Packing Night** - Thursday, September 10 at 6 p.m. Come prepare gifts of food for the coming weekend.
- **Micah's Garden Harvest and Clean Up Day** - Saturday, September 12 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Come help harvest food, weed and clean up the garden as we prepare for the end of the growing season.



Congratulations to....

Victoria and Adam Akers who were married on May 16. Victoria serves as our nursery assistant at St. Michael and is studying to become a high school English teacher. The newlyweds reside in Radford.

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

Thank you to Carol and Ray Howell for providing storage bins for Micah's Backpack.