



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Strengthening Our Core Ministries

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.

Your gifts to support the core ministries of St. Michael - worship, education, caring and shepherding - make a tremendous impact in the lives of people in our congregation and our community. Thanks to your generous gifts, we are able to gather for worship in a comfortable and well maintained sanctuary and share in a time of prayer and reflection that is supported by wonderful musicians. Thanks to your generous gifts, we invest time in studying and learning more about God's word through Sunday School, Lunch and Learns and Weekly Bible Studies. Thanks to your generous gifts, we provide care and shepherding to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ by visiting those who are sick, celebrating with those experiencing moments of joy and connecting youth and adults to one another in small groups. Your gifts of time and financial resources make ministry happen at St. Michael and in our community.

As we look ahead to 2016, we have an opportunity to expand the ministry we are doing with youth and families in the congregation and to strengthen our efforts to actively share God's love with the community around us. Over the next few weeks, you'll receive an invitation to help make this ministry growth a reality. I hope you will prayerfully consider growing your giving in support of St. Michael's core ministries and return your estimate of giving card at worship on Sunday, October 25. Thank you for your generous stewardship of God's gifts to you and for your support of God's ministry at St. Michael.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmhc.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 everyone who provided birthday cakes for the birthday celebration and helped set-up and clean-up after the Birthday Luncheon to Kevin Long and The Cellar Restaurant for providing our delicious luncheon; to Mildred Wall, Betty Falta, Linda Elliott, Donna Oliver, Margaret Larsen, Joyce Coupey and Wanda Pascoe who help fold the newsletter; Wanda Pascoe for folding the weekly bulletins; to Marty Gordon for shampooing the fellowship hall carpet; to our Circle of Grace tree planters: Bob Brown, Ron Brewer, Pastor John, Dean Trimble, Dickie Shepherd, and Bill Pettus; and to Jackie Muir for taking our directory photos; to New River Engraving for providing all our signs and plaques.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided volleyball team registration, vacuum cleaner repair, Sunday School materials, office supplies, bathroom fixture repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, support of our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we assisted **19 families**: 13 with electric service, 3 with a water bill, one with rent, one with medical expenses and one with car expenses.

Happy First Anniversary -- Timmy Akinola



Last September, St. Michael welcomed a new organist to our ministry team and the sanctuary has resounded with beautiful music all year. What a wonderful ministry Timmy has shared with our congregation.

Thank you Timmy.

St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. If you have an interest in contributing toward the following items, please contact Pastor John.

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

Material to Cover New Youth Room Sofas - \$150

Half-Scholarships for Youth Events - \$75

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October Servants

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Clifton and Shelane Walters	Carrie and Rick Mayer	Sandy Williams Lylah Shelor	Elaine Powers Joe Garst
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Carrie Mayer	Peggy Morgan	Jennie Hodge
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Nancy Goad	Lylah Shelor	Joe Garst
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer		Seth Brewer	
Comm. Asst.	Seth Brewer		M. McGuigan	R. Robinson
Greeters	Becky and Gary Steck	Judy Clemens A. Rossomando	Litha and Josiah Tlou	James and Wanda Pascoe
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Lori Anne Kirk	Jay Nagle	Laura Gruss
Ushers	Gary Steck Ray Howell	Philip Isenhour Dickie Shepherd	Litha and Josiah Tlou	James Pascoe Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Jack Graves	Lily Gruss
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Deloris Raines	Deloris Raines	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Katherine Berg	Charlie Saks	G. Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Heather Pettus	Martie Saks	G. Yearwood

Mowing: 10/2-James/Dennis (front); 10/9-Jay Nagle (back); 10/16-JD Robinson (front);
10/23-Daniel Ferrell (back); 10/30-James/Dennis

Rear Lot: 10/5-Guille Yearwood; 10/12-Mike Berg; 10/19-Charlie Saks; 10/26-David Surface

Unpacking for Micah's Backpack: 10/7 – Bill King and Doug Veit

Women of the ELCA



All Women of the congregation are invited to the 2015 New River Valley Fall Gathering on Sunday, October 11 at St. Michael. “Bold Women Called by Christ” will be a fun fellowship event with our sisters in the New River conference and begins at 2:30 p.m. Ellen Hinklicky, Director of Lutheran Partners in Mission, will present an excellent program about “Seven Remarkable Lutheran Women”. Our offerings will benefit the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) and the Betty Wilson Scholarship Fund to help women attend the WELCA Triennial Conference in 2017. Pastor Terrie Sternberg has challenged us to bring a “bold dessert or snack” – let’s see what we can come up with! For more information, contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995.

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, October 26, at noon at the church. We will participate in a Bible study led by Jody Smiley and enjoy a delicious lunch and fine fellowship.

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

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In October, we’ll collect baby food and diapers.

In October and November, the WELCA members at St. Michael are encouraging our congregation **to fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program (ages 4-6) on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. This gift box is often the only gift a child receives.

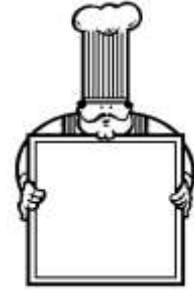


The contents of each box should be worth about \$15 (e.g., about 14-15 items from the Dollar Tree), including books and other educational items (especially those that help them with reading or arithmetic). Plastic shoe boxes are available in the front hallway. We will be collecting the filled and unwrapped boxes through mid-November and on Sunday, November 15, during Sunday School, we will prepare the boxes for mailing.

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

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, October 13 at noon for a Virginia Tech tailgate**. Anna Rossomando is preparing her special pork bar-b-que and cole slaw. Don't miss this event.



**OKs
on the Go!**

On Thursday, October 8, the O.Ks. 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 the production. The registration deadline is **October 1** and the cost is \$52 which includes the lunch, musical and transportation.

The Caring and Sharing Team

The Caring and Sharing Team encourages and organizes hospitality and service at St. Michael and seeks to provide an environment of love and caring within and outside the congregation. The team's activities include the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers, the Price's Fork Fair Outreach Booth, and the Second Sunday Summer Brunches. If you would have fun helping with any or all of these events, please talk to Fran Gallimore (gerfran59@gmail.com) or Pastor John (pastorjohn@stmhc.us) about **joining the team**.



The Volleyball Team Begins the Season

The St. Michael volleyball team plays on Tuesday nights at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. The October schedule includes games on October 6 at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., October 13 at 8 p.m., October 20 at 7 p.m. and October 27 at 6 p.m. Come out and cheer for the team!

Sunday Night Bible Study on October 18 at 7:15 P.M.

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, October 18 at 7:15 p.m., on the Book of Romans.

**Sunday School for All Ages Begins at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary
See the Schedule in the Bulletin for Information on Each Class.
Everyone is Welcome!!**



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

We've started the school year feeding 248 kids at all the Blacksburg public schools and two income-based preschools. Our two Virginia Tech student interns, Kathy and Jasmine, have returned and we are happy to have them back after their summer break. Feel free to come out on a Thursday evening from 6-7 p.m. to help make a positive impact in the lives of hungry kids in our community.



Micah's Backpack will collect 100% juice boxes in October. We send home nearly 300 juice boxes every weekend. Thank you for your gifts of vegetable soup in September!



In September, we shared a little over 105 pounds of produce including 85 pounds of potatoes that went home with neighbors who visit the Giving Tree Food Pantry. By the end of this growing season, we will have given more than 1,800 pounds of fresh produce to our food pantry partners and to children who visited Micah's Mobile Backpack in the summer. Thank you to Seth and Laura Peery for being dedicated caretakers of our crops and garden space!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

We have successfully finished our third year of the program and provided over 3,200 bags of food to an average of 90 seniors during these three years. It has been an exciting and joyful journey.



The next **packing date is Tuesday, October 27** at 5 p.m. with distribution beginning around 6 p.m. This month, we will **collect cans of corn.**



As the weather turns chilly, the Micah's Closet volunteers are actively shopping for fall clothing for 32 children from Price's Fork Elementary School and 10 children from the Blacksburg Head Start Program. We are thankful for all the financial support and the work this summer to obtain grant money for the purchases. Special thanks to the Blacksburg Newcomers Club which has provided ten volunteer shoppers. Also, we have been blessed with a donation of books from Judy Clemens so we can provide books along with the clothing.

Shoppers are asked to return the items they purchased to St Michael by Sunday, October 4th. Thank you volunteer shoppers!

Some Music “notes”



Come raise your voice... in song, that is. The **St. Michael Choir** rehearses at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. In October, we will be practicing on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays to prepare music for upcoming worship services.

The **Hymn Choir** meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:30 a.m. and sings at the 9:00 a.m. service. Come, practice and sing all on the same day.

Instrumentalists-- there is something for you too. It would be fun to have you play a solo for a worship service or help to put together a group.

If you'd like to get involved in any area of St. Michael's music ministry, please contact Patrice at payearwood1@gmail.com or talk to her after worship or at choir practice. We would love to have you share your musical talents.

Sharing Your Gifts Makes Ministry Happen

In October, the Stewards team invites you to think about the ways that your gifts make ministry happen at St. Michael and in the world. You will have a chance to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to ministry at St. Michael in 2016. Estimating your giving provides you with the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide what God is calling you to give in response. **You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship on October 25.** With your help, we will combine our gifts to make ministry happen in our community.



Generosity Survey

St. Michael has been invited to participate in an online survey about generosity. Our goal is to have at least 30 people take the survey and share ideas. The "Discovering a Spirit of Generosity" survey is anonymous and will only take a few minutes to complete. If you decide to fill it out, you will need to indicate that you are from the "Virginia Synod" and you'll need to enter the Congregational Code for St. Michael which is "07177". You can find the survey at: <http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=MacCong>.

Combined Virginia Campaign Donations to Micah's Backpack

The Combined Virginia Campaign (CVC) has kicked off for 2016! Micah's Backpack would like to have your support for the new year to help feed local students. If you are a part of the Virginia Tech community, you can make a gift through the CVC by designating Micah's Backpack (#07544).

Meet St. Michael's Youth Leaders

This fall, St. Michael is blessed to have two leaders to help with youth ministry - Anna Lehman and Alec Alderman. Alec and Anna are both students at Virginia Tech, members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry group and long-time participants in Virginia Synodical Youth events. They will be helping Jody Smiley and Kris Wertz with Sunday School for middle school and high school youth (allowing us to have discussion groups for each age group), assisting with the Confirmation Lock-ins, planning youth group activities and leading our participation in Synod youth events.

Youth Group Service Project on October 11



All youth are invited to a service party immediately following the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, October 11. We'll have pizza for lunch and take part in a service project for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. If you have questions, contact Anna at alehman@vt.edu.

Youth Event and Confirmation Class on October 25

On Sunday, October 25 from noon to 1:30 p.m., all youth are invited to food and fun. We'll enjoy lunch together, carve pumpkins and play some games. From 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m., the Confirmation Class (6th, 7th and 8th graders) will spend some time learning about the Apostle's Creed.

2015-2016 Virginia Synod Youth Events

Did you know that the Virginia Synod Youth Events are considered among the best Lutheran Youth Events in the entire country? This year, there will be three opportunities for youth to experience these wonderful faith and community building events. For more information or to register, please talk to Anna at alehman@vt.edu or to Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Lost and Found (7th/8th Graders) - Nov. 20-22

Winter Celebration (9th-12th Graders) - January 15-17/22-24, 2016

Seventh Day (5th/6th Graders) – March 5-6, 2016

Confirmation Sunday on October 25

At St. Michael, youth participate in Confirmation instruction during their 6th, 7th and 8th grade years and affirm the baptismal promises made by their parents on Reformation Sunday during their 9th grade year. This year, we rejoice to welcome Camden Brewer into membership in the congregation.



Circle of Grace

The Circle of Grace was created to proclaim God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people, to provide a final resting place for the cremated remains of our beloved, and to create a contemplative place of solace for those who grieve. Over the last year, elements of the Circle of Grace including the circle, the memorial walls, the cross sculpture and decorative plantings have been installed through the generosity of individuals who have given their time and made gifts in memory of a loved one. The cross sculpture and memorial wall were dedicated on Sunday, September 27. Below are a few pictures of the Circle of Grace and the recent work that has been completed. If you are interested in learning more about the Circle of Grace, you can talk to Pastor John or go to:

<http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/ministries/circle-of-grace/>

