



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmclc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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Thank You, Jennie!

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.

On the day in September 2008, when a small group gathered in the fellowship hall at St. Michael to talk about the possibility of starting a backpack feeding program, it was obvious that Jennie Hodge was passionate about feeding hungry children. What I didn't know and what, I imagine, Jennie didn't know was that her passion would help Micah's Backpack grow into a major community organization feeding 280 hungry students per week in 11 schools with the help of hundreds of volunteers and partners.

Jennie will be the first to tell you that Micah's Backpack is a community ministry that only happens because of generous people who share their gifts of time and resources and she is correct. Every group, however, needs a leader and Jennie has been an extraordinary leader for Micah's Backpack and an advocate for fighting childhood hunger. Jennie's passion for feeding hungry children is infectious. Jennie's generous hospitality has helped create a volunteer opportunity that is both fun and makes a difference. Jennie's sense of grace and generosity has helped recruit volunteers, has created a network of partners that crosses cultural barriers and a strong connection between Virginia Tech students to the Blacksburg community.

It has been my pleasure to work with Jennie across the years and to see her grow into such an exceptional leader. On behalf of the many volunteers and participants with Micah's Backpack and the people of St. Michael, I want to thank Jennie for all she has done to make a difference in our community. We wish her well as she and her family move to North Carolina.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmclc.us

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, Joyce Coupey, Margaret Larsen, Mildred Wall and Frances Edge who folded April newsletters; to Ron Brewer and Sheila McCartan for all their yardwork; to Ron Brewer and Marty Gordon for supervising the VT students during the Big Event; to Jeff Birch who power-washed the sidewalks; to everyone who provided Easter lilies and funds for Micah’s Backpack, Micah’s Soup for Seniors and Micah’s Closet as Easter gifts; to Peggy Brown for organizing the Out to Lunch Bunch luncheons; to all the shoppers and to Sheila McCartan for organizing the spring distribution of clothing for Micah’s Closet.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported special musicians for an Easter service, offering envelopes, softball registration, landscaping mulch, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministry staff. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for 24 families:** 14 with electric bills, 6 with rent assistance, and 4 with water bills. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the 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.

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

Elements of the Circle of Grace: Stone Circle Base to Surround Cross Sculpture - \$950

Under One Roof Update

Thanks to your generous support, **over \$6300 has been** given to help replace the roof on the sanctuary, to redo the trim and to replace the siding. The contract for the work on the roof has been signed and once we raise an additional \$1700, we will sign the contract for the new siding on the sanctuary. If you would like to make a gift to support the Under One Roof projects, you can place a **check in the offering plate** or make a gift online at: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations/>.





At the end of April, an interview committee including Gary Worley, Becky Steck, Pastor John, Jennie, and two long-time volunteers interviewed candidates for the new Director of the program. The committee unanimously selected Pastor Susan Verbrugge. Susan will be a familiar face. Prior to accepting a call to Glade Church, she led worship for a few Sundays for Pastor John while he was away. Susan brings years of community engagement and non-profit management and a spirit of grace to Micah's Backpack. Additionally, our youth volunteer Olivia Hodge won a \$500 scholarship from the Blacksburg Junior Women's Club in large part due to her service to Micah's Backpack. Please message Susan if you'd like more information on ways to help out: hope@micahsbackpack.org.

During May, Micah's Backpack will collect granola bars. We send home nearly 2,400 snacks every month. Thank you for sharing 200 food items snacks in April!



Mary Nickel has come on board in Micah's Garden to be our new Garden Manager. Mary brings a lifetime of vegetable growing experience to Micah's Garden. Mary sees herself as "passionate in helping people succeed." There are 4 beds available for the current growing season. Feel free to connect with Mary if you'd like to help in the Garden: hope@micahsgarden.org



We just completed the Spring distribution for Micah's Closet. Because of your generosity and that of our community, we were able to provide a weeks worth of new summer clothing to 32 elementary school children. In addition, clothing and diapers were provided to 12 families in the Head Start Program that meet at St Michael. Thank you to all of our shoppers for their help in filling the Closet! Your continued support of this ministry is greatly appreciated.



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:30 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary. Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbeltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information. In May we will collect individual cups of applesauce or mixed fruit.



Surf Shack Vacation Bible School Begins June 5

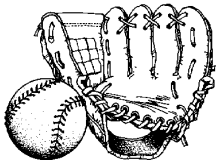
The adventure begins on Sunday, June 5, and continues through Thursday, June 9. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Look for the registration form in the bulletin and online in May.



Sunday Bible Study on May 15

On Sunday, May 15 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.

Take me out to the ballgame....



The team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park or the Tom's Creek field for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better. The team is undefeated so far!

Monday, May 2	8:15 p.m.	JC Field
Monday, May 9	8:15 p.m.	JC field
Monday, May 16	8:15 p.m.	Tom's Creek
Monday, May 23	8:15 p.m.	Tom's Creek
Monday, May 30	7:15 p.m.	JC Field

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May Servants

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Altar Care	Doug Smiley				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Carol and Ben Crawford	Sandy Williams Elaine Powers	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Dave Surface Butch Akers	Mayer family
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	WELCA	Steve Ray	Mac McCloud	Carrie Mayer
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Dianne Krallman		Jacob Dennis	Lylah Shelor
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Camden Brewer	Camden Brewer	Ryan Lund		
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Randy Robinson	Corson Wertz	
Greeters	Ray Howell John Kell	Anna Rossomando Betty Wingate	Gary and Becky Steck	Ferrell family	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	WELCA	Mandy Lund	Kris Wertz	Marty Gordon
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	WELCA	Don Linkous Gary Steck	Dan Ferrell Ben Simmers	James Pascoe Philip Isenhour
Youth Servant	Bryce Dowdy		Lillie Lund	Parker Ferrell	
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Sandy Birch	Donna Oliver	Saks family	Apisa family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Alice Schneider	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Alice Schneider	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Lori Anne Kirk

Unloading for Micah's Backpack: May 4 – Dave Surface and Mike Berg
Mowing schedule: 5/7-J.D. Robinson(front); 5/14-Daniel Ferrell (back); 5/21-James/Dennis(front); 5/28-
Jay Nagle(back)
Rear: 5/2-Mike Berg; 5/9 -Reed Yearwood; 5/16-Dave Surface; 5/23-Charlie Saks; 5/30-Mike Berg

Women of the ELCA

The **Annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon** held on May 1 was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the salad potluck and learned how to “say it with flowers.”



Congratulations to Patrice Yearwood and Maggie Maloney who were named St. Michael’s Bold Women for 2016. Maggie, an art teacher for Montgomery Schools, has introduced wonderful art projects into the Sunday School program and is responsible for the beautiful banners on display in the sanctuary during Advent. Patrice, our music director, leads all our church choirs including the hand bell choir, provides accompaniment for our Holden Evening prayer services, and leads the singing during the Sunday School opening. Thank you Maggie and Patrice for bringing the arts to St. Michael.

On Sunday, May 8, the worship services will be led by women of the church as we **celebrate women acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Thank Offering “baggies” will also be distributed **on Sunday, May 8 – Bold Women Sunday.** Our thank offering will be designated to the SE Michigan Synod and will be used in Flint, MI. Specifically, the funds will help purchase bottled water, filters, and pipe replacement in homes and schools. Everyone deserves clean water and we can help!

Remember the Food Bank: May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome. **Remember the Women’s Resource Center:** In May, let’s continue our donations of trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size).

In May, we will be collecting items for health kits to be given to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR is helping thousands of people this year who have experienced great loss due to natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, and the massive numbers of refugees throughout the world. We can help LWR provide people who have lost everything with basic necessities and allow them to know someone still cares. **Items needed for each kit include bath size bars of soap, adult toothbrushes, a sturdy comb and a metal nail clipper.** Bath-size towels for the kits will be purchased with Thrivent funds.

One Day Youth Mission Trip – June 16



All youth 5th grade and up are invited to participate in a One Day Mission Trip on June 16 to Hungry Mother Lutheran Camp. We will be working with other youth from our area to do some improvements around the camp, to repair a low ropes course and to add a new element to the course. The plan is to leave around 7 AM and return by 9 PM. The cost for the event is \$10 (lunch and dinner are included). Parents and friends are welcome. Please register for the trip by signing up on the Welcome sheet in the bulletin starting on May 1. The deadline to register is June 12.

O.K. (Older Kids) News

Mark your calendars for the next Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon on Tuesday, June 14. Our next Out to Lunch Bunch gathering will be in July.



O.K.s On The Road



Our first bus trip will be on June 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to the historic Grandin Village, one of the more eclectic and friendly areas of the Roanoke Valley. We'll explore the many quaint shops and learn a bit about the history of this unique community. Lunch is on our own at the Village Grill. During the afternoon we'll visit the Black Dog Salvage Marketplace with vintage and unusual antiques as well as works by local and regional artisans. The cost is \$10 and the registration deadline is June 6. Reservation forms are available on the hallway bulletin board.

Thrivent Action Teams at Work

Thrivent Action Teams have helped with several projects at St. Michael in April. Supplies for personal care kits that were assembled during the Fools for Christ lock-in and food for Micah's Soup for Seniors were purchased with funds from Thrivent.

Thrivent members can apply for \$250 for projects they feel passionately about that benefit our community. Benefit members can do two projects per year and associates can apply for one. Based on the number of benefit and associate members at St. Michael this could be over \$6000 that could be used to help our community and more.

We have several possible projects you could help with this summer. We already have some eager folks ready to help with supplies for the Across the Spectrum worship, books for the Micah's Mobile Backpack summer program, and materials for the mission trip in June to Hungry Mother Retreat Center. Other projects this summer that could use an action team are purchasing supplies for St. Michael's outreach booth at the Prices' Fork Fair, food for Micah's Backpack, material for the WELCA's sewing project, and school supplies for the start of the school year.

Please consider applying for a project. It is easy to do and you get approved very quickly. If you want to be part of an action team, contact Jody Smiley or Pastor John. We will be glad to help you with the application process and answer any questions you might have.



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Congratulations to...

Ben Crawford, who was recognized for volunteer service as a Leading Light for his leadership in founding the Kiwanis Club of Blacksburg, the Community Foundation of New River Valley, and numerous volunteer roles with the Boy Scouts, 4-H, Ruritan and AARP. Ben devotes a significant and ongoing amount of time to volunteerism which address community needs and make an impact.



Margaret Christle, library media specialist at Auburn Middle School, who was named Montgomery County 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year. Margaret has worked at Auburn Middle since 2014 and has also worked at BHS. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Montgomery Floyd Regional Library and is an expert in her field, providing presentations and publishing articles on the changes school libraries must undergo to best serve the students and teachers in the building.

Lindsay Hayes, who was honored as Kipps Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Lindsay is pictured with her husband Peter and her parents, Sharon and Randy Robinson.



Our 2015-2016 graduates



Several members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this May and will be recognized at a **graduates reception on June 12** at the first 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Katherine Berg, Katie Garst and Olivia Hodge will be graduating from Blacksburg High School, while Seth Brewer will be graduating from Christiansburg High School and the Southwest Virginia Governor's School. Brian Birch will receive a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.