



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Creating Safe Spaces for Children

### **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 St. Michael's ministry with young children continues to expand, the Congregational Council and I believe that the time is right to begin to formalize our policies for keeping children safe. Thankfully, the informal policies we currently have in place, like doing background checks on nursery workers, seem to have been effective. By taking proactive steps to formalize and strengthen our policies, however, we hope to ensure that we are doing everything possible to try and keep children at St. Michael safe.

To achieve this goal, the Council established a team to review our informal policies, to see what is working and where we have room for improvement. The team will also be reviewing sample policies from other churches and church-focused insurance companies. Our goal is to put together a helpful, functional policy that can continue to guide our efforts to provide both safe and meaningful ministry with children at St. Michael.

I know that in many places policies are only created after there is a problem, but at St. Michael our goal is to take proactive steps to prevent problems before they occur. For example, we are currently in the process of replacing our sanctuary roof, before we have experienced any leaks. By exploring the steps needed to create safe space for children now, we hope to put in place a system that actively works to protect children so that we can try and avoid problems in the future. If you have any questions about our efforts to create safe spaces for children at St. Michael, please let me know.

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--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.*

### **Thank you to some “quiet” servants**

To all the bold women who served during our worship services on May 8: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; to Wanda Pascoe, Mildred Wall, Betty Falta, Judith Wolfe, Margaret Larsen and Joyce Coupey who helped with last month's newsletter folding; to members of our church congregational council for their caring and dedication; to all who have contributed to Under One Roof.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in May supported Micah's bus inspection and repairs, the annual septic system inspection, office 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 May, we provided assistance for **16** families; 7 with electric bills, 5 with rent, 2 with a water bill, and 2 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.

### **Thank You Sunday School Teachers!**

Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this an exciting year. From the pre-school class to the adults, the story of God's love and presence in our lives has been proclaimed. We appreciate all those who shared their time and talents this year including: Pastor John and Patrice Yearwood for leading our opening music, Margaret Christle, Andrea Robinson, Maggie Maloney, Mandy Lund, Elizabeth Graves and Sheila McCartan for teaching our primary grades, Alec Alderman, Jody Smiley, and Kris Wertz for leading the middle and high school class, and Pastor John for leading the adult class. Thank you also to everyone who filled in and helped with service projects.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank the St. Michael family for all the cards and prayers you shared with me during my illness. Sincerely, Billy Brown

### **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

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Thank you to the Adobe Employee Community Foundation for its continued support! For this grant cycle, they awarded \$7,125 for Micah's Backpack, Mobile Backpack, and for our Garden manager salary. We really appreciate Heather Pettus' work as an advocate for our programs at Adobe.



Packing for the summer switches to Wednesdays on June 1. Feel free to come out to help with set up at 5:30 p.m. or to pack from 6-6:45 p.m. Please message Susan if you'd like more information on ways to help out: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org).

During June, **Micah's Backpack will collect small jars of peanut butter.** During the summer many of our kids frequently choose peanut butter as part of their weekly menu. Thank you for sharing 124 granola bars in May!



Micah's Mobile Backpack deliveries begin on June 2. We will again partner with Harding Ave and Price's Fork Elementary School faculty and staff to offer a bookmobile.

It's time to pick blueberries for Micah's Mobile Backpack on Tuesday evenings at 3 Birds Berry Farm which will again generously donate 4.5 gallons each week. Volunteers will spend an hour between 5-7 p.m. The sign-up link is <http://vols.pt/YM7hog>. The children love the berries!

Thank you to all who have worked on the garden. Seth Peery and John Kell braved the snow in April to get the potatoes planted. John also did some serious weed-eating on the edges of the beds. Mrs. Gaertner's Blacksburg High School horticulture students planted tomato plants they had grown and strawberry plants donated by Nancy Vogelarr, a long-time garden volunteer. The first row of beans, snow peas, carrots and radishes are up and growing. Flats of squash, peppers and cucumbers are awaiting their turn to be planted.



We are also going to nurture some future gardeners from the Rainbow Riders Day Care. In June, older children from Rainbow Riders helping in the garden once a week.



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary. **In June, we will collect packets of instant oatmeal or packets of grits.**

## Congratulations to....

**Butch Akers**, who recently retired from the mental health field after 47 ½ years of service. Butch started working at St. Albans Psychiatric Hospital in his freshman year of college and continued through its merger with Carillion Roanoke Memorial Hospital and the new facility at New River Valley Medical Center. The latter part of his career was spent working as a Mental Health Therapist, providing a wide range of services including Art Therapy and Cognitive Therapy. In retirement, Butch sees himself spending more time with his watercolors, working in the garden, and traveling with his wife Sue.



**Jeff Birch**, who retired from the Department of Statistics at Virginia Tech after nearly 40 years of service. Jeff plans to take singing lessons (to the delight of his fellow choir members), learn how to play the guitar, become a master gardener and travel with Sandy – especially spending special weeks in cities like New York City or Minneapolis and pretending they live there.

**Olivia Hodge**, a recent Blacksburg High School graduate, who won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, the Kollmorgen Scholarship and the President’s Volunteer Service Award at Blacksburg High School. Olivia has been active with Micah’s Backpack since the program began over 8 years ago.

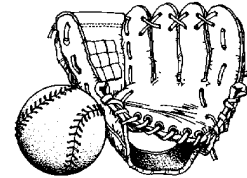
**Katherine Berg, Seth Brewer, and Olivia Hodge**, recipients of 2016 St. Michael Scholarships. Their names will be engraved on the scholarship plaque in the church hallway.

## Take me out to the ballgame....

St. Michael is going to the **Salem Red Sox baseball game** on Saturday, August 13. 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.

The St. Michael team invites everyone out to the Jaycee softball field for some exciting ball.

Monday, June 6	6:15 p.m.	Christ Episcopal
Monday, June 13	7:15 p.m.	First Wesleyan
Monday, June 20	7:15 p.m.	BCOC



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***June Servants***

	<b>June 5</b>	<b>June 12</b>	<b>June 19</b>	<b>June 26</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sandy Birch			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Gary and Sandie Worley	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Joe Garst Dave Surface	Jackie and Neil Muir
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Peggy Morgan	Matthew James	Judith Wolfe
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Sandy Williams	Joe Garst	Nancy Goad
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ryan Lund	Camden Brewer	Ryan Lund	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Brian Lund		Mickey McGuigan	
<b>Greeters</b>	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	J.D. and Andrea Robinson	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Randy and Sharon Robinson
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mandy Lund	Andrea Robinson	Mac McCloud	Anna Rossomando
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd	J.D. Robinson John Kell	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Lillie Lund		Bryce Dowdy	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg family	Donna Oliver	Berg family	Saks family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Heather Pettus	Charlie Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Guille Yearwood	Katherine Berg	Martie Saks

Mowing: 6/4-JD Robinson (front); 6/11-Daniel Ferrell (back); 6/18-James/Dennis (front); 6/25-Jay Nagle (back)

Rear Lot: 6/6-Reed Yearwood; 6/13-Dave Surface; 6/20-Charlie Saks; 6/27-Mike Berg

## Congratulations Graduates



Several members of our St. Michael family graduated this spring. **Katie Garst** graduated from Blacksburg High School where she played an active role in the marching band as a section leader and was also a member of the swimming and softball teams. She has enlisted in the Marine Corps and plans



on spending her summer preparing to ship out to recruit training in November. She's thankful for everyone in the congregation who has supported her and watched her grow up, especially her St. Michael softball teammates. We know she will represent St. Michael



wherever the Marine Corps will take her. **Olivia Hodge** also graduated from Blacksburg High School where she had very successful seasons on the BHS cross country and track teams. Olivia has won several scholarships and awards for her community service work and is looking forward to attending the University of Oregon in the fall. She plans to major in sports business. **Seth Brewer** graduated from both Christiansburg High School (CHS) as well as the

Southwest Virginia Governor's School. He will be attending the College of William & Mary where he will study Physics and Mathematics. At CHS, Seth participated as a member of the Quiz Bowl team for two years specializing in Physics and Mythology and was on the golf team. He was also the Captain of the Math M.A.C.C. team. During all four years, the Math team won the conference and went on to compete at Super



M.A.C.C. where they took first place during two of his four years. Seth has been an active member of the St. Michael Youth Group, participating in a variety of service events and enjoyed the Synod Youth Events (Lost & Found, Winter Celebration and Kairos). At Blacksburg High School,

**Katherine Berg** participated in the marching band for four years and played on the tennis team. She was a member of the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society.



Katherine enjoys ballet dance and is planning to study Biochemistry at Virginia Tech. She also hopes to play bassoon with one of the musical ensembles on campus. **Brian Birch**

earned a Masters in Engineering in Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech. Brian, Dorothy and Abbey will be moving to Southern Maryland in June where Brian will begin his new career designing helicopter engines as a Supervisor and Turbo Lead Engineer at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.



## O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together for a catered meal on **Tuesday, June 14 at noon**. We'll have an Italian festa!



### 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.

## Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who is saving their change in the little **thank offering plastic baggies**. Please return the bags by Sunday, June 12. This special offering will be designated to the SE Michigan Synod and will be used in Flint, MI to help the residents purchase bottled water, filters and pipe replacements. All of our pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters really add up.



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA on August 5-6. The convention theme is "All Anew to Serve Others". The service projects are part local, part global and include personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and sani-panties for Little Dresses for Africa. If you are interested in attending the convention or in sewing the panties, please contact Jody Smiley at 250-6149 or [jdsmiley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net). More information is also available on the hallway bulletin board.



## Helping our Neighbors

**Remember the Food Bank:** June is "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 June, we'll collect baby food.

**“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch  
June 12 at 10:00 AM  
Honoring our 2016 Graduates**

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with the St. Michael family as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.



**One Day Youth Mission Trip – June 16**



All youth 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to participate in a One-Day Mission Trip to Hungry Mother Lutheran Camp on June 16. 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 a.m. and return by 9 p.m. 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* form in the bulletin. The deadline to register is June 12. For more information, please talk to Pastor John: [pastorjohn@stmlc.us](mailto:pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

**Junior High Servant Event – July 24 – 29**

The Junior High Servant Event is a week long mission trip for youth who have completed the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. We will join with youth from around the Virginia Synod to spend a week in Virginia Beach, learning about people in need and providing assistance. The cost for the week is \$75. You can register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-the-waters-edge-junior-high-servant-event-2016-tickets-20298748102>. Please select the “Register Online, Pay at Church” option.

**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.

If you would like to help provide food for the evening meals, you can find the list of needed items on the back of the *Welcome* form in the bulletin or you can email Suzanne at: [suzanneg@stmlc.us](mailto:suzanneg@stmlc.us).