



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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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.

Newsletter, Sunday Servants and Thanksgiving

For years, St. Michael has been blessed with wonderful, gifted leaders who have shared their time and their expertise to make ministry happen within the life of our congregation. Over the last few years, a few of those long-time leaders have begun to transition into new stages of ministry, have retired or have moved to be closer to family. In May, we announced that Fran Gallimore was moving and would no longer be leading our Community Thanksgiving Meal. This month, I want to let you know that in September Sandy Birch will retire from her role as Newsletter Editor and Sunday Servant coordinator. While Sandy and Jeff aren't moving, Sandy believes that now is the time for her to begin to transition into retirement. We give thanks for Sandy's years of dedicated service, for her expertise in scheduling and for her ability to helpfully capture the ministry of the congregation in the newsletter each month.

With these changes comes an opportunity for others to develop and use their gifts to support God's ministry at St. Michael. I invite each of you to prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to serve in one of these three roles.

- ▶ Community Thanksgiving Meal Coordinator
- ▶ Newsletter Editor
- ▶ Sunday Servant Coordinator

If you are interested in learning more about what those roles involve or think your gifts might be a good fit, I would love to talk to you about the ways that you can help support God's ministry at St. Michael.

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 Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers; to Pastor John and Ron Brewer who organized and prepared the meals for Vacation Bible School; to Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to Mac McCloud, Andrea Robinson and Keith Gay for serving on the St. Michael Scholarship Committee; to all our lawn mowing crew; Mildred Wall, Margaret Larsen, Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, and Joyce Coupey for folding the June newsletter; to everyone who prepared food for Betty Gross’s memorial service luncheon.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June supported Vacation Bible School supplies, our nursery worker wages, office supplies, the St. Michael scholarships, 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 June, we provided assistance for **22** families; 16 with electric bills, 3 with rent, one with a water bill, one with funeral expenses 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.

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

Thank you to Thrivent Care in Communities and Action Team Grants

In June, Thrivent Action Teams at St. Michael provided supplies for the mission trip to Hungry Mother Retreat Center and will be purchasing books to be distributed during the summer Micah’s Backpack feeding program. To date, Thrivent, through our Action Teams, has provided \$1,250 to help with our ministries. In July, we have more opportunities to help. One team will buy school supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary School. Another team could apply for funds to help buy items need for St. Michael’s outreach booth at the Price’s Fork Fair or for supplies needed for the Across the Spectrum worship service. New ideas are always welcome. If you are interested in finding out more about the Thrivent Action Teams or how to apply for funds, contact Jody Smiley or Pastor John.



School Supplies for Children in Need

In July, St. Michael will be working in partnership with other congregations in our area to collect school supplies for children in need in Montgomery County. The supplies we collect will go to students at Price's Fork Elementary School. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

Needed Items

Backpacks	Pencils	Crayons
Wide Rule Notebook Paper	School Scissors	Colored Pencils
Pencils School Scissors	Anti-bacterial soap	Tissue
Glue Sticks	Pocket folders with prongs	
Black and white composition notebooks		

Christmas in July Sunday, July 24

On Sunday, July 24, St. Michael will celebrate Christmas in July. Come and sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols and hear the story of Christ's birth unfold again. There is no tree to put up and no lights to hang..... just the celebration of Christ's birth and the joy of Christmas.



Vacation Bible School a Great Success

Over 70 youth and adults participated in this year's Vacation Bible School. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts to make it such a wonderful week! A special thanks to our teachers and assistants: Maggie, Linda, Kris, Jody, Patrice, Ron, Jane, Tammy, Elizabeth, Sheila, Fran, Cindy, Judy, Andrea and Brian.

Thank Offering Thank you

Our coins weighed over 10 pounds and added up to \$129.10. Along with cash donations, our total gift for the Flint, MI water projects was \$310.10! WOW! Thank you for your generosity and caring.

Needed: Clean, tear-free, plastic grocery bags for Micah's Mobile Backpack and Micah's Backpack. We reuse over 300 each weekend in the summer and 600 per weekend in the academic year. Please leave them in the church hallway. Many thanks.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Thank you to Blacksburg Presbyterian Church's Endowment Fund for the continued support of Micah's Caring Initiative. The Manna Team recently provided Micah's Soup for Seniors with \$2,500, Micah's Closet with \$2,500, and Micah's Mobile Backpack with \$2,280!



In June, we shared nearly 22 pounds of lettuce, kale, and Swiss chard with neighbors who visit Spiritual Roots Food Pantry. We also gave 200 servings of blueberries to the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. As crops begin to produce, there will be opportunities to help with harvesting and delivering to food pantries.



Blueberry picking has started and spots remain if you'd like to share an hour to help. Volunteers pick at 3 Bird's Berry Farm so we can offer fresh, organic blueberries to the kids who visit Micah's Mobile Backpack. Feel free to use this link to sign up: <http://vols.pt/FbEm7u>.

If you have a bountiful home garden harvest and would like to share with our neighbors, let Mary know. We will bring it to our food pantry partners or share in our outreach programs.



Micah's Mobile Backpack is on the road! We are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers who have come out to pack bags on Wednesdays and to the faithful that ride the bus to help hand out bags and books on Thursdays. Susan is especially thankful for the volunteers who have helped show her the ropes as she jumps into her role as director. She says there is no

way she could have done it without all the help and good will from volunteers.

During May, MBP sent home over 1,050 bags of food to approximately 275 children each week. That makes 6,352 meals going into the tummies of hungry kids. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible! For more information, contact Susan Verbrugge at susan@stmlc.us.

In July, Micah's Backpack will collect fruit cups.

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:30 p.m. Join us! No experience necessary.

In May and June, some special volunteers from BB&T made Micah's Soup for Seniors their service project. We appreciated their help with the program. We continue to appreciate Panera Bread's donations of their leftover breads, bagels and pastries. The seniors really enjoy these special treats.



In July, we will collect cans of green beans and corn.

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July Servants

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Altar Care	Betty Wingate				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	William Allen Sandy Birch	Nancy Goad Butch Akers	Mayer family	Neil and Jackie Muir	Gary and Sandie Worley
Lay Reader	Mac McCloud	Peggy Morgan	Carrie Mayer	Jacob Dennis	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Nancy Goad	Sandy Williams	Steve Ray	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Ryan Lund		Camden Brewer		
Comm. Asst.	Corson Wertz		Sheila McCartan		
Greeters	Lund family	Wanda and James Pascoe	McCartan/Brewer family	Anna Rossomando Betty Wingate	Sharon and Randy Robinson
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Jeff Birch	Lori Anne Kirk	Mickey McGuigan	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Ron Brewer Seth Brewer	Philip Isenhour Anna Rossomando	Randy Robinson Ben Simmers
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Emily Graves		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Berg family	Donna Oliver	Saks family	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Katherine Berg	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Tacey Apisa

Mowing: 7/2-J.D. Robinson (front); 7/9-Daniel Ferrell (back); 7/16-James/Dennis (front); 7/23-Jay Nagle (back); 7/30-J.D. Robinson (front)

Rear Lot ; 7/4-Reed Yearwood; 7/11-Dave Surface; 7/18-Charlie Saks 7/25-Mike Berg

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on July 10 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 12 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael.



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

Pictured are the OKs who participated in our first bus trip of the season to Grandin Village and the Black Dog Salvage Company. The executive director of the Grandin Theatre gave us a wonderful tour and shared the history of the theater and neighborhood.



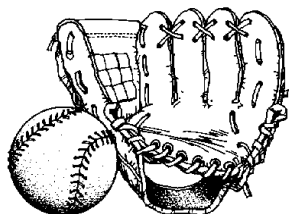
The next trip is on Wednesday, July 13, when we will enjoy a leisurely ride along the Blue Ridge Parkway, a stop at Mabry Mill, and a visit to the tasting room at the

Chateau Morrisette Winery (or just relax in the winery courtyard and savor the views of the Blue Ridge Mountains). We’ll have lunch at the winery restaurant. 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 deadline for registration is **July 6** and the cost (transportation only) is \$12.

O.K.s On The Road



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 or e-mail Suzanne at suzanneg@stmhc.us.

The St. Michael softball team invites everyone out to the Jaycee field at the Blacksburg Municipal Park for the church softball tournament which will begin in July. Watch for times and dates in the church bulletin and the pastor’s weekly e-mail. Go team!

Women of the ELCA



*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 Alice Schneider at 552-6995 or aa_schneid@yahoo.com. More information is also available on the hallway bulletin board.

Save the date! **Tuesday, July 12, at 6 p.m. is Ladies Night Out** at the Olive Garden restaurant. Make your reservation on the *Welcome* form on Sunday or contact Alice. Invite a friend.

Remember the Food Bank: July continues with "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 July, we'll continue to collect baby food.

Congratulations to

the **St. Michael's graduates** who were honored at the June Second Sunday Summer Brunch. Pictured are Seth Brewer and Katherine Berg.

Jessica, Maddie and Abby Brown who received First Communion on Sunday, June 19 at the evening service. Maddie and Abby were also baptized. The girls are pictured with their family.



Jody Smiley who was re-elected to the Virginia Synod Council.

Lee and Wilma Pieper who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 23.

Fay and Clifton Walters who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 3.

Junior High Servant Event July 24 – 29

The Junior High Servant Event is a week-long mission trip for youth who have completed the 6th, 7th, or 8th grades. We 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 to you 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. If you have any questions, speak with Pastor John.

One Day Mission Trip To Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center

On June 16, youth and adults from St. Michael joined with youth and adults from Grace Lutheran Parish in Rural Retreat to spend a day making repairs and having fun at Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center. Here are a few pictures from the day.

