



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Adding New Tools to Your Faith Toolbox

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.

Each summer, a group of parents and leaders sits down to take a look back at Sunday School from the previous year and to plan for the coming year. This summer, the group realized by making a few changes to our approach, we could do a more effective job of nurturing faith in children, youth, and adults. Over the course of three meetings, we identified our strengths, considered our options and crafted a new approach I believe will not only do a better job of nurturing faith, but will also do a better job allowing folks with busy schedules to plug into our faith formation activities.

We are calling this new approach: *Filling Your Faith Toolbox* and we will be focusing on making connections between faith and daily life. The plan is to use stories, art, music and service to invite kids, youth and adults into deeper conversations about who God calls us to be and what that looks like in real life.

With *Filling your Faith Toolbox* will come a new schedule. Each month kids, youth and adults are invited to take part in a **Sunday morning** gathering on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of the month** beginning at 9:50 a.m. and in a **Sunday evening** gathering for a meal and service project on the **second Sunday of the month** beginning at 5 p.m. You can find the full schedule for the fall and a list of 2nd Sunday Service Projects inside the newsletter.

I hope you will give *Filling Your Faith Toolbox* a try and if you have any questions about this new approach to faith formation 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 volunteers at the Price's Fork Fair: Dianne Krallman, Fran Shepherd, and Pastor John; to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price's Fork Elementary; to Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen, Mildred Wall and Linda Elliott who helped with the August newsletter mailing; to everyone who provided food for the Price's Fork Elementary School faculty and staff: Fran Shepherd, Jody Smiley, Pastor John, Betty Wingate, Amy Stilwell, Peggy Brown, Dianne Krallman, Lynda Kinzey, Dave Surface, John Kell, Judy Clemens, Becky Steck, Suzanne Gay, Alice Schneider, and to John Kell for helping to deliver the breakfast; to Dickie Shepherd for cutting back the weeds and grass in front of the far parking lot; to Ray Howell and Tommy Howell for attacking the weeds around the church.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price's Fork Fair, youth mission trip expenses, the new door security system, 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 20 families; 15 with their electric bills, one with a water bill, two with rent, one with medication and one with phone expenses.

Two Thank You Notes

Dear Members of St Michael Lutheran Church,

We want to thank the St. Michael community for such a wonderful breakfast this morning! What a way to welcome teachers back and start the year. We appreciate all that went into organizing, preparing, and delivering the breakfast. We are just so thankful for the many ways that you support our Price's Fork Community! The breakfast was so amazing. Sincerely, Dom Saia, Principal

Thanks so much for the wonderful lunch that followed mom's funeral. Over the years, she helped with such events at the church as the church still does. Our family was very pleased and impressed with the food provided by all of those involved. Thanks for helping us get through the difficult day. Kevan Harris on behalf of Charlene Harris' family

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

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

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September Servants

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Ben and Carol Crawford	David Surface Butch Akers	Neil and Jackie Muir	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Peggy Morgan	Mac McCloud
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Sandie Worley	Lylah Shelor	Matthew James
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Camden Brewer		Ryan Lund	
Comm. Asst.	Sheila McCartan		Corson Wertz	Megan Christle
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Betty Wingate Anna Rossomando	Lund family	Wanda and James Pascoe
Lay Reader	Andrea Robinson	Kris Wertz	Mandy Lund	M. McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Philip Isenhour Anna Rossomando	Brian Lund Don Linkous	Wanda and James Pascoe
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Lillie Lund	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg family	Donna Oliver	Graves family	Saks family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks

Mowing schedule: 9/3-Daniel Ferrell(back); 9/10-James/Dennis (front); 9/17-Jay Nagle(back); 9/24-J.D. Robinson(front)
Rear: 9/5 -Dave Surface; 9/12-Charlie Saks; 9/19-Mike Berg; 9/26-Guille Yearwood

Women of the ELCA



Our noon-time Bible study, **Lunch and Learn**, returns on **Monday, September 19** at noon at the church. Led by Jody Smiley, we will explore “When God’s not fair – coming to terms with a merciful God.” Our first session deals with how we come to terms with a God who forgives the guilty. It is entitled, “When God’s not fair: Jonah and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.” We’ll study these intriguing topics while enjoying 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.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 16 at 2:45 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Pulaski. 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 22 backpacks, 60 boxes of crayons, 197 glue sticks and bottles of glue, 849 pencils, 139 spiral notebooks, 167 folders, and tons of other 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 304 boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex.



Some Highlights from the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization’s 29th Annual Convention

The Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) met at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond for our 29th convention in August. As always, it was a time of fellowship, fun, business, and service.

We elected officers, board members, and voting representatives to the 10th Triennial Convention in Minneapolis, MN in July 2017 and passed the 2017-2018 budget. Offerings were collected at the opening worship service and totaled over \$2700 to Sole Hope (our service project for 2017) and \$1525 for the ministries of the VSWO and Women of the ELCA. We assembled over 700 health kits for LDR and members donated over 700 homemade sani-panties and 280 pairs of underwear for the Little Dresses for Africa program. Alice Schneider and Joyce Coupey sewed 129 of the panties shown in the photograph. Thank you!



The keynote speaker was Pastor Lynn Litchfield from Grace Inside, a prison ministry and one of the Mission Partners of the VA Synod. She delivered a wonderful and inspiring message about how the lives of incarcerated men and women are touch by this ministry. The VSWO is committed to helping this organization in the coming year.

The O.K.s (Older Kids)

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon Back to school “gourmet” school lunch

On Tuesday, September 6, we will enjoy a delicious school lunch AND wonderful music provided by Bonnie Birch, Jeff’s sister, a fantastic accordion player. Bonnie is an accomplished musician who has produced a number of CDs and plays professionally in Seattle and at many events around Washington.



**OKs
on the Go!**

The last trip of the year will be to Mt. Airy on Friday, October 14. It’s the **Autumn Leaves Festival** which showcases the rich musical heritage of the town and unique arts and crafts of more than 170 juried artists whose booths line the streets. Lots of good food will be available too. The registration deadline is October 7 and the cost is \$12. Registration forms are available on-line with Montgomery Parks and Recreation and on the church hallway bulletin board.

We are invited to the **FREE Health & Wellness Fair** sponsored by AARP. It will be held on Wednesday, September 14 from noon – 4 p.m. at the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1600 N. Franklin St. There will be lots of free stuff and information. If you have questions, see Sandy.

Sunday Night Bible Study on September 18

On Sunday, September 18th at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom entitled "What Does the Bible Really Say about Angels".

Happy 48th Birthday St. Michael Luncheon on September 25



The annual St. Michael Celebration and Birthday Luncheon will take place on September 25 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.

Congratulations to....

Kenneth Wolfe, who celebrated his 90th birthday on August 31.





Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

MBP (Micah's Backpack) started the school year on August 18 with packing on Thursday nights with lots of volunteers ready to work. On that night, we packed 238 bags (which didn't include bags for Kipps or Head Start). Last year, we packed 208 on the first night. So, it looks like our numbers may increase by a significant amount this year.

Over the summer, MMBP (Micah's Mobile Backpack) volunteers gave 727 hours for packing and delivering 1,988 bags which included 11,928 meals. Thank you to all who donated time, energy, money, and food to feeding hungry kids this summer.



We are very grateful to those who spent time cultivating and harvesting in Micah's Garden. The kids and their families loved receiving fresh vegetables each week.

Special thanks to the Food Lion Foundation, the Kroger Foundation, and the Sodexo Foundation for their monetary support for MBP. Their contributions continue to help provide food for our backpacks.

During September, Micah's Backpack will collect small cans of vegetables



This garden experience has been so fruitful. We have harvested the carrots and all the beans. We have delivered two loads of produce to the Fieldstone group. We still have an abundance of peppers coming along and a fall crop of broccoli and cabbage has been planted. We still have some gourds to harvest for the fall decorations.

All the gardeners have done a wonderful job of keeping their beds harvested to maximize their crop yields. And it just looks so nice! Thank you to Mary Nickle who has organized volunteers, supervised the plots and planted much of our garden this summer.

This month celebrates the **4th anniversary of Micah's Soup for Seniors!** It is hard to believe we started in 2012 and are still going strong, supporting around 90 Seniors at Warm Hearth each month. We have been serving some of the same Seniors the entire four years and we all look forward to seeing each other every month. 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 27 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@hubbeltg.com. **We will collect cups of applesauce in September.**



The goal of Micah's Closet is to provide up to a week's worth of new school clothes to children in need, through a partnership with schools and individuals. Studies show that children in need are more likely to have higher self-confidence and maintain higher school attendance if their clothes are as nice as clothing worn by their peers. Our partners at Price's Fork

Elementary School are determining who needs assistance from Micah's Closet. We anticipate receiving that information soon and delivering clothing as the seasons begin to change. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sheila McCartan at hope@micahscloset.org. Shoppers who have already volunteered will be contacted soon.

During September we will collect packages of boys or girls socks to fit shoe sizes toddler 5 through youth size 2.

Filling Your Faith Toolbox

This fall, kids, youth and adults are invited to come and add new tools to their faith toolbox as we focus on making connections between faith and daily life using stories, art, music and service. Each month, we will have two Sunday morning events and one Sunday evening meal and service project. There will be activities and conversations for everyone from preschool to youth to adults.

Here's the schedule for Filling Your Faith Toolbox this fall.

Sunday Evening Meal and Service Project beginning at 5 PM

September 11	Sole Hope: Shoe Cutting Party (solehope.org)	Pizza
October 9	Montgomery County Christmas Store	BBQ
November 13	Party with a Purpose	TBD
December 11	Christmas Decorating / Chrismon Creation	TBD

Sunday Morning beginning at 9:50 AM

September 18	Serving and Sharing God's Love
October 2	Foundations for Worship
October 16	The Apostle's Creed
November 6	Prayer
November 20	Living Generously
December 4	The Christmas Story



Sole Hope: Turning Jeans and Tires into Shoes



On Sunday, September 11 at 5 p.m., you are invited to come enjoy some pizza and take part in our Sole Hope service project. Sole Hope is a non-profit organization which recycles old jeans and tires into shoes for children in Uganda. At our shoe cutting party, we will trace patterns on old jeans and cut out the basic elements of the shoes. Our work will be shipped to Uganda where local shoemakers will combine our work with soles cut from recycled tires to create shoes that help prevent children from getting jiggers in their feet.

There is something for everyone to do whether you are in preschool or an adult. Here's how you can help.

- Donate your old jeans. Look for the collection box in the front hallway at church.
- Come trace and cut patterns on September 11.
- Come decorate the cut patterns with colorful designs

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the *Welcome form* or email Suzanne at suzanneg@stmlc.us.

St. Michael Church Music



Come sing with us! Choir rehearsals begin September 11 at 10 a.m. and continue on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month throughout the year. We welcome youth and adults, all singing abilities. Do you have a musical talent that you would like to share in worship...instruments, solo, family music, other? Contact Patrice Yearwood.

“Here I am Lord”

For several months, a call has been made for servants to help with the monthly newsletter, the Thanksgiving dinner, and the Sunday servant schedule. Three members of the congregation said, “Here I am Lord” and will assume these responsibilities in September. **Butch Akers** will serve as our Sunday Servant scheduler, **Ron Brewer** will chair the annual Thanksgiving Dinner, and **Elaine Powers** will serve as our newsletter editor. Thank you from your St. Michael family! Sandy Birch is looking forward to her new title as Minister of Hospitality—a fancy way of saying she gets to greet folks and provide hugs as appropriate.

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 our Kroger Plus cards, adding thousands of dollars to these programs. But we must renew our card numbers each year. Just visit the secure website: kroger.com to update your individual Kroger Plus card to one of St. Michael’s accounts. Members can designate their contribution to Micah’s Backpack using **#83513** or Justice and Mercy using **#82386**.



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

Thrivent Action Team Update

In July and August, one team purchased school supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary School, another helped provide food for a celebration picnic for the Across the Spectrum worshippers, and another team was given funds to buy flowers and plants for the Circle of Grace. In September and October, action teams could support Micah’s Closet and the purchase of shoeboxes for the Pine Ridge Reservation Christmas project. 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.



**Become
Part of the
St. Michael
Family**

New Members Welcomed on Sunday, September 25

If you are interested in joining the St. Michael family, please contact Pastor John. New members will be received on Sunday, September 25, at all three services.

Mark your calendars: Fall Clean-up Day will be Saturday, October 1