



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

Volume 40, Number 10

October 1, 2016

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.

Getting Healthy and Learning about the Reformation



On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Thesis (95 points for discussion) to the door of the church at Wittenberg and launched the Protestant Reformation.

As we draw closer to the 500th Anniversary of that event, you are invited to join other Lutherans in the New River Valley in the *500 Years of Reformation, 500 Mile Challenge*. Commemorate the Reformation by getting healthy and by learning more about Reformation history. Commit to walk, run, bike, or swim 500 miles between October 31, 2016 and October 31, 2017 and you'll receive:

- ▶ Milestone Prizes
- ▶ Weekly Luther Quotes and Encouragement
- ▶ Monthly Reformation History Updates

You can sign up by going to: <http://eepurl.com/chfsw5> .

If you are interested in learning more about the Reformation, I will be leading a Bible Study on Reformation themes on Sunday, October 16 at 7:15 PM. You can also download a free Small Catechism app from Augsburg Fortress by searching "Luther's Small Catechism" in your app store.

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 everyone who provided birthday cakes for the birthday celebration (Mandy Lund, Fran Shepherd, Carol Crawford, Jackie Muir, Pat Smith, Alice Schneider, Dianne Krallman, John Kell, Anna Rossomando, Gary & Becky Steck, Betty Falta and Sandy Williams) and helped set-up and clean-up after the Birthday Luncheon; to Kevin Long and The Cellar Restaurant for providing our delicious luncheon; Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, Joyce Coupey, Judith Wolfe, Margaret Larsen, Mildred Wall, and Frances Edge for folding the September newsletter; Ron Brewer for repairing playground equipment; Betty Wingate and Pat Smith who deliver food to the Food Bank and our donations to the Women’s Resource Center; and Amelia Martin who organizes the Bible bags for younger children.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided Faith Formation supplies, office supplies, devotional subscriptions, cleaning supplies, bathroom repairs, stamps, swing-set repairs, 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 **15 families**: 8 with electric, 2 with gasoline and five with rent.

Thank You Note

Dear Friends at St. Michael Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your kind donation of Tab Tops for the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs were added to our collection, then will be taken to be recycled and the proceeds will go back into the operation of our facility, which is a Home-Away-From-Home for families who have children in the hospital. We appreciated your help to us in this area of our work.

Sincere thanks, Anna Semonco, Executive Director

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

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

**Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Permit No. 78**

October Servants

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
Altar Care	Brewer/McCartan				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Fay and Clifton Walters	Elaine Powers Joe Garst	Mayer Family	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Gary and Sandie Worley
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Mac McCloud	Carrie Mayer	Matthew James	Dianne Krallman
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Lylah Shelor	Matthew James	Jacob Dennis	Joe Garst
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Camden Brewer		Camden Brewer		
Comm. Asst.	Mickey McGuigan		Randy Robinson		Kris Wertz
Greeters	Becky and Gary Steck	Wanda and James Pascoe	Brewer/McCartan family	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Ben Simmers Randy Robinson
Lay Reader	Kris Wertz	Jeff Birch	Lori Anne Kirk	Mickey McGuigan	Doug Smiley
Ushers	Gary Steck Ray Howell	Wanda and James Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous	Ben Simmers Randy Robinson
Youth Servant	Camden Brewer		Lily Gruss		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Berg family	Graves family	Donna Oliver	Saks family	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Heather Pettus	Guille Yearwood	Charlie Saks	Tacey Apisa
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg	Mike Berg	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Tacey Apisa

Mowing: 10/1-Daniel Ferrell (back); 10/8-James/Dennis (front); 10/15-Jay Nagle (back);
10/22-JD Robinson (front); 10/29-Daniel Ferrell (back)
Rear Lot: 10/3-Dave Surface; 10/10-Charlie Saks; 10/17-Mike Berg; 10/24-Reed
Yearwood; 10/31-Dave Surface

Women of the ELCA



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.

Lunch and Learn will be Monday, October 17, at noon at the church. We will participate in a Bible study led by Jody Smiley entitled, "When God's not fair – coming to terms with a merciful God" 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 13, during the Sunday evening Filling Your Faith Toolbox Service Event, we will prepare the boxes for mailing.

O.K.s (Older Kids)



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.

Out to Lunch Bunch

On October 5th we are going to Avellino's, the new restaurant at First and Main, where Sal's used to be, at 11:30 for lunch.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

It was great to welcome back our VT work study students in late August. Kathy and Dina work hard each week to make MBP a well-oiled machine with all the parts working smoothly as well as making each packing evening fun for everyone. They are a great asset to the program.



We began the year serving almost the same number of kids that we served at the end of the last school year and quickly increased to almost 300/week during September. Though we pray that the need will drop, we are very grateful that we could tell school representatives that we could increase the number of bags if they saw the need in their schools.

A gathering of volunteers from the summer packing program was a great way for us to think through some improvements in the way we do things and for garnering new ideas. We are so grateful for all the hours they gave this summer to help feed hungry kids in our community.

Feel free to donate 100% juice boxes to MBP during the month of October.



Micah's garden has been blessed with a beautiful summer season to set us up for a wonderful fall crop. We continue to harvest an average of 7 pounds of large bell peppers for weekly deliveries to the food bank. Now the 150 fall plants of broccoli and cabbage have taken hold and are in their developing "tween" years. I anticipate some nice produce for the Thanksgiving meals! Also there is a whole corner bed overflowing of colorful gourds that will be used to decorate the tables.

Micah's Soup for Seniors

We have successfully finished our fourth year of the program and provided over 4,300 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 25** at 5 p.m. with distribution beginning around 6 p.m. This month, we will **collect peanut butter and tuna.**



Micah's Closet has received the names of 39 children for the Fall clothing distribution. This number is up from prior years, demonstrating the need in our community is growing. Our shoppers are busy hunting for bargains to help us provide quality clothing while still remaining on budget. If

you are interested in sponsoring a child, please consider the following gifts: \$5 will help purchase socks or tights, \$10 will purchase a weeks with of underwear; \$20 will purchase an outfit or a light jacket: \$200 will purchase an entire week's worth of clothing. We thank all of our sponsors and shoppers. This year we are getting additional shoppers and sponsors from the Blacksburg Newcomers and Run About Sports is helping us with some athletic shoes.

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).

Sharing Your Gifts Makes Ministry Happen

In October, the Stewards team invites you to think about the ways that your gifts help make the St. Michael tool box grow. Using the tools in our tool box we strive to continue to further God's ministry in our community. You will have a chance to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to ministry at St. Michael in 2017. 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. **Please consider offering your estimate to God as a part of worship on October 23rd.** With your help, we will combine our gifts to make God's ministry grow in our community and beyond.



The Stewards Committee

Sunday Night Bible Study on October 16 at 7:15 P.M.



Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large Sunday School classroom on Sunday evening, October 16 at 7:15 p.m., on themes that emerge in the Reformation.

Filling Your Faith Toolbox Service Event: Christmas in October



On Sunday, October 9, at 5 p.m., you are invited to come enjoy some Bar-B-Que and take part in the Montgomery County Christmas Store project. The Christmas Store is an all-volunteer, community-wide, nonprofit organization which assists low-income families in Montgomery County during the Christmas season by providing a shopping experience characterized by choice and dignity. We will be wrapping small gifts which will be given by the children to their parents. In many families, this is the only gift the parents may receive. Young children will be decorating gift bags.

If you have any unused gifts such as bottles of hand lotion or stationary or a pair of gloves or a kitchen towel or a tool, bring them along to the event. We encourage “regifting”. We will also have hundreds of already purchased items to wrap.

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the *Welcome form* or e-mail Suzanne at suzanneg@stmhc.us.

Some Music “notes”

The St. Michael Choir welcomes youth and adults who love to sing and want to help lead in worship on Sundays. Come join us for practices on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10:00 a.m. October 9 and 23 are this month's practice dates. We will start learning Advent and Christmas music. CDs are available for listening at home.



Children can join in singing, playing instruments and more during Faith Formation on Sundays-- October 2, 16.

We will also have a Choir lunch and rehearse-a-thon on Sunday, November 6, starting at noon. Want to play Handbells? Talk to Patrice about joining this group—payearwood1@gmail.com.



Congratulations to ..

Lynn Price, who was named to the Blacksburg High School Sports Hall of Fame on September 23. Lynn was the 1991 State Champion in outdoor track 3200 meter, the 1992 Cross County State Champion and first place finisher, and Roanoke Times’ Runner of the Year in 1992.

Timmy Akinola and Aquisi Harris who were married on September 24. Timmy provides beautiful organ and piano music for our congregation at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. If you would like to contribute to a wedding gift for Timmy and Aquisi, please see Patrice Yearwood on Sunday, October 2.



Meet St. Michael's Youth Leaders



This fall, St. Michael is blessed to have two leaders to help with youth ministry – Casey Parrett and Alec Alderman. Alec and Casey 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 working with 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 Event and Confirmation Class on October 23

Pumpkin Carving



On Sunday, October 23 from noon to 1:30 p.m., all youth (5th through 12th grade) 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 Martin Luther.



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 Casey at pcasey8@vt.edu or to Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Lost and Found (7th/8th Graders) - Nov. 18-20

Winter Celebration (9th-12th Graders) - January 20-22/27-29, 2017

Seventh Day (5th/6th Graders) – March 4-5, 2017