



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Help Give Away \$7000

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.

Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of Irene Ashley, St. Michael has received a bequest of \$70,000. Since the bequest is undesignated, it falls under our Bequest Policy. The policy suggests that some visible project be undertaken within the life of the congregation using a portion of the bequest to acknowledge the gift and the giver. As such, the congregation approved using \$7000 to help pay for the new roof and siding.

The Bequest Policy also states that 10% (\$7,000) of the bequest is to be donated to a cause beyond ourselves, so on Sunday, May 21 at 10 a.m., we need your help to give away \$7,000.

Between now and Sunday, May 14, you are invited to nominate charities, ministries and non-profit causes beyond our walls that make a difference in our world. You can nominate causes on the Welcome Sheet in the bulletin or by emailing Suzanne at: suzanneg@stmhc.us. On Sunday, May 21 at 10 a.m., we will narrow down the options and select recipients for the following gifts:

- ★ (1) \$3000 gift
- ★ (1) \$2000 gift
- ★ (1) \$1000 gift
- ★ (2) \$500 gifts

Once the selections have been made, we will invite each of the recipients to come to worship and receive their gift. If you have questions about our Bequest Policy, about making a Bequest or about the process for selecting the causes to be supported, please let me know.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmhc.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 and Mildred Wall who folded the April newsletters; to Wanda Pascoe for folding and stuffing ALL of the Easter bulletins and to Ron Brewer for organizing and supervising the St. Michael Clean-Up Day and for hanging the new first aid kit and defibrillator on the wall in the hallway.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported special musicians for an Easter service, FaithChest and Baptismal resources, landscaping mulch, copier maintenance, kitchen supplies, office supplies, Vacation Bible School supplies, 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 13 families:** 8 with electric bills, 3 with rent assistance, 1 with a water bill and 1 with gasoline. 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.

Thank You Notes

I am writing to express my appreciation for the service you provided to our community by providing Easter baskets to The Salvation Army. Because of your donation, 21 children have received lovely Easter baskets! Imagine the joy you helped to bring to children in the New River Valley Community! We appreciate your support and pray God's richest blessings upon you!

Sincerely,

Captain Stephan Wildish, Corps Officer, New River Valley, VA

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of toiletries and household items. Our community is our biggest partner in providing free services to adult and child victims of sexual and domestic violence. Your participation in our mission helps us get closer to becoming a community free of sexual and domestic violence.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Pat Brown

Women's Resource Center

MICAH'S backpack

Micah's Backpack has been honored this month to have a good number of 8th graders from Blacksburg Middle School helping us pack. They are fulfilling their class requirement for community service and choosing to spend that time with us. It's wonderful to see so many young faces among the packers.

This month the Adobe Corporation awarded MCI a \$20,000 grant. A good deal of this money will be used to buy food for MBP bags. Thank you Adobe for your continued support of the good work of MBP. Sadly, this is the last grant that Jennie Hodge will be writing for MCI as she turns all of her energy, time, and gifts to the work she has begun in NC.

Also, MBP participated with Downtown Blacksburg in the annual Fork and Cork Event on the last Saturday in April. Thanks to Blacksburg Eye Associates, Legacy Builders, Tilley Chiropractic, BCR Property Management, and Gillie's for sponsoring our giant backpack full of food. Each group donated 300 cans of food or gave \$200 to fill a shelf in the backpack that was displayed at the event. The generosity of our community feeds so many children among us.



In May, when you are grocery shopping, feel free to pick up some fruit cups in lite syrup or juice and bring them to the church so we can continue to feed hungry kids in our community.

MICAH'S garden

We have officially started gardening! Thanks to Mr. Wall for plowing the community bed. Once the rain dries he has someone to come cultivate the plowed soil, and we will plant potatoes.

We have a very generous gift from the Vogelaar's-- a garden tiller. Thank you, Nancy! We have also received a grant that allowed us to purchase a weed eater (with a cultivator attachment). These will be great for getting the weeds and tight spots. Feel free to connect with Mary Nickle if you'd like to help in the Garden: hope@micahsgarden.org





Thank you to all who shopped and donated for Micah's Closet for our Spring Distribution. With your help, we were able to make a difference in the lives of 40 children and their families. A special thank you to Sandy Birch, Judy Clemens, Barbara Corbett, Lynn Hickok, Suzanne Gay, Lynda Kinzey, and Betty

Wingate for helping to match donated clothing to the children in need and to help prepare and deliver the gifts bags to Prices Fork Elementary School.

We would also like to thank you for your generous Lenten gifts of socks to support the Closet. Each distribution season for Micah's Closet seems to demonstrate a growing need, but we are amazed that the community spirit and generosity continues to help us step up to the challenge.

In the month of May, Micah's Closet will be collecting donations of boys and girls shorts and t-shirts (sizes 6 – 12). We also continue to accept donations of Kohl's Cash which can be put in the offering plate during services. If you have any questions or would be interested in supporting a clothing drive for our Fall Distribution, please contact Sheila McCartan at hope@micahscloset.org.



Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:30 p.m. Local volunteers appreciated in May, June and July. No experience necessary. Contact Dianne Krallman at dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com or 552-1668 for additional information. In May we will collect cans of tomato soup.

Stewards Team

Thanks to everyone who filled out **Time and Talents Sheets** so each person can participate in the work of St. Michael in a way which interests them. It "takes a village" is our method!!

If you missed filling out a Time and Talent sheet they are still available in the back of the sanctuary.





Hero Central Vacation Bible School Begins June 4

The adventure begins on Sunday, June 4, and continues through Thursday, June 8. 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 by mid-May.

Congratulations to....

J.C. and Amelia Martin on the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Jane, “Ella”, born on March 9. She will be well looked after by her big sister Emery.

Kelly and Robert Mullins on the birth of their son Eli Gray Mullins on April 4. Eli was welcomed by his big brothers Charlie and William and his grandparents, Dottie and Bill McKinnon.

Our 2016-2017 Graduates



Thirteen members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this May and will be recognized at a graduates’ reception on June 11 at the first 2nd Sunday Summer Brunch at 10 a.m. Bryce Apisa, Erik Bohn, Lexi Simmers and Corson Wertz will be graduating from Blacksburg High School, while Ryan Albert will be graduating from Auburn High School. Michele Pasier and Alex Berryman will receive their master’s degrees from Virginia Tech, while Emily Garst, and our youth leader, Casey Parrett, will receive their bachelor’s degrees from Virginia Tech. Jake Metch is now Dr. Jake Metch, earning his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. Robert Worley has earned his master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh and Emory Yearwood will receive her bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia. Short biographies of our graduates and their future plans will be in the June newsletter.

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May Servants

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Altar Care	Steck Family			
9 AM Service		<i>Bold Women's Sunday</i>		
Greeters	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	WELCA	Wendy and Doug Goldsmith	Ben and Carol Crawford
Lay Reader	Keith Gay		Judith Wolfe	Matthew James
Comm. Asst.	William Allen		Butch Akers	Jacob Dennis
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Megan Christle		Camden Brewer	
Comm. Asst.	Corson Wertz		Shelia McCartan	
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	WELCA	Brewer/McCartan Family	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Margaret Christle		Marty Gordon	Jeff Birch
Ushers	Ray Howell John Kell		Ron Brewer Phillip Isenhour	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Youth Servant	Lily Gruss		Jack Graves	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Saks Family	WELCA	Donna Oliver	Berg Family
Lay Reader	Charles Saks		Tacey Apisa	Mike Berg
Comm. Asst.	Martie Saks		Tacey Apisa	Michelle Berg

Women of the ELCA

**Save the Dates: Sunday May 7th – Annual Sisters’ Luncheon
Sunday May 14th – Bold Women’s Sunday**



The Women’s **Lunch and Learn** series will be on hold for May but will continue June 19th. We will have our **May Sisters’ Luncheon on May 7th** and **Bold Women Sunday, on Mothers’ Day, May 14th**.

We invite all women, young and old, to the annual **Sisters in Christ Luncheon, Sunday May 7th, at noon**. It’s an opportunity to celebrate our wonderful sisterhood, share delicious salads and enjoy a program entitled, “Friends are God’s Gift”. Please bring a salad to share, we will provide drinks and dessert. Signup sheets will be in the bulletin.

We invite all the women of the church participate in **Bold Women’s Sunday, May 14th** at each service. We invite all women to raise their voices to sing a hymn together during the services. We will also need readers, ushers and greeters. If you would like to help please let Sandy Birch, Alice Schneider or Jody Smiley know how you would like to participate. Sign-up sheets will be in the bulletin.



Thank Offering baggies for your change and donations are still available in the back of the sanctuary if you haven’t received one. They will benefit “Sole Hope” handmade shoes for Uganda which is the VA Synodical Women’s Organization Project for this summer.

Easter Baskets. Thanks to everyone who contributed and to all the adults and kids who helped fill and wrap the baskets. Thirty-eight children’s baskets and eight for moms were delivered to the Salvation Army and Women’s Resource Center.



Remember the Food Bank: In May please bring canned tuna or meats, although any non-perishable foods are always welcome.

For the Women’s Resource Center let’s collect **13-gal kitchen** or **30-gal trash bags**.

Thank you for all the donations you bring to help others in our community!

O.K. (Older Kids) News

O.K.s On The Road



On Tuesday, **May 23**, the O.K.s will travel to Radford University and visit the Art Museum at the Covington Center. The exhibitions feature works of national and international artists, faculty and students. We will also have an opportunity to see a professionally produced planetarium show. Lunch will be on our own at the River City Grill featuring American fare, sandwiches and salads. The **registration deadline is May 16** and the cost is \$10.

On **June 7**, we will travel to the Wohlfahrt Haus Theater for “Then Sings My Soul”, an inspirational show featuring historical spirituals from Southern Gospel to contemporary Praise and Worship. This show features songs from the Carter Family, Elvis, the Gaither’s and many more that we grew up singing and still sing today. A 4-course lunch will be served prior to the production. **Registration deadline is May 31** and the cost of \$52 includes transportation, show and lunch.

Registration forms for these two wonderful travel opportunities are available on the hallway bulletin board. You can also register on-line with Montgomery County Parks and Recreation. If you have questions, contact Anita Shepard at armsis97@gmail.com.

Thank you for a Wonderful Easter!



This year, we celebrated the joy of Easter with 301 people across four services. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such wonderful celebration of the resurrection!

