



# 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

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## Generosity, VBS and the Virginia Synod

### 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.

On Sunday, May 21, members of the St. Michael community gathered between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services to decide how we would share our \$7000 tithe from the bequest we received from Irene Ashley. **Thanks to Irene's generosity**, we will be giving:

\$3000 to the Women's Resource Center

\$2000 to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry

\$1000 to the Montgomery County Christmas Store

\$500 to To Our House

\$500 to NRV Project Linus

**Hero Central Vacation Bible School** begins on Sunday, June 4 at 6:15 p.m. There is still time to register, so if you want to sign your child up or if you have a friend or neighbor who might enjoy a week of fun, music and faith, you can sign up at:

<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/stmichaelblacksburg>

**The Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** will gather in assembly from June 9-11 at Roanoke College. During this year's Assembly, we will celebrate the 18 year ministry of Bishop Jim Mauney and elect our new bishop. St. Michael will be represented at the Assembly by John Krallman and Fran Shepherd and by Jody Smiley who is a member of the Synod Council. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of the Virginia Synod or to find a link to the live stream of the event, go to:

<http://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly/>

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 14: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; to Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta and Margaret Larsen who helped with folding the May newsletter; to members of our church congregational council for their caring and dedication; to all who helped with the funeral meal for the Kirk funeral.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in May supported Micah’s bus inspection and repairs, supplies for Vacation Bible School, 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 **30** families; 20 with electric bills, 4 with rent, 4 with a water bill, 1 with medication assistance and 1 with a cell phone bill. 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.

### Congratulations to...

**David Christle** (son of Mike and Margaret) who is a recipient of a Boy’s State summer leadership and citizenship scholarship sponsored by the American Legion. David and his parents were honored at a banquet on April 25, 2017.

**Kelly McCann**, assistant director of special events in Alumni Relations, who received the university’s 2017 President’s Award for Excellence. The President’s Award for Excellence is presented annually to up to five Virginia Tech employees who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act. Each recipient is awarded a \$2,000 cash prize.



### First Sunday Summer Brunch: Honoring our 2017 Graduates June 4 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “First Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 4 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy fellowship with the St. Michael family as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



It was with great sadness and lots of love in our hearts that MBP said goodbye to our two wonderful VT student interns this month. Kathy and Dina graduated from VT and are moving on to the next stage in their lives. They said that MBP had become their second family. Their experience with us meant so much to them that they wore their MBP nametags on their graduation gowns for their graduation ceremonies. They were such a joy to work with and did so much for our organization. We were blessed to have them while they were here and wish them well as they spread their wings and fly.

Now, we are looking for two more work-study interns. If you know of anyone who is a student at VT and is participating in the work-study program, please have them get in touch with either Pastor John or Susan Verbrugge by email at: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org).

Thank you to Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett who built a large Micah's Backpack display for this year's Blacksburg Cork and Fork.



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 fruit cups in May!



The Mobile Backpack bus will be rolling down a street near you very soon. Our first delivery day is June 8. All of the bags for that first delivery are already packed thanks to the Blacksburg High School Varsity Girls' Soccer Team who came at a special time to pack so we wouldn't interrupt VBS during the first week of June.

**First packing day for the summer is Wednesday, June 14.** We will begin setting up at 5:30 and packing at 6:00. Come out and help us get ready for a great summer.

# Micah's CLOSET



These are just some of the thank you notes from the recipients of clothes from the closet. If you would like to see additional notes from the students and teachers, please look at the poster in the narthex.

We love Micah's Closet! Thank you so much for the new clothes. You are so kind!

*~ Two students at Princes Fork*

Micah's Closet Friends, Thank you so much for the joy you brought to a beautiful little girls face! We looked at all the clothes and planned all the outfits! What an amazing program!

*~Teacher at Princes Fork*

Dear Friends, Thank you for the clothes. My favorite thing was the green and gray shirt because it looks pretty cool.

*~Student at Princes Fork*

In May we also received some exciting news! The Blacksburg Newcomers' Club has been helping with the fall shopping and recently presented a check to Pastor John in the amount of \$1500 for Micah's Closet. The Newcomers anticipate an additional donation from their silent auction.

Also, the Eddie Yeatts Memorial Golf Tournament will be benefitting Micah's Closet. The event will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Blacksburg Country Club. If you are interested in participating in the tournament, you can contact Chadd Yeatts at [cayeatts@gmail.com](mailto:cayeatts@gmail.com).

Don't forget to share your Kohl's cash with Micah's Closet. We will use the "cash" to purchase clothing for the Fall distribution. If have any questions or would be interested in supporting a clothing drive for our Fall Distribution, please contact Sheila McCartan at [hope@micahscloset.org](mailto:hope@micahscloset.org).

Micah's garden has gotten off to a slow but great start, thanks to the dedicated gardeners. We have all the raised beds filled with a wide variety of herbs and garden plants. The community garden has potatoes, beans, peas, peppers, eggplant, sweet potatoes, squash and cucumbers. Already we have already picked and delivered 10 pounds of strawberries to the food initiative. There should be another picking of strawberries. There is a nice crop of blueberries coming along as well.

MICAH'S  
garden

MICAH'S  
soup for seniors

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27 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.**

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

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### *June Servants*

	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>June 25</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Smiley			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Neil and Jackie Muir	Mayer Family	Maggie Maloney Elaine Powers	Gary and Sandie Worley
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Gary Worley	Carrie Mayer	Mac McCloud	Lori Anne Kirk
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Sandie Worley	Lylah Shelor	Judith Wolfe	Sandy Williams
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Emily Graves		Camden Brewer	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jeff Birch		Laura Gruss	
<b>Greeters</b>	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Ben Simmers Ray Howell	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Wanda and James Pascoe
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Bert Kinzey	Mickey McGuigan	Fran Shepherd	Emma Patterson
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary and Rebecca Steck	Ben Simmers Ray Howell	Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd	Wanda and James Pascoe
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Jack Graves		Lily Gruss	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Donna Oliver	Graves Family	Berg Family	Saks Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Mike Berg	Charles Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Michelle Berg	Martie Saks

Mowing: 6/3-JD Robinson (front); 6/10-Daniel Ferrell (back); 6/17-James/Dennis (front); 6/22-Jay Nagle (back)

Rear Lot: 6/5-Doug Smiley; 6/12-Dave Surface; 6/19-Charlie Saks; 6/26-Mike Berg



## Congratulations to...

### Our graduates

**Lexi Simmers** will graduate with an Advanced Studies diploma from Blacksburg High School and attend Virginia Tech in the fall of 2017. Over the summer she will work at Two Starts LLC. She would like to thank all of the people who have supported her along her journey to make these wonderful accomplishments! Lexi is also the **winner of the St. Michael Scholarship**. Congratulations!



**Corson Wertz**, graduating from Blacksburg High School, will attend Ohio University School of Business in Athens, OH, and major in Sport Management. At BHS he was a member of DECA, a marketing club, and the football team, including the 2016 3-A State Championship Football Team, for all four years.



**Emily Garst** graduated with cum laude honors from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. During college, she was the Treasurer of the VT Club Gymnastics Team, an active member of Alpha Omega Epsilon (Female Engineering Sorority), a member of the Baja SAE Design Team and a mentor to freshmen females in engineering through the Hypatia Living Learning Community. After graduation, Emily will be moving to Grapevine, TX to work for Lockheed Martin as an Aeronautics Engineer, performing structural analysis on F-16 fighter jets. She is very excited to explore a new place, but Blacksburg will always be home. In fact, she hopes to come back for at least one Hokie football game per season :).

**Casey Parrett**, our youth assistant, graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in public relations. She hopes to move to Raleigh, NC this summer and begin working in a public relations agency. Casey has very much enjoyed her time working with the youth at St. Michael, and she'll miss them all dearly.

**Robert Worley** participated in graduation exercises at Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA on April 30, 2017. With coursework completed for the MFA in Film and Digital Technology, his degree will be conferred this summer upon completion of his thesis project. He is very excited about the new and future adventures that await and appreciates all of the prayers and support from family, friends, and the wonderful St. Michael community!



**Alex Berryman** received his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning this May. He will be taking a job with the town of New Market, VA as their Town Planner and Zoning Administrator.

**Jake Metch** received his PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and will be continuing his research at Virginia Tech in a post-doctoral position in CEE. He and his wife Mary Kate will be with the St. Michael family a little longer.

## O.K.s On The Road



## O.K.s (Older Kids)

The O.K.s are planning to go on the road again! Here are our upcoming dates. Be sure to register at least one week prior to the scheduled dates. Registration forms are available by the bulletin board at church. See you soon!

June 7 (Wednesday):	Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre - "Then Sings My Soul"
October 13 (Friday):	Mt. Airy Arts and Crafts Festival
November 16 (Thursday):	Greenbrier Resort
December 8 (Friday):	Roanoke

### Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon

The Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon will be **Wednesday, June 14**, at noon and will feature Anna's Rossomando's famous pork bar-b-que and cole slaw. We'll have a picnic theme and special guests, Martin Luther and his wife Katie, have been invited. Maybe we'll serve some German potato salad in their honor.

### Out-to-Lunch Bunch



On Tuesday, June 27, we'll venture to downtown Pulaski to **Al's on First**, a relatively new restaurant "with big city flair mixed with southern charm and homestyle cooking." The food is tasty and very reasonably priced. A luncheon menu is posted on the hallway bulletin board. The restaurant is close to the old train station which may be open for an informal visit. We'll meet at the restaurant (68 First St. NW) at 11:45 a.m. If anyone would like a ride from St. Michael, the "Sandy Birch bus" will leave at 11:15 a.m. Contact Peggy Brown at [pabrown1943@comcast.net](mailto:pabrown1943@comcast.net) or 552-8141 by Sunday, June 25, to make a reservation.

### Junior High Servant Event – July 23 – 28

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 \$60. You can register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-the-waters-edge-junior-high-servant-event-2017-tickets-32653840516>. Please select the "Register Online, Pay at Church" option.

### 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.



## Women of the ELCA

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** series will hold our last meeting of the spring, Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at noon at the church. Lunch will begin at noon and our "Learn" will end about 1 p.m. to give everyone time to get back to work.



**A big thank you** to everyone who made a donation using our Thank Offering baggies which will benefit "Sole Hope," handmade shoes for Uganda. This is the VA Synodical Women's Organization Project for this summer.

**School Supplies** – We will again be collecting school supplies and backpacks for Price's Fork Elementary School. It's not too early to be on the lookout for specials you may find during the summer. We will collect them until school begins in August.



At the annual Sisters' Luncheon on Sunday, May 7, the Women of the ELCA gave thanks to God for Suzanne Gay for her faithful and bold leadership at St. Michael. Suzanne, our church's administrative assistant, is noted for the gracious and respectful way in which she greets visitors to the church and responds to phone call inquiries, organizes our Lenten and Advent mid-week meals, and contributes to all activities of WELCA. A donation was made in honor of Suzanne to Katie's Fund of the Women of the ELCA, named for Katharine von Bora Luther, which supports numerous projects to raise up bold women of faith.

## Helping our Neighbors

**Remember the Food Bank:** In June please bring soup, canned or packaged, although any non-perishable foods are always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** Let's collect art supplies for children.

## Thank You

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you for your gift of Easter baskets and shelter supplies. 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*

*A big thank you for all the get well wishes, cards, emails, calls, food, visits, etc. Our St. Michael "love" has kept me going towards recovery after foot surgery!*

*Alice Schneider*