



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Engaging God's Word and Looking to the Future

It is amazing to me how Jesus' teachings and approaches to ministry from 2000 years ago often speak so clearly to our world today. In Jesus' sending of the 12 disciples in Matthew 9:35-10:8 for example, I think we discover a helpful model for how to participate in Jesus' mission to love and bless the world. Here are the five steps in the model:

1. Listen for God's Call
2. See the opportunities to proclaim the kingdom of God
3. Establish a clear vision for ministry
4. Claim the gifts of the Holy Spirit God has given you
5. Go out to do the ministry God has called you to do

As we prepare to celebrate our first 50 years of ministry in 2018, I invite you to join me in embracing and implementing this model here at St. Michael. Together we will engage in a planning process to claim the gifts that God has given us and to build on those strengths as we go out and proclaim the kingdom of God to our community. With your help we will:

1. Engage God's Word and experience God's compassion by reading the book of Acts in August. We'll read one chapter per day and have prayer and discussion to listen for ways that God's Word is speaking to us today.
2. As we read Acts and reflect, we will look for opportunities in our community to proclaim the kingdom of God.
3. In late fall, the congregation will have a planning event to help establish a clear vision for where God is calling St. Michael to go in our 50th year of existence and beyond.
4. Once that vision is established, we will work to claim the gifts for ministry that we have received from the Spirit.
5. Like the 12 disciples, we will head out into the world to do the ministry God has called us to do.

I look forward to working with you to see where God is leading us in the future.

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.

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 Vacation Bible School teachers and helpers; to John Krallman, Fran Shepherd and Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to Andrea Robinson, Emma Patterson and Keith Gay for serving on the St. Michael Scholarship Committee; to all our lawn mowing crew; Mildred Wall, Lynda Kinzey, Wanda Pascoe, and Betty Falta for folding the June newsletter; to Bob Brown for designing and building the cover for the Circle of Grace.

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, help with registration for Confirmation Camp and the KAIROS Virginia Synod Youth Event, 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 **15** families; 8 with electric bills, 5 with rent, one with a water bill, 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.

Card Ministry

The St. Michael Card Ministry would be happy to accept donations of various colors of card stock and photo paper. Please leave your donations for this wonderful ministry on Suzanne's desk.

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at St. Michael,

Thank you so much for the lovely card you sent to me. It truly means a lot to me! It has been a privilege to grow up in such a wonderful church with friends who feel more like family! I feel very blessed to be part of such a loving & supportive community! I am excited to see where my future at Tech takes me! Thank you all again for the card & love and support! Much love to you all!

Love, Lexi Simmers

Pastor Wertz & People of St. Michael,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of leftover Hero Central VBS supplies! This is a blessing to us as we try to be good stewards of financial resources & God's creation.

God Bless, Pastor Leslie and the people of Grace Lutheran

Christmas in July Sunday, July 23

On Sunday, July 23, 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.



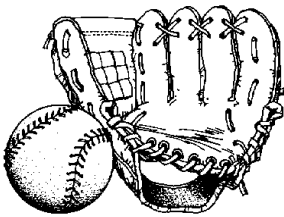
Vacation Bible School a Great Success



Over 50 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.

Love Offering Thank you

Thank you for your generous love offering for Sole Hope, a nonprofit organization that recycles old jeans and tires into shoes for children in Uganda. Our change, weighing over 38 pounds, and cash donations totaled \$545.40. Our gift will be used for shipping and wages for the workers who assemble the pieces into shoes.



Take me out to the ballgame....

St. Michael is going to the **Salem Red Sox baseball game** on Saturday, August 12. 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@stmlc.us.

Summer Brunch on July 16 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's Summer Brunch on July 16 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fine food and fellowship.





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 Caring Initiative with \$2,000!



The garden has been growing and producing beautifully, in spite of an attack from the local ground hog. He managed to chew a hole in the fencing and took the top off some of our plants. We managed to net the blueberries and fend off the birds. We had a group of vacation bible school children come and help with potato beetle removal and pea picking.



We have picked a pound of snap peas and a quart of blueberries.



This month the big orange Micah's Mobile Backpack bus got on the road. There aren't enough thanks in the world to say to William Allen for driving the bus each week. We wouldn't be able to do it without him for sure. His driving around tight curves and corners and his incredible memory for which kid lives in which house or apartment keeps us on the road and feeding

kids. We are delighted to provide bags of food for kids in the Margaret Beeks Elementary area this summer because two wonderful volunteers deliver them each week. That means the bus makes four stops in the Prices Fork and Harding Elementary areas; bags get delivered in the Beeks area; bags get taken to Valley Interfaith Childcare Center, Blacksburg United Methodist Church for kids they work with, and Rainbow Riders Head Start program. Lots of bags are making it to lots of hungry children in our community. In June, we were able to pack and deliver well over 600 bags of food.

In July, feel free to participate in the Peanut Butter from Heaven program by bringing small jars of peanut butter to donate to Micah's Backpack. Churches all over the area will be participating with you, stocking the shelves with peanut butter.

For more information, contact Susan Verbrugge at susan@stmlc.us.





Our Seniors continue to enjoy our interaction with them and they especially enjoyed the Girl Scout cookies that were recently donated to our program. Anytime you might have extra fresh vegetables from the garden this summer and would like to donate on the 4th Tuesday, feel free to let us know.

We are approaching the summer months and again will need additional help with the packing and distribution for Micah's Soup for Seniors - so if you can help us out, we would appreciate your time. July 25th and August 29th will be the upcoming packing dates.

In July, we will collect saltine crackers.

For July and August, donations of boys' and girls' underwear sizes 6 – 12 would be appreciated.



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.



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 | | |

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July Servants

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Altar Care	Sandy Birch				
9 AM Service					
	Clifton and Fay Walters	Dave Surface Butch Akers	Neil and Jackie Muir	Lylah Shelor Elaine Powers	Anna Rossomando Wilma Pieper
Lay Reader	Keith Gay	Butch Akers	Dianne Krallman	Gary Worley	Betty Falta
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Matthew James	Lori Anne Kirk	Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Emily Graves		
Comm. Asst.	Laura Gruss		Mickey McGuigan		
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Anna Rossomando John Kell	J.D. and Andrea Robinson	Gary and Becky Steck	Randy and Sharon Robinson
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley	Mac McCloud	Kris Wertz	Lori Anne Kirk	Jeff Birch
Ushers	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Anna Rossomando John Kell	J.D. and Andrea Robinson	Gary and Becky Steck	Randy Robinson Marty Gordon
Youth Servant	Lily Gruss		Jack Graves		
6:30 PM Service					
Greeters	Donna Oliver	Saks Family	Berg Family	Graves Family	Donna Oliver
Lay Reader	Guille Yearwood	Charles Saks	Mike Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood
Comm. Asst.	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks	Michell Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood

Mowing: 7/1-J.D. Robinson (front); 7/8-Daniel Ferrell (back); 7/15-James/Dennis (front); 7/22-Jay Nagle (back); 7/29-J.D. Robinson (front)

Rear Lot: 7/3-Doug Smiley; 7/10-Dave Surface; 7/17-Charlie Saks 7/24-Mike Berg; 7/31-Doug Smiley

Women of the ELCA



It's time for summer Ladies Night Out! Dinner will be 6 p.m. Wednesday July 19th at O'Charley's in Christiansburg. All of the ladies of the church are invited. You are most welcome to bring a friend with you. And as a special treat, Wednesday is free pie night for dessert at O'Charley's! Please sign up in the bulletin insert so the restaurant can prepare tables for us. If anyone would like to car pool, please contact Alice Schneider or Sandy Birch.

The annual VA Synodical Women's Organization annual convention will be August 18 -19 at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Roanoke. It's a great time to meet with women from around the state, share in worship, fellowship, meals and join in some interesting workshops. Please see Alice Schneider or Jody Smiley if you would like to join us.

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** series held the last spring meeting in June. We will start back up in September. Watch the newsletter for our new date. This is a wonderful time to share a light lunch, brief Bible study and fellowship with other women of the church. We're done by 1 p.m. so you can go back to work or continue with your plans for the day.

School Supplies – We will continue collecting school supplies and backpacks for Price's Fork Elementary School until August 6. School begins August 9.

Remember the Food Bank: In July please bring snack size fruit cups or canned fruit, although any non-perishable foods are always welcome.

For the Women's Resource Center let's collect dish soap.

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

Junior High Servant Event July 23 – 28

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 \$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. If you have any questions, speak with Pastor John.

Congratulations to

the **St. Michael graduates** who were honored at the June Sunday Summer Brunch. Pictured are Casey Parrett, Lexi Simmers and Corson Wertz.



Jane and Mickey McGuigan who retired after 40 years of teaching. For Jane, 33 of those years were for Montgomery County at Belview, Shawsville and Margaret Beeks Elementary Schools. Mickey taught 18 years at Harding Avenue Elementary School and 22 years at Blacksburg Middle School. He also coached for 40 years, 11 years with Boys Tennis and 29 with Girls Basketball including 3 State Championships. Both Jane and Mickey were very involved with their schools over the years including Festivals, Carnivals, Science Fairs and Field Trips. Both feel it has been an honor to teach so many children over the years in Montgomery County.

Sara Bohn, who was elected at the June 10 primary as the Democratic Party's nominee for the Board of Supervisors - District A.

Erik Bohn who recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. Only four percent of Boy Scouts are granted this rank after a lengthy review process. Erik graduated from Blacksburg High School in May and plans on spending the summer at the University of Oslo, Norway, studying Norwegian. He will return to pursue a business degree in college.



New Bishop Elected for the Virginia Synod

The Rev. Robert F. Humphrey, Harrisonburg, Virginia, was elected June 11 to a six-year term as bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Pastor Humphrey was elected on the fifth ballot with 217 votes to 167 votes for The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, associate pastor of St. Philip Lutheran Church of Roanoke, Virginia.

Humphrey has served as co-pastor of Muhlenberg Lutheran Church since 2010. The bishop-elect earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia in 1977. He received his Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1981.

The Rev. James F. Mauney, current bishop of the ELCA Virginia Synod, has served as bishop since 1999 and will retire Aug. 31. Humphrey will be installed as bishop on September 9 at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, Virginia.