



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Engaging God's Word: The Acts of the Apostles

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.

Jesus ascending into heaven. The Holy Spirit blowing in like a roaring wind. An explosion of growth in the early church creating joys and problems. Raising up new leaders and investing time in teaching and in prayer. An arch enemy becomes a champion of the cause. Some people are killed. Some people are healed and others are raised from the dead. Political intrigue, conflict, crowds angrily chasing God's messenger out of the city and dangerous sea voyages. It all sounds a little like a pitch for a summer movie, but it is actually a quick description of the book of Acts and the unexpected story of the birth of the Christian movement following Jesus' death and resurrection.

In August, I hope you will join me in reading the Acts of the Apostles as we seek to engage God's Word. The plan is to read one chapter per day. Acts has 28 chapters, so if you miss a day, don't worry - you can catch up. Each day, I will post a link to that day's chapter of Acts and a discussion question on Twitter (https://twitter.com/wertz_revjohn) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch/>). The questions will also be available on inserts in the weekly bulletin at worship.

To build on our reading of Acts, I will be preaching a sermon series on August entitled, "Called, Empowered and Sent: Lessons from Acts for Today's World" and we will have the opportunity to discuss what we are discovering on Sunday, August 20 at 10 AM in the fellowship hall.

As we hear the stories of these early Christians and their efforts to live their faith and share God's story, I hope we can listen for ways that God's Word is speaking to us today and see opportunities for how we can proclaim God kingdom in our context.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmclc.us

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To all the volunteers who help with Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors; to Mildred Wall, Wanda Pascoe, and Linda Elliott for helping fold the July newsletter; to the mowing crew and to Fran and Dickie Shepherd for caring for our grounds; and to everyone who helped with the reception for Burn Gross' memorial.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for confirmation camp expenses, supply pastor salary, altar supplies, the St. Michael scholarships, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted 17 families: 10 with their electric bills, 4 with rent, and 3 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.

Thank You

Dear Pastor John and friends,

On behalf of New River Valley Chapter of Project Linus, I want to thank you all so much for the generous donation to our project.

The money will be used to buy more material to make blankets for sick children in the NRV. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Fondly, Penny Sweet

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$3000. 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)

Friends,

It was great to spend the morning with you all! Our community is fortunate to receive the blessings of your generosity. We are grateful.

Best – Laura Beth Weaver (Women's Resource Center)

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August Servants

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Altar Care	Smiley			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Sandy Williams Butch Akers	Elaine Powers Wilma Pieper	Ben and Carol Crawford	Neil and Jackie Muir
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk	Jacob Dennis	Peggy Morgan	John Krallman
Comm. Asst.	Sandie Worley	Lylah Shelor	Sandy Williams	Dianne Krallman
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Megan Christle	
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson		Kris Wirtz	
Greeters	Don Linkous Ben Simmers	James and Wanda Pascoe	Ferrell Family	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Fran Shepherd	Jeff Birch	Anna Rossomando	Bert Kinzey
Ushers	Don Linkous Ben Simmers	James and Wanda Pascoe	Daniel Ferrell John Kell	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Youth Servant	Jack Graves		Lily Gruss	
6:30 PM Service				
Greeters	Berg Family	Graves Family	Donna Oliver	Saks Family
Lay Reader	Mike Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Charles Saks
Comm. Asst.	Michell Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks

Mowing: 8/5–Daniel Ferrell (back); 8/12–James/Dennis (front); 8/19–Jay Nagle (back);
8/26- J.D. Robinson (front)
Rear Lot: 8/7–Dave Surface; 8/14-Charlie Saks; 8/21- Mike Berg; 8/28-Doug Smiley

Women of the ELCA



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

Each year the VSWO convention sponsors donations. Earlier in the year we helped put together shoe kits for Sole Hope in Uganda. Our Love Offerings this spring of over \$500.00 will go to help ship the kits and pay people in Uganda to make soles, out of used tires, for the shoes.

The second project this year will benefit Grace Inside. VSWO has committed to providing materials for the Chaplain's card ministry at the VA Correctional Center for Women. This wonderful ministry provides printed cards for any occasion (birthday, Christmas, Valentine's, Easter, Mother / Father's Day, get well, sympathy, etc.), blank cards, white envelopes, stationery, forever stamps, stick pens and pencils for inmates so they can communicate with friends and family. Please bring your contributions to the narthex by August 13th.

The Women's **Lunch and Learn** will start in September. Watch the newsletter for our new date. We hope to see many of you then for a light lunch and short Bible study each month.

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 breakfast cereals, although any non-perishable foods are always welcome.

For the Women's Resource Center let's collect hand soap and body wash.

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

**Ladies Night Out
was a big success!**



O.K.s (Older Kids) on the Go

Out-to-Lunch Bunch – August 16



The O.K.s have a Roanoke adventure planned for Wednesday, August 16. We're going to tour the Lutheran Family Services Day Support program for adults with disabilities and then go to lunch at Montano's, a favorite restaurant of several of our O.K.s. Rides will be available from St. Michael, leaving the church at 10 a.m. Contact Peggy Brown at 552-8141 or at pabrown1943@comcast.net to reserve your place on the tour and at the table. O.K.s are very welcome to just meet for lunch at Montano's, too, around noon. The address for the restaurant is 3733 Franklin Road SW in Roanoke. A lunch menu is posted on the bulletin board.

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon - September 12

The Happy-Go-Lucky "back to school" luncheon will be Tuesday, September 12, in the fellowship hall. After a long summer break, we look forward to geography, math, and art lessons during the luncheon. Yay!



"Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on August 13 at 10 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's "Second Sunday" Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 13 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy fine food and fellowship. We will get an update of new projects and ministries starting in the fall at St. Michael.



St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair on August 18-19

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working at the booth, please sign up on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin or talk with Pastor John. Volunteers always have a great time.

Backpack Blessing on August 6

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 6. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.



Backpack Blessing

School Supplies for Children in Need

St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork Elementary School. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 6. The collection box is in the church foyer. Thank you.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissues
Notebooks	3-ring Binders
Black and White Composition Books	

Sunday Bible Study on August 20 on the Book of Acts

On Sunday, August 20 at 7:15 p.m., Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study in the large classroom at the church on The Book of Acts. Come learn more about this book of the Bible that we are reading together this month.

Stay Connected!

Our Website, Facebook Page, Email Newsletter and Bulletin Boards

If you are looking for the most current, up-to-date information on the ministries of St. Michael, be sure to check the St. Michael website: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org (useful when the newsletter is late in arriving), "Like" the St. Michael Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaellutheranchurch> or read the weekly, "Happening at St. Michael" email newsletter. If you aren't currently receiving "Happening at St. Michael", email the church at: hope@stmhc.us to be added to the distribution list. Also, current information is always posted on the hallway bulletin boards – check them out!

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Blueberries from Three Birds' Farm and veggies from Micah's Garden are making kids smile as the Micah's Mobile Backpack (MMBP) bus arrives in their neighborhoods. In June, we were able to take blueberries to the kids the last two weeks and all the weeks of July, and the veggies have been bagged and put on the bus for all the weeks in July.



This summer, we are serving 207 different children and delivering not just food, but books with the help of local teachers. We even got Pastor John on the bus one week to help take orders and deliver food. The final packing for Micah's Mobile Backpack will be on Wednesday, August 2.

Micah's Backpack will return to Thursday night packing on Thursday, August 24.

During August, Micah's Backpack will collect cans of spaghettiOs. Thank you for the generous donations of Peanut Butter in July!



Our garden has had some setbacks from nature, including the dry, hot weather. In spite of this, we have delivered over 100 pounds of fresh produce to the food pantries. We have recently had blueberries, peas, beans, squash, cucumbers, peppers and potatoes. We still have more of those, but also eggplant and carrots coming along. The food banks will continue to receive fresh produce from outside our garden as well (if anyone has an abundance). We are grateful for all contributions.

Volunteers will gather at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29 to pack food for our seniors at Warm Hearth. Delivery will begin around 5:45 p.m. Join us! The Tech students won't be available to help, so we really need you.



In August, we will collect cans of tuna.



It is hard to believe, but the fall semester is about to begin. After the students and teachers get settled into their classrooms, we will partner with the staff at Price's Fork to identify students and families that can benefit from the mission of Micah's Closet.

We are excited that we will be able to meet the needs of some of the children with new clothing donations we received this summer.

If you are interested in adding your heart and hands to this mission, please email us at hope@micahscloset.com. You can participate in a variety of ways:

- help to match the clothes in the closet to the needs of the children
- shop for specific items (mid September)
- sponsor a child
- donate boys or girls warm pajamas (sizes 6 - 12)
- sponsor a clothing drive
- prepare the gift bags and deliver to the school (early October)

Congratulations to ...



Doug Smiley who retired on June 30 after nearly 37 years in the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at Virginia Tech, beginning in 1980 as the Radiation Safety Officer. Doug won many prestigious recognitions at Tech, including one of five inaugural President's Awards for Excellence in 1990 and his nomination for the Governor's Award for Innovation when he saved VT approximately \$800,000 in the disposal of a major radioactive source on campus. In retirement, Doug is planning some house husband cooking and cleaning, lots of golf, travel (including a trip to Iceland), and new volunteer activities.

Frances Edge and Marguerite Olinger

who celebrated their 90th birthdays on July 5 and July 6 respectively.



Happy birthday dear friends
....and many more.

