



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## St. Michael's Evolving Mission

### 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.

Our current mission statement (printed to the left) was developed in 2002-2003 and adopted on March 23, 2003. While the congregation and surrounding community have developed and changed a great deal over the last 14 to 15 years, our mission statement has remained the same.

Quick overview of how our ministry has evolved over the last 15 years

- ◆ **Helping People in Need** - Our helping ministries have grown tremendously and now impact thousands of people a year.
- ◆ **Worship** - St. Michael now offers three worship services which each have a distinctive style and personality.
- ◆ **Finances** - While our support for our Core Ministries needs to grow to keep pace with our current ministry needs, overall financial support for the ministries of St. Michael is now 3 times larger than it was 15 years ago and the base of donors has increased dramatically.
- ◆ **Facilities** - St. Michael's facilities now include classroom space (2008) and a new sanctuary roof and siding (2016).
- ◆ **Partnerships** - One of the most dramatic changes at St. Michael over the last 15 years has been the growth in community partnerships which support Micah's Caring Initiative, Early Childhood Head Start and other local non-profits. We continue to partner for ministry with the Virginia Synod and the ELCA.
- ◆ **Impact** - On a yearly basis, St. Michael serves between 6,500 and 7,000 people through our ministry which is up from approximately 1,800 people per year 15 years ago.

On **Sunday, September 10 at 9:50 a.m.**, I invite you to join me in the fellowship hall as we discuss St. Michael's evolving mission. Bring your insights from reading the Book of Acts and your observations on our community to help shape the future of our ministry together.

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 volunteers at the Price’s Fork Fair: Dianne Krallman, Fran Shepherd, Becky Steck and Pastor John; to everyone who donated school supplies for children at Price’s Fork Elementary; to Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen, and Lynda Kinzey who helped fold the August newsletter; to everyone who provided and delivered food for the Price’s Fork Elementary School faculty and staff; to Dickie Shepherd for cutting back the weeds and grass in front of the far parking lot; to New River Engraving for providing the name plaques for our Faithchests and to everyone who helped deliver food for Micah’s Mobile Backpack.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for the Price’s Fork Fair, youth mission trip expenses, bulletin paper, stamps, restroom repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. 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. In August, we assisted 11 families; 5 with their electric bills, 3 with rent, 2 with gasoline and one with medication.

### Congratulations to . . .

Martha Wade who celebrated her 95th birthday on August 22. Martha has recently moved to Newport News, VA to be near her son, Larry.

Jody Smiley who was elected as President of the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization.

### Two Thank You Notes

*Dear Pastor John and Church Members,*

*Thank you so much for the generous check and allowing Karen Cox and I to attend your church services. Your church does so much for the community. Micah’s Backpack program and the Christmas Store are wonderful examples of an idea which spread to many groups, thus helping many! Rest assured that your check will be wisely spent on quality new goods for our shoppers.*

*Sally Bohland*

*(Remember Open House Dec. 3 at The Store on First Street, C’burg. Sandy Birch has been such a valuable volunteer for years!)*

*Dear Members of Saint Michael Lutheran Church,*

*I want to take a second to formally thank you for the generous donation you provided to the school.*

*We feel very fortunate to have such wonderful support from the community. The donated supplies are much needed and will be put to good use. Know that these gestures do not go unnoticed. We are very appreciative for any help we receive for our students and/or staff.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kelly B. Roark, Principal*

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8*

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Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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### *September Servants*

	<b>September 3</b>	<b>September 10</b>	<b>September 17</b>	<b>September 24</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	Solberg			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Dave Surface Butch Akers	Maggie Maloney Lylah Shelor	Gary and Sandie Worley	Neil and Jackie Muier
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Keith Gay	Judith Wolfe	Gary Worley	Matthew James
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	William Allen	Lori Anne Kirk	Butch Akers	Jacob Dennis
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Emily Graves		Camden Brewer	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jody Smiley		Bert Kinzey	
<b>Greeters</b>	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Anna Rossomando John Kell	McCartan Brewer Family	Gary and Rebecca Steck
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jody Smiley	Kris Wertz	Emma Patterson	Jeff Birch
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Anna Rossomando John Kell	Ron Brewer Marty Gordon	Gary and Rebecca Steck
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Jack Graves		Emily Graves	
<b>6:30 PM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Berg Family	Graves Family	Donna Oliver	Saks Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Charles Saks
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Guille Yearwood	Martie Saks

Mowing schedule: 9/2-Daniel Ferrell(back); 9/9-James/Dennis (front); 9/16-Jay Nagle(back);  
9/23-J.D. Robinson(front)  
Rear: 9/4 -Dave Surface; 9/11-Charlie Saks; 9/18-Mike Berg; 9/25-Doug Smiley

## Women of the ELCA



The Women's **Lunch and Learn** will begin Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will begin with lunch, followed by Bible study. Hope to see lots of you ladies there. There will be a place on the bulletin insert sheets to sign up. Our Bible study over the next 3 months will discuss the Apostles' Creed and what it says we believe. Our first session will explore what the Apostles' Creed says about God—and what it leaves undefined—as well as how this stirs our holy imagination.

Thanks to everyone at St. Michael who together made 50 shoe kits for Sole Hope in Uganda. Also to those who contributed over \$500 to our thank offering to help ship kits, provide foot care and education as well as employment for those making the shoes in Uganda. By combining our gifts with our sisters across the Virginia Synod we were able to provide over 900 shoe kits and \$10,000 for this wonderful cause. We also donated 40 stamps, 249 greeting cards, 150 envelopes and 400 sheets of paper for Grace Inside. The VSWO committed to provide materials for this Chaplain's ministry at the VA Correctional Center for Women. This ministry provides materials for inmates to communicate with family and friends. Again working with women across Virginia over 18,000 cards were given to Grace Inside.

The VA Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) annual convention was held at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Roanoke August 18-19. Anna Rossomando, Alice Schneider and Jody Smiley enjoyed business, worship and fellowship with the women's group. In addition to electing several new board members the group also elected Jody Smiley (who just completed 2 terms on the national board of WELCA, as our new President. At convention \$1,625 was given in our Love Offering which was divided between Elijah's Backpack at St. Philip and Women of the ELCA's Katie's Fund. \$1457 was collected for our regular convention offering which was divided between the VSWO and Women of the ELCA ministries. Bishop Mauney was our keynote speaker. We were his last appearance before his official retirement at the end of August. We will be collecting funds until the end of September to be given by the VSWO in his name for the Forwarding Faith Campaign to support Christian education programs within the VA Synod. Next year the convention will be at Bethel in Winchester August 3-4, 2018.

**School Supplies** – Thank you to everyone who contributed school supplies for Price's Fork Elementary School. There were 1952 items donated to help provide for those children who need help with school supplies.

**Remember the Food Bank:** In September please bring peanut butter and tuna, although any non-perishable foods are always welcome.

**For the Women's Resource Center** let's collect kleenex and toilet paper.

**A big Thank you for all the donations you contribute to help others less fortunate in our community!**

## Thrivent Action Team Update

In July and August one team purchased school supplies for Price's Fork Elementary School and another purchased items for St. Michael's outreach booth at the Prices Fork Fair. To date Thrivent has given our action teams \$1000 for ministries and projects at St. Michael. In the coming months, we have several projects that could use help from an Action Team. You could purchase winter hats and gloves to be sent along with our Christmas Shoe Boxes, a team could help with food needed for our community Thanksgiving dinner, another could work together to fill the Christmas baskets we give to families at Price's Fork Elementary School. New ideas are always welcome. They can be community projects as well as ones at St. Michael. We need your help so please contact Jody Smiley or Pastor John if you are interested in supporting these projects (or have another project) by applying for funding through a Thrivent Action Team.

## The O.K.s (Older Kids)

### Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon-September 12 Chile and chili



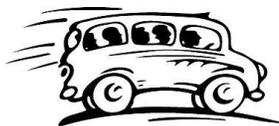
On Tuesday, September 12, we will enjoy a special back-to-school luncheon and an exciting geography lesson on Chile by two of our members, Matt James and Jake Dennis, who traveled to the South American country this past spring. We will also have a little math lesson and maybe an art exercise or two.

Bring an old school picture or school annual for some “show and tell time” too.

#### Lutheran Family Services Field Trip

On Wednesday, August 16, a group of O.K.s. enjoyed a field trip to Lutheran Family Services in Roanoke to visit with staff and participants in its Day Support program. Day Support provides individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities with a number of activity-based, skill-building experiences. We discovered there were many ways we could help this wonderful program. For example, in September, we are asking St. Michael members to **donate small items for BINGO prizes**, e.g., a small stuffed animal, a bright necklace, a new toothbrush. This is another opportunity for “re-gifting” too. A collection box is on the shelf in the hallway. After our tour, ten O.K.s enjoyed fine food and fellowship with lunch at Montano’s.

Lutheran  
Family Services  
of Virginia



#### OKs on the Go!

Hi everyone! I'm hoping that the date change I have will prove to be one that works for us! Kemvia has to move our scheduled trip to the Greenbriar to November 30th...the Thursday after Thanksgiving (9-6pm). It may be nice to just get away after the holiday hubbub!

The other change she made is to have Brad be our escort to the Roanoke Christmas & Crafts trip on Friday, December 8th (10-5p.m.).

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you in the Fall. Sign up early! Let's make each a full trip!

#### St. Michael Luncheon on September 24

The annual St. Michael Celebration and Birthday Luncheon will take place on September 24 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.

Come enjoy delicious food catered by the Cellar Restaurant, tasty birthday desserts provided by St. Michael members, and wonderful fellowship together.



A free will offering will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The event is hosted by the Women of the ELCA.

You are invited to **sign up to provide a birthday dessert** for one of the birthday months on the sign-up form on the hallway bulletin board.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Now, the school year is off and running. The first packing night was August 24<sup>th</sup>. We start setting up at 5:30 p.m. and packing begins at 6 p.m. Come join us as we get the year off to a great start.

**Feel free during September to bring spaghettiOs or canned ravioli to help stock the shelves.**

The summer season came to a close for MBP with our last Mobile delivery at the beginning of August. Enormous thanks to William Allen, Pat Garst, Betty Falta, and Cindy Martin for their tireless work on Thursday afternoons come torrential downpour or blazing sun to get the backpacks out to the kids in our community that need them. Micah Mefford also delivered bags to Margaret Beeks students while others took bags to Valley Interfaith Childcare Center. It was a great summer!



The garden has had a form of rebirth. The old crops have been harvested- carrots, potatoes, lots of squash and beans. But now there are turnips and broccoli and cabbage in the fresh soil. We planted right before the week of rain, so the plants had a great start. We have rehomed three ground hogs, but allowed one skunk to quietly return to whatever skunks do.

Thanks again for all the continued support by the Congregation for this program. We do hear from the Seniors how grateful they are for all we do for them. We see a lot of smiles and the interaction with each of the Seniors is always very rewarding.



**The next packing date is Tuesday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m.** with distribution at 5:45 p.m. Come and share in this wonderful time of fellowship and service. For more information, contact Dianne Krallman at [dkrallman@hubbeltg.com](mailto:dkrallman@hubbeltg.com).

**We will be collecting Peanut Butter for the month of September.**



The goal of Micah's Closet is to provide up to a week's worth of new school clothes to children in need, through a partnership with schools and individuals. Studies show that children in need are more likely to have higher self-confidence and maintain higher school attendance if their clothes are as nice as clothing worn by their peers. Our partners at Price's Fork Elementary School are determining who needs assistance from Micah's Closet. We anticipate receiving that information soon and delivering clothing as the seasons begin to change. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sheila McCartan at [hope@micahscloset.org](mailto:hope@micahscloset.org). Shoppers who have already volunteered will be contacted soon.

**During September we will collect packages of boys or girls socks to fit shoe sizes toddler 5 through youth size 2.**

## St. Michael Church Music



Come sing with us! Choir rehearsals begin September 10 at 10 a.m. and continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month throughout the year. We welcome youth and adults, all singing abilities. Do you have a musical talent that you would like to share in worship...instruments, solo, family music, other? Contact Patrice Yearwood.

### Kroger Community Rewards Program – Need to Renew Your Card Number

For a number of years, members of St. Michael have contributed to Micah's Backpack and the Justice and Mercy Fund through our Kroger Plus cards, adding thousands of dollars to these programs. But we must renew our card numbers each year. Just visit the secure website: [kroger.com](http://kroger.com) to update your individual Kroger Plus card to one of St. Michael's accounts. Members can designate their contribution to Micah's Backpack using #83513 or Justice and Mercy using #82386.



### School Supplies for Price's Fork Elementary School

Thank you for your generous gifts of school supplies to support the teachers and students at Price's Fork Elementary School. Here's a look at what was donated.

Pencils	703
Erasers	220
Pens	195
Glue Sticks	162
Spiral Notebooks	97
Boxes of Crayons	95
Folders	83
Boxes of Colored Pencils	44
Composition Notebooks	43
Packs of Notebook Paper	41
Scissors	40
Backpacks	38
Glue Bottles	31
Boxes of Tissues	24
Other Supplies	127
<b>Total Items Donated</b>	<b>1943</b>



School Supplies for Price's Fork Elementary School



Counting Donations for Price's Fork Elementary School

## Moving from Sunday School to Faith Formation

One of the important callings for all God's people is to share the story of God's love and to help nurture faith in others. In an effort to answer this call to ministry more effectively, St. Michael is moving from Sunday School to Faith Formation. Instead of trying to teach on Sunday mornings between services, we are launching a new series of faith formation opportunities designed to meet people where they are and help them grow in faith. Scripture discussions, led by Pastor John, will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. and child care will be offered during that time, but we will not have additional classes at this point. The first new opportunity, Families of Faith, is focused on families with young children and will take place on the first Wednesday of the month. Watch for other new opportunities in the coming months.

### Sunday Morning Scripture Discussion Begins September 17

Beginning on Sunday, September 17 at 9:50 a.m., Pastor John will lead a scripture discussion focusing on the readings from worship. If you are interested in learning more about the readings in worship, plan to gather in the large classroom on Sunday mornings for the discussion.



### Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music

On the first Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., St. Michael will gather families with young children for dinner, discussion and music. We'll enjoy a simple dinner together, share a Bible story with the kids, then Patrice will offer a music program called "God's Kid's Sing", for the kids while the parents have time for discussion and conversation. You don't need to worry about cooking, just bring yourself and your family.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Bible Story</b>
September 6, 2017	5:30 to 6:45 PM	Abraham
October 4, 2017	5:30 to 6:45 PM	Noah
November 1, 2017	5:30 to 6:45 PM	Moses

### New River Valley Confirmation Partnership Begins

Confirmation is an opportunity for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to learn more about Jesus, God's story and the ways that faith can be a part of their lives. This year we are doing confirmation with Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Christiansburg and Christ Lutheran Church in Radford. We will meet 8 times between September 2017 and May 2018. There will be two Sunday afternoon retreats, two Friday night retreats and four Thursday night dinners. The first retreat will be on Sunday, September 10 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Michael.

We will also be using a set of online confirmation lessons that Pastor Drew Tucker and Pastor John have helped to develop. The online lessons complement the retreats and will be the basis for our discussion at the Thursday night meals. For more information about confirmation, please talk to Pastor John.

## Wonderful Week at the Junior High Servant Event

This year, the youth on the Junior High Servant Event wanted to share their reflections on our week of faith, service and learn.

**Thoughts from Jessie Brown** – While in Virginia Beach for my last Junior High Servant Event, we participated in an 8-mile compassion walk on homelessness. Out of the three years I've attended this event, this year was the first time I completed it. The walk is a very moving experience which quite literally places you in the position of a homeless individual living in Virginia Beach. Our group was accompanied by two of the people from People in Need Ministries (PIN) who orchestrated the walk. We would stop at various places along the way and learn about their significance to the homeless population. For example, we stopped at a warehouse where many people would set up camp. As we continued with the walk I became hot and tired and wanted to give up. However, I realized that I had AC and somewhere to go after the walk and I didn't have to do it every day just to find a bathroom. This walk really helped me better understand how privileged I am and got me even more excited to serve throughout the week.

**Thoughts from Kirsten Patrick** – One of the many events that we did to benefit people experiencing homelessness was a dinner. It was held at PIN Ministries and open to anyone who wanted to come. We served coke, diet coke, salad, pizza, philly cheese steak sliders, chips and sundaes. Unlike a normal assembly line dinner, we had the people stay sitting and took their orders. The only time they had to get up was to get their sundaes. It was definitely chaotic at times, but by far it was my favorite thing we did all week. While I was giving these people their food, I felt such a strong connection to Jesus Christ. You really see how amazing it is that these people still have such strong faith and such positive outlook on life.

**Thoughts from Jack Graves** - On the third day of our trip, we went to the Foodbank of Southwest Virginia. My job was to go through the potatoes and bag them. We would get 50lbs. of potatoes and divide them into smaller red bags. If we came upon a bad potato, we would put it in a yellow bucket.

To end the day, we toured the food bank. The man explained, anyone can come to the food bank and receive food. He used Donald Trump as an example of how the food bank was open to anyone. Donald Trump, he said, could come to the food bank and receive food if he needed it. The tour included seeing the food bank freezer and the area in which the people receive the food. The food in stock was only half of the supply maintained during the holidays.

