



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Your Willingness to Share Your Gifts Make Ministry Happen

In March, the congregation approved our Vision Action Plan outlining goals and strategies to help strengthen and expand St. Michael's ministry in the areas of Leadership, Engagement and Ministry with Children, Youth and their Families. Now that the plan has been adopted, it is time to turn plans into ministry.

Over the last two weeks, teams have begun working on each of the three focus areas. Some strategies in the plan, like establishing a regular gathering for youth 6th-12th grade, are already being implemented. Other outcomes, like "teach and model the priesthood of all believers," are long-term projects that will shape the life of this community over the next few years.

None of the great ideas, however, can move from plan to action without you. If you haven't done so already, consider sharing your time and wisdom as a part of a team working on one of the areas of the plan. Think about which area of the plan you are passionate about and add your hearts, hands and voices to this exciting effort to strengthen God's ministry at St. Michael. If you'd like to get involved, you can let me know or let Fran Shepherd, our Council Chair, know and we will get you connected with a team.

Thank you! I also want to say, "Thank You!" for your generous support of the April "50 for the 50th" project. Because of your generous gifts, we raised over \$3000 to help send five youth from St. Michael to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.
pastorjohn@stmclc.us



Serving the community through
faith, fellowship, worship,
learning and grace.

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, Margaret Larsen and Mildred Wall who folded the April newsletter; to Ron Brewer for his many hours of yard work fixing up the St. Michael grounds; to everyone who helped with the Spring Clean Up day; to Emma Patterson for making the Easter banners and the tomb and to the Micah’s Closet shoppers.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported the repair of a leak in the kitchen, removal of a tree damaged by a storm, snow removal and office supplies, special musicians for an Easter service, landscaping mulch, copier maintenance, kitchen 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 15 families:** 10 with electric bills, 4 with rent assistance 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 the need.

Learn More about the Ministry of St. Michael

On the second Sunday of each month at 7:15 PM, St. Michael’s Congregational Council discuss the ministry of St. Michael. If you are interested in sitting in on a meeting to learn more about St. Michael’s ministry, talk to a Council member or Pastor John for more information.

Thank You Note

*St. Michael Lutheran Church,
Price’s Fork Elementary can never thank you enough for all your love and generosity that you show our students each year. Your support has helped put smiles on so many faces. Many students have come up to show off their new clothes and shoes and their excitement is priceless! I’m always amazed at your commitment and dedication to meet the needs of the children in our community*

*Thank you!
Heather Reynolds, PFES School Counselor*

MICAH'S backpack

April was a busy month at MBP. Thank you to everyone who donated on **GiveBig NRV** day. We raised over \$1,600 that day. And huge thanks to our sponsors for the **Can Do! - Blacksburg Fork and Cork** event. Through their generosity, we raised \$2,600. Please make sure to thank these businesses: New River

Engraving, FoxGuard Solutions, Legacy Builders NRV, Inc., In Balance Yoga, Gillie's/Bollo's, Mandell Real Estate, PK's Bar & Grill, Sharkey's, Coldwell Banker, Townside Realtors, Nest Realty, BCR Property Management, Draper Aden Associates and Qualtrax, Inc. We live in such a giving community!

We continue to pack over 300 bags each week to feed hungry kids. Feel free to come help us pack on Thursday nights at 6:00. The last packing night for the school year will be May 24.

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

In spite of the crazy spring, we have managed to get the garden started. We have had a lot of working hands to help. We had a large load of top soil delivered. The Rotary volunteers successfully removed the layers of landscaping fabric that was no longer preventing unwanted weeds, over half of the garden. We also had a wonderful turn out of students from the **Big Event at Virginia Tech**. They moved heavy dirt into the garden and they bagged the wet landscape fabric, despite rain and sleet they were very cheerful and determined. We also had garden volunteers come last Saturday and plant 100 pounds of potatoes. And six rows of peas. There is still a lot of work to be done, but the garden has had a wonderful spring start, praise be to God.

April 7th, 2018
one big day, one big thanks





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 46 children and their families.



the seniors. We enjoy our partnership with that group along with our normal support groups.

The packing date for May is **May 29th**. We appreciate everyone's continued support of our program as we enter into our 6th year. We continue to support over 90 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera. We will have a group from BB&T this month to help with donations and packing. They collect special toiletry items for

For **May**, we will be collecting cans of **chicken noodle soup**.

ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE

Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School Begins June 3

The adventure begins on Sunday, June 3, and continues through Thursday, June 7. 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.

Upcoming Confirmation Event - May 10

Our final Confirmation event of the school year will take place on Thursday, May 10 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to gather at Luther Memorial for dinner and conversation around putting our faith into action.

Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music

On **Wednesday, May 2** and **Tuesday, May 16** at **5:30 p.m.**, families with young children are invited to dinner, activities, music and discussion time. Come enjoy time with other families and children and learn more about faith and life.



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May Servants

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
Altar Care	Elaine Powers			
9 AM Service		Bold Women's Sunday		
Greeters	Butch Akers	WELCA	Clifton and Fay Walters	Ben and Carol Crawford
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk		Jacob Dennis	Gary Worley
Comm. Asst.	Dianne Krallman		Judith Wolfe	Sandie Worley
11 AM Service		WELCA		
Acolyte	Jack Graves		Megan Christle	
Comm. Asst.	Mickey McGuigan		Jeff Birch	
Greeters	Ray Howell Cindy Lang		Gary and Rebecca Steck	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Doug Smiley		Kris Wertz	Mac McCloud
Ushers	Ray Howell Don Linkous		Gary and Rebecca Steck	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		Emily Graves	
6:30 PM Service		WELCA		
Greeters	Berg Family			No Service
Lay Reader	Mike Berg		Tacey Apsia	No Service
Comm. Asst.	Michelle Berg		Tacey Apsia	No Service

Mowing: 5/5-Jay Nagle(back); 5/12–Dickie Shepherd(front); 5/19 – Daniel

Ferrell(back); 5/26–James/Dennis (front)

Rear Lot: 5/7–Charlie Saks; 5/14-Mike Berg; 5/21-Doug Smiley; 5/28-Dave Surface

Women of the ELCA

Our annual Love Offering will go towards “**Blast Off for Books**”, the **2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Literacy Campaign**. Members of our youth group who will be attending the Youth Gathering in Houston will deliver the books purchased with our offering. **We hope to send 50 books in celebration of our 50th anniversary**. The Gathering has recognized the need to lift up literacy in Houston where 3 in 5 children lack reading-readiness skills when entering kindergarten. It is estimated that 74% of the students in the school district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. Baggies for the offering, often our loose change collected over several weeks, are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and can be returned during May.



All women, young and old, are invited to the **annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on May 6 at noon** in the fellowship hall. Invite a friend, mother, sister, or daughter and bring a salad to share. The theme is “**Pearls and Oysters**” and we invite everyone to wear a pearl necklace if you have one. Don’t have one? A special door prize will be a pearl necklace. We will also recognize several special servants as **Bold Women of the ELCA**.



Bold Women Sunday will be **May 13**. The women of the church will serve as greeters, ushers and readers and lead worship at all three services.

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

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

The women of St. Michael have been invited to the **Church Women United 2018 May Friendship Day** on Friday, May 4, at Blacksburg Christian Church (240 Watson Ave., Blacksburg). The program is entitled “**Reaching for Wholeness in Gratitude for God’s Presence**” and will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a potluck luncheon.

Planning ahead: On **Sunday, June 3**, we will celebrate the **high school and college graduations** of several of our St. Michael family members. The Graduates Reception will be the First Sunday Summer Brunch held between the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.

Congratulations to....

Kelly and Peter McCann on the birth of their daughter Haddie Rose on April 11. Haddie Rose was welcomed by her big sister, EllaGrace.

David Christle on being awarded the \$600 St. Michael Scholarship!

Thank you for a Wonderful Easter!

This year, we celebrated the joy of Easter with 245 people across four services. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a wonderful celebration on the Resurrection!

