



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Giving Thanks and Looking Forward

As I prepare to conclude my ministry at St. Michael, I want to take the opportunity to say “Thank You!” Thank you for your willingness to share your gifts for ministry. Thank you for being God’s heart, hands and voices in our community. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your pastor for the last 14 years. St. Michael is an extraordinary congregation filled with faithful, wonderful people. It has been my privilege to be in ministry with you! I look forward to celebrating our ministry together at the potluck on June 23rd and at my last worship services on June 24th.

While my ministry at St. Michael is drawing to a close, the ministry of the congregation will continue to be strong and vibrant. Here are a few helpful notes about the transition.

- ▶ The Congregational Council is working with the Synod to call an **interim pastor** to serve for the next year as the congregation moves through the call process. As soon as an interim is selected, the Council will share the news with the congregation.
- ▶ The **Call Process for an ELCA** congregation requires a number of steps. Bishop Humphrey has already met with the Council to talk about the future. Eventually, the Council will appoint a call committee which typically has a cross-section of the congregation with 7 to 12 people. The call committee will oversee completing the ELCA Ministry Site Profile (MRP), interview candidates and recommend a candidate to the Council. The Council will recommend a candidate to the congregation. At a called Congregational meeting, the congregation votes to call the new pastor. Given the vibrancy of the congregation, the size and the location, it seems likely that St. Michael will have numerous candidates interested in the call.
- ▶ **What about weddings, baptisms and funerals?** - After July 1, I will no longer be the pastor at St. Michael and will no longer be available to preside at weddings, baptisms or funerals. If you call and ask me to do a wedding, baptism or funeral, I will have to say "no". It is not personal. It is not a reflection on how I felt about you when I was your pastor, but it creates an unhealthy dynamic within a congregation when a pastor resigns, but unofficially continues to be the pastor in the shadows.



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

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 20: reading, singing, greeting, preaching; to Wanda Pascoe, Betty Falta, Mildred Wall and Margaret Larsen who helped with folding the May newsletter; to members of our church congregational council for their caring and dedication; to Ron Brewer for improvements around the church building; and to Bryan Katz for helping prepare the Micah’s bus for summer deliveries.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in May supported the purchase of newsletter supplies, VBS supplies, heat pump repair, devotional subscriptions, 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 May, we provided assistance for **9** families; 8 with electric bills and one with rent. 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.

Sunday Summer Brunch - June 3 at 10:00 AM Honoring our 2017-2018 Graduates

You are invited to St. Michael’s first Sunday Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 3 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with the St. Michael family as we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates.



Congratulations to...



Forrest and Joselly Worley who were married on April 26 under Forrest’s favorite oak trees in his old Blacksburg neighborhood. Witnessed by their families, Pastor John performed the ceremony on a beautiful Thursday morning. Forrest is the son of Gary and Sandie Worley.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

The end of the school year is always a fun month at MBP. It is also a bittersweet time because we say goodbye to college students who have packed with us on a regular basis and are graduating. These students are such a blessing in the MBP family, and it's hard to let them go. We are grateful for their generosity in giving their time, energy, and care to so many children in our community.



We packed 1,194 bags this month. That means 7,164 meals were given to kids throughout our community. What a wonderful way for SMLC to share God's love and care.

During June, **Micah's Backpack will collect 100% juice boxes.** Thank you for sharing fruit cups in May!



Micah's Mobile Backpack Bus rolls out for the first day of delivery on Thursday, June 7. The last delivery will be Thursday, August 2. Thank you to Vicky Wall, our delivery intern and to Robert Shelton, our packing intern. We are looking forward to a great MMBP season!

First packing day for the summer is Wednesday, June 13. We have changed the starting day for summer packing to June 13. We realized that packing while VBS is going on is not a great idea...just not enough room for both to happen simultaneously. So, we will get bags packed for the first week of delivery before that week, and then will begin packing on June 13 at 6:00. Set up begins at 5:30. Feel free to join the fun!

The garden has been planted and nature has watered it often. We have had generous plant and seed donations from Crow's Nest Greenhouses and the NRV Master Gardeners. There is still space for anyone who would like to plant for themselves. There is also a need for some weeding volunteers; if anyone is interested contact: mnickle@vt.edu.



The packing date for June is June 26th. 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 the seniors. We enjoy our partnership with that group along with our normal support groups.

The Blacksburg Rotary Club helped stock our shelves with Tuna, Spam, V8 Juice and Peanut Butter this past month. We certainly appreciate their support over the last 6 months. For **June**, we will be collecting boxes of **Saltine Crackers**.

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June Servants

| | June 3 | June 10 | June 17 | June 24 |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Altar Care | Solberg | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Wilma Pieper Dave Surface | Wilma Pieper Butch Akers | Lylah Shelor Dianne Krallman | Mayer Family |
| Lay Reader | John Krallman | Mac McCloud | Butch Akers | Carrie Mayer |
| Comm. Asst. | Butch Akers | Dianne Krallman | Lori Anne Kirk | Sandy Williams |
| 11 AM Service | | | | |
| Acolyte | Jack Graves | | Jack Graves | |
| Comm. Asst. | Jody Smiley | | Emily Graves | |
| Greeters | Ray Howell Ben Simmers | Anna Rossomando John Kell | Hank and Alice Schneider | Gary and Rebecca Steck |
| Lay Reader | Doug Smiley | Jeff Birch | Anna Rossomando | Fran Shepherd |
| Ushers | Ray Howell Ben Simmers | Anna Rossomando John Kell | Hank and Alice Schneider | Gary and Rebecca Steck |
| Youth Servant | Emily Graves | | Jack Graves | |
| 6:30 PM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | No Service | Graves Family | | Saks Family |
| Lay Reader | No Service | Mike Berg | Tacey Apisa | Charlie Saks |
| Comm. Asst. | No Service | Michelle Berg | Tacey Apisa | Martie Saks |

Mowing: 6/2-Jay Nagel (back); 6/9-Dickie Shepherd (front); 6/16-Daniel Ferrell (back);
6/23-Matthew James/Jacob Dennis (front)
Rear Lot: 6/4-Charlie Saks; 6/11-Mike Berg; 6/18-Doug Smiley; 6/25-Dave Surface

Congratulations to Our graduates...



David Christle graduated from Blacksburg High School. He ran cross-country and indoor track and was a member of the National Honor Society. He will attend UVA this fall and plans to pursue a degree in public policy. David is a member of Troop 158 at St. Michael and has earned his Eagle rank.

Paul Kell graduated from Blacksburg High School and will be attending Virginia Tech as a math major. At BHS, Paul was a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and was on the winning Envirothon team for the southwest region. Paul has been a member of Troop 158 at St. Michael since 6th grade and has earned his Eagle rank.



Matthew Pasier graduated from U.S. Army basic training on March 23rd in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. On June 13, he will finish his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in air defense, also at Ft. Sill. Matthew will next be stationed in South Korea.

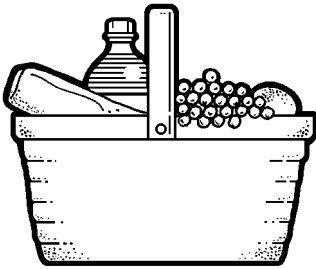
Parker Wertz graduated from Blacksburg High School where he was an Honor Thespian and was very involved behind the scenes with theater productions sponsored by the drama department. Parker also participated in community theater. He plans to attend New River Community College in the ACCES Program and study Graphic Design.



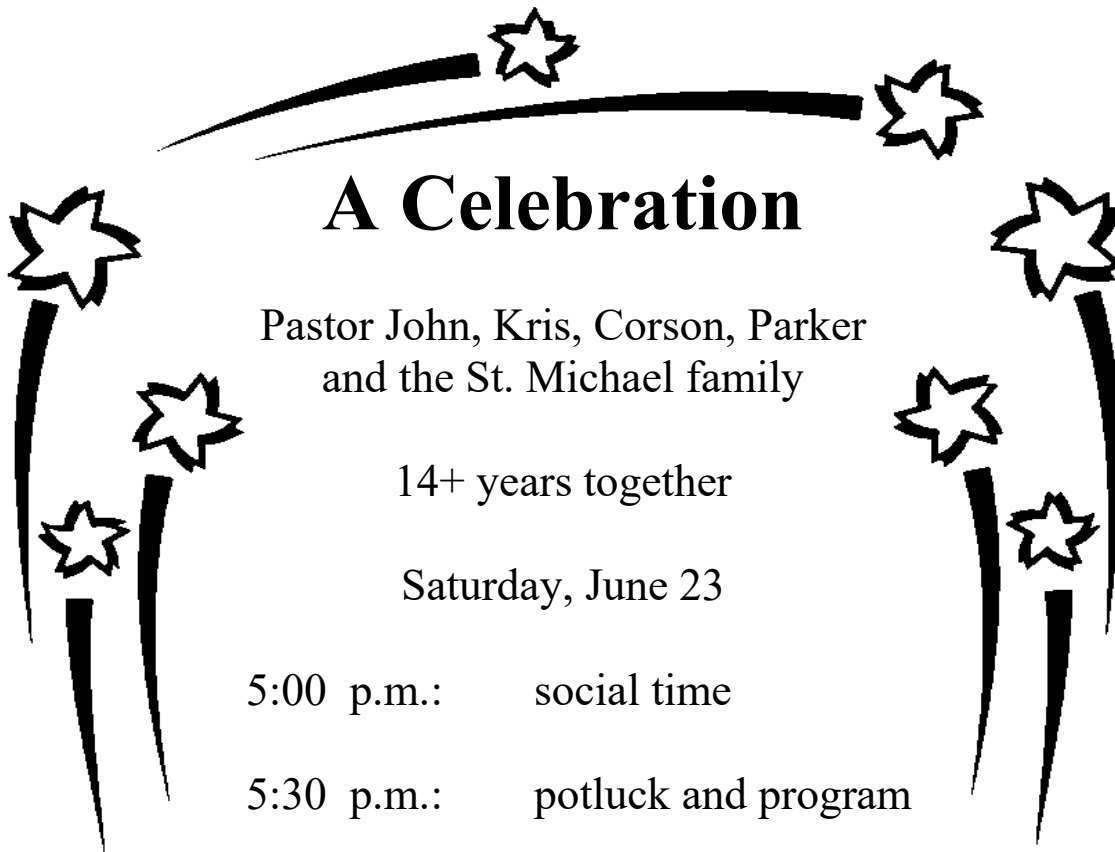
Emory Jean Yearwood graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in English with a focus on global literature and culture and with a minor in Spanish. She will travel to Germany after commencement and then return to Charlottesville to work and make plans for the future.

Matt Sharpe who graduated from Blacksburg High School plans to attend New River Community College with an ACCES scholarship and **Will Sharpe** who was a member of the Corp of Cadets and graduated from Virginia Tech.

O.K.s (Older Kids) - Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon



The **Happy-Go-Lucky gourmet picnic** will be **Tuesday, June 19** at noon in the fellowship hall. We'll celebrate the summer season with good food, music, and a task. The task?.....to identify church members in a bunch of pictures collected over our 50 year history. We need your good memories! We will also have the opportunity to chat with Pastor John and hear more about his new adventures in the ELCA.



A Celebration

Pastor John, Kris, Corson, Parker
and the St. Michael family

14+ years together

Saturday, June 23

5:00 p.m.: social time

5:30 p.m.: potluck and program

Bring a dish to share and lots of good wishes for Pastor John as he begins his new call with the Virginia Synod.

Sunday, June 24 around 10 a.m.
Coffee cake and conversation

A little time with Pastor John between services



Women of the ELCA

July Ladies Night Out - all women are invited - bring a friend if you'd like. More information and date to come in the bulletin and July newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the “**Blast Off For Books**” love offering. We collected over \$360 to purchase books for children in the Houston, TX school district. With discounts offered by Barnes and Noble, our five members attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering will be able to deliver over 50 books from the St. Michael family. Your generosity is very appreciated.



At the annual Sisters in Christ Luncheon on May 6, the Women of the ELCA gave thanks to God for **Emma Patterson, Becky Steck and Joyce Coupey** for their faithful and bold leadership at St. Michael and for sharing their creative and artistic talents with their church family. They are our WELCA Bold Women for 2018. Emma is responsible for the beautiful Lenten and Easter banners which grace the front of the sanctuary. She serves on several leadership teams and as a Sunday morning lay reader and sings in the choir. Becky used her sewing talents to upholster all of the choir chairs, serves as an usher, greeter, and altar care assistant, and leads in several Micah's Initiatives. We are grateful to Joyce for our beautiful weekly bulletin covers, all works of art. Joyce also has designed and sewn many of Pastor John's chasubles, his outermost liturgical vestments. Our new banner of St. Michael, which is hanging in the church entry, along with the St. Michael church banner found behind the choir, are further examples of Joyce's artistic creativity.



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: dish soap

National Youth Gathering: Gifts for Gifts

Fundraising efforts for youth from St. Michael to attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston continue with **Gifts for Gifts**. Starting in June, the youth headed to Houston will be offering their time in exchange for pledges to fund the travel to Houston. If you have any tasks where youth might be able to offer their gifts (babysitting, tech help, work around the church) get in touch with them or with Fran Shepherd. They can coordinate a time to work as well as arrange for a pledge amount. Then, simply fill out a Gifts for Gifts form and send it in with your contribution to the National Youth Gathering. Thank you again for your continued support of the youth in their efforts to raise money to go to Houston. The National Gathering will not only provide new ways to serve and grow in faith, but will also provide new ways to experience how the Body of Christ is at work in the world.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” - Ephesians 2:8



St. Michael Gifts for Gifts

Thank you for participating in St. Michael Gifts for Gifts. Please fill out the top of this form and return the bottom half to the youth member who is sharing their gifts with you. There are a number of ways you may submit your pledge to support the St. Michael youth who are attending the National Gathering in Houston.

- Send the top half of this form, along with the pledged donation to the church, St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Rd. Blacksburg, VA 24060.
- Donate online at <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/how-do-i/give/>. Select 'Focus on Youth' and include a note in the payment information stating that the donation is fulfilling a pledge to Gifts for Gifts.
- Drop this half of the form, along with your donation in the offering plate at church.

Date: _____

Name of Youth: _____

Name of Donor: _____

What gifts were shared?

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Detach bottom and give to youth member

St. Michael Gifts for Gifts Pledge Slip

Date: _____

Name of Youth: _____

Name of Donor: _____

What gifts were shared?

Donation Amount: \$ _____