

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 everyone who volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School; to Bryan Katz and Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to all our lawn mowing crew; Mildred Wall, Lynda Kinzey, Wanda Pascoe, Margaret Larsen and Betty Falta for folding the June newsletter; and to Bryan Katz for helping get the bus ready for Micah’s Mobile Backpack.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in June supported sealing and repainting the parking lots, nursery worker wages, Vacation Bible School supplies, office supplies, the St. Michael scholarship, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, help with registration for 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 **3** families; 2 with electric bills and one with rent assistance. 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.

Wonderful Week of Vacation Bible School

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.



Congratulations to



All St. Michael graduates who were honored at the June First Sunday Summer Brunch. *Pictured are Parker Wertz and Alec Alderman.*

Andrea and Samuel Scheetz on the birth of their son, Elijah James Scheetz who was born on June 11.

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		

Summer Brunch on July 8 at 10:00 AM

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 8 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael. At the July Brunch, the Leadership Vision Team will be sharing information about the Spiritual Gifts Survey which will be offered to the congregation in August. In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet our new interim pastor, Pastor Paul Henrickson.



**Junior High Servant Event
July 15 – 22**



The Junior High Servant Event is a weeklong 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. Pastor Wanda from Our Saviour, Christiansburg is planning to attend and would love to have youth from St. Michael as a part of the group.

You can register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-the-waters-edge-junior-high-servant-event-2018-tickets-43977920143> Please select the "Register Online, Pay at Church" option. If you have any questions, speak with Fran Shepherd.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Micah's Backpack, along with all of Saint Michaels and the whole community, are sad that Pastor John is leaving us. We will miss his positive, faithful, fun presence with us. And we will feel his absence in all the things he did behind the scenes to make MBP such a vital ministry in our community. Along with our sadness comes great joy for him as he steps into his new calling.

Micah's Mobile Backpack, the summer program for feeding kids in our community, is off to a great start. Thanks to the efforts of Vicki Wall and many wonderful bus riding volunteers, we are already packing about 200 bags each week to send out into the community. Please continue to keep the program in your prayers...especially on Thursday afternoons as the bus rolls around town!

This month please feel free to fill the food room with donations of peanut butter. We will be sending out an invitation to all churches in the community to rain down peanut butter from heaven, helping the kids have lots of pb to fill their tummies.

Habitat for Humanity House Needs Volunteers



like to help:

Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley is in the process of building a Faith Build duplex in Christiansburg for two wonderful families, and they invite you to help build these homes. We now need to help frame the house! Please click through this link to register yourself (as a "New Volunteer"), and sign up for a time that you would

<https://volunteerup.com/Login.asp?w=i&o=304>

Habitat strives to Give a Hand Up not a Hand Out. They do this by working with families who have a housing need, have an ability to pay, and are willing to help build their own home. See <http://www.habitatnrv.org/> for more information. Habitat also works with community partners (individuals, churches, and companies) to raise the initial funds to build, to organize volunteers, and to build the home. If you have any questions, please talk to John Kell or contact Sara Bohn, the Deputy Director of Habitat for Humanity of the New River Valley at (540) 239-0371 or SBohn@HabitatNRV.org.

MICAH'S garden

THE FIRST FRUIT! The garden is in full bloom and we already have small peas and cucumbers on the vines. I feel like the food banks will be receiving an abundance soon.

Contact Mary Nickle if you want to donate time to our garden. mnickle@vt.edu



MICAH'S soup for seniors

The packing date for July is July 24th. We continue to support over 90 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera. We want to thank BB&T for supporting us in May and June with both their time and their donations of personal items for the seniors. They collected special toiletry items for the seniors. We enjoy our partnership with that group along with our normal support groups.

A special thanks to Martie and Charlie Saks for their shopping each month for the special items that are requested. They brave Kroger once a month to shop for those items. Also - thanks go out to Doug and Jody Smiley each month for picking up the regular items and setting up each Monday night. Pastor has picked up our Panera on Monday nights for the past several years and we always appreciated that special help and want to thank him for all his work with Soup for Seniors.

If anyone can help out with the Panera - picking up the leftovers on Monday night, please let me know. Hopefully, we can get several volunteers so we can alternate months. For July, we will be collecting **tomato soup**.

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

MICAH'S closet

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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July Servants

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Altar Care	Steck				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Jackie and Neil Muir	Gary and Sandie Worley	Clifton and Fay Walters	Ben and Carol Crawford
Lay Reader	Lori Ann Kirk	Mac McCloud	Butch Akers	Matthew James	Maggie Maloney
Comm. Asst.	Lylah Shelor	Butch Akers	Dianne Krallman	Jacob Dennis	Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Megan Christle		Jack Graves		
Comm. Asst.	Mickey McGuigan		Sandy Birch		
Greeters	Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Ferrell Family	Gary and Rebecca Steck	James and Wanda Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Lay Reader	Fran Shepherd	Doug Smiley	Jeff Birch	Anna Rossomando	Marty Gordon
Ushers	Ray Howell Don Linkous	Daniel Ferrell John Kell	Gary and Rebecca Steck	James and Wanda Pascoe	Josiah and Litha Tlou
Youth Servant	Bryce Dowdy		Emily Graves		

Please note: We would appreciate the Greeters at both services taking the attendance, writing the number down and placing it in the offering plate.

Mowing: 7/7–Dickie Shepherd (front); 7/14-Daniel Ferrell (back); 7/21-James/Dennis (front); 7/28-Jay Nagle (back)

Rear Lot: 7/2-Charlie Saks; 7/9-Mike Berg; 7/16-Doug Smiley; 7/23-Dave Surface; 7/30-Charlie Saks



Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out - It's time to enjoy dinner out with the ladies - 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 11th at O'Charley's and it's Free Pie Night!! All St. Michael ladies are invited; bring a friend if you would like. There will be sign-up sheets in the bulletin so we can have tables set for all. If you'd like to carpool, please contact Sandy Birch or Alice Schneider.

With much gratitude we thank all who contributed \$434.05 to the love offering for **Blast Off for Books**. Books will be purchased for the youth to take with them to the national convention in Texas to be distributed to children in the Houston school district.

We will once again be collecting **school supplies** for Price's Fork School. School will begin Wed August 15, please bring your things by Sunday, August 11. Backpacks, pencils, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, composition books, spiral notebooks, wide ruled notebook paper, folders with pockets, colored paper, tissues and hand sanitizers are needed. There will be a large box for donations in the narthex - lists will be available.

This year's **VSWO (VA Synodical Women's Organization) Convention** will be August 3-4 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester, VA. All women of St. Michael are Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and are invited. This year our guest Synod Representative will be Lydia Davila, from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, past president of the Caribbean Synod. It's a fun time to meet women from churches around the state, conduct some VSWO business, work on a project (assemble health kits for Lutheran World Relief), worship and learn together; and of course enjoy sharing meals. This year's project will be **sewing fabric walker or wheel chair caddies** for distribution locally. If you enjoy sewing, please pick up some information with sewing instructions and / or kits to sew them. If you would like information about the projects or convention, please see Alice Schneider, or our VSWO President, Jody Smiley.

Remember the Food Bank: In July please bring **canned or packaged fruits**, although any other non-perishable foods are always accepted.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: paper towels

Thank you for all the ways you help our neighbors near and far.

50 for the 50th: Health Kits



As our 50 for the 50th project in July, we will be helping the Women of the ELCA collect items for health kits which will be assembled at the VSWO Assembly in August. Help us reach our goal of 50 health kit items by donating:

Bars of Soap, Combs, Nail Clippers, or Individually Packaged Toothbrushes

Update from the Leadership Vision Action Team

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Siblings in Christ, in this time of transition, we continue our journey together. The Leadership Vision Action Team would like to offer the following update and invitations. In our last meeting, members identified a spiritual gifts inventory tool for us to use to begin our fall priesthood of all believers' study and conversation.

We invite you:

- to watch for the bulletin announcement to participate in the survey at an upcoming Sunday Summer Brunch
- to prepare by engaging in a brief Bible study with which you can become familiar by pre-reading/studying Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 1:4-5.
 - o The following WELCA guidelines can assist your engagement with the Jeremiah passage.
 - “God is designer and creator of all life, and to understand where we fit in the process, we must start from the beginning. When we realize what makes us who we are and just how intricate and complex God has made each of us, we only can echo the Psalmist’s response..., ‘For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.’”
 - While reading the passages from Jeremiah, “Pay close attention to what God says and how Jeremiah responds.”
 - “Reflect on each phrase from verse 4 and 5.”
 - “Record your first thoughts and insights in reaction to each phrase.”
 - “Remember, as we continue to explore spiritual gifts, God is spirit. And we are too.”
 - “Read again the last verse of that first chapter of Jeremiah. These last words of verse 19 are the familiar ones on which we’ve learned to rely. “...for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you.” Jesus again was telling his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to be our constant companion.
- to continue to keep this team and our congregation in prayer during this transitional time. God is alongside us, always.

I, and the Leadership Visioning Team, look forward to continuing this conversation during an upcoming Summer Sunday Brunch and beyond.

Lori Anne Kirk, Convener, Leadership Visioning Team

Christmas in July: Sunday, July 22

On Sunday, July 22, 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.

