



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## First Impressions

“You never have a second chance to make a first impression.” Great advice, I suppose, but I have had dozens of opportunities to get a “first impression” of the congregation at St Michael Lutheran Church. Every visit, every meeting, every conversation has brought a new dimension to my “first impression.”

This is a congregation of very faithful, dedicated and talented people. The tag line for Micah’s Caring Initiative is “Act Justly. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.” That seems to be an accurate description of the call to discipleship for all the people of St. Michael. You care about one another and the community around you. You act with mercy and humility and you are focused on doing the right, loving thing.

In this time of discernment for what God is calling us into next, we will do what we do best and we’ll imagine what inspiration we might need to do the next challenging work before us.

I am honored to serve as Interim Pastor in this place. We will have a season or two together, to share the Gospel and to minister to each other. I anticipate learning a lot and having my faith deepened by our work together.

Faith. Hope. Love.

Pastor Paul

## 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](http://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@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.us) to be added to the distribution list. Also, current information is always posted on the hallway bulletin boards – check them out!

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

## 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, Margaret Larsen and Judith Wolfe for folding the July newsletter; to the mowing crew; to Matthew James for playing the piano at both services on July 22 and to Betty Wingate and Wanda Pascoe for folding the bulletins each week.

**Thank You** to Dickie Shepherd who tackled all the weeds on our property and to Dottie McKinnon who created the lovely Pentecost banners hanging in the sanctuary.



**Thanks** also to the **Men in Mission** who helped build a second floor on a



Habitat for Humanity house on Saturday, July 21. Pictured are the St. Michael carpenters Ben Crawford, Mike Berg, John Krallman, John Kell, James Pascoe, Ron Brewer, Jacob Dennis and Doug Smiley, who were supervised by Daniel Crowder.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided funds for interim pastor salary, altar supplies, the St. Michael scholarship, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, salaries for our ministerial staff, lawn mower repair and office supplies.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted 9 families: 7 with their electric bills and 2 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.

### Help Wanted: Altar Care



Altar care volunteers are needed for October, November and December. No experience necessary and assistance is available. Please sign up on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you.

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

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## *August Servants*

Altar Care	Smiley			
9 AM Service	August 5	August 12	August 19	August 26
<b>Greeters</b>	Doug and Wendy Goldsmith	Lynn Hickok Barbara Corbett	Elaine Powers Sandy Williams	Neil and Jackie Muir
<b>Lay Reader</b>	John Krallman	Peggy Morgan	Gary Worley	Emma Patterson
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Dianne Krallman	Lylah Shelor	Sandie Worley	Lori Anne Kirk
11 AM Service				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jack Graves		Emily Graves	
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Doug Smiley		Mickey McGuigan	
<b>Greeters</b>	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Randy and Sharon Robinson	Anna Rossomando John Kell	Hank and Alice Schneider
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jody Smiley	Fran Shepherd	Marty Gordon	Jeff Birch
<b>Ushers</b>	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Randy Robinson Dickie Shepherd	Anna Rossomando John Kell	Hank and Alice Schneider
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Emily Katz		Jack Graves	

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

Mowing: 8/4–Dickie Shepherd (front); 8/11–Daniel Ferrell (back); 8/18–James/Dennis (front); 8/25- Jay Nagle (back)

Rear Lot: 8/6–Mike Berg; 8/13-Doug Smiley; 8/29- Dave Surface; 8/27-Charlie Saks

**Women of the ELCA**



**Ladies' Night Out** at O'Charley's on July 11<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Twenty-four women enjoyed dinner and lots of conversation with complimentary pie. All the ladies are invited to join our next dinner outing after the new year.

This year's **VSWO (Virginia Synodical Women's Organization) Convention** will be August 3-4 at Bethel Lutheran Church in

Winchester, VA. At convention, we will assemble health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our **50 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Donation** for July has been **bars of soap, combs, nail clippers or individually wrapped toothbrushes for the health kits**. We will still accept donations until August 2.

A big thank you to Joyce Coupey for sewing 10 **fabric walker caddies**. A few more from others are on the way. If anyone knows of a person at home or in a nursing home who might benefit from having one, please inform Alice Schneider, Sandy Birch or Jody Smiley.

**Looking ahead: Lunch and Learn** will begin again September 10.

**Remember the Food Bank:** In August please bring **canned tuna**, although any other non-perishable foods are always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center: hand or shower soaps.**

**Thank you for all the ways you help our neighbors.**

### **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 12. The collection box is in the church foyer. Thank you.



Prongs

#### **Needed Items**

Backpacks

Glue Sticks

School Scissors

Pocket Folders with

Crayons

Anti-Bacterial Soap

Notebooks

Dry Erase Markers

Black and White Composition Books

Colored Pencils

Tissues

3-ring Binders

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

July has been a great month at Micah's Mobile Backpack. Each week has brought more and more kids who need food. We wish the increase didn't happen because that would mean that kids have enough to eat, but we are very glad we can meet the need.



Sadly, at the end of the month, Susan Verbrugge, current Director of MBP, announced that she needed to resign due to increased duties as she takes care of her aging mother. She is very sad to have to make the decision, but knows that it is the right one for her and her family. She will continue to be a huge supporter of MBP and will help in the transition in any way she can. If you or someone you know would make a great director, please talk with Pastor Paul or with John Krallman.

This month, we have served 240 children, sending out 891 bags of food. That is a huge amount for a summer month. We are thrilled that they are receiving not only bags of food, but also lots of fresh veggies from Micah's Garden along with blueberries from Three Birds' Berry Farm.

For **August**, feel free to bring **individual servings of mac and cheese** to help feed hungry kids.

The packing date for August is August 28th. We continue to support over 95 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera Bread. If anyone can help out with the Panera - picking up the leftovers on Monday night - please let me know. Hopefully we can get several

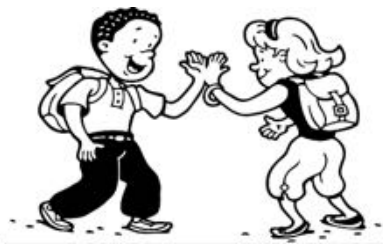


volunteers so we can alternate months. Thanks to all the faithful group of volunteers that have helped out during the summer months. With vacations and not having the extra help from Va Tech students, it is always nice to see our "regulars" step up and help out.

**In August, we will collect Chicken Noodle Soup.**

## Backpack Blessing on August 12

St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 12. 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



**Backpack Blessing**

backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.

## **“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on August 12 at 10 a.m.**

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael's “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 12 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.



### **Congratulations to ...**

**Bert and Lynda Kinzey** who will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 24.



**Akinrotimi “Timi” Akinola**, St. Michael's accompanist, who graduated from Virginia Tech this June with a Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering. On July 10, Timi was the featured organist at the Summer Festival of Organ Music at Christ Episcopal Church in Roanoke where a number of his St. Michael fans were in the audience, enjoying his magnificent program.

**Bryan Katz**, who will be serving as the Lutheran Lay Campus Minister at Virginia Tech beginning in August. He will be the primary adviser to The Well, the ELCA campus ministry, and will work with a strong cadre of student leaders to continue a program of worship, service, study and fellowship. Bryan has been accepted into the candidacy process to become a Deacon in the ELCA through the Virginia Synod. The process will take a few years, and Bryan has been taking courses through the Institute of Lutheran Theology and Luther Seminary. He will gain ministry experience serving the Lutheran students on campus.



**Amy Woods**, who was named the new Chief Nursing Officer at LewisGale Hospital Montgomery. Most recently, Amy served as Interim Chief Nursing Officer at LewisGale Hospital Alleghany and was previously the Associate Chief Nursing Officer at LewisGale Medical Center. She has more than 30 years of nursing experience and earned a doctorate degree in nursing practice and nurse executive leadership at Radford University.

## St. Michael Youth News

While at **Youth Synod Assembly** in June, we mainly were involved with worship, service and fellowship. Add the threes together and we were able to become closer with our fellow Lutherans, our friends and most importantly, God.

We opened the Youth Synod Assembly with a small worship service. We were able to commune and give peace with the Bishop, himself! As I do in most Synod events, I was able to attend the end of the weekend with a beautiful service at St. Andrews Cathedral. I was able to share this experience with friends and many pastors I know, as well. The services allowed me to truly become closer to God.

During the Youth Synod Assembly, we were able to work with a few people from the Synod. Two main examples of what we worked on include developing a women and justice statement with Judy Castele, where we talked about the issues surrounding sexism today, and the Tapestry Team lead by Rev. Lyndon Sayers. We discussed the topics and wrote a statement on gender equality in the LGBTQIA+ community.

During Youth Assembly we were able to grow into a stronger church. With our small groups, we got to know each other very well, even allowing time for a book. In Chat Rooms, we were able to discuss anything from relationships with technology to Chipotle or Moe's. We even had the opportunity to get to know our Bishop a little better. He shared a heartwarming tale about his wife. In addition, when asked the question, "Dino nuggets or regular nuggets?" he responded, "What are dino nuggets?" I was glad to see the people I already knew, as well.

I really enjoyed going to my first Virginia Youth Synod Assembly this year. I learned so much and had so much fun. I hope to attend next year, too! **—Jack Graves**

**Five of our youth attended the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston.** The event's theme was This Changes Everything. Besides our youth, three youth and Pastor Terrie went from Trinity in Pulaski and one youth and Pastor Wanda went from Our Saviour. The youth met four times in preparation for the event and will meet again on August 5 to review their experiences. St. Michael youth will share their experiences at the Second Sunday Brunch on August 12. Come join them for brunch and to hear more of their stories.

While in Houston, our group participated in many things. We had Synod Day, Service Learning Day, Interactive Learning Day, and many other activities. However, I have to say that my favorite thing we did was worshipping with 30,000 of my peers at the worship service. I have never felt God like I did when I was singing the praises and reciting the Nicene Creed with other Lutherans from across the country. I can't think of a more moving and simply beautiful thing than hearing our service being delivered in multiple languages (including sign language), making it easy for every single one of us, regardless of race, or gender, or disability to unite as one in the joy of the word of God. While I certainly loved the singing, dancing, and general praising of the Lord, communion was an experience unlike any I've known. One would think it would take ages for 30,000 people to receive communion, but it only took around 15 minutes! Two people each holding a chalice of wine and one person holding a plate of bread stood at the end of about every two rows in the stadium. Row by row, we went up and received our communion. As we were walking to receive ours, the rows behind and in front of us gave us high fives and warm smiles. It was easy to see and feel Christ through every single person who high-fived you. As a whole, the worship service was very moving and I am immensely grateful that I was able to be a part of something so lovely. **--Jessie Brown**

Synod day was one of my favorite days during the Houston trip. This is because it felt like we were back home. Instead of being in a room with 30,000 other kids, you were back with the 200

kids you knew best. You got to say hi to the people you haven't seen since Winter Cell. On Synod day, we did basically everything you would do at a Virginia Synod camp. We played games where you would meet new people, prayed, and of course sang songs. We closed off by saying bye to the seniors since this was going to be their last event with the youth of the Synod. Overall, Synod day really showed the connection between the youth and will always stand out as an important event from the Houston trip. --**Kirsten Patrick**

This year's ELCA youth gathering was the best experience I've ever had. This trip gave me many experiences to furthering my faith, which I loved. Three of the days that we were in Houston we had an activity planned, which were Service Day, Synod Day, and Interactive Learning Day. My favorite activity that we did was by far Service day. During Service day our group was assigned delivering books to children in areas with less privilege. It was such a great experience getting to interact with the children. I had the opportunity to meet a very sweet, kind-hearted girl named Jule. She picked out a couple books that caught her eye and asked me to read them to her. After we had read all the books we colored and talked. She told me her interests and I did the same. After a while of talking she grabbed my hand and took me outside. We went to the playground next of the building and played games with a lot of the other kids there. The other people in my group had similar experiences as I did. It was so nice getting to meet and interact with these children. Through interacting with the kids and the other teens we were put with I saw God. Service day was a great experience that I will cherish for a life time. --**Abby Brown**

The Interactive Learning Day was such a joy to be a part of. On Interactive Learning Day, we had the ability to leave the hotel a little later than usual. When we all were "awake", we walked to a CVS near the hotel and bought some snacks (where we bought a gallon of milk, long story). Then we proceeded to get on the light rail and ride it all the way to NRG center where many different vendors were set up for us to see and learn about. Every Lutheran college was there giving out information about college. They had food venues there, as well. We were able to play many games in the center such as ping pong, ultimate Frisbee and even mini golf. After we finished in the center, we went across the parking lot into the arena where they had bouncy castles and laser tag. While in the center we were able to see some old friends and make some new ones, as well. I was amazed to see so many people around me that were all here for the same reason. We were all there to experience the National Youth Gathering. When it was time to leave, we headed for the NRG stadium where we had our second mass gathering. We had amazing seats and we were able to watch Tauren Wells perform. There were some amazing speakers who shared their journeys in faith. The night ended with our final 15 and returned to our hotel rooms. Final 15 is our opportunity at the end of the day to meet out as a group and reflect on our experiences during the day. After Interactive Learning Day, we were able to become farther away as friends and closer together as family, and this was only one day! --**Jack Graves**

Mass Gathering was personally my favorite part of the event. It was so amazing seeing so many people come together, all for the same reason, to come closer to God. Everyone in that arena just bonded, screaming songs from the top of their lungs, to sharing sobs while a pastor preached. It was truly astonishing, seeing all the lights and the people swaying, all singing the same beautiful tune. Something that really touched me there were all the speakers that came in, they all told such insightful and relatable stories, that I will carry with me always. Houston is something I will never forget, and mass gatherings are a huge part in that. I'm beyond thankful to have been given the chance to attend such an amazing event with such amazing people. --**Maddie Brown**

The youth are still accepting donations or Gifts for Gifts "job pledges" to complete funding for the trip. Thank you for your support of them and all our youth. They are our future.



## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Michael

On September 15, 1968, St. Michael Lutheran Church became an active congregation.

Beginning September 9 through September 23, 2018, we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with several events, beginning with an **Open House and special “historical” service on Sunday, September 9**. The following **Sunday, September 16, will be the anniversary worship service and luncheon**, with Bishop Robert Humphrey as our special guest. Pastor John Wertz and Pastor Linda Mitchell Motley will be with us as well. And finally, on **Sunday, September 23, we’ll plant batches of 50 flower bulbs** around the church property, accompanied by special music and a light lunch. It’s just party, party, party at St. Michael in September. Mark those dates on your calendars.



Before we begin our celebration, perhaps it’s time to recall our earliest beginnings. As congregations go, St. Michael Lutheran Church is a relatively new congregation, organized in 1968. But her story is deeply rooted in the early history of the region. During the middle years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, pioneers from the palatinate of Germany found their way into the New River Valley via Philadelphia and the Shenandoah Valley. The earliest record of a worship service in the New River German settlement is November 20, 1749, when a Moravian missionary by the name of Schnell preached the first sermon.



Around 1750, a Sanctuary reputed to be the first Lutheran church west of the Alleghenies and the third Lutheran church in Virginia was built on the site we presently occupy. The original log structure was replaced by a brick building in 1830. First known as St. Michael’s Church, it was subsequently called Price’s Church, then St. Peter’s Church. About 1885, the brick building had become unsafe and was demolished. A school building which occupied our site was used for worship for another 15 years.

Meanwhile, Lutherans at Price’s Fork, just a mile west, wanted a church in their own community. Completed in 1878, the new church was called St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. The loss of the church building and the transfer of members to St. Marks took its toll on St. Peter’s Church. In 1902, the remaining membership moved into a new building in the Glade community, which was called New St. Peters Church.

Over the years, the nine Lutheran congregations in Montgomery County were yoked in a variety of parish alignments. From 1951 until 1968, New St. Peter’s, St. Mark’s, Shiloh, and New Mt. Zion were joined as the New River Parish, served by one pastor.

What happens next? Stay tuned for part II in the September newsletter. For a more detailed history of St. Michael, go to our website:

**[A Legacy of Ministry – St. Michael Lutheran Church, Blacksburg, Virginia](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/about/st-michaels-history/a-legacy-of-ministry/)**  
[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/about/st-michaels-history/a-legacy-of-ministry/](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/about/st-michaels-history/a-legacy-of-ministry/)

# St. Michael Lutheran Church

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Congregational Church Council Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>30</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>31</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>1</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>6:00 PM</b> Packing for Micah's Mobile Backpack	<b>2</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>2:00 PM</b> National Youth Gathering Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>7</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>5:30 PM</b> Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>9</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Blessing of the Backpacks <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Second Sunday Summer Brunch <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship <b>12:15 PM</b> Congregational Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>14</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>16</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Advent Calendar Meeting <b>10:00 AM</b> Choir Practice <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion	<b>20</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>21</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>22</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>23</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship - Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Engagement Team Meeting <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>27</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>11:00 AM</b> Bible Study <b>5:00 PM</b> Micah's Soup for Seniors	<b>29</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>30</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:15 PM</b> Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>1</b>

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

Food Bank - Soup; Women's RC - Dish Soap; Micah's Backpack - 100% Juice Box; Soup for Seniors - Saltines