



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Food for Thought

It was about 3:15 on Tuesday afternoon. Feeding America was just finishing up an information meeting in the Fellowship Hall when the call came in. The man on the phone asked for “Pastor John.” I told him that John had taken a position with the Virginia Synod and wasn’t serving this parish anymore.

“Well, Pastor John would help me out with food now and then.”

I responded, “The person who can take care of that (Suzanne) will be back in the office on Thursday and you might call back then.”

“That’s fine, but I need to feed my kids tonight.”

Silence on my end. Micah’s Backpack food in the room behind me, Feeding America people just outside my door, and in the morning’s Bible Study we had talked about Henri Nouwen’s quote: “For the person of faith, no meeting is accidental.”

Humbled by God’s hand bringing me into such an ironic situation, I said, “OK, meet me outside Kroger in 20 minutes.” We met. I gave him a Kroger gift card and after words of appreciation we each went on our way. This happens many times. By the grace of God we are responding to the needs of the hungry. At Prices Fork Elementary School where we are closely connected through Micah’s Backpack, 55% of the students are eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Twice a month, members of SMLC (Joe, Doug, Mickey) bring $\frac{3}{4}$ ton of food to the church from the Feeding America warehouse in Salem to restock Micah’s storeroom. This summer the Micah’s Bus will be delivering hundreds of food bags each Thursday.

You can help. You need to help. Food is essential. Find a way to participate.

Just a little “Food for Thought” from Pastor Paul.

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, Fran Shepherd and Jody Smiley who represented St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly; to all our lawn mowing crew; to John Kell, Becky Steck, Fran Shepherd and Jeff Birch for weeding and maintaining the church grounds; to Mildred Wall, Wanda Pascoe and Betty Wingate for folding the June newsletter; and to William Allen for helping to get the bus ready for Micah’s Mobile Backpack.

Because of your gifts



mortgage, and salaries for our ministry staff.

Your generous gifts in June supported VBS supplies, devotional subscriptions, stamps, continuing education seminars for our Music Director, Patrice Yearwood, azeleas for the Circle of Grace, nursery worker wages, 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

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In June, we provided assistance for **19** families; 11 with electric bills, 6 with rent assistance and 2 with water bills. 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.

Welcome to ...

Anna Flach, St. Michael’s new nursery worker, graduated from Virginia Tech in May and has returned this summer to work on her Masters and teaching certificate. Anna worked in Cindy Dowdy’s classroom this spring. She joins Jack Graves in tending the nursery.

And **Megan Meyers** who is the new director and teacher for the Mother’s Morning Out (MMO) Program. Megan is a certified teacher and has experience in public schools and preschool programs. MMO serves children on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs: 8:45 to 11:15 a.m.

Maintaining the Grounds

Our church landscape is beautiful but it needs regular maintenance such as weeding and pruning. Thank you to three members that weeded on June 1. We plan to spruce up the grounds one Saturday a month. In July we will tend to the grounds on Saturday, July 13. Bring gardening tools and gloves between 9:00 -11:00 a.m. to assist in this project. Many hands will make short work of this task.

Happening at the May Graduates Reception on May 26



Jayme Kokkonen, Julia Kell, and Camden Brewer were recognized as three of our 2018-19 graduates. Each received a special plaque created by Pastor Paul.



Judy Clemens was recognized for her many years of leadership for Mother's Morning Out, sponsored by St. Michael for the last 12 years. Happy retirement Judy!

We bid farewell to our dear friends, **Sheila, Ron, Camden and Seth Brewer**, who will be moving to Buffalo, New York. They were applauded for their many years of service to and leadership at St. Michael. You will be greatly missed



Fran Shepherd was recognized as WELCA's



2019 Bold Woman of the Year and thanked for her leadership as Congregational Council President, chair of the Property Committee and decades of guidance for our St. Michael youth. Her husband, **Dickie Shepherd** was honored as WELCA's Bold Man of the Year for all the painting, weeding, fixing, moving, and other tasks he performs at church. **Doug Smiley**, vice chair of the council, was recognized also as a Bold Man of the Year for his leadership, altar care, church opening service, choir participation and other church tasks. A first time award, these were WELCA's "men behind the women".

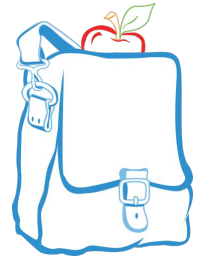


Acolytes needed for the 11:00 a.m. service. If you are able to serve, let Butch Akers know: 540-267-5873 or email artistib@thenrv.com.
Kris Wertz will provide training on July 14 between services.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Thank you to everyone who supported Micah's Backpack this past school year. We ended up packing a grand total of 11,232 food bags!!! This would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our volunteers, donors, and those supporting us through prayer. While the need for food for the youth in our community is high and seems to be growing, we are blessed to be able to serve them.



Micah's Mobile Backpack kicked off on June 19th. We will pack every **Wednesday** starting at 6:00. *THERE WILL BE NO PACKING THE WEEK OF JULY 4TH* We would love to have you join us one Wednesday to pack. Feel free to bring your family or a friend! There is no sign up required, just show up!

Blueberry picking is also starting on Tuesdays. This will happen at 3 Birds Berry Farm on Brookfield Road, anytime from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This is a great family-friendly volunteer opportunity! The sign up for picking ½ gallon of blueberries can be found here: <https://signup.com/go/cbFkUvB>

If you are doing some grocery shopping and want to purchase something to donate to us this month, we would love instant oatmeal packets! These provide our youth with a healthy breakfast option. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this donation item!



The rain has created many problems for many people, but for Micah's garden it has created a rainbow of food! We have purple snap peas and new red potatoes ready to go out on the very first bus drop - one of the earliest crop deliveries that I have been a part of. There is a variety of produce blooming, along with small vegetables developing. The rows of yellow and Italian beans aren't far behind. With hard labor in the spring, the joy of harvesting allows past labor to

be erased, just as the Lord does for us when we accept him in our lives.

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



The packing date for July is July 23rd. We continue to support over 100 seniors at Warm Hearth with monthly donations of food and Panera. We want to thank all our Church Volunteers, Chi Delta Alpha Service Sorority and the many other volunteers in the community for their support each month.

We will need to continue to have extra support during the summer months since our Tech student volunteers are on summer break. Please consider an

hour of your time once a month to help support Soup for Seniors.

We recently received a thank you note from the family of a Senior we helped each month. She recently passed away but the family sent us a lovely thank you note:

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Micah's Soup for Seniors for the monthly delivery to Jill Albert. Jill passed away on May 11th and she was thankful for your many acts of kindness during the 2 ½ years she was here - as was her family. Thanks so much!

For **July**, we will be collecting **Peanut Butter**.

Congratulations to ...



Camden Brewer, the recipient of the St. Michael Scholarship for 2019. Camden will be attending James Madison University in the fall where she will study biology.



MaKayla Dowdy, the pitcher for the Blacksburg High School softball team, who was named 1st Team All District and 1st Team All Region.

Thank you St. Michael Family!



The Love Offering for Jayme Kokkonen's adventure in Madagascar as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) totaled \$1,022.22. Jayme leaves for her year of service in August.

Jayme is very grateful for the generous gifts from her church family.

Second Sunday Summer Brunch July 14 at 10 A.M.

You are invited to St. Michael's Second Sunday Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 14, in the fellowship hall between the worship services. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the fellowship with the St. Michael family.



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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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July Servants

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Altar Care	Steck Family			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Wilma Pieper Butch Akers	Ben and Carol Crawford	Mayer Family	Clifton and Faye Walters
Lay Reader	Maggie Maloney	Kris Wertz	Carrie Mayer	Judith Wolfe
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Lylah Shelor	Alexa Mayer	Butch Akers
11 AM Service				
Acolyte				
Comm. Asst.	Mickey McGuigan		Sandy Birch	
Greeters	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	Ferrell Family	James and Wanda Pascoe	JD and Andrea Robinson
Lay Reader	Anna Rossomando	Doug Smiley	Jeff Birch	Mickey McGuigan
Ushers	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Daniel Ferrell Dickie Shepherd	James and Wanda Pascoe	JD and Andrea Robinson
Youth Servant	Emily Graves		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: 7/6-Daniel Ferrell (back); 7/13–Dickie Shepherd (front); 7/20-James/Dennis (back); 7/27-Jay Nagle (front)

Rear Lot: 7/1-Gary Steck; 7/8-George Hahn; 7/15-Doug Smiley; 7/22-Dave Surface; 7/29-Gary Steck



Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out Dinner: All women of the church are invited to dinner out at O'Charley's on Wednesday, July 17th at 6 p.m., free pie night. It's always a fun fellowship evening; you are welcome to bring a friend. Please sign up in the bulletin inserts so they can prepare enough places for us.

Linus Project: Everyone is invited to help make Project Linus blankets for hospitalized children. This is one of the VA Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) summer projects that will be made for the August 2-3 convention in Norfolk and distributed here locally. "Tied" fleece blankets, which don't need sewing, and baby blankets which can be sewn, will be distributed by NRV Linus Project to 4 local hospitals. Printed directions will be available. We plan to have several workshops to work together on blankets between Sunday morning services on July 14th and 21st. Bring a pair of sewing scissors. If you are unable to participate, you are welcome to pick up one of the printed directions to see how you might donate materials for others to work with or funds to purchase fabric.

School Supplies for two! We will again be collecting school supplies for **Price's Fork Elementary** for delivery before school begins in August. In addition we will take school supplies to the **VSWO** convention Aug 2-3 for delivery to Norfolk area schools. These help families not able to provide for all of their children's school supply needs.

Suggestions: Sharpened pencils, dry erase markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, markers, composition books (not spiral, often have black covers), erasers, scissors, glue sticks, antibacterial wipes, red pens and folders (without designs).

Thank You – A big thank you to each of you who helped set up, clean up and of course prepare all the delicious food for the first Sunday Summer Brunch.

Remember the Food Bank: For July please bring some **summer snacks**, granola bars, fruit chews etc. although any non-perishable foods are always appreciated by the food bank.

For the Women's Resource Center: clothes detergent

Thank you for all the ways you help our neighbors.

Thanks to Kristi Snyder and Rainbow Riders for the Mother's Morning Out sign.



Report from the Call Committee

As we announced on Sunday, June 23, we have received word from Pastor Steiner that he has withdrawn from the call process to become pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church. He informed us that another opportunity for ministry had been offered to him that he felt compelled to accept. We regret that the call process with Pastor Steiner ended so abruptly but we are continuing to move forward.

The council and the call committee have been in contact with the Synod Office and they are helping us to reset the call process. We are not starting all over. We will pick up the process at the point of receiving and reviewing resumes in the coming days. Pastor Paul has agreed to continue his call as Interim Pastor through the ongoing call process.

The work of the Holy Spirit can be mysterious and, at times, confusing; but we trust that the hard work of the Call Committee will bring great results in the coming weeks. Please continue to pray for wisdom and patience.

Thank You Notes ...

*Thank you to our St. Michael family for the heartfelt support after Suzanne's mom passed away. The offers of food and the numerous sympathy cards really warmed our hearts.
Suzanne and Keith Gay*

from Pat Brown at the Women's Resource Center

April 19 – Thank you for your gift of Easter baskets. What a lovely, lovely gift. I wish you could have seen their faces when they received the baskets. It was joyful!

May 30 – Thank you for your gift of paper products. You guys amaze me!

Thank You for your Generous Support
of the Ministry of the Virginia Synod!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN YOUR CONGREGATION AND IN THE SYNOD!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING FINANCIAL GIFTS THAT PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EMERGING LEADERS, FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH AND ADULTS, AND STAFF SUPPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE SEEK TO RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE FOR US BY BEING A FAITHFUL, BOLD AND SERVING CHURCH!

THE MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD COUNCIL

*Patricia Kelly
Marian Collins
Emily B. Kelly
Gabe W. M.
Cheryl
Emil Boggs
Jody Burley
Julie M. Water
Pastor Paul Brown
Pastor Chris Carr
Judy Astum
Diane
Pastor Leslie Weber*



2019 Virginia Synod Assembly Update

Faithful + Bold + Serving

Synod Assembly is our annual opportunity for the 150 congregations of the Virginia Synod to come together and be reminded what it means to be a part of the wider church. Our theme during our June 7-8, 2019 gathering was “**Faithful + Bold + Serving**”. This year the Assembly was located in the Kerr-Cregger Fieldhouse on the campus of Roanoke College in Salem Virginia. There, those in attendance met for both the Assembly business sessions and worship.

During the weekend, **Bishop Humphrey**, helped explore the theme for the Assembly based off of Hebrews 10.23, “Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for God, who made the promise, is faithful,”

The Rev. Dr. Sandy Chrostowski, the director of DEM Relationships of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was present at this year’s Assembly to share with us that in 2018 ELCA World Hunger accompanied congregations and partners in over 60 countries, and through Domestic Hunger Grants supported two Virginia ministries, Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM) in Waynesboro, and IMPACT: Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together in Charlottesville.

The Rev. John Wertz Jr. celebrated the success of the ForwardingFaith campaign with over \$2.74 million in estimated gifts and over 1430 individuals and congregations sharing their support. Through ForwardingFaith, the Virginia Synod is supporting existing ministries such as ACTS and youth events, as well as creating new opportunities like the recent Young Adult Retreat. Pastor Wertz also shared our new Virginia Synod App, created in partnership with Tithe.ly. On the Synod app you can keep up to date on news, upcoming events, event photos, online giving, and more.

Elections also took place over the weekend. **Charles Downs**, of Christ in Roanoke was reelected as the Virginia Synod Council Vice President. **Blythe Ann Scott** of First in Norfolk reelected as the Virginia Synod Council Secretary. **Molly Beyer** of Bethel in Winchester, and **Darrell Short** of St. Paul in Shenandoah were both reelected to Synod Council. **Richard Corliss** of St. Timothy, Norfolk, **Carlton Hardy** of St. Mark, Yorktown, **Patricia Hunter** of Redeemer, Bristol, **Timothy Hoffstaetter** of Faith in Suffolk, **Elizabeth Leonard** of St. Philip in Roanoke, and **The Rev, Harry Griffith** Pastor of Our Saviour in Virginia Beach are the newly elected members joining Synod Council.

One resolution was passed over the weekend, honoring **Tent of Nations**, a working farm in Bethlehem, Palestine that seeks to educate and build bridges between people and the land. Worship at this year’s Synod Assembly brought together with worship planners from across Virginia. Worship planners included **Kevin Barger**, **The Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth**, **The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick**, **The Rev. Anna Havron**, **The Rev. Rachel Manke**, **The Rev. Heidi Moore**, **Lenae Osmondson**, **The Rev. Kathryn Pocalyko**, **The Rev. Paul Toelke**, **The Rev. Leslie Webber**, and **The Rev. Meredith Williams**. Two young women were commissioned for Young Adults in Global Mission. **Maren Corliss** and **Jayne Kokkonen** have both accepted one-year appointments as YAGMs to Central Europe, and Madagascar.

Turner Barger of Epiphany in Richmond, president of the Lutheran Youth Organization, presented the Youth Assembly report, centered on the Youth Assembly theme of “Faith Shall Reign”. He shared a summary of this year’s Youth Assembly, and raised up how many youth attendees at the assembly are fully confirmed adult members of the church, “We are no longer the future of the church, we *are* the

church- as youth and as adults.” The incoming LYO Board president will be **Mairi Bachman** of Grace in Winchester.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 11:00 AM Worship	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 9:30 AM Blueberry Picking at 3 Birds Berry Farm 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	4 Happy Independence Day!	5	6
7 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 11:00 AM Worship - Communion	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	11 Power in the Spirit Assembly 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:45 PM Micah's Mobile Backpack Delivering Food 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	12 Power in the Spirit Assembly	13 Power in the Spirit Assembly 9:00 AM Church Yard Clean Up
14 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Project Linus Blanket Workshop 10:00 AM Second Sunday Summer Brunch 11:00 AM Worship	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 5:30 PM Families of Faith 6:00 PM Ladies' Night Out to O'Charley's 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	18 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:45 PM Micah's Mobile Backpack Delivering Food 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	19	20
21 Junior High Mission Trip 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Project Linus Blanket Workshop 11:00 AM Worship - Communion	22 Junior High Mission Trip 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	23 Junior High Servant Event 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Soup for Seniors Packing and Delivering	24 Junior High Servant Event 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	25 Junior High Servant Event 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:45 PM Micah's Mobile Backpack Delivering Food 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	26 Junior High Servant Event	27
28 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 11:00 AM Worship	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	30 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study	31 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:45 PM Micah's Mobile Backpack Delivering Food 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	2	3

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Food Bank - Snacks; Women's RC - Laundry Soap; Micah's Backpack - Oatmeal Packets; Soup for Seniors - Peanut Butter