



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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October 1, 2019

Journey

Jennifer and I are deeply grateful for the opportunity St. Michael gave us to be away for a month. We have traveled far, experienced much and are refreshed in many ways. I'm sure you'll hear many sermon illustrations from our trip; here is the first.

Ever since I heard the song "Country Roads" in 1971, I have been a dedicated fan of John Denver's music. Yesterday, Jen and I hiked through tall cedar and redwood trees and this morning I am sitting by isolated Lake Ashley in Northwestern Montana. The words of John Denver's song "Rocky Mountain High" come to mind:

Now he walks in quiet solitude the forest and the streams
Seeking grace in every step he takes
His sight has turned inside himself to try and understand
The serenity of a clear blue mountain lake

Seeking grace in the steps of our journey, looking into our hearts for what is real and discovering serenity in what is clear and simple and true. This is a rather uncomplicated call to the authentic life.

Grace. Honesty. Serenity. A fine trio of ambitions: unmerited favor, a delight in what is true, and a centering peace. A recommitment to these qualities is what I have learned in my time away. Thank you for time to refresh and reconsider.

Pastor Paul

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--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

Thank you to Wanda Pascoe, Betty Wingate, Margaret Larsen, Judith Wolfe and Mildred Wall and Mildred’s niece, Allie for folding the September newsletter; to Sandy Birch for organizing and hosting the September Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon; to Jody Smiley for leading the Lunch and Learn Bible Study; to Wanda Pascoe for keeping the sanctuary candles filled with oil and the pencils sharpened; Becky Steck, Fran and Dickie Shepherd, John Kell, Julia Kell, and Charlie Birx for cleaning up the church yard and to Anna Rossomando for accepting the Community Thanksgiving Meal coordinator position.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided worker’s compensation insurance, postage for newsletters, online computer back up subscription, annual copyright renewal, our monthly support to the Virginia Synod, supply pastor salary and staff salaries, utility expenses and supplies for the Family of Faith event.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we assisted **11 families**: 5 with rent and 6 with electric bills.

Families of Faith: Dinner, Discussion and Music October 2 and October 16, 2019

On the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, St. Michael invites families with young children for dinner and discussion. We’ll enjoy a simple dinner together and share a Bible story with the kids before splitting into separate parent and child groups. You don’t need to worry about cooking, just bring yourself and your family.



Confirmation for Three

Megan Christle, Lily Gruss and Alexa Mayer have completed the confirmation class and will be confirmed on Sunday, October 27. A reception for them will be held at 10:00 a.m. between services. Come celebrate this milestone in their lives.

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October Servants

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Altar Care	Krallman Family			
9 AM Service				Reformation
Greeters	Clifton and Fay Walters	Gary and Sandie Worley	Ben and Carol Crawford	Elaine Powers Joe Garst
Lay Reader	Emma Patterson	Maggie Maloney	Matthew James	Lori Anne Kirk
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Lylah Shelor	Jacob Dennis	Joe Garst
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Emily Graves		Emily Graves	Emily Graves
Comm. Asst.	Jody Smiley		Sandy Birch	Emily Graves
Greeters	Ray Howell Cindy Lang	Anna Rossomando John Kell	Ferrell Family	Randy and Sharon Robinson
Lay Reader	Fran Shepherd	Margaret Christle	Jeff Birch	Mickey McGuigan
Ushers	Ray Howell Ben Simmers	Anna Rossomando John Kell	Daniel Ferrell Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Ray Howell
Youth Servant	Emily Katz		Bryce Dowdy	Danny Gruss

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers at both services please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate.

Mowing Schedule: 10/5-Dickie Shepherd (front); 10/12-James/Dennis (back); 10/19-Jay Nagle (front); 10/26-Daniel Ferrell (back)

Rear Lot: 10/7-Doug Smiley; 10/14-Dave Surface; 10/21-Gary Steck; 10/28-George Hahn

Women of the ELCA



Lunch and Learn: Monday, October 21th at noon in the fellowship hall. All women are invited for a light lunch and an always interesting Bible study related to current topics led by Jody Smiley. If you'd like to come, please sign up on the Welcome Sheet. Guests welcome!

Linus Project: A Big Thank You to everyone who made blankets for children in local hospitals. We delivered a total of 40 blankets to the New River Valley Project Linus.

Annual Fall Gathering: Sunday, October 6th at 2:15 p.m.: Women of the ELCA in the New River Valley will get together for the annual **Fall Gathering** this year at Trinity Lutheran in Pulaski. All women are invited! Our project this year will benefit Lutheran Family Services, who provides safe and educational opportunities for adults who need day care. Their wish list includes card and board games that help them learn various skills, as well as Birthday Baking Kits that contain supplies for them to make and serve birthday cakes for their clients. If you would like to help us provide some of these items, you can pick up a list in the back of the church. All items may be brought to church by October 6. Our offerings at the Gathering will be divided between VA Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) and Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Remember the Food Bank: For October, please bring foods for a Thanksgiving feast – packaged potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, roll mixes, canned pumpkin pie mix, etc., although the food bank always welcomes all non-perishable foods.

For the Women's Resource Center: dish soap

Thank you for all the ways you assist our neighbors.

ELCA's Global Mission Support

Jessica Hill is a new missionary in ELCA's Global Mission. She is embarking on a new journey for God to Japan this fall. She will spend the next three years in Tokyo teaching English as a second language and helping a community center with engagement and outreach. She is asking for sponsorship and support for her Global Mission. Additional information about her mission is available on the bulletin board. As a congregation we will contribute a Noisy Offering to her mission. If you would like to support her, information is available on the bulletin board about where to send your sponsorship.

Special Congregational Meeting

Pending the recommendation from the Call Committee and approval by the church council, there will be a special congregational meeting to approve the recommendation to call the Reverend Michelle Stramiello as our next pastor. The meeting will be held October 20 at 9:50 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend. If you have questions about your voting status, please contact Doug Smiley.



Micah's Backpack

We have had a great start to our 2019-2020 packing year. Currently, we are serving approximately 350 children in our community. With such a high need, every donation is precious and we are grateful for everyone who chooses to support our organization.



As a reminder, if you would like to join us for packing, there is no sign up required unless you plan to bring a large group. You are welcome to join us any Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. at St. Michael. Even if you haven't packed before – we promise it is easy to learn and fun to do! Feel free to bring a friend.

If you are free on Friday mornings between 8:00-12:00 to deliver the food bags to the schools, please see our Facebook page or email Sarah at hope@micahsbackpack.org and we will send you the links to sign up.

This month we would be grateful to receive donations of canned vegetables. If you're shopping this week or filling up your Clicklist order, we would love it if you would add an extra can for the MBP kiddos. Thank you for your support!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

The packing date for October is October 29th. 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, VT's Chi Delta Alpha Service Sorority and the many other volunteers in the community for their support each month.

We love having both our loyal volunteers and all new volunteers help us out. Please consider an hour of your time once a month to help support Soup for Seniors. We continue to be able to carry on this program with your generous gifts of time and money. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

For October, we will be collecting **instant oatmeal**.



School has started and it's time to begin the fall buying and delivery of clothing for Micah's Closet which supplies a week's worth of new clothing for children at Price's Fork Elementary School. We need shoppers! If you would like to help shop for clothing for a child (you will be reimbursed), please sign up on the Welcome

Sheet. Shopping will begin soon. Questions? Contact Jody Smiley, Kris Wertz or Fran Shepherd.



Thank you to the youth of St. Michael for sponsoring our September 8 worship services. The youth served as ushers, greeters, lay readers, wrote the children' sermon and gave each of us a little light to shine while we sang "This Little Light of Mine." Your lights truly did shine that Sunday!



L-R Lilia, Tatiana, Macsen, Miles, Megan, Emily, Jack, David, Lulu, Jessica, Danny

One More Time

Saturday, October 5 will be the last grounds cleanup of the year. We will do the final weeding, trim flowers and bushes, rake leaves and plant spring bulbs. You may donate spring bulbs or come and join in the yard work. Bring gloves and garden tools. Many hands make short work of this task.

TO OUR HOUSE

We are looking for someone to coordinate the meals for **To Our House** when St. Michael participates November 23-27. **To Our House** is a local program operational during the cold months to house and feed homeless members of our community. Training and thorough notes from previous years will be provided. Please see Suzanne if you would like more information.

BSA Troop 158

Nearly a hundred parents, guests, and Scouts turned out for Scouts BSA Troop 158's Court of Honor August. 22. The event was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Troop's charter organization, St. Michael Lutheran Church in Blacksburg.

More than 90 Merit Badges were awarded along with 27 rank advancements ranging from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. A special feature of the program was an interesting Q & A session by 6 young adults--all Eagles--shown in the photo below. These Eagles seated in the panel represent 6 of the 9 boys who earned the Eagle rank in Troop 158. Eagle is the highest rank a youth can earn in Scouting. It represents significant accomplishments in skills & leadership, and achieved only by about 5 % of the millions who have been and are BSA members. Recently, BSA opened their membership to include female members and changed the name from Boy Scouts to just Scouts. We now have several females, as well as males on the "Trail To Eagle" in T 158. Our Scouts are going GREAT!

Assistant Scout Master Mike Christle introduces the "Eagle Panel" at 158 Court of Honor. Left to r Jonathan Kanode, Paul Kell, Austin Nickie, Matt Sharpe, Brian Currin, David Christle.



Some Music “notes”



Come sing with the St. Michael choir! We rehearse on two Wednesdays (7:00 p.m.) and two or three Sundays (10:00 a.m.) per month. See the bulletin and monthly calendar for the schedule each month.

A love for singing and music is the only requirement! We have fun and are happy to welcome MORE into our ranks.

Can't commit to September and October? Come join us in November.

Rehearsal links and CDs are also a part of our practice and we use these for many of our anthems for practice at home.

In November, we will have lunch at noon and a 'rehearse-a-thon' to work on Advent and Christmas music (Christmas is not that far off). Date TBA.

COME SING WITH US!

St. Michael needs to hear handbells RINGING at St. Michael again! Let Patrice Yearwood know if you are interested and she will set a practice schedule to suit ALL. Her email is payearwood1@gmail.com

Ms. Patrice teaches a Musikgarten piano keyboard class (Music Makers at the Keyboard) to children on Wednesdays at St. Michael. We have fun and learn to play by ear as we sing songs, play games and focus on listening. We also learn to read music with games and cards that reinforce melody and rhythm. And a lot more, too...

There has been some interest in an ADULT PIANO CLASS at St. Michael. I also have a curriculum for ADULT PIANO that is fabulous and FUN. Let me know if you have always wanted to learn to play the piano and we will get the class started.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM St. Michael Birthday Brunch 11:00 AM Worship	30 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Quilting Party in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Micah's Closet in Sanctuary	2 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Families of Faith 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	4	5 9:00 AM Church Yard Clean-Up
6 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - Communion 2:15 PM WELCA in the NRV Fall Gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski	7 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study	9 2:45 PM Music Lesson	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Congregational Church Council Meeting	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 1:30 PM American Legion Auxiliary Meeting	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	16 2:45 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Families of Faith 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Special Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM Choir Practice 11:00 AM Worship - Communion	21 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM WELCA Lunch and Learn	22 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study	23 2:45 PM Music Lesson	24 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	25	26
27 Confirmation Sunday Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM Worship - Communion 9:50 AM Choir Practice 10:00 AM Adult Discussion 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 PM Micah's Soup for Seniors Packing and Delivering	30 2:45 PM Music Lesson	31 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:15 PM Scout Troop Meeting	1	2

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

Food Bank - Thanksgiving Foods; Women's RC - Dish Soap; Micah's Backpack - Canned Vegetables; Soup for Seniors - Oatmeal