



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmlc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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September 1, 2020

Dear St. Michael Family,

It takes a church to raise a child. A whole community of believers is needed in children's lives for them to grow faithfully into people of God. To learn and experience their faith in a loving and caring environment is the goal of Vacation Bible School. I want to give a big THANK YOU to all the people who helped make virtual VBS happen this year and to the adults who faithfully participated along with their children.

Every year VBS offers a chance for the church to pull out all the stops to create an unforgettable experience for our children and this year was no exception as we met online. Research shows connections made during VBS result in children who grow into adults and retain a life of faith. VBS is a special event that creates memories that help lock God's truth into the hearts and minds of our children for a lifetime.

This year we had nineteen children participate online over a period of four weeks. Our theme was "Building Your Faith Toolbox" with the focus on the importance of discipleship, music, prayer and church.

Did you know VBS is important to the whole church? Just think about it; as adults we know that the maturing of our faith takes time; in fact it takes a lifetime. What we tend to forget is that it takes the whole community in Christ to help us grow and it starts at birth. VBS should never be thought of as adults teaching down to our children, but rather it is learning together as we grow in faith.

This growth is revealed in each of us as we learn to live out the commandments of the New Testament: Love one another, forgive each other, and regard each other more highly than ourselves. Teach and correct each other, encourage each other, pray for each other and bear each other's burdens. Be friends with one another, be kind, be compassionate and be generous in hospitality. Serve one another and submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. This list just scratches the surface but it is enough to remind us that we need the community of faith to grow up in Christ.

VBS is a time that we, individually and together, grow in faith, embodying the very "fullness of Christ."

Thank you for all that you do and will do to help each other grow in faith!

Blessed by You,
Pastor Michelle

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

To Keith Gay for helping fold the August newsletter; to Judy and Jim Clemens for faithfully counting the weekly offering; to everyone who provided snacks and drinks for the teachers and staff at Price’s Fork Elementary School; to Doug Smiley and Mickey McGuigan for making trips to Feeding America and Kroger to purchase food for Micah’s Backpack and Soup for Seniors; to the volunteers who pack and deliver gifts of food for Micah’s Backpack and Soup for Seniors; to our Church Council members who continue to keep us on track; and to our faithful Card Ministry volunteer (who would like to remain anonymous) for sending cards to our St. Michael family and thank you letters to community members for Micah’s Caring Initiative donations.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided supplies for Vacation Bible School, lawn mower maintenance, music supplies and instrumentalist pay, bulk mail postage, prefilled communion cups, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. 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. In August, we assisted 4 families: 2 with electric bills and 2 with rent assistance.

Kroger Community Rewards Program – Need to Renew Your Card Number



For a number of years, members of St. Michael have contributed to Micah’s Backpack and the Justice and Mercy Fund through our Kroger Plus cards, adding thousands of dollars to these programs. However, we must renew our card numbers each year. Just visit the secure website: kroger.com to update your individual Kroger Plus card to one of St. Michael’s accounts. Members can designate their contribution to Micah’s Backpack using **#83513** or Justice and Mercy using **#82386**.

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Drive-in Services

Join St. Michael, Shiloh, New Mount Zion and Luther Memorial for drive-in services this summer at the St. Michael parking lot. Services will begin at 10 a.m. and will include communion. Join us on **September 27th**. If you aren't able to print the bulletin from the website (lmlc.org), we will have a limited number available the morning of the service. You can listen to the service on channel FM 88.9 on the radio.

Mowing schedule: 9/5-James/Dennis (front); 9/12-John Stramiello (back); 9/19-Daniel Ferrell (front); 9/26-Dickie Shepherd (back)

Rear: 9/7 -Gary Steck; 9/14-George Hahn; 9/21-Jeff Crowder; 9/28-Doug Smiley

Women of the ELCA



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Lunch and Learn: We are starting our fall sessions of Lunch and Learn. Of course, they will look a little different but will still bring us together for study and fellowship. Jody Smiley will host zoom meetings each month. We have our first “meeting” on September 21st. The Zoom invitation will appear in the St. Michael Thursday email update. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jody. You could even have your lunch at home along with it!

School Supplies: Each summer we collect school supplies for Price’s Fork Elementary School. Black and white composition books and glue sticks are suggested for this summer. If you would like to contribute, there will be a collection container at the August 30 drive-in church service. More info about drop off times will be in the weekly email news.

Linus Blankets: They are given to comfort children who are in local hospitals. We would like to make and donate some more this year. Please contact Alice Schneider if you plan to make some. aa_schneid@yahoo.com or 552-6995.

**Project
Linus**

*Providing Security
Through Blankets*

You may print out directions at: nrvprojectlinus.org

Please remember: God’s Work Our Hands – Sunday September 13th will gather supplies for the Women’s Resource Center in Radford.

Thank you to everyone for all the many ways you help those in our community – even if we are not all able to worship together in person, we are still all together!

Price’s Fork Elementary Snacks

Thank you to all those who donated snacks and drinks for the teachers and staff at Price’s Fork Elementary School. The final collection will be Sunday, August 30, at the drive-in service. The items will be delivered on August 31. Providing snacks and drinks is a substitute for the usual back-to-school breakfast we have provided to teachers in the past. I know in this year of many changes these snacks will be appreciated. Please pray for the students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators as students head back to school.



Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



On August 9, 2020, John Stramiello was approved by the St. Michael Church Council as the new Director of Micah's Backpack Program (MBP), replacing Sarah Ryan. Sarah has done a wonderful job organizing and growing this program during her tenure as director. She will be missed but not forgotten. John has an extensive background in feeding ministries dating back to 2009 when he founded Behind the Stone Ministries in Florida, handing out bags of food to 125 families a week. Over the past few weeks John has been working closely with Sarah and the MBP Advisory Board to seek new ways to continue this much-needed ministry, especially during this time of COVID-19 and the issues it poses. We continue to need the support of our volunteers and donors who have been the backbone of MBP because of their Time, Talents and Treasures. If you would like to continue assisting the ministry with whatever gifts you possess please do not hesitate to contact John Stramiello by phone (call or text), 540-599-4682 or by email, hope@micahsbackpack.org.

We are continuing to pack and distribute 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church with 4 volunteers and then the staff at Warm Hearth picks up the bags about 4-5 days later and they give out the bags to the seniors. At this time, we are packing generic bags and are not following our normal "menu" option as in the past. However, this seems to be working well and the bags contain quite a few of the basic items- tuna/ peanut butter/ soup / spaghetti / cereal / fruit cups and crackers. We recently received a Covid-19 response grant from the Virginia Synod for \$400 and that allowed us to buy the food we distributed in August. Millstone Kitchen has now connected with Warm Hearth and they provided some hot meals to the seniors the 3rd week in August. We look forward to finding out how that worked and how long they will provide the warm meals. We are excited we have found a way to still assist the low-income seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner. We appreciate everyone's support as we feed those in need.



Attention Older Kids (O.K.s)

Well, we have to cancel our Happy-Go-Lucky Gourmet School Luncheon this year but I think we should still do our homework. Homework you say! What's that all about? To keep our minds healthy and nimble, a little set of "lessons" have been prepared....a bit of history, some art, can't forget the math, and more. Along with your homework delivered right to your door, you also get to chat (through the screen door of course) with your personal delivery person. A school snack or two will also be included. 😊



Wait....there's more. A school lunch will also be included in your package. It just doesn't get any better than this. The O.Ks will be contacted soon to set up a day and time for delivery during the week of September 20. Yay!

Council Update

Council continues to meet monthly to take care of the business of St. Michael. At the August meeting it was suggested that capital improvement projects be considered since the mortgage has been paid. Two projects that have been suggested are redoing the kitchen and replacing the sanctuary carpet. If you would like to be on a committee to explore one of these projects, contact Fran Shepherd 540-544-7462 or fshepherd13@icloud.com. Please continue to consider the capital replacement fund for your offerings.

Council continues to work on reopening worship plans. A letter will be sent out soon with a draft plan for reopening. Please look over the draft plan and offer support and suggestions. We continue to monitor the coronavirus in the area to guide us in our decisions.

St. Michael Landscape

Virginia has a new state champion Evodia tree and it is on the grounds of StMLC. The church grounds now have the largest as well as the third largest Evodia tree in the state. The new champion is to the west of the large fenced playground at the church.

These trees are both recognized by the Virginia Big Tree Program, which is headquartered at the College of Natural Resources and Environment at Virginia Tech. Listings of trees can be found on-line at <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/> Use the 'Search Big Trees' box to look for Korean Evodia.

Trees earn points based on height, trunk circumference, and canopy diameter. Every foot of height earns 1 point, every inch of trunk circumference earns 1 point, and every foot of canopy diameter earns ¼ point... The champion at the church is 56 feet tall, 80 inches in circumference, and has a canopy that is 33 feet wide (for 8 pts.) earning a total of 144 points.

Our third place tree, (previously co-champion) is closer to the parking lot west of the church and earns 122 points.

Korean Evodia is native to China and Korea. It flowers profusely in July with umbels of small white flowers.



Link to info about tree: <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/detail.cfm?AutofieldforPrimaryKey=2853>

Scout Troop 158



Troop 158 has not met at the church since March, but the Scouts have remained active. Scouts have continued to meet via Zoom, and have earned rank advancements and merit badges in Public Speaking and Emergency Preparedness. They even had a couple of campouts via Zoom, where families camped by themselves, but used Zoom to stay connected and have campfire programs. The troop had one in-person campout in July.

On August 8, nine Scouts and six adults met at StMLC where they raked and weeded the mulched beds. They also spread three cubic yards of playground mulch on the playground, to prepare it for the children attending Mother's Morning Out, which has restarted.

Thanks to both our Troops, as there's a girl's Troop and a boy's Troop!



We at St. Michael are so blessed to have an AMAZING staff. All have special talents and are working diligently to keep us connected and our ministries moving forward during this pandemic. We owe a special thanks to Suzanne Gay, Patrice Yearwood, Daniel Taylor, Marty Gordon, Sarah Ryan and Pastor Michelle Stramiello.

continued on next page

Suzanne handles the day to day administration. She answers emails, phone messages, snail mail, etc. She pays the bills, handles Justice and Mercy requests, and so much more. Patrice continues to provide wonderful music for our online worship services. She also provided delightful singalongs and stories for our Vacation Bible School this summer. Daniel supplements our worship music and has started to help with recording the services each week. Marty has braved COVID-19 and continues to keep the sanctuary and fellowship hall clean and sanitized. Sarah found creative ways to keep the Micah's Backpack program serving children in Blacksburg. We will miss Sarah and we wish her much success in the future. Pastor Michelle provided Bible story time for Vacation Bible School. She has restarted our adult Sunday school and Families of Faith. She continues to work with the Blacksburg ELCA Fellowship to provide online and drive-up worship services.

Speaking of the Blacksburg ELCA Fellowship, we also want to thank Vicar Bryan Katz and Pastor Monica Weber. They have continued to work together to keep St. Michael, Luther Memorial, Shiloh, and New Mt. Zion connected through online and drive up worship. Vicar Bryan uses his talents to provide technical support for recording and making the drive-up services possible. Pastor Monica's sermons and assisting ministry have been and continue to be inspiring.

A really big THANK YOU to you all from St. Michael.

Jay and Becci Nagle and New River Engraving step up to the pandemic

You may not know this, but nearly the Nagle family at their company, New River Engraving, has created every sign and plaque around St. Michael. Faced with a possible loss of business this past spring due to the coronavirus, Jay and Becci retooled the company.....**because** of the coronavirus! With a good supply of acrylic, they are now making PPE's.....personal protection equipment for schools, businesses, and hospitals. At the beginning of the pandemic, they created, donated and distributed intubation boxes (see below) all around the country. These are boxes placed



over COVID-19 patients in hospitals to protect doctors and nurses. They have now devised a new and improved disposable model which is in huge demand at local hospitals such as Carilion. New River Engraving staff, which includes sons Zach and Cam and daughter-in-law Mary, are also engineering counter shields, which have to be custom measured for each application, e.g., grocery checkout. Nearly every department at Virginia Tech has ordered the shields and the company has developed many new partnerships within the university. A third product is face shields and the

company cannot keep up with demand.

The new products have allowed New River Engraving to keep all their staff fully employed and incredibly busy. Their first choice though would be going back to creating their beautiful award plaques and other celebratory products rather than virus-related products. Nevertheless, we are all grateful that Jay and Becci and their company are making a difference by protecting health workers, students, and our entire community.

Thank you Jay and Becci!

August-September Zooms with Pastor Michelle

	Date	Time	Meeting ID	Password
Families of Faith	Week 1 - August 5	7:00 p.m.	984 5321 1814	861560
1st and 3rd Wednesday	Week 2 - August 19	7:00 p.m.	911 1794 8895	902232
	Week 3 – September 2	7:00 p.m.	948 9456 2967	503318
	Week 4 – September 16	7:00 p.m.	957 6857 7254	582015
Midweek Gathering	August 12	7:00 p.m.	929 9668 6485	269972
2nd and 4th Wednesday	August 26	7:00 p.m.	714 838 7569	436144
	September 9	7:00 p.m.	934 1652 8634	882713
	September 23	7:00 p.m.	924 0396 5510	763522
Sunday School	August 2	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	August 9	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	August 16	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	August 23	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	August 30	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	September 6	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052
	September 13	6:00 p.m.	975 9938 2676	827052

Pastor Michelle will send out a Zoom link in an email each week for the Zoom meetings.

Virginia Synod Council

It is with much enthusiasm that I share Jack Graves was accepted to serve on the Council of the Virginia Synod. His appointment will occur at the September meeting. Our appreciation is extended to the St. Michael Leadership and Congregation, as a whole, for the love and support provided to Jack through the years. We ask for your continued support and prayers as he takes on this new role in our church.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Graves

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
30 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 10:00 AM Drive-In Service at St. Michael 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	31 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Micah's Backpack Drive-Up Deliveries (Volunteers are not needed at this time.)	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Packing for Micah's Backpack (Volunteers are not needed at this time.) 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Packing for Micah's Backpack (Volunteers are not needed at this time.)	4	5
6 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	7 Labor Day 3:00 PM Micah's Backpack Drive-Up Deliveries (Volunteers are not needed at this time.)	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	9 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	11	12
13 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 12:15 PM Congregational Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	16 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	18	19
20 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	21 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn via Zoom	22 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	23 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community	24 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	25	26
27 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 10:00 AM Drive-In Service at St. Michael 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	28 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	30 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	2	3

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: stmhc.us