



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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Dear people of St. Michael,

John, Ranger and I are finally home! Over these last months we have learned that the first necessity for a happy Christian home is that love is practiced within its walls. Not only did we find refuge within the walls of my sister and brother-in-law's house, but we found home away from home. During this time we also realized how we had found home among all of you, where Christian love is being practiced.

Simply put, love is the adhesive that holds the body of Christ together. True Christian love contains an element of spiritual mystery. It embodies fidelity, reverence and understanding. Love comes with a tremendous responsibility on all members of the body, but it is a responsibility that comes with glorious rewards.

The Bible commands us to love even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. How did Christ love the church you might ask? Well, he loved it despite its faults, its mistakes and its weaknesses.

Simply put, true love does not fail. It loves despite personality imperfection, physical appearance, weakening health and mental oddity. Love is deep, abiding, and eternal, no matter what. Nothing can bring a sense of security into the home like love can.

John, Ranger and I thank you for making us feel at home during our family's very trying time. We love and appreciate each and every one of you, and we look forward to being home with all of you once again.

In His Love, 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

Thank you to Keith Gay for helping fold the September newsletter; to Michelle Berg for writing and sending the Weekly News and Notes congregational emails; to John Krallman for keeping our finances in perfect order; to Sandy Birch and the Ministry Committee for delivering homework and a school lunch to the retired O.K.’s; to Jody Smiley for leading the online Lunch and Learn Bible Study; to William Allen for helping get the Micah’s Backpack bus back in working order, and to Fran Shepherd, John Kell, and Jeff Birch for cleaning up the church yard.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in September provided stamps, Card Ministry supplies, *Christ in Our Home* devotional renewal, cleaning supplies, our annual music copyright license renewal, online computer back up subscription renewal, our monthly support to the Virginia Synod, staff salaries, and utility expenses.

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

Publication Delay

The **Hope-Full Living** devotionals have not yet been received at the church. There has been a change in the publishing company. We will let you know when the copies are available.

Thank You Note ...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of household supplies and groceries. During these uncertain times, two things are abundantly clear: our community still needs our services and our friends are still supportive of our mission. In a time that feels isolating, your gift serves as a tangible reminder of our community's connections to and support of our clients and our programs. We are honored to count you among our partners in this good work. Please visit our website (wrcnrv.org) or follow us on Facebook (WRCNRV) for more information.

Together towards peace, Laura Beth Weaver, Executive Director

The Women's Resource Center

Families of Faith

Families of Faith will be starting a 6-week series to begin on September 30, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Read one chapter over two weeks and underline and take notes for discussion with the group. If you can't make it every two weeks, no worries, just pick up with us next time. Book overview: How can anyone completely answer the difficult questions that children ask? How we read and interpret the Bible with children may mean the difference between whether or not it will continue to be an important source for their faith development as they become young adults. Written by an expert in children's ministry, *I Wonder*, is a resource for adults who want to explore ways to help children read, engage, wrestle, and grow into a deeper understanding of the Bible. It is for those who come to the Bible with souls open to be fed and who want their children to seek faith and wisdom. This book has great tips for guiding parents/grandparents/caregivers into the realm of developing a child's biblical knowledge, faith exploration, and spiritual progression. Many, "Aha!" moments for the reader.



- 9/30 Week 1: What Stories Does the Bible Tell?
- 10/14 Week 2: How Can We Use Children's Natural Curiosity to Help Them Read the Bible?
- 10/28 Week 3: What Bibles and Bible Stories Do We Read with Children?
- 11/11 Week 4: Stories That Form Us for a Life of Faith
- 11/25 Week 5: How We Support Families with Children
- 12/ 9 Week 6: A Wondering of Questions
 - Evaluating Children's Bible Stories
 - Bible Storybooks for Children--A Recommended list

Look for a Zoom link each week in your email!

Publications

The *Christ in Our Home* devotionals and the *Spark Family* booklets are ready to be picked up at St. Michael. They are taped to the door closest to the bell tower.

Attention Older Kids (O.K.s)

Don't forget to work on that homework you received last month. As soon as we return to worship in the church building, we'll post our artwork on the bulletin boards.

Congratulations to ...

Keith Gay who retired from Virginia Tech over the summer.

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Drive-in Services

Join St. Michael, Shiloh, New Mount Zion, Luther Memorial and Christ Lutheran for drive-in services this fall at the St. Michael parking lot. Services will begin at 10 a.m. and will include communion. Join us on **October 25th and November 29th**. 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: 10/3-James/Dennis (front); 10/10-John Stramiello (back);
10/17-Daniel Ferrell (front); 10/24-Dickie Shepherd (back); 10/31-James/Dennis (front)
Rear Lot: 10/5–Dave Surface; 10/12-Gary Steck; 10/19-George Hahn; 10/26-Jeff
Crowder



St. Michael's Constitution outlines the duties and responsibilities of our council. It states, "The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." During these times of uncertainty our council has more than fulfilled these responsibilities and continues to do so.

We are truly thankful for their leadership. The council members are: Fran Shepherd-president; Doug Smiley-vice president / secretary; Butch Akers, Margaret Christle, Jim Clemens, Elizabeth Graves, John Kell, Mickey McGuigan, and Becky Steck. John Krallman serves as our financial officer. Council has helped to guide us through this time of social distancing and has worked to keep our ministries active and relevant. Council is also helping to keep us connected and informed. Council members are leading committees that are looking at ways that we can safely begin to gather together in person.

There are many members of the congregation serving on these committees. They in conjunction with the Council have been faithfully and prayerfully considering the steps that need to be in place before and after we begin to worship in person. Thank you for your ongoing work.

We are blessed to have these faithful servants of God as part of the St. Michael family.
Thank you from the St. Michael congregation.

Micah's Backpack



Covid-19 continues to present new challenges for Micah's Backpack. Although the Montgomery County Public School system was recently going all virtual for 3rd through 12th grades, those grades are now back to in school classes. Pre-K through 2nd grade continue with



an in school schedule. Thank you to Robert Shelton, Susan Verbrugge and Stacie Castro for working so diligently on a plan to overcome the obstacles we have faced so far. We will be looking at new ways to continue serving all students and their families who are experiencing food insecurities. This may include home delivery to our virtual students. As always, we are appreciative of all our volunteers and donors. We are still in need of donations, both monetary and food supplies. **Peanut butter (16 oz) and canned pasta** are this month's needs. Blessings to all!

Micah's Soup for Seniors

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 four volunteers. The staff at Warm Hearth picks up the bags 4 or 5 days later to hand out to the seniors. At this time, we are packing generic bags and are not following our normal menu option as in the past. 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.



Millstone Kitchen's Neighbors in Need program has now connected with Warm Hearth and is providing warm meals once a week through December. It sounds like the meals from Millstone Kitchen have been much appreciated.

We are excited we have found a way to continue to help out the low-income seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to carrying on with our program in this manner. We appreciate everyone's support as we feed those in need. We will try and work on a day and time where food donations can be dropped off at the church. We may try to coordinate with Micah's Backpack donation time. We will let everyone know once we have that established.

Micah's Closet and Belk Charity Sale



Belk is again having its Charity Sale and there are a few changes. The sale will be October 9-11 (Friday, October 9, will only be for Belk cardholders). This gives you more time to shop and take advantage of their rare sales on some items. The tickets will remain at \$5.00 but you

will receive \$10.00 off your purchase with the Charity Sale ticket. Tickets may be purchased by mailing a request and \$5.00 to the church (make checks payable to St. Michael with Micah's Closet in the memo line). Your tickets will be taped to the fellowship door for pick up. Thank you for supporting Micah's closet in this way.



Micah's Garden

All the glory give to God! He puts people in your path always for a reason. Thank you New River Valley Master Gardeners for the plentiful seeds! Thank you Blacksburg High School agriculture department for your spare plants. Micah's Garden has harvested 150 pounds of winter squash!! We have passed our yearly goal of 1,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce donated to meet children's nutritional needs through Micah's!



Women of the ELCA



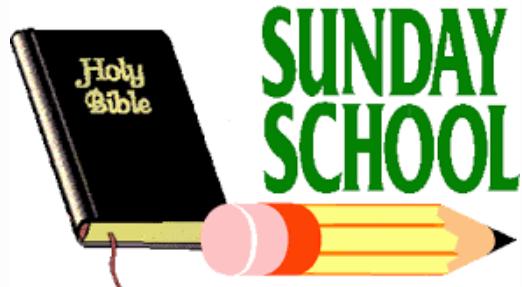
Lunch and Learn via Zoom! All ladies are invited to attend **Lunch and Learn on Monday, October 19, at noon.** We'll have a bit of fellowship time followed by a Bible study, "Holy Time: Recognizing and Responding to God's Grace in the Now", led by Jody Smiley. The Zoom invitation will be emailed soon. If you have any questions, please contact Jody at jdsimiley29@comcast.net.

Thank You to everyone who contributed school supplies for Price's Fork Elementary. They may be learning virtually, but the children and their families greatly appreciate assistance receiving school supplies to work with.

Thank You also for joining our NRV churches in contributing to **God's Work, Our Hands.** The Women's Resource Center is very grateful for cleaning and paper supplies

and packaged foods. During this pandemic they have experienced large increases in the number of people coming to them for assistance. Helping the center by donating some supplies allows them to use their resources to aid their clients.

Thank you to everyone for all the many ways you help those in our community. It doesn't always mean "contribute" something. Make a call or send a note to check on a friend or make a new acquaintance - we are St. Michael – and we can do this!



Sunday School will begin a new 8-week series starting October 4 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

All Sunday School classes are designed as individual classes, so if you miss a Sunday you won't be lost the following Sunday. Come as you are able to this 8-week study. The Bible contains hundreds of stories-thousands of names. How does a person begin to understand and remember it all?

Adult Crossings is a unique Bible overview. It explores what many scholars consider the eight core stories of the Bible. This is what theologian Walter Brueggemann calls "the primal narrative-that most simple, elemental, and non-negotiable story line that lies at the heart of biblical faith." This study is perfect for a whole-congregation Bible emphasis, small group study or new member classes.

The core stories include:

- 10/4 1. God's Call
- 10/11 2. The Exodus
- 10/18 3. Sinai Covenant
- 10/25 4. Promised Land
- 11/1 5. Davidic Rule
- 11/8 6. Jesus' Life
- 11/15 7. The Cross
- 11/22 8. Resurrection Life

By studying these ancient stories we can begin to see how God continues to act, here and now, in us and through us. Look for a Zoom link each week in your email!

Update from Bedford Lutheran Church

Bedford Lutheran Church sent a lovely letter to our congregation thanking us for our continued support. As our mission partner church, we send them a monthly financial gift. Bedford Lutheran Church also wanted to update us that due to COVID-19, their plan to become an organized church of the ELCA has been rescheduled for late spring 2021. Please continue to pray for them.

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
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 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	2 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	3
4 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	6 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	7 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community via Zoom	8 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	9 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	10
11 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	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	13 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	14 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	15 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	16 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	17
18 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	19 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn via Zoom 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	20 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	21 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Mid-Week Gathering with Pastor Michelle and the St. Michael Community via Zoom	22 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	23 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	24
25 Reformation Sunday 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	26 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	27 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	28 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Families of Faith - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	29 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	30 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	31