



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 45, Number 5

May 1, 2021

Dear Saints,

We will be celebrating The Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23rd, and as you may have heard me say, this is my favorite Sunday of the year. The day the church was born and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, brings us into relationship with the Triune God. The Holy Spirit showers us with many gifts. Those gifts, however, are never an end in themselves. Doctors and nurses are skilled at healing so others might have health and wholeness. Financial resources are entrusted to people so that the money might be used to the glory of God and in service to humanity. When considering a gift from God good questions to ask are: “Why has God entrusted us with the gift of the Holy Spirit?” and “How is God calling us to use this gift?”

Before Jesus ascends into heaven he spends time with his eleven disciples. The last command that Jesus gives them is this: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

As followers of Jesus we are called to testify, and we are promised we will be given words to speak. There is an inherent outward push deep within us from the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit and how exactly does this Spirit help us? Jesus is very clear: the Holy Spirit is our real and necessary helper and advocate, sent to assist us in living life within the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit was sent to remind us about Christ and to empower us to become the embodiment of the gospel. Here are a few ways that the Holy Spirit “speaks” to us both for our good and for God’s glory:

The Spirit reminds us about all that Jesus has taught.

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit — the Father will send Him in My name — will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you” (John 14:26).

The Spirit is a personal witness to testify about Christ.

“When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father — the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father — He will testify about Me” (John 15:26).

continued . . .

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

He convicts us of sin.

“When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment” (John 16:8).

He guides us to truth.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come” (John 16:13).

He brings glory to Jesus.

“He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14).

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Jody Smiley, Kris Wertz and Fran Shepherd for organizing the Micah’s Closet spring distribution of clothing for students at Price’s Fork Elementary School; to Jody Smiley for leading the monthly Women of the ELCA Lunch and Learn get togethers (even when she is on vacation!); to all those working hard to plan in-person worship services; to Keith Gay who helped fold the April newsletter and to all those who planned the drive in Easter Service and the music for the Easter Service.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported office supplies, clothing for Micah’s Closet, copier maintenance, paper supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to Bedford Lutheran Church, MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff.

Core
Ministry
Fund



The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. **In April, we provided assistance for 4 families:** 2 with 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 the need.

Annual Meeting

At the April 25 Annual Meeting held on Zoom, those attending approved St. Michael connecting to town sewage at Kipps Farm next door. The cost of the project is not to exceed \$45,000. Connecting to the town sewage will eliminate problems experienced with the current septic system. The current system is being used more than it was built for. Please consider contributing to the Capital Replacement Fund to support this infrastructure improvement.

Gift

The church received a final gift from the Fred Spengler Living Trust in the amount of \$9,755.61. Fred has been generous to St. Michael in leaving several gifts to assist with paying off the mortgage. Since the mortgage was paid off before this last gift was received, the gift has been placed in the Capital Replacement fund.

St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. Gifts may be given for these items in thanksgiving for God's goodness or in memory/honor of a loved one, friend or occasion. If you have an idea for something that could be added to the wish list, please email the office at suzanneg@stmhc.us.

Volunteers Needed

With plans to begin outdoor morning worship on May 30th at 10 a.m. in the upper parking lot, volunteers will be needed to help in various ways. Greeters will be needed to welcome members/visitors and hand out bulletins and the communion packs. Ushers will be needed to help with seating and assisting anyone who needs help walking to the service and or carrying their chair. Ushers will also assist with exiting the worship area. Readers will be needed for the service. We will be following the CDC guidelines for gathering in public. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Butch Akers at 540-267-5873 or email him at artistib@thenrv.com

Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 15

Thanks for your service to our church members who are currently serving in the military: Katie Garst (Marines), Michelle Pasier (Air Force), Will Sharpe (Army) and Matthew Pasier (just finishing up his time in the Army).



Micah's Backpack continues to pack an average of 255 bags per week. To date we have packed 3,637 bags for 2021. Thanks to Doug Smiley's innovative shopping habits, and Feeding America's deals, our cost per bag of food is averaging \$2.10.

Micah's Caring Initiative has secured a van! Every two weeks Micah's Backpack will be using the van to pick up 2,000 to 2,500 pounds of food from Feeding America Southwest Virginia in Salem. It will also be used for food pick up for Micah's Soup for Seniors and for local food pick up. If you would like to donate monetarily to help defer the cost, please check out the church website or mail checks to Micah's Backpack, designating the funds are to be used for the van. Thank you so much to all those who have already donated.



On April 6th MBP met with Amy and Kelly from Prices Fork Elementary to discuss the Micah's Mobile Backpack summer program. There is a large group of volunteers from PFE willing to help. We have decided NOT to have a pickup day at St. Michael. PFE will be the summer school spot and we can possibly provide a food drop off on Thursdays for approximately 150 to 200 students. We also discussed using "Izzy" the bus to drop off food one day a week to specific subdivisions/areas. We will also be reaching out to other elementary schools for assistance. If this is a ministry you would like to be a part of please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pastor Michelle and John met with the owners of Chicken Salad Chick and attended their soft opening on April 23rd. Chicken Salad Chick presented MBP with a check on their Grand Opening, April 27th, at 9:30 a.m. at the restaurant and discussed working with MBP for future events.

On April 24th, Jersey Mike's hosted the first Micah's Backpack Day. On this day, and the last Saturday of coming months, they will donate 10% of all proceeds to MBP. This will continue through the end of the year, with hopes of continuing through 2022. Pastor Michelle and John attended Kroger during the lunchtime period on April 24th to represent MBP. Mike Christle, manager of Kroger, posted a flyer on their time clock to help promote the event.

For more information contact: John J. Stramiello, MBP Director, 540-599-4682 or hope@micahsbackpack.org

No Child Should Go Hungry

Micah's Mini Pantry

Ready, set, OPEN! Micah's Mini Pantry will be opening May 1st. As we have provided some information about the Mini Pantry in the April newsletter, we are very excited to begin serving our community and those individuals in the area. There was a blessing of Micah's Mini Pantry at the drive-in service for the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship on April 25th. Micah's Mini Pantry will

be located at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2308 Merrimac Road Blacksburg, Virginia, 24060. The mini pantry can be found behind the Bell Tower directly to the left side of the main building right down the parking lot. Just as a reminder, the pantry will consist of



non-perishable food and some personal items. Those so inspired may drop off donations at St. Michael Lutheran Church on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the Micah's Backpack donation drop off. Please identify those donations supporting Micah's Mini Pantry by marking the bags or boxes with a note indicating the donations are for the Mini Pantry. Please ***“take what you need, and leave what you can.”*** We hope this will allow individuals a safe way to gather a few necessary items, at the same time leaving something for others if they are able. Contact Sandie Worley at sandie@vt.edu or 540-961-2709 with any questions. We are here to serve you.

God's Work - Our Hands!



Thank You Note

Dear Church Friends,

I want to express my deepest appreciation for your friendship to my mother and to me and for your kind and thoughtful support when she passed. The church and the Circle of Grace meant so much to her. A special thanks to those who worked on the garden and to those who sang at her service. What a lovely tribute to her and what a kind gift to me and the rest of my family.

*With my deepest appreciation,
Kay Edge*

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Drive-in Service

Join St. Michael for the last Blacksburg-Radford Fellowship drive-in service on May 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Michael parking lot. The service will include communion. You can listen to the service on channel FM 88.9 on the radio.

There are plans to begin outdoor in-person worship on May 30th at 10 a.m. in the upper parking lot near the Circle of Grace.

Mowing: 5/1-Daniel Ferrell (front); 5/8-Dickie Shepherd (back); 5/15-Matthew James (front); 5/22-Jay Nagle (back); 5/29-Daniel Ferrell (front)
Rear Lot: 5/3-Gary Steck; 5/10-Jeff Crowder; 5/17-Dave Surface; 5/24-Doug Smiley; 5/31-Gary Steck

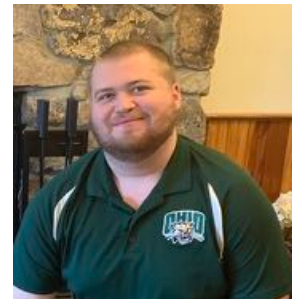
Congratulations 2021 graduates



The St. Michael family is proud of our nine 2021 graduates. Jessica Saville-Brown, Madelyn Brown, MaKayla Dowdy, Jack Graves, Alexis Niemiera, Julianne Snyder and Delanie Veit will be graduating from high school while Lexi Simmers and Corson Wertz are celebrating their college graduations. Since we will be unable to host a graduate reception this spring for these wonderful students, the Women of the ELCA at St. Michael will be preparing a little surprise package for each of them.



Lexi Simmers is graduating summa cum laude with dual degrees in Accounting and Information Systems and Management from the College of Business at Virginia Tech. In the fall, she'll return to Virginia Tech to pursue a Master of Accounting and Information Systems which will prepare her to be a certified public accountant. At VT, Lexi was the president of the END ALZ club which was dedicated to spreading awareness about Alzheimer's disease and Vice President of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.



Corson Wertz graduated on May 1 from Ohio University with degrees in Sports Management, Marketing and Analytics. He looks forward to working in college athletics and is currently applying to graduate schools and post-graduate internships which will allow him to build on what he has learned at Ohio University.



Madelyn Brown is graduating from Christiansburg High School with a cosmetology license. She plans to pursue a career in that field while continuing her education at New River Community College. At CHS, Madelyn participated in the Mentor Program, Demons for Sheltered Animals and Help Save the Next Girl. She has attended several Synod Youth events including Lost and Found, Winter Celebration, the Junior High Servant Event in Virginia Tech, and Kairos, but the highlight of her church experience was attending the Youth Event in Houston in 2018.

Alexis Niemiera was a member of the Blacksburg High School golf and tennis teams while serving as the secretary of the BETA club and historian of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) club. She is also a member of the Science National Honor Society. Alexis also served as a student council representative and is looking forward to attending Virginia Tech this fall.



Jessica Saville-Brown participated in DECA State and National Conferences while attending Blacksburg High School. She plans to attend New River Community College to continue her education. Jessica has been a member of St. Michael since her

baptism as an infant and has been active in many facets of church life including serving as a substitute nursery worker. Her participation in Synod events, such as Lost and Found, the Junior High Servant Event in Virginia Beach, Winter Celebration and Kairos were especially meaningful. Jessica also enjoyed the trip to Houston in 2018 for the Youth Event.

MaKayla Dowdy will be attending Emory & Henry College and playing softball there. She will be majoring in Elementary Education and receiving her K-5 teaching certification. While at Blacksburg High School, MaKayla played on the varsity softball team for 4 years and was a captain for 3 years. She received All-District and All-Region honors for her softball performance. MaKayla was also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and a frequent volunteer at Prices Fork Elementary School.



Jack Graves will be attending the College of William and Mary where he plans to double major in History and Education. He eventually intends to earn his PhD and become a university professor. During high school, Jack served in student government, on academic teams and was the school mascot for the Eastern Montgomery High School Mustangs. He served on the call committee which brought Pastor Michelle to St. Michael and is currently serving as the youth delegate on the Virginia Synod council.

Julianne Snyder will also be attending Virginia Tech this fall, majoring in Property Management. At Blacksburg High School, she was president of the Cornhole Club, an officer for Future Farmers of America (FFA) and played volleyball and softball. Julianne started working at Rainbow Riders Early Head Start Program at St. Michael last summer and hopes to continue working with the little ones during college.



Instructions for In-Person Services

OUTDOOR SERVICES

- Registration online (st-michael-lutheran-church.org), by phone (540-951-8951) or by email (hope@stmlc.us) will be required by Wednesday prior to the service.
- We will hold the service outdoors in the parking lot near the Circle of Grace. You may bring lawn chairs from home or may use chairs from church. You will need to practice social distancing from other families. Masks must be worn at all times.
- You will be given a bulletin (if needed) along with communion elements for services where communion will be celebrated.
- Offering can be put in the locked box located near the greeters/ushers.
- Ushers will assist in setting up chairs to maintain 6 feet social distancing from others.
- The children's sermon will be given without the children leaving their seats.
- Sharing of the peace will not involve movement from your chairs or touching of others.
- Communion will be celebrated without leaving your chairs.
- After the service, dismissal will be by row as directed by the ushers while maintaining 6 feet social distancing. Dispose of communion cups in the trash can as you leave and recycle the bulletin if you don't wish to keep it.
- Before leaving the parking lot, you may visit with others while maintaining 6 feet social distancing and continuing to wear your mask.
- Music will be provided by Daniel and hymns will be sung by choir members appropriately distanced from the congregation. Congregational singing will be resumed when appropriate.
- The service will be broadcast on FM 88.9 so folks may remain in their cars if they prefer. For those who feel they need to stay home, the Virginia Synod will provide a recorded service for viewing.
- If there is inclement weather, the service will be moved into the Sanctuary. All required sanitizing will be done before each service and of course social distancing and masks will be required.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 12:15 PM Congregational Church Council Meeting 3:00 PM 2020 Annual Audit 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	3 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	4 Blacksburg Children's Chorale Using Outdoor Space 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	5 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	6 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study via Zoom	7 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	8
9 Mother's Day Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	10 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	11 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	12 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	13 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study via Zoom	14 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	15
16 Watch the Sunday Service using Link found on LMLC.org 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	17 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	18 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Price Family Historical Society	19 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 12:00 PM Lunch and Learn via Zoom 3:00 PM Music Lesson 6:00 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack	20 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 4:30 PM Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study via Zoom	21 10:00 AM Delivering Micah's Backpack Gifts of Food	22
23 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	24 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	25 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	26 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 3:00 PM Music Lesson	27 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study via Zoom	28	29
30 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael 6:00 PM Sunday School - Zoom with Pastor Michelle	31 Memorial Day	1 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	2 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	3 Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program 8:45 AM Mother's Morning Out	4	5

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