



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Christ is Risen! Indeed!

When the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

When they climbed into the boat the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” – Matthew 14:26-33

We returned to in-person outdoor worship in May. Of course, it is a learning process that will require flexibility, but what a joy to announce this news. We will continue in safety with masks (optional if you are fully vaccinated) and distance required to worship. Singing will be limited. More specific details are being formulated and will be communicated as things change.

Sunday worship services will initially resume at 10 a.m. All services will offer Holy Communion, the same as the drive-in services for now. You are invited to bring your own comfy lawn chair or use one of the available fellowship hall chairs.

Things have shifted in the storm, yet we will gather together in wonder and press into the change, confident God has been at work. Some things that used to be, won’t be. Other things will be new and we will have to adjust to them. We will need to work together to clear away debris and work with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to restore our mission after the storm. But mostly we will give thanks for the gift of life, salvation, and the forgiveness of sins Jesus Christ has given us, and that we get to share it together in this time and place.

Jesus said there would be hard times but not to be afraid, for Jesus has overcome the world and has promised to be with us always to the end of the age. Thanks be to God!

In the abiding hope of the empty tomb,

Pastor Michelle

## 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 May newsletter; to James and Wanda Pascoe for filling the cistern with water for Micah’s Garden; to everyone who is working hard to plan for outdoor worship services and to Sandie Worley for getting Micah’s Mini Pantry off to a great start.

### Because of your gifts

Core  
Ministry  
Fund



Your generous gifts in May supported the purchase of a farewell gift from the congregation for Vicar Alyssa, communion supplies, Annual Report reproduction supplies, gasoline for lawn mowers, chair caddy for fellowship hall chairs, artwork for Suzanne’s office, postage, building maintenance, Synod Assembly registration fees, devotional subscriptions, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, support for Bedford Lutheran Church, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **2** families; one with an electric bill and one with rent. 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.

### Thank You Note

*Dear St. Michael Family,*

*Thank you so much for my graduate basket! I am so lucky to be part of the St. Michael Church & feel so loved. The support of the church over the past four years has meant so much to me! I could not have finished college without so much support & love from all my friends & family. Sending lots of love & prayers for great things ahead. God bless St. Michael & family!*

*Much love,  
Lexi Simmers*

## Micah's Caring Initiative



**Micah's Backpack** continues to pack an average of 255 bags per week. To date we have packed 3,910 backpacks; provided 23,460 meals; delivered 57,740 items of food using 475 volunteer hours. Thank you to our volunteers, donors and

surrounding community as this is not possible without you.

Micah's Caring Initiative van (named Care-A-Van) has been a great asset. Last week Doug and Mickey were able to secure 3,000 lbs. of food in one trip. The van is paid off in full and we have monies left over for insurance costs. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Chicken Salad Chick's soft opening was a great success for the owners and for Micah's Backpack. The final amount donated to MBP is \$4409.83

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Jersey Mike's had its first Micah's Backpack Day, donating 10% of the daily profits to MBP. We were presented with a check in the amount of \$542.60. Remember, this will be a monthly event. The last Saturday of each month is Micah's Backpack Day! Please stop in and get some great food while helping out a local business and MBP!

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (LMLC) hosted a food drive for Micah's Backpack on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, our last drive-in service together. Thank you to those who donated.

REMAX 8 Realty has challenged Nest Realty to a food drive benefiting MBP. The challenge ran from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>. The food will be delivered and tallied at St. Michael on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. If you are available we could use help sorting and stocking the food.

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

No Child Should Go Hungry

**Micah's Mobile Backpack** Summer Program was discussed at a May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with some teachers and the principal at Price's Fork Elementary. Please look for updates in the weekly emails from St. Michael.

If you would like to be part of this summer program please contact John Stramiello, at [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org) or call/text 540-599-4682.





After sitting quietly through the past few months of frozen ground, **Micah's Garden** is awake! We were fortunate to secure a NRV Master Gardener's grant that allowed for 10 tons of fresh soil to be added. Thank you to American Mulch for bringing beautiful topsoil and organic mix. We were also blessed to have some incredible Master Gardener and Virginia Tech workers come spread the soil. We were under some pressure, to squeeze it in between rainy days, but they persevered! Strawberries are blooming in our eagle scout boxes. Twelve rows of potatoes and 10 rows of sugar peas are sprouting and setting roots! Carrots, beets and 5 rows of beans have been sown, too. Also, a big thank you to the Blacksburg High School agriculture department for the donation of gorgeous pepper and squash plants!

**Micah's Mini Pantry** is up and running! Thank you all for your support, help, and donations of food and some personal care items. We are providing nourishment and more to those in the local community with our mini pantry. Please feel free to continue stopping by with donations on Mondays from 10am - 12 noon at St. Michael. We will also accept donations at all our in-person services which begin on May 30<sup>th</sup>.



### **God's Work, Our Hands**



**Micah's Soup for Seniors** continues to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We still receive food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are packing the bags at the church with 4-5 volunteers and then the staff at Warm Hearth picks up the bags 4 or 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 basic items: tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers.

A recent note from the staff at Warm Hearth:

"Thanks so much for all you guys do for our residents. I want to share that one of our residents shared during delivery last time, how much she appreciates the items that she receives each month. She said she really appreciates that you guys work to accommodate the needs of those that are gluten free. Just wanted to share that with you."

We are excited we have found a way to still help out 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. We will be collecting **tomato soup** in June and July. You may drop off those donations at the church.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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### *June Sunday Servants*

<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>June 6</b>	<b>June 13</b>	<b>June 20</b>	<b>June 27</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Dianne Krallman Jane Swing	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Jeff Birch Sandy Birch	Anna Rossamando Butch Akers
<b>Ushers</b>	Butch Akers Gary Worley	Jody Smiley Doug Smiley	Mickey McGuigan John Stramiello	Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Anna Rossamando	Dianne Krallman	Bert Kinzey	Jane Swing

**Ushers:** As members arrive for the service, Ushers will assist setting up chairs to maintain 6 feet social distancing from others. Be available to provide any assistance with carrying chairs or walking to and from the service area.

**Greeters:** Greeters will hand out bulletins along with the communion elements. Direct anyone who has an offering to the collection box which will be located near the Greeters.

**Mowing:** 6/5-Dickie Shepherd (back); 6/12-Matthew James (front); 6/1-Jay Nagle (back); 6/26-Daniel Ferrell (front)  
Rear Lot: 6/7-Jeff Crowder; 6/14-Dave Surface; 6/21-Doug Smiley; 6/28-Gary Steck

## Congratulations to . . .



Emily Garst who received her Master of Science Degree in Systems Engineering from Southern Methodist University on May 15.

And to Sgt. Katie Garst and Sgt. Abigail Prewitt who were married March 20 in Herman, Missouri. They are now living in 29 Palms, CA.



## Calling all O.K.s (Older Kids)



Mark your calendars! On **Wednesday, June 16, at noon, we're having our first Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon** in a long time. Seems forever. We'll gather in the church parking lot nearest the Circle of Grace and enjoy a fine meal catered by the Cellar Restaurant. Excellent music and other fun stuff will be shared too. Of course, we'll follow all the covid-19 protocols at our event, including social distancing and wearing masks when we're not eating. In case of inclement weather, we'll move into the fellowship hall. Please contact Sandy Birch at [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu) or 230-8823 to make your luncheon "reservation" to make sure we have enough food. Invite a friend or family member. As before, a \$5 donation for the food is appreciated, but not required.

Be there, or be square ☺

The topic for the June 15 Blacksburg Chapter AARP meeting is "Christiansburg Institute: Storytelling and Civic Responsibility". Christiansburg Industrial Institute (CI) was founded in 1866 as the first high school in Southwest Virginia to educate the formerly enslaved. It is now a grassroots African American cultural heritage and historic preservation nonprofit. The presenters will be Chris Sanchez, Executive Director of CI and Debbie Sherman-Lee, chair of the Board of Directors and a proud graduate of CI. Thank you to everyone who donated books for the AARP *Books for Vets* project. In only four months, nearly 2,000 books have been collected. Contact Sandy Birch, Todd Solberg, or Ben Crawford for more information about our local chapter and its activities. It's a good bunch of folks!

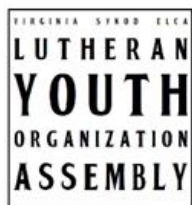
## THE VIRGINIA SYNOD YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**Saturday, June 12, 2021 - 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

This is an opportunity for members of our congregations in grades 7-12 to gather via Zoom to hear about the life and work of the church beyond their congregation. We also elect our Lutheran Youth Organization Board members for the coming year.

There is no cost for registration! Congregations may register any number of youth, but we ask that four be designated as voting members for the purposes of our business and elections. Congregations do not need to register advisors for this event, but we will need some adults to serve as group leaders.

The deadline for nominations for the LYO Board is Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and regular event registration is open until the day before the event. More information is available at the [Youth Assembly tab on the Synod Website](#).



### ONLINE KAIROS

**June 27-30, 2021 (Sunday evening through Wednesday evening)**

For youth who will be in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades this fall. **Cost \$40.**

This is our annual summertime faith formation event for high school youth. Last year's online event was so much fun for those who attended that we are following a very similar model this year, gathering three times each day for large group singing and faith stories, daily prayers, small group games and sharing, comic relief, prayer around the cross, Open Talent Mic Show, Speed Friending, t-shirt fashion show, and more! Congregations do not send advisors for this event, but we will need adults to serve as small group leaders!

In order to receive an event shirt and supplies in time, **all registrations and payments must be submitted by Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Registration materials and more information is available at the [Kairos event page on the Virginia Synod website](#).

When the time for each of these events gets close, watch for a confirmation of registration email that will also include the Zoom link.



## Synod Assembly

The Congregational representatives for Synod Assembly are Jody Smiley and Keith Gay. We thank them for taking the time to attend this meeting.

## Contributions to Offset Education Debt for Pastor



Just like other forms of higher education, seminary is very expensive. The average cost of attendance is \$36,000 per year, and seminarians graduate \$45,000 in debt on average. That debt can create significant stress for pastors and lead to negative impacts on such things as their physical health, emotional wellbeing, and relationships.

Does this impact our pastor? Yes. In spite of much careful planning and hard work, Pastor Michelle acquired substantial debt from attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio. She needs 10 more years to pay it off.

What's being done to address this issue at the national level? The Lilly Endowment founded the National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. Pastor Michelle proactively applied for and received a grant under this program. She also received financial education and met with financial counselors to learn strategies for paying off the debt more quickly.

If you would like to make a gift to St. Michael to help defray our Pastor's educational loans, please mark your payment to the following fund: **Pastoral Education Loan Assistance**. Remember that your payment will be sent directly to the lender. Every little bit will help to offer relief for this burden.

For questions, contact Lorin Crowder at [lorinhcrowder@gmail.com](mailto:lorinhcrowder@gmail.com). Thanks!



# St. Michael Lutheran Church

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael <b>2:30 PM</b> Private Event in Sanctuary	<b>31</b> Memorial Day	<b>1</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>2</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>3</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael <b>10:00 AM</b> Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>7</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>8</b> Dual Primary Election Day - Office Closed <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>9</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>10</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Online Synod Assembly
<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael <b>10:00 AM</b> Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org <b>12:15 PM</b> Congregational Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>15</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>7:00 PM</b> Price Family Historical Society	<b>16</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out <b>12:00 PM</b> Happy-Go-Lucky Outdoor Luncheon	<b>17</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Father's Day <b>10:00 AM</b> Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael <b>10:00 AM</b> Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>21</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>22</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>23</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>24</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Outdoor Worship Service at St. Michael <b>10:00 AM</b> Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>28</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>29</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>30</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Mother's Morning Out	<b>1</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

Updated Calendar Information is available online at: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)