



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Welcome Back to your favorite Pews!

It has been a while since we have been able to worship together. Almost 16 months of isolation, frustration and psychological challenges. Thanks be to God for our church council and staff that worked diligently behind the scenes during this time and to our worship committees and the Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship's dedication in bringing worship opportunities through videos, Zoom and streaming to life. We thank you for all your hard work and appreciate your dedication!

Normalcy is not here yet, but there is hope and we are excited to be able to embark on a new journey together, "the gift of fellowship" with our brothers and sisters in Christ. God has invited us into this relationship! We have fellowship with God through God's living Spirit, which leads us to live a grateful life, marked by humility and unity with each other.

As we begin to gather in worship together once again, I ask God to guide and lead us on the path yet untrodden, undiscovered; to steady our steps as we walk this new and mysterious journey together; and to be the lamp unto our feet and the light unto our path.

Living with hope for what is to come,  
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 Lynda Kinzey, Betty Wingate and Margaret Larsen for folding the June newsletter; to Lynda Kinzey for binding additional Annual Reports/Directories; to Jay and Becci Nagle for offering support over the years through their business by donating things like plaques and signs to our church; to the Scholarship Committee (Lorin Crowder, Eddie Boes, Ben Crawford and Jane McGuigan) for their hard work in selecting the St. Michael Scholarship winners; to Betty Wingate for assembling our re-usable Sunday bulletins; to Gary Steck for conducting the annual audit of our financial records; to everyone who helped set up or take down the outdoor worship space each week and to our lawn mowing crew.

### Because of your gifts



Your continued generous gifts support the purchase of Synod Assembly registration fees, Constant Contact subscription, newsletter mailing supplies, devotional subscriptions, gasoline for mowers, piano repair, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Bedford Lutheran Church, and salaries for our ministry staff. Thank you!

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. Funds can be used to help with rent assistance or to help pay water and electric bills. In June, we provided assistance for **three** families: **one** with rent assistance and **two** with electric bills. 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.

### Moving...New Address

To my friends at St. Michael,

I will be moving to Florida the first week of August to live with my daughter.

I will miss my church and church friends. My new address is listed below:

Mary Christine McCauley  
1471 EL Conte Drive  
Champions Gate, FL 33896  
Cell 1-248-933-8536  
Your friend, Christine

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



Micah's Backpack is in summer mode and we are packing 140 bags per week. To date we have packed 5,051 backpacks; provided 30,306 meals; delivered 70,714 items of food using in excess of 500 volunteer hours. This is not possible without our volunteers, donors and surrounding community. Thank you all! 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. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, Jersey Mike's Subs had their second Micah's Backpack Day, donating 10% of the daily profits to MBP. We were presented with a check in the amount of \$289.69. 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! REMAX 8 Realty 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 was delivered and tallied at St. Michael on June 1<sup>st</sup> and we received 3,880 items of food. Thank you, Doug, for making an inventory of all the food.



call/text 540-599-4682.

MBP met with some teachers and the principal of Price's Fork Elementary on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We delivered bags to two schools in June. During the month of July, we will be using "Izzy" the bus to deliver food in specific subdivisions. If you would like to be part of this summer program contact John Stramiello, at [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org) or

**NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY**

Please check out Micah's Backpack website to keep up with our progress:  
[www.micahsbackpack.org](http://www.micahsbackpack.org)



We are continuing to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We still receive food from both Feeding America and Kroger. 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 have good news for our packing and delivering for Soup for Seniors. We are now allowed to distribute the bags ourselves at Warm Hearth. This means we will be able to pack the bags, load the cars and deliver to the residents the same day. We will still need to limit our contact with the residents so we will only be knocking and dropping the bags off in front of their doors. That means we will continue to keep delivering generic bags to the seniors but so far that has worked well.

We will be packing and delivering the 4th Tuesday of the month for the next couple of months. In June, we are starting at 10 a.m. but we will see how that works and let everyone know if we need to change the time in the upcoming months. July packing will be July 27th and August packing will be August 24th.

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 **July**. You may drop off those donations at the church.

### **In-Person Services**

On June 20th we began meeting indoors for our worship services. If you are fully vaccinated, masks and social distancing are optional. For now the choir sings the hymns but we hope that soon the congregation will be able to join in. For those not ready to meet in person, the Virginia Synod provides an online service on Sundays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit [www.peacehopeva.org](http://www.peacehopeva.org).

### **O.K.s “gathered by the river” ....and “under the boardwalk” in June**

On June 16, at the first gathering of the Happy-Go-Lucky bunch since March 2020, there was tasty food, lively conversation, upbeat music and good times had by all. The Happy-Go-Lucky “founding mothers”, Peggy Price, Marguerite Olinger and Hallie Brown (their enthusiastic leader back in 1978), were honored. Peggy was represented by her daughter Angie Gunther while Fran Shepherd stood in for her mama, Hallie Brown. Marguerite, along with her daughters Terrie Mae and Vickie and sister Mary, was the special guest and wore her gold crown proudly during the festivities. Marguerite will also be celebrating her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 6.



**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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## *July Sunday Servants*

<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>July 4</b>	<b>July 11</b>	<b>July 18</b>	<b>July 25</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy Williams Anna Rossomando	Wilma Pieper Dianne Krallman	Jeff Birch Sandy Birch	Gary Worley Sandie Worley
<b>Ushers</b>	Dave Surface Joe Garst	Dickie Shepherd John Stramiello	Sandy Williams Butch Akers	Mickey McGuigan Doug Smiley
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jeff Birch	Jane Swing	Doug Smiley	Dianne Krallman

**Ushers:** As members arrive for the service, ushers will assist members to a pew as needed.

**Greeters:** Greeters will hand out bulletins along with the communion elements.

**Mowing:** 7/3-Dickie Shepherd (back); 7/10-Matthew James (front); 7/1-Jay Nagle (back); 7/24-Daniel Ferrell (front); 7/31-Dickie Shepherd (back)  
Rear Lot: 7/5-Jeff Crowder; 7/12-Dave Surface; 7/19-Doug Smiley; 7/26-Gary Steck

## Congratulations to ...

**Sandy Williams** who retired as a school nurse this June from Montgomery County Public Schools. She was employed by the school system for 13 years and has worked as a Registered Nurse for the past 46 years. Sandy plans to spend her retirement substituting for nurses in the public schools, baking, refinishing furniture, and planning a trip to Italy next year. She has also volunteered to be our “chef in residence” for the O.K.s Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons. We are indeed lucky!



## St. Michael Scholars

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to share the recipients of the St. Michael Lutheran Church Scholarship for this year: MaKayla Dowdy and Jack Graves. MaKayla Dowdy is a lifelong member of our church and she is an exceptional leader in our community. She has been the team captain of the varsity softball team at Blacksburg High School. She volunteers several days each week at Price’s Fork Elementary to help with first grade and preschool classrooms. MaKayla will be attending Emory and Henry College this fall to study elementary education and to play on the softball team. After she finishes her degree, she hopes to return to Price’s Fork and teach first grade. We wish MaKayla all the best in her upcoming endeavors. Jack Graves is an active lifelong member of our church and takes an active role in decision-making for our church. He served on the call committee for selection of the pastor for our church and he has recently been selected to serve as the youth representative for the Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church. At Eastern Montgomery High School, Jack was class president and participated in numerous clubs including the Student Government Association. Jack will be attending the College of William and Mary where he plans to major in a history-based subject. He plans to continue his education and ultimately become a professor of history. We wish Jack all the best in his endeavors.

## Online Power in the Spirit 2021

*"Advent in July" on July 11-15*

As our world emerges from over a year of pandemic life, many are hoping for a return to “normal.” The task before the Church is to focus our hopes in the right direction. This seems like the perfect reason to celebrate “**Advent in July!**”

Advent is always a season in which the Church waits and hopes, and at *Power in the Spirit Online*, we’ll explore how Advent can guide our hopes and expectations for life in a post-pandemic world. *The Rev. Cathy Mims, Pastor of First Norfolk and Coaching Coordinator for the Coaching Ministry of the Virginia Synod*, will be on hand to help us ask the right questions.

For more information: <https://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>





## Women of the ELCA

**WELCA Wednesdays: Lunch and Learn:** We enjoyed the final Lunch and Learn for the season in May. There was time to visit with each other and a program focused on mothers in the Bible with some reflections from our own experiences. We will resume our get togethers in September. It has been refreshing during this pandemic year to be able to see and talk with each other by Zoom, share news and happenings, as well as explore a few Bible lessons along the way.

**Looking Ahead** – This summer, we plan to again collect school supplies for children who need some extra support at Price’s Fork Elementary School. School will open for students this year on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch for a wish list of supplies in the weekly church e-mails.

Thanks to everyone for helping support the needs of our community.

## Music Notes

What a joyous time – in-person worship with music and singing in the air! At this time, choir members will sing hymns and some anthems during services. We hope that soon it will be fine for ALL to sing. Since there are so many unknowns about COVID, we will continue to monitor and take care of our unprotected, no vaccine under age 12 group.

Until then, join us in prayer and with a song in your heart as we share music each Sunday.

This is a great time to join the choir and come up and sing hymns with us. Contact Patrice if you are interested. We begin weekly choir rehearsals after Labor Day and have a lot of exciting music planned for the church year.



**HANDBELL RINGERS!** Time to sign up. We will begin rehearsals (not weekly, only a few) in the Fall also. We have an abundance of hand chimes and handbells for ringers. So, let’s get all those bells sounding. We need **eight** participants to make an octave and get started. Reading music is NOT a must, we color code the music and will help you along. So contact Patrice today to sign on: [payearwood1@gmail.com](mailto:payearwood1@gmail.com) Peace.

# Vacation Bible School

Welcome to God's Family



**Woven into His Love**

**The Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship**

**7/18/21 Day 1 *God's Family Begins* at St. Michael Lutheran Church**

3:30-5:00 PM: Kids' VBS

3:30-5:00 PM: Parents' Bible Study Class

5:00-6:00 PM: A Meal Will Be Served

6:00-7:00 PM: Taize Worship Service with the Blacksburg/Radford Fellowship

**7/19/21 Day 2 *God Promises a Big Family* at St. Michael Lutheran Church**

5:30-6:30 PM: A Meal Will Be Served

6:30-7:30 PM: Kids' VBS

6:30-7:30 PM: Parents' Bible Class

**7/20/21 Day 3 *Christ Feeds God's People Around the Table* at St. Michael Lutheran Church**

5:30-6:30 PM: A Meal Will Be Served

6:30-7:30 PM: Kids' VBS

6:30-7:30 PM: Parents' Bible Class

**7/21/21 Day 4 *The Holy Spirit Adds to God's Family* at St. Michael Lutheran Church**

5:30-6:30 PM: A Meal Will Be Served

6:30-7:30 PM: Kids' VBS

6:30-7:30 PM: Parents' Bible Class

**7/22/21 Day 5 *Family of God Gathers For Fun* at Shiloh Lutheran Church**

5:30-7:30 PM: Shiloh Luther Church

All the Blacksburg-Radford Fellowship churches will join in for Food...Singing...and Splashing in the creek!



## July 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b>	10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	8:45am Mother's Morning Out	8:45am Mother's Morning Out	8:45am Mother's Morning Out	Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	Independence Day 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>5</b> Rainbow Riders Closed	<b>6</b> Rainbow Riders Closed 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>7</b> Rainbow Riders Closed 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:00am Music Lessons	<b>8</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program Rainbow Riders Closed 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>9</b> Rainbow Riders Closed 5:00pm Ashleigh McCoy Wedding Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 3:00pm Ashleigh McCoy Wedding
<b>11</b>	10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:15am Congregational Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>13</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>14</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:00am Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>15</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 3:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Michael 6:00pm Blacksburg-Radford Fellowship Community Worship Service	<b>19</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out Vacation Bible School at St. Michael	<b>20</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out Vacation Bible School at St. Michael 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>21</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:00am Music Lessons Vacation Bible School at St. Michael 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>22</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program 8:45am Mother's Morning Out Vacation Bible School at Shiloh Lutheran Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Memorial Service for Howard C. Williams at St. Michael
<b>25</b>	10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>26</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>27</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 6:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony Outside (Fellowship Hall as back up for weather) 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>28</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:00am Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>29</b> Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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