



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Michelle was on vacation for the last two weeks in August.**

## **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday**

The Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Lutheran Fellowship will gather for an outdoor worship service at St. Michael on Sunday, September 12, at 10 a.m. The service will be held in the small parking lot. Feel free to bring your own chairs but there will be some available to use. Given the rise in the Delta variant of COVID, we ask that everyone (regardless of vaccination status) wear a mask. The St. Michael choir will sing the hymns and will remain distanced from the congregation. We ask that no one else sing at this time. The service will be broadcast at 88.9 FM for those who wish to remain in their cars. In case of inclement weather, everyone will remain in their cars.

As our contribution to the ELCA's **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday**, we will be collecting items for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley which is the local women's shelter. Please consider bringing an item or two to contribute. It would be wonderful to completely fill the Micah's van with items!

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 Margaret Larsen, Betty Wingate and Keith Gay for helping fold the August newsletter; to Judy and Jim Clemens for faithfully counting the weekly offering; to everyone who provided breakfast food 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 Doug Smiley and Jody Smiley for cleaning out the shed (a big job!) and the hallway closet; to Fran Shepherd and John Kell for working on the church yard clean-up day in August; 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 Vacation Bible School dinner supplies, lawn mower gasoline, communion supplies, newsletter bulk mail postage, 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 two families 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](http://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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Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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***September Sunday Servants***

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
<b>Altar Care</b>				
<b>10 a.m. Service</b>				
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	Wilma Piper Dave Surface	Sandy Williams Anna Rossomando	Gary Worley Sandie Worley	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier
<b>Lay Reader</b>	John Stramiello	Jody Smiley	Bert Kinzey	Jane Swing

**Please Note:** Greeters, please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate. Paper and pen are in the bookshelf drawer.

**Mowing schedule:** 9/4-Matthew James (front); 9/11-Jay Nagle (back); 9/18-Daniel Ferrell (front); 9/25-Dickie Shepherd (back)  
Rear: 9/6 –Dave Surface; 9/13-Doug Smiley; 9/20-Gary Steck; 9/27-Jeff Crowder

## Women of the ELCA



*Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**WELCA Wednesdays: Lunch and Learn:** We plan to begin our fall season of Lunch and Learn Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon. Weather permitting, we will meet outside, share lunch together, have fellowship and a Bible study. Our fall Bible studies will explore “The Gifts of the Spirit”. Session 1 is titled “Spirit of God: Revealer and Resource”. Together we’ll uncover the bold, truth-telling Spirit active in our lives. After a quick review of the mystery of the Trinity, we’ll read parts of

Jesus’ farewell discourse, and hear how the Spirit continues to reveal the truth of Jesus to us and to the world. We’ll discuss how the gift of the Holy Spirit is a resource for God’s people, giving us power we need to do God’s work. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliley@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley@comcast.net) or Alice Schneider, [aa\\_schneid@yahoo.com](mailto:aa_schneid@yahoo.com).

**School Supplies** – Many thanks to all of you folks who so generously donated school supplies for those kids who need a bit more help getting supplies to begin a new school year. In addition to notebooks, scissors, folders, etc., we were also able to order 24 headphone sets from Amazon Smiles, which then also donates some back to Micah’s Caring Initiative at St. Michael’s.

Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization will have their 2021 convention on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be a virtual convention that begins at 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with a break for lunch and resumes at 1 p.m. The theme is “Planted in Love, Pivotal in Purpose”. You can find registration and more convention information at <http://vswowebly.com/> Please join your sisters in Christ for worship, fellowship, and a little business. If you have any questions contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmliley@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmliley@comcast.net).

## The O.K.s (Older Kids)

### Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon Back to school “gourmet” school lunch



**On Tuesday, September 14** at noon, we will enjoy a delicious lunch prepared and served by our very own school lunch lady, Sandy Williams, who will be attired in her very best hairnet and white ankle socks. We’ll study a little math, some music, and a special history lesson about the Christiansburg Industrial Institute (CI), founded in 1866 as the first high school in Southwest Virginia to educate the formerly enslaved. Our instructors will be our friends, Butch and

Jessie Eaves, frequent guests at our luncheons, who graduated in the last classes at CI in the mid-60’s. It will be a wonderful time of fine eating, friendship and learning. A \$5 donation for the food is appreciated, but not required. See you at school...St. Michael style.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story



On July 13<sup>th</sup> we began packing bags for the Micah's Mobile Backpack Summer Program. We partnered with Domino's Pizza and gave out 320 slices of pizza to our students. We also partnered with Jersey Mike's Subs and handed out 120 mini subs. Our last delivery was on August 5<sup>th</sup> and we handed out 105 cups of ice cream thanks to Homestead Creamery Ice Cream. We were able to hand out more than 560 bags of food and a few hundred pounds of vegetables supplied by Micah's Garden: thanks to John K. and Mary N. for all their hard work in the garden! Robert Meyers, owner of R.P.M. Motorsports has partnered with us. Robert does amazing vehicle detailing. For every vehicle Robert details MBP receives \$10. Please check out R.P.M. Motorsports on their Facebook page. A big thank you to Chicken Salad Chick for partnering with us once again, this time in collecting school supplies for our students. We have partnered with Bear Dance Market and CBD Cafe. They will be hosting a Micah's Backpack Day the last Friday of each month, donating 10% of sales profit to MBP. Last month we received \$124.00.

3 Birds Berry Farm held a Blueberry Pie Bake Off Contest. The proceeds were donated to MBP. We received a donation of \$653.00 thanks to the owners, the Sembello Family!

We will be gearing up for our 2021-22 school year beginning August 24<sup>th</sup>. Unless COVID restrictions change we will be packing one day a week, on Tuesday evenings, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

MBP has the opportunity to run a concession stand for the seven home football games at Virginia Tech this season. We are in need of 6 to 10 people to rotate out. Six people are needed at each game. You wouldn't need to be at all the games. Beer will be served at all concession stands, so MBP stands to make a very good profit. The commission is as follows:

1. 10% of net sales in concession stands.
2. 7% of net sales in portable concession stands.
3. Or a minimum of \$100 per volunteer, whichever is greater.

Please consider working one or more of the games. Pastor Michelle and I will be at all seven games, so come join us for some fun!

### NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

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](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org).

### Micah's Closet

The children are back in school and Micah's Closet is ready to purchase clothing for students identified by the school. Please keep your eyes open for future information for purchasing clothing items. Information will be in the weekly email and Sunday bulletin.



## Micah's Garden



Be glad and rejoice, the Lord has made days for the garden to grow. It has been another bountiful gardening season. We have grown, harvested and delivered to the less fortunate around 500 pounds of potatoes. We have grown, harvested and delivered an additional 200 pounds of beans, peppers, peas, squash, beets, and cucumbers. Some of the plants are starting to wane, but we still have winter squash, sweet potatoes, and carrots finishing up. Rejoice indeed!



## Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are starting back to our almost normal routine of packing the bags at the church with volunteers and then loading up the cars and delivering them to Warm Hearth. We are being asked at this time to only knock at the door and leave the bags. This worked well during our delivery in June even though we are packing generic bags and are not following our normal menu option as in the past. The bags contain quite a few of the basic items - tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers along with special items we may be able to get from Feeding America. We will be packing and delivering the fourth Tuesday of each month. At this time, we are going to try a new time: packing at 10 a.m. and then leaving immediately after to deliver.

Our schedule for the next several months will be:

September 28<sup>th</sup>      October 26<sup>th</sup>      November 23<sup>rd</sup>

We are excited to be back delivering to the seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner. We will be collecting **peanut butter** for the month of September.



## Micah's Mini Pantry



Thank you for supporting Micah's Mini Pantry! As the summer moves to fall and school begins again, we hope to help provide some nourishments and personal care items with our local community in that transition as well. We have experienced a lot of visitors these past months and all of the donations are greatly appreciated! We are in special need of personal care items and they are being taken as soon as they are placed in the mini pantry.

They include - toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper, deodorant and feminine items, band-aids, sunscreen, anti-biotic creams, and even can openers.

Other donations of non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, and canned meats and proteins are needed as well.

Please continue to donate at the in-person church services and on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Thank you!

### God's Work - Our Hands.

## Keeping the Church Grounds Beautiful



On Saturday, September 4, we will have another day to work on the grounds from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Come for as long as you have available bringing your gloves and gardening tools. The Virginia Tech game is at 6 p.m. which gives you plenty of time for both.

## Safety Committee

At Council's request Master Deputy Lucas from the Montgomery Sherriff's office completed a security report on the church building and grounds. The Council has received the report and there are several items that need attention. Council is looking for members that would be interested in being on a committee to decide what items need to be addressed first and what items could be moved for future consideration. Anyone interested let Fran Shepherd know at either [fshepherd13@icloud.com](mailto:fshepherd13@icloud.com) or 540-391-2052. Thank you.

## Thank You Note

*Dear Pastor Michelle and the Church Family,*

*Thank you for your consoling and comforting words from you on behalf of the St. Michael Lutheran Church in remembering us during these difficult days of our lives! We went back to Park City, Utah for a couple of weeks to settle our son's estate. It was truly a difficult time! We could only look to the Lord for providing us with strength to continue on with life.*

*We appreciate all the prayers and comforting words from all members of the church. Thank you.*

*Our children from Ghana and New York joined us in Park City, Utah. We are learning how to cope without out Joy! He was a great pillar to our lives. We continue to appreciate your prayers and good wishes and sentiments as we struggle to deal with these circumstances.*

*Prayerfully and sincerely,*

*Litha and Josiah Tlou*



The choir members at St. Michael have been faithful servants singing weekly during our in -person services since May. We thank them all for coming early to prep a bit and for sharing music with us during these COVID days. We have masks back on ( though we are 100% vaccinated ) per the recommendation that we wear masks once again inside and also upon the recommendation of music organizations studying the spread of COVID through aerosols in singing.



Come join us! We welcome singers as we begin practices again soon. Sundays after church and Wed. we will meet for rehearsals. A calendar is being planned and it will be included in the bulletin and weekly newsletter announcements. Watch for it!

Reformation is coming on October 31 and there will be a special service at 3:00 p.m. that day. We are excited about a Blacksburg Lutheran Fellowship choir that will be a part of this. Come learn the music with us and be a part of this opportunity to share music with a wider community.



We still need handbell ringers! Let Patrice know if you are interested. We color code the music so reading music is NOT a must. Let's get started and be ready to ring Advent - Christmas bells!

Let's start singing and ringing!  
Peace. Patrice



## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Church Yard Clean Up
<b>5</b> 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>6</b> Labor Day	<b>7</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>8</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>9</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00am "God's Work, Our Hands" Outdoor Worship Service with Blacksburg-Radford Fellowship at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:15am Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>14</b> **Postponed** Happy-Go-Lucky Back to School Luncheon 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 4:00pm Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>15</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Music Lessons 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 5:30pm The Quilting Party to Meet in Parking Lot 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:15am Choir Practice 11:15am Congregational Church Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>21</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 4:00pm Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	<b>22</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm WELCA Lunch and Learn via Zoom 3:00pm Music Lessons 6:30pm Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	<b>27</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	<b>28</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 4:00pm Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>29</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Music Lessons 6:30pm Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Church Yard Clean Up 10:00am The Quilting Party to Meet in Parking Lot

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