



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

Volume 46, Number 6

June 1, 2022

Blessings Body of Christ,

What is church? The Greek word (*ekklesia*) translated as *church* is not an uncommon word in the New Testament. It simply means assembly. Sometimes it refers to a gathering of God's people for the purpose of sacred worship and other times it refers to a secular gathering to conduct municipal business.

When *ekklesia* is used in the sacred sense it becomes clear that gathering, assembling, and meeting together are vital aspects not only of Christian identity, but also of the holy functioning of God's people: And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

As Christians, the gathering together with the saints to worship God is vitally important for our spiritual health, as well as for our own identity as members of Christ's body. Consider the following ten reasons why we gather as God's people.

1. To Obey God's Commands to Gather - So many of Christ's commands to the church cannot be met if we're not meeting together. From communion to gathering around the water and the word, to mutual prayer, to loving one another and more, the "going to" is essential.

2. To Re-Focus on God in Worship - Something extraordinary happens when individual members of Christ's body gather to worship him. We can and should worship God in all places and times but gathering in corporate worship helps us focus more on Christ and less on ourselves. That matters, a lot.

3. To Connect with a Local Body - Singing together matters. Praying together matters. Working, learning, talking, and seeking together: all of it matters.

4. To Serve the Body of Christ - Love and service require proximity. Yes, we can do a lot of good things remotely and I'm grateful for the online options available during the recent pandemic, but there are some forms of service to one another that simply cannot be done unless we're in the same place together.

5. To Learn and Grow in Faith - The gathered church should challenge us. It should push us. At times it should irritate us. It should bless us by all its multi-faceted expressions. (continued on next page)

(continued from front page)

6. To Regulate Our Life Rhythms - When we miss church we should notice it. It should affect our body, soul, and spirit in ways that cause longing. Connecting with the community of believers at least once a week provides a rhythm of life that we need.

7. To Practice Sabbath - Sabbath has two essential elements, rest and worship. Without worship, it's just a day off. Without rest, it can quickly become legalistic and exhausting.

8. To Stay Grounded Spiritually - Gathering with other believers keeps us balanced. Being with God's people links us, our life and our thoughts to the real world, real people, and their real needs.

9. To De-individualize Our Faith - Worship is both a personal and public activity. A serious look at the Bible shows that the public aspect of worship is spoken of far more often than the private, personal aspect.

10. To Honor the Persecuted Church - For 2,000 years and counting, Christians have faced persecution throughout the world. This is easy to forget when we live in a country where we're not just free to worship, but where Christianity is the dominant religious expression. Most persecuted Christians could be believers without any recrimination if they just did one thing, kept it to themselves. But they go to church, even at the risk of persecution and death, because they know Christians need to gather.

See you at church!

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 Lynda Kinzey and Betty Wingate for folding the May newsletter; to Matt James for overseeing our online giving service (Vanco Services); and to Sandy Williams for baking cupcakes and Jane McGuigan for providing punch for the reception for the first communion kids on May 1.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in May supported supplies and food for Families of Faith gathering, office supplies, gasoline for the lawnmowers, postage, building maintenance, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Peace and Hope Ministry, our facilities and salaries for our ministry staff and pay for the supply pastor.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **16** families: two with rent, four with water bills and ten 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 needed.

Mowing Schedule

6/6-Daniel Ferrell (back); 6/13-Dickie Shepherd (front); 6/20-Jay Nagle (back); 6/27-Daniel Ferrell (front)

Rear Lot: 6/6-Jeff Crowder; 6/13-Dave Surface; 6/20-Doug Smiley; 6/27-Gary Steck

Micah's Caring Initiative

Micah's Mobile Backpack summer program begins June 8th. If you would like to be part of this summer program please contact John Stramiello as soon as possible, at hope@micahsbackpack.org or call/text 540-599-4682.

As of January, Micah's Backpack has packed and delivered 4,401 bags, 26,406 meals, and 61,614 items of food. This has only been possible because of our wonderful volunteers, our congregation and our community. On July 17th the Virginia Tech football players will be hosting a golf tournament to benefit Micah's Backpack. More details to come.



School is out! Summer is a few weeks away! Thank you for filling **Micah's Mini Pantry** with your many recent donations! This has only been possible because of your thoughtful kindness and generosity. Any donations make our hearts happy. ☺ We are grateful for you!



Warmer weather has arrived but serving healthy meals is still necessary. The need for snacks and simple meal additions is nice when the days are full of activity. Please consider contributing donations that include non-perishable, non-expired foods such as peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta, boxes of cereal, cans of soup, canned beans, canned vegetables, snacks, hot chocolate, tea, popcorn, oatmeal, and other canned meats and proteins.

There continues to be a need for personal care items. They include - toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soaps, hair products, hygiene products like toilet paper, deodorant and feminine items, band-aids, sunscreen, antibiotic creams, and even can openers.

Remember - **take what you need and leave what you can.** All donations are greatly appreciated! Please continue to donate at the in-person church services and on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Thank you!

Peace, love, and many blessings **God's Work - Our Hands**



Micah's Soup for Seniors continues to pack and distribute 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting ready to make changes to the menu along with adding some personal care items every other month to the bags. It has been several years since the menu has changed and we are looking forward to the changes and feel the new items will benefit the seniors. New items will include single serve portions such as small cans of vegetables, small microwavable rice and potatoes, beanie weenies, small boxes of cereal and small cans of beef stew. Since most of our seniors live by themselves, receiving single serve portions will help eliminate waste when preparing meals.

The decision to change the menu and add personal items came about after having conversations with the seniors on what items they needed. We will be asking for donations from the congregation for those personal care items and will use Thrivent grants to make up the difference. We are pleased to make these changes and look forward to continued support of the Micah's Soup for Seniors program at Warm Hearth. We invite anyone interested in packing and distributing the bags to join us the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

Next packing dates: June 28th, July 26th and August 23rd

Personal items to donate for **June - bars of soap and wash cloths**

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

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p align="center">Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

June Sunday Servants

| | June 5 | June 12 | June 19 | June 26 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Altar Care | Sandy Birch | Doug Smiley | Jane Swing | Jody Smiley |
| 10:00 a.m. Service | | | | |
| Greeters/Ushers | Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok | Dave Surface Wilma Pieper | Dickie Shepherd Fran Shepherd | Anna Rossamando Sandy Williams |
| Lay Reader | Jeff Birch | Anna Rossamando | Bert Kinzey | John Stramiello |
| Communion Assistant | Doug Smiley | Butch Akers | Sandy Birch | Jody Smiley |
| Youth Servant | Tatiana Villegas-Brown | Lilia Villegas- Brown | Tatiana Villegas- Brown | Ada Peery |

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

Mowers: Please look in the newsletter for the mowing schedule.

Congratulations to . . .



Macsen Erazo-Brown, Miles Maloney, Ella Martin, Emery Martin, Evie Peery, Stephen Peery, Luisa (Lulu) Maloney, and Gesine Newman who celebrated their first communion on May 1st. They were honored at a cupcake and punch reception after church.



Thank You Note

Dear St. Michael Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous \$1,690.79 emergency gift to help the people of Ukraine, who are enduring unimaginable hardship and suffering.

Your gift is being put to use immediately to deliver emergency food, shelter, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, medicines and other critically needed items for children and their families who are trying to survive the horrifying fighting...or are being forced to flee their homeland with a few meager belongings.

Your willingness to share your blessings during a global crisis like this is a godsend to your neighbors in Ukraine who are hurting. They can feel your love and are deeply grateful to know you are keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

You'll also find inspiring stories of the life-changing work you make possible at lwr@lwr.org

Thank you again, and God bless you!

Warm regards,

*Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.), President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore MD*

****This donation to Lutheran World Relief on behalf of St. Michael was as a tithe from the Basil and Katherine Family Trust and was approved by the Church Council.**

Women of the ELCA

The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

(VSWO): It is not too early to make your plans for the VSWO convention to be held August 12th-13th, 2022, at Hotel 24 South (previously the Stonewall Jackson Hotel) in Staunton. The VSWO will be celebrating coming together in person for the first time in over two years. This is a great venue, and the town of Staunton is a wonderful place to explore. Please mark your calendars and plan to come and join in the fun and fellowship. **There are funds available from St. Michael and the VSWO to help with the costs to attend.** If you are interested in attending or have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, jdsmiley29@comcast.net or visit vsw.org.



Lunch and Learn is on summer vacation. We will gather again in September for food, fellowship and learning.

Congratulations to . . .



Lexi Simmers, who graduated from Virginia Tech with a Master of Accounting and Information Systems (MACIS). Lexi has already started in a position as a fellow in the office of the Virginia Tech Vice President for Finance's Rotational Fellowship Program where she will gain experience and interest in several departments in higher education administration during the 12-month, post baccalaureate program.

Abigail Brown, who graduated from Christiansburg High School (CHS) with a CNA license. She plans to pursue a career in nursing by furthering her education at New River Community College while working as a CNA. After receiving an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) she will transfer to Radford University to study for a Bachelor Degree in Nursing (BSN). While at CHS, Abigail participated in Help Save The Next Girl (HOSA club), the Mentor Program and JV soccer. She has also participated in many youth activities over the years at St. Michael starting at a young age in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and later in Lost and Found and the Junior High Servant Event. A highlight for Abigail was definitely the trip to the Youth Event in Houston, Texas in 2018! Thank you, St. Michael, for supporting me.

Parker Wertz, who graduated from Roanoke College on May 7 with a B.A. in Art which goes with his Associates Degree in Graphic Design from New River Community College earned in 2020. He is currently investigating local jobs which will provide him with opportunities to use his talents.

Reed Yearwood, who graduated on May 7 with a B.S. in Sociology and a minor in Psychology from the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences at Radford University. He received the outstanding leadership award from the Sociology Department.

Margaret Christle, who was named the Outstanding Teacher at Blacksburg High School for 2021-22.

Attention Ushers

Beginning in June we will resume collecting the offering during the service. You will come forward and receive the offering plates from the pastor, collect the offering from the middle section first then go to the right and left sections. When finished stand in the back of the church until the pastor is ready to receive the offering. Come forward to pass the offering plates to the pastor and return to your seat.

Music Notes

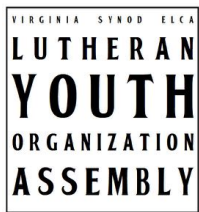


Our accompanist, **Daniel Taylor's** last Sunday with us was May 22. Daniel will be taking some time off to travel, visit grandparents and their church, accompany the Giles community singers and rest. We will miss his talent and flair and wish him well. A reception was held May 22 after the Sunday service to thank him and bid him farewell and best wishes!

The choir's last Sunday to sing will be June 5, Pentecost. Thanks to all the choir members for their dedication to practices, Sunday singing and our great Fellowship Choir events that took a lot of extra time to prepare for - Reformation in October and Good Friday in April.

Look and listen for more special music events coming soon and for the return of the choir in September! Handbells will ring again in the Fall to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Anthems will be presented this summer by solo, duets and small groups. Come join us! We are looking for more singers and welcome a wide range of ages. You do not need to be an experienced singer, a love of singing is the only requirement. Practice tracks are always available for learning and practicing at home. Got questions? Ask Patrice: payearwood1@gmail.com

Youth News



Youth Synod Assembly Registration is Open.

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly will be held online on Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 3:30-5:30 pm. The youth assembly is for Virginia Synod youth in grades 7-12, and there will be no cost to attend. For more information and to register go here: <https://vasynod.org/event/youth-assembly/>

Kairos Registration is Open

Kairos will be held from **June 26 (Sunday evening) to July 1 (Friday noon) at Roanoke College**. Kairos is our week-long faith formation event, offered each summer for youth who will be 9th-12th graders in the fall.

For more information and to register click here: <https://vasynod.org/event/kairos/>



June 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion | 30 Memorial Day | 31 2:15pm "Growing Young" Book Study 3:00pm Music Lessons 6:30pm "Growing Young" Book Study | 1 | 2 7:30am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast at St. Michael 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Safety and Security Meeting | 6 8:45am Mother's Morning Out | 7 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 2:15pm "Growing Young" Book Study | 8 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack | 9 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting | 10 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack | 11 |
| 12 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting | 13 8:45am Mother's Morning Out | 14 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 2:15pm "Growing Young" Book Study | 15 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack | 16 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting | 17 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack | 18 |
| 19 Father's Day 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 3:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Michael | 20 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 5:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Michael | 21 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 2:15pm "Growing Young" Book Study 5:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Michael | 22 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 5:30pm Vacation Bible School at St. Michael 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack | 23 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack 5:30pm Vacation Bible School Picnic at Shiloh Lutheran 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting | 24 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack | 25 Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg |
| 26 10:00am Worship Service with Communion | 27 8:45am Mother's Morning Out | 28 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Seniors Soup 6:30pm "Growing Young" Book Study | 29 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack | 30 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting | 1 9:30am Delivering Micah's Backpack | 2 |