



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Dear people of God,

While on vacation in Florida John and I spent much of our evenings chasing the sunset. The sky lights up with magnificent hues of pink, orange, and red around the burning yellow sun. Like a child I always strain to hear it sizzle as it hits the gulf waters, although deep down I know it is only a myth. The sun setting always brings about a sense of awe in me. It is the realization of God's faithfulness and generosity towards us.

Of all the ways we can show love perhaps the most tangibly communicated is that of remaining: a child who remains by an ailing parent's side, a pastor and congregation who remain steadfast to the church week after week, a spouse who remains loyal to the other, a friend who remains even when things are difficult. To remain is to look past the inconveniences, the faults, and the less than ideal, and to say with feet planted and heart unwavering, "I am not going anywhere."

We have all felt the sting of abandonment at one time or another and the truth is it hurts. Once you have experienced that kind of hurt it can make it hard to imagine a God who will never leave our side.

Is it any wonder, then, that the God of creation chooses to set our days to the rhythm of his unchanging faithfulness...24 hours a day, 365 days a year, year after year? The span of a complete day and its dependability is not dependent on us. The faithful rising and setting of the sun, the rising of the moon, the stars that twinkle in the night sky never cease to be. We call this cycle a complete day, 24 hours, but God calls this a persistent renewing of his faithfulness:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23

To behold the steadfast faithfulness of God day after day is to witness God's unchanging nature, God's relentless orchestration of time and space, and God's care over the earth's daily rotation. God remains faithful with each trip around the sun. Each day that passes God displays the reliability of his presence in the most tangible way possible by remaining with us throughout time and space. God gives us our minutes and hours without missing a beat. The times we live in are a smooth transition of renewal. God never forgets to send out the moon and stars

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at the setting of the sun or the sun at the setting of the moon. God sees us in our ordinary, daily, everyday and reminds us with the steady and consistent rhythms, "I'm not going anywhere."

May we allow that to comfort us and cause our hearts to worship!

Remaining in God's presence,
Pastor Michelle

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To all the volunteers who help with Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors; to the mowing crew; to Margaret Larsen, Betty Wingate, Judith Wolfe and Meg Peterson for folding the July newsletter; to Ray Howell for painting the exterior light posts and handrails; to Betty Wingate for taking our donations to the Women's Resource center; to Lynda Kinzey for making sure our food pantry donations are given to those in need; to Sandie Worley and Anna Rossomando for creating our lovely flower arrangements for the altar; to Jenny Kellinger for her donation of office supplies; to Jeff Birch for trimming the bushes in the church yard; to Fran Shepherd for weeding the gardens; to Keith Gay for replacing many light bulbs throughout the building and to Ray and Carol Howell for their generous sharing with the congregation of veggies from their garden.

Because of your gifts

Core
Ministry
Fund



Your generous gifts in July provided Vacation Bible School supplies, stamps, altar supplies, items for the youth room, office supplies, weekly newspaper advertisements, supply pastor pay, postage for the newsletters, VBS supplies, gasoline for the mowers, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, support for the Peace and Hope Ministry and salaries for our staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted **17** families: **two** with water bills, **seven** with electric bills and **eight** 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 need.

Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Projects for Price's Fork Elementary:

We will be collecting **school supplies** for Price's Fork Elementary (PFES) in early August. The items that are most needed are dry erase markers, crayons, backpacks, markers, tissues and Clorox wipes. Please bring your donations to the church on or before Sunday, August 7.

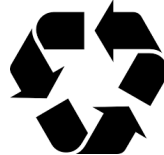


This year, we will again provide a welcome back breakfast for the teachers and staff at Price's Fork Elementary School. It will be held on August 11th at 8:30 a.m. We'll need help providing food and with setting up and serving. Look for a link you can use to sign up in the weekly email, News and Notes. If you have any questions, please talk with Fran Shepherd or Jody Smiley.

Montgomery County Food Bank: We are asking for boxes of Mac & Cheese dinners. The food bank always appreciates receiving *any* non-perishable food items. Please place your donations in the grocery cart near the kitchen window.

Women's Resource Center: We are collecting kitchen size trash bags. The collection bin is in the narthex.

Recycle...recycle...recycle



We continue to collect hotel-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and lotion (donated to the Christmas Store), soda can pull tabs (donated to the Ronald McDonald House) and eye glasses. *Unfortunately, we can no longer accept batteries and ink cartridges.* The recycle bins are located in the fellowship hall near the kitchen pass-thru window. Thank you.

Ushers

Ushers beginning in June we began 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 section. When finished stand in the back of the church until the pastor is ready to receive the offering. Come forward pass offering plates to the pastor and return to your seat.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

Micah's Backpack summer program began on Wednesday, June 8th and completed its last delivery of the summer on July 29th. A big shout out to Mary Nickle and John Kell for once again providing potatoes, beans, cucumbers and variety of squashes from the Micah's Garden. The families are very appreciative!



On Tuesday, July 19th, the 3 Birds Berry Farm held their Annual Blueberry Pie Baking Contest which benefits Micah's Backpack. They donated over \$1000! We appreciate their continued partnership.

We will begin packing for the 2022-2023 school year on August 31st. MBP extends an open invitation to everyone in the congregation to stop in on a Wednesday packing night during this coming school year. MBP would like to engage the students and volunteers who so graciously help make this ministry work.

Due to a series of unfortunate issues the July 17th VT football players golf tournament to benefit Micah's Backpack has been postponed until Spring of 2023. Stay tuned as information becomes available.

Thank you to REMAX 8 of Blacksburg for making a four-foot sign for the Micah's Backpack program. This sign will be displayed at future MBP functions. The sign is available for loan to groups wanting to host food drives and other MBP events.



For more information contact John J. Stramiello, 540-599-4682, email: hope@micahsbackpack.org or stram@stmhc.us

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

Flowers blooming - sunshine sizzling - and school starting. August is here! As the summer pushes on, we foresee the need for more food and personal care items. Any donations make our hearts happy. Thank you for your thoughtful kindness and generosity. We are grateful!



Serving healthy meals all year is very necessary. Summer is no exception. The need for snacks and simple meal additions is nice when the days are full of activity. Please consider contributing donations including 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, 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!

God's Work - Our Hands



Next packing dates: August 23rd - September 27th

Personal items to donate: August – brushes and combs; October - tissues (small) and hand lotions; December - slipper socks

Food items to donate: Chicken noodle soup / Tomato soup / Tuna

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2308 Merrimac Road
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August Sunday Servants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
10:00 AM Service				
Altar Care	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley	Dianne Krallman	Jane Swing
Greeters	Dickie Shepherd Fran Shepherd	Dianne Krallman Jenny Kellinger	Barbara Corbett Lynn Hickok	Anna Rossamando Wilma Pieper
Lay Reader	Anna Rossamando	Jim Grealish	Bert Kinzey	Jennifer Wayne
Communion Assistant	Dianne Krallman	Butch Akers	Doug Smiley	Sandy Birch
Youth Servant	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Ada Peery	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Tatiana Villegas-Brown

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.

Mowing: Mowers, please check with Jim Clemens if you have not received the August mowing schedule. Thank you for maintaining our church yard!

O.K.s (Older Kids)



Mark your calendars now for our Back-to-School luncheon on **Tuesday, September 6 at noon**. We will study a little music, some math, 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.

The Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech (LLI) invites us (those over 50) to join a community of curious adults exploring local history, global change, current issues, great stories and so much more. Both online (Zoom) and in-person classes and lectures are available. We can select from 25 courses, 4 field trips, and a series of free on-line lectures. Visit the LLI website www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning for more information; sign up to receive the Fall flyer and e-mail announcements.

Council Update

Lorin Crowder has decided to step down from church council. Council is sad to lose her leadership. We wish her peace and all the best that this was the right decision for her and her family. The Council would like to announce that Jenny Kellinger has been asked to fill this open position which runs until the end of 2023. Welcome, Jenny. - Mickey McGuigan, Council President

Welcome New Members



Dan and Becca Weber moved to Blacksburg in 2019 from Daytona Beach. On July 19, they announced the birth of their first child, Eleanor Rose. Becca is an Elementary Music Teacher in Botetourt County Public Schools and has also



worked as a substitute teacher in Montgomery, Roanoke and Botetourt counties. Dan is a PhD Candidate in Aerospace Engineering at Virginia Tech. They both enjoy hiking, camping, playing in the Blacksburg Community Band, and playing board games. Welcome Weber family!

Choir News



Come join the choir! We will begin rehearsals in September. Stay tuned for more information including dates for start-up and a picnic to kick-off the year. A love of music and singing is the only requirement.

Blacksburg-Radford Lutheran Fellowship Choir will also be a part of our 2022-23 church year.

We will sing on Reformation Sunday at Luther Memorial and prepare for that during our own rehearsals. Last year, the Reformation service featured brass instruments, organ, a 38-member choir and singers representing our area Lutheran churches. All the pastors presented a drama. You do not want to miss this. Come join us, it is uplifting!

CALLING ALL HANDBELL ringers! Handbell Choir will rehearse in October and November to prepare for playing in December.

Questions? Want to know more or join in the music at St. Michael?

Contact Patrice Yearwood payearwood1@gmail.com.

Thank You . . .

To Lynda Kinzey for hosting the coffee hour on July 10.



To Gesine Newman who baked cookies for the Micah's Backpack volunteers at a recent Wednesday evening. Gesine is pictured with her mom Beth, as they help pack food bags for children in the Blacksburg area.

Carol Howell was also caught on camera as she helped with the packing that evening.



August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 4:30pm Fellowship Event - Hymn Sing and Picnic at Shiloh Lutheran Church	1 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	2 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	3 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	4 7:30am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast at St. Michael 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	5	6
7 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	8 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	9 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	10 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	11 8:30am Back to School Breakfast for Teachers and Staff at Price's Fork Elementary 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	12 Virginia Synodical Women's Convention in Staunton, VA	13 Virginia Synodical Women's Convention in Staunton, VA
14 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour Fellowship 11:15am Church Council Meeting 4:30pm Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Fellowship Backpack Blessing and Potluck at St. Michael	15 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	16 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	17 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	18 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	19	20
21 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 4:00pm Families of Faith	22 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	23 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors	24 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	25 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	26	27 Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg
28 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour Fellowship	29	30	31 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	1 7:30am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	2	3