



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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**“We are all beggars. This is true.”** – *Martin Luther*

As Lutheran Christians we believe in the mystery of the divine becoming human in the person of Jesus. We call this *incarnation*. Unlike a detective show, we aren't the ones trying to solve this mystery. Instead, we are participants in the mystery who are invited to pay attention to the clues of Jesus' presence with us in worship and in our everyday lives.

A magician may say *hocus pocus* when performing a trick. Centuries ago the sacraments were held as magic performed by the pastor. There are stories of people hiding the sacraments under their tongues in order to sell them to people on the outside. Some believe that the words *hocus pocus* are derived from the Latin phrase *hot est corpus meum*, meaning *this is my body*.

The sacraments are a mystery but are not magic. The amazing grace, love, and forgiveness of God present for us and through us is a mystery not to be solved but to be lived. Lutherans believe that the bread of Holy Communion is the body of Christ, but we do not speculate on how this is true. We simply trust Jesus' promise.

The sacraments are a *mystery* in that we cannot fully exhaust what they mean for us over a lifetime. We can, however, affirm their centrality for our faith. Every Sunday I offer our kiddos the bread left over from communion in hopes that one day they will look back on their childhood church days with joy knowing that Christ is alive and well in our church. When I see their wide eyes and smiling faces, I am reminded of the joy in which we should receive this gift. Their eager outstretched hands competing for the first piece as they learn to trust in this mystery brings to light that we are all truly beggars in the eyes of God.

What grace the sacraments are to us. We are nourished and sustained even when we cannot name or feel our hunger.

Thanks be to God!  
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, Wanda Pascoe, Meg Peterson and Betty Wingate 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 Gary Worley for asking a friend to fix the sound system in the sanctuary; to our Church Council members who continue to keep us on track; to Sandie Worley for working so hard to feed members of our community through Micah’s Mini Pantry; to Brenda and Fred for keeping St. Michael so fresh and clean 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

Core  
Ministry  
Fund



Your generous gifts in August provided Vacation Bible School food and supplies, office supplies, lawn mower repair and gasoline, communion supplies, substitute accompanist’s pay, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, our support for Peace and Hope ministry, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, support for 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 **14** families: two with water bills; five with electric bills and seven 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***

	<b>September 4</b>	<b>September 11</b>	<b>September 18</b>	<b>September 25</b>
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>				
<b>Altar Care</b>	Sandy Birch	Jane Swing	Dianne Krallman	Doug Smiley
<b>Greeters</b>	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Dave Surface Wilma Pieper	Gary Steck Becky Steck	Forrest Sloan Jennifer Wayne
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Gary Worley	Forrest Sloan	Jane Swing	Bert Kinzey
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Dianne Krallman	Jane Swing	Butch Akers	Doug Smiley
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Ada Peery	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Ada Peery

**Please Note:** Greeters, 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 September mowing schedule. Thank you for maintaining our church yard!

## Women of the ELCA



**WELCA Wednesdays (Lunch & Learn) Returns in September:** Lunch and Learn is back! We will meet on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at noon**. All St. Michael ladies are invited. We will gather at the church for fellowship, a light lunch and Bible study. We will be exploring the Gather Bible Study. If you have any questions please contact Jody Smiley, [jdsmiley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or Sandy Birch, [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu).

**Montgomery County Food Bank and Blacksburg Interfaith Pantry:** In September we are asking for donations of **canned vegetables**. 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:** In September we are collecting **paper towels**. The collection bin is in the narthex.

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



Our Back-to-School luncheon is **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. Please sign up on the Welcome Sheet and contact Sandy Birch to make your luncheon reservation. Bring a friend. Sandy and Jeff are bringing their four best friends from middle school who are visiting Blacksburg. Attending a Happy-Go-Lucky luncheon was high on their list of "things to do."

## Online Worship Option

For those who are not able to attend our worship service in person, please check the online option to participate in a service each week. Go to [www.peacehopeva.org](http://www.peacehopeva.org) at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. each Sunday. Pastor Bryan Katz is organizing this ministry.

## Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

We had a successful Micah's Mobile Backpack summer program and now we are gearing up for the 2022-2023 school year with our first packing night on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in helping us pack please contact me at your earliest convenience. We will be using Sign Up Genius this year so there will be limited opportunities each month. We have five sororities/fraternities and three professional organizations signed up for monthly volunteer opportunities. We will once again be joined periodically by the VT football team and coaches.



On Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, the 3 Birds Berry Farm held their Annual Blueberry Pie Baking Contest which benefits Micah's Backpack. The Sembello Family (owners) presented us with a \$1,000.

I would once again like to thank everyone who made last school year a success and those who stepped up during the summer to assist in the Micah's Mobile Program. Thank you to Carol H., Sandy B., Beth and Getsene for packing,

baking cookies (Getsene) and welcoming and engaging our volunteers!

For more information contact John J. Stramiello, 540-599-4682,

email: [hope@micahsbackpack.org](mailto:hope@micahsbackpack.org) or [stram@stmhc.us](mailto:stram@stmhc.us)

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY

### Micah's Mini Pantry



Micah's Mini Pantry thanks you all for supporting their caring and giving ministry. Your generosity and kindness help remember those needs of others in our community. We are grateful for you! Any donations make our hearts happy Thank you!

Serving healthy, nourishing meals all year is very necessary. 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! Thank you!

Peace, love, and many blessings

**God's Work - Our Hands**

## Micah's Soup for Seniors

We are continuing to pack and distribute 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We have made changes to the menu by adding smaller canned items, and we have had excellent response to the changes. We are also adding some personal care items to the bags. It has been several years since the menu has changed so we are enthusiastic about offering changes.



We are adding more items that are 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 alone, receiving single serve portions will help eliminate waste when preparing meals.

Also, every other month, we will add some personal care items. This change and our decision to change the menu came about after some conversations with the seniors on what items they needed. We will be asking for donations from the congregation on those personal care items and will use Thrivent grants to make up the difference.

We are pleased to offer the changes and look forward to continued support for 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:

**September 27th**

**October 25th**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Personal items to donate:

October- tissues (small) and hand lotions

December- slipper socks

Food items to donate:

Chicken noodle soup

Tomato soup

Tuna



## Note from Sandy

*Hello Church Family,*

*I hope this note finds all of you happy and in good health.*

*Well, I am starting to settle in. Life in metro D.C./Maryland evolves at a much faster pace. I truly miss the small church closeness that defines St. Mike's.*

*I want to thank-you for the phone calls and notes many of you have sent. They were all day brighteners.*

*My new church (Good Shepherd in Gaithersburg) is rather large and about 20 mins from my home. Lots of high tech, big screens to follow the service and the head count is done individually on your cell phone. Everyone is very friendly so I am hoping to make many of the same connections that endeared me to St. Mike's. In my heart I know you are all irreplaceable, but my head tells me I must move forward.*

*God Bless,  
Sandy Williams*

My new address is  
22244 Trentworth Way  
Clarksburg, MD 20871

Cell 540-558-8592  
Home 301-515-1360

## Confirmation Class Beginning in September



**Confirmation Class** (2022-2024) for middle schoolers will begin **Sunday, Sept 18**, as part of St. Michael's Families in Faith program. **Start time is 4 p.m.** and includes dinner. We will meet for 90 minutes of instruction. There will be one class per month (3rd Sunday of each month) for two years. Confirmation Sunday will take place on Pentecost in 2024. If you haven't already done so, please contact Pastor Michelle for more details or to let her know your child will be attending. Confirmands and parents: Please plan to attend church on September 4 when we will kick off Confirmation by signing a Confirmation Covenant and will receive a Bible and workbook.



## Music 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!** 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!



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](mailto:payearwood1@gmail.com).

Let's start singing and ringing!  
Peace. Patrice

## Worship Accompanist Position

St. Michael Lutheran Church is looking for an accompanist to play piano and/or organ for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday services and to accompany the choir which rehearses 1-2 times per week (Wednesday p.m. and Sunday after church).

St. Michael is an active congregation with a heart for helping others and a love of music. The music at the service involves traditional liturgical music, hymns and anthems. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Patrice Yearwood, Music Director, at [payearwood1@gmail.com](mailto:payearwood1@gmail.com) or Doug Smiley, Worship Chairman, [smileydc@vt.edu](mailto:smileydc@vt.edu)



## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour Fellowship	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting in Large Classroom	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	<b>1</b> 7:30am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Confirmation Kick-Off Sunday 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:15am Church Council Meeting	<b>5</b> Labor Day	<b>6</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm Happy-Go-Lucky Back to School Luncheon	<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 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>9</b> 5:30pm Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Music Retreat	<b>10</b> 9:00am Blacksburg Presbyterian Church Music Retreat
<b>11</b> "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday 10:00am Blacksburg-Radford ELCA Lutheran Fellowship Outdoor Worship Service with Communion at St. Michael	<b>12</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>13</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	<b>14</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> New Member Sunday 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour Fellowship 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:00pm Families of Faith	<b>19</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>20</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	<b>21</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 12:00pm Women of the ELCA Lunch and Learn 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>23</b> 5:30pm St. Michael Choir Retreat	<b>24</b> Micah's Backpack Fundraising Event at Jersey Mike's in Blacksburg 9:30am St. Michael Choir Retreat
<b>25</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Adults and Children 10:00am Worship Service with Communion	<b>26</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	<b>27</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons	<b>28</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 3:00pm Patrice's Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>