

St. Michael Messenger October, 2023



St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540.951.8951 hope@stmlc.us
www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org



Welcome the Rev. Dr. Wes Jamison as our Interim Pastor

Pastor Wes is a southwest Virginia native with 25 years of experience. He completed his doctoral degree in ministry with distinction. He has led rural and urban congregations ranging in size from fifty members to six thousand. He is a dedicated pastor who loves people, cares about communities, and treasures our liturgical tradition. The Virginia Synod recommended Pastor Wes to us as having strengths in visitation, relationships and sermons. He comes to us from the United Church of Christ. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ are Full Communion Partners. Full communion is when two denominations develop a relationship based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Wes will normally be available on Sundays, Tuesdays, and one other (changing) day during the week. His email address is pastorwes@stmlc.us and his cell number is 540.392.5632. Please let Pastor Wes know by phone if there is a pastoral emergency.

Trunk or Treat on October 28th at 5:00 PM

St. Michael will hold its first Trunk or Treat event on October 28th from 5:00pm-7:00pm in our parking lot. If you aren't familiar with a Trunk or Treat there will be lots of cars with their trunks open full of candy for the kids. We will also have some fun games and crafts. Rumor has it Jada will even have a petting zoo! Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids and help us spread the word. It will be great fun for young and old alike.



We could still use some cars, volunteers, and donations of candy and prizes. There is a sign-up sheet in the entry hallway. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer contact Jada Brown or Jody Smiley.

Music for Mission Concert, October 15th, 4:00pm

Blacksburg Presbyterian Church is partnering with the Interfaith Food Pantry for a benefit concert: Music for Mission. This is a free concert and will be held Sunday, October 15th at 4:00 p.m. at 701 Church Street SE (Blacksburg Presbyterian Church). Fr. Sean Duggan, pianist, will be performing. He is a member of St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, Louisiana. An offering will be taken to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Thank you to the newsletter preparers



As we move from a paper newsletter, we think of those that have helped prepare the newsletter over the years. In the early years of St. Michael, the youth group prepared the newsletter. Over the years many have provided this service including Becci Nagle, Sandy Birch, Jody Smiley and Suzanne Gay and our pastors. Recently Elaine Powers has put the newsletter together, Jane Swing, Doug Smiley and Fran Shepherd have edited and copied the newsletter. Those dedicated members that have folded, labeled and sorted the newsletter include Betty Wingate, Lynda Kinzey, Judith Wolfe, Sondra Williams, Meg Petterson, Wanda Pascoe, Suzanne Gay, Mildred Wall, Jane Swing and Fran Shepherd. It has taken many hands, hours and dollars. Now Jody will need articles turned in promptly so she can get the digital copy sent monthly. Paper copies will be available for those that cannot receive it digitally.

Donations/Collections for October

Soup for Seniors: Small Tissue packs/Hand Lotion and Tomato Soup

Food Banks: Family size cans of soup

Women's Resource Center: Clorox or Lysol Wipes

Trunk or Treat: Candy, small prizes for games



Events for October at St. Michael

<p>10/1- Call committee meeting (11:15 am) 10/5-Men's breakfast and Bible study (7 am) 10/15-Youth, Family, Education working group (11:15 am) 10/15-Confirmation Class at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm) 10/15-Music for Mission Concert, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church at 4:00 pm 10/18-Lunch and Learn (noon) 10/22-Worship, Music, and Program/ministry to appeal to Younger Adults working group 10/24-Soup for Seniors Packing (10:00 am) 10/28-Trunk or Treat (5-7 pm)</p>	<p>Weekly Events: Meeting at St. Michael Monday-Cub Scouts (7:00 pm) Tuesday-Packing Micah's Backpack (6:00 pm) Wednesday-Choir (7:15 pm) Thursday-Micah's Music/Drama and Art (5:30 pm) Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm)</p> <p>Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events.</p>
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Adult Sunday School will begin in mid-October. Pastor Wes will lead us each week. Please make plans to join us on Sundays at 9:00 am.

Sharing the Story of Micah's Caring Initiatives



The school year is in full swing. Each week we are packing around 300 food bags for children in Blacksburg Schools. We have had several community groups come to St. Michael to pack bags in September. I enjoy meeting members of our community, and VT students, at pack nights each week. We continue to come together to ensure no child goes hungry.

This school year our pack nights will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:30 at St. Michael. If you would like to volunteer to pack with us, check the Micah's Backpack website michahsbackpack.org for the sign-up link. Thanks to all our volunteers. Marian Brown, Director; 804-921-1432; Email: marian@stmhc.us.



Soup for Seniors continues to pack and distribute approximately 90 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth Village. We are getting food from Feeding America, Food Lion and Kroger. We are packing the bags at St. Michael on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. We encourage any new volunteers to help us pack and deliver at that time.

We will continue to supply extra personal care items along with special items every other month. We look forward to continuing to help out the seniors at Warm Hearth



Micah's Mini Pantry is being used frequently by members of the community. MMP is in need of canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, boxed macaroni & cheese, instant noodles, mini boxes of cereal, and shelf stable milk. All other donations are accepted and appreciated! Please remember if you are donating from your own pantry to check all expiration dates.



Micah's Closet is providing new clothing for 47 students at Prices Fork Elementary School and 9 children that are part of the Head Start program housed at St. Michael. Thank you to all our shoppers. Many thanks to Cindy Dowdy for coordinating our program with Prices Fork. Also, a big thank you to the folks at Mosaic Blacksburg Church, especially Stacie Castro, for partnering with us in this amazing ministry.



Micah's Garden again had a successful growing season. Produce was shared with the community and the food banks in our area. Thanks to Mary Nickel and all the volunteers for their hard work over the spring and summer months.

Micah's Snack Closets: In the spring of 2023, this program began at Prices Fork Elementary and Blacksburg High School. It was well received so this fall the other four elementary schools have been added. This program was initially funded by the Rober Schulman Bequest for Children.

October Sunday Servants

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
10 AM Service					
Altar Care	Inga Solberg	Doug Smiley	Jane Swing	Sandy Birch	Butch Akers
Greeters/Ushers	William Allen Dave Surface	Sandie Worley Butch Akers	Gary and Becky Steck	William Allen Wilma Pieper	Dickie and Fran Shepherd
Lay Reader	Sandy Birch	Bert Kinzey	Jane Swing	Tatiana Villegas Brown	Forrest Sloan
Comm. Asst.	William Allen	Jane Swing	Jody Smiley	Jay Nagle	Butch Akers
Youth Servant	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas- Brown	Lilia Villegas- Brown	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas- Brown

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

Thank you to some "Quiet" Servants



Our lawn mowing team-Daniel Ferrell, Jay Nagle, Mark Paiser, Dickey Shepherd, Doug Smiley, Gary Steck, and Dave Surface; John Kell for planting and maintaining our beautiful flower beds; Church Council for their leadership during our time of transition; and the Men in Mission (Butch Akers, Jeff Birch, John Kell, and Doug Smiley) for the yardwork they did at the Nineveh ministry (previously Christ Lutheran in Radford).

Because of your Gifts

Your generous gifts in September supported office supplies, Altar flowers, postage, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, music supplies, repairing columns, 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, vice pastor and our new interim pastor.



The Justice and Mercy Fund continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September we provided assistance for 13 families: five with rent, seven with electric bills and one with electric.

We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as needed.

Reminder: If you have any articles, upcoming events, congratulations/celebrations to share, or anything else for the newsletter please pass it along to Jody Smiley. Photos and logos are greatly appreciated.