

# St. Michael Messenger May, 2024



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

## **Micah's Backpack Hires New Director!**

Micah's Backpack is excited to announce our new director, Chase Biegler. Chase and Marian will work together over the month of May to ensure a smooth transition. Chase will take over the position at the beginning of June as Marian, and her family, move to Lynchburg. We hope you will support Chase as he works to continue our mission to ensure NO CHILD GOES HUNGRY!



Chase Biegler has been involved with Micah's Backpack for over four years doing fundraisers, food drives, and packing bags. Micah's Backpack has been a significant part of Chase's life, and he is so thankful to have such a strong, positive impact on his community. Backpack programs are some of the most impactful charitable organizations in existence, as they provide an essential part of life to those who struggle to afford it. If there's more people in need of food, who haven't reached out yet, Chase will find them and ensure that they are included in the packing list. This is just the beginning of a long battle to fight hunger, starting in our Blacksburg community.

### **A Facebook Post from Chase**

“So thankful to be in this position. Thankful for the previous directors, John Stramiello and Marian Brown, and the volunteers who help out every week for being excellent mentors to me and preparing me to lead the next chapter of Micah’s Backpack! I’ve been very passionate about backpack programs, especially Micah’s, and the impact they have on our communities. If you, your friends/family, or organization want to be involved in some way, please reach out there’s always a way to help!

As a way of saying thank you to Micah’s caring initiative and my amazing real estate clients, I will be setting aside a portion of every commission I make to further contribute to the ongoing growth of Micah’s Backpack as we strive to find more kids who need our help. I’m committed to my community and everyone in it.”

## **Congratulations to Dr. Dallin Baldwin**

In April Dallin Baldwin, our amazing organist, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation. In May he will graduate with his Doctorate in Choral Conducting within the Sacred Music Program at the University of Notre Dame. Congratulations Dr. Baldwin!



# Chances to Help Our Youth Raise Funds for Summer Events!



One way is to take an envelope from the "Oh, The Places We'll Go!" board. Each envelope has a number on it. Place your donation for that amount (or a little more if you like) in the envelope and place it in the large yellow one or in the offering plate.

Another way is to purchase a St. Michael (SMLC) t-shirt. Jada Brown has set up a t-shirt fundraiser through Bonfire for the



St. Michael youth. Jada put together the design (a BIG THANKS). Bonfire is a company that prints t-shirts and other items to sell for fundraising.

The SMLC t-shirts will be shipped out in batches, but straight to the individual customer. Shipment is set for every 15 days, no matter if it's 1 shirt or 50. All funds will go towards youth events such as, summer camp, synod events, youth gathering, etc. First shipment is set for April 30th! Shirts come in different colors, sizes and styles including sweatshirts. Go to [https://www.bonfire.com/smlc-church-youth-fundraiser/?utm\\_source=copy\\_link&utm\\_medium=post\\_campaign\\_launch&utm\\_campaign=smlc-church-youth-fundraiser&utm\\_content=default](https://www.bonfire.com/smlc-church-youth-fundraiser/?utm_source=copy_link&utm_medium=post_campaign_launch&utm_campaign=smlc-church-youth-fundraiser&utm_content=default) to order yours now! If you are not able to order on line please talk with Jody Smiley or Jada Brown and we will order one for you. If you have any questions about these support opportunities contact Jada Brown.

## Donations to Charities Approved by Council

At our March congregation meeting the Church Council received suggestions of charities that a portion of the wonderful bequest from Basil and Katherine Price could be given. Five charities were selected to receive \$1000 each. They are:

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace**-An organization dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need.

**Project Linus**-Provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

**New Hope Girls**-A non-profit that rescues girls and empowers women in the Dominican Republic. It offers a safe house and does community outreach.

**Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry**-Serves qualified residents of Blacksburg and McCoy. the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry is a joint ministry of over twenty-five faith-based communities in Blacksburg.

**The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley**-A non-profit, human service organization, located in Radford, providing free and confidential programs and services to adult and child victims of sexual and domestic violence and much more.



## Ladies Night Out, May 7th

Make plans to join us for Ladies Night Out at Avellino's in Blacksburg on Tuesday, May 7th at 6 p.m. Please let Sandy Birch or Jody Smiley know if you are able to attend.

## Honoring Our Graduates May 19<sup>th</sup>

We will honor our graduates with a reception on May 19<sup>th</sup> following worship. The graduates are Jack Graves and Dallin Baldwin.

Jack will be graduating from Roanoke College with a major in History and a minor in Spanish. He has immensely enjoyed his time at Roanoke. He has been involved in many activities and has left his mark on the campus. He wrote a wonderful letter telling us of his adventures over last few years. It will be posted on the bulletin board in hallway, please take a few minutes to catch up on the life of this amazing young man. Jack is excited to see what the future holds.

Dallin will be receiving his PhD in Choral Conducting within the Sacred Music Program at the University of Notre Dame. He has applied to continue his appointment at Virginia Tech in the Music Department.



## Confirmation Service at Luther Memorial May 19<sup>th</sup>

Join us in celebrating our Confirmands, Emily Katz, Lilia and Tatiana Villegas-Brown on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. The Confirmation Service will be held at Luther Memorial with a reception to follow.

## VBS is Just Around the Corner

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. We have planned a one-day event again this year. The date will be June 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. More information about the theme and activities will be coming later in May. Be on the lookout for the volunteer sign-up sheet. WE NEED YOU!



## Donations/Collections for May

**Containers for Donations are found in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen**

Food Banks: Hamburger Helper or other boxed meals

Women's Resource Center: Toilet Paper

Soup for Seniors: 10 ½ oz cans of soup



## Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

*We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.*

### Thank you to some “Quiet” Servants

To Pastor Wes for leading a thought provoking and educational Adult Sunday School and providing leadership during St. Michael’s time of transition. Thank you.



### Because of your Gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported office supplies, cups and coffee for fellowship, Altar flowers, devotionals, postage, building maintenance, lawn mower up keep, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Peace and Hope Ministry, and salaries for our ministry staff.



### The Justice and Mercy Fund

The Justice and Mercy Fund continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In April, we provided assistance for 18 families: one with rent, sixteen with electric bills, and one with a water bill. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as needed.



### Events for May at St. Michael

5/2-Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study (7 am)  
5/5-Church Council Meeting (11:15 am)  
5/7-Ladies Night Out at Avellino’s (6 pm)  
5/19-Fellowship Hour-Honoring Grad (11:15 am)  
5/19-Confirmation Service at Luther Memorial (4:00 pm)  
5/28-Soup for Seniors Packing (10 am)

Weekly Events: Meeting at St. Michael  
Monday-Cub Scouts (7:00 pm)  
Tuesday-Packing Micah’s Backpack (6:00 pm)  
Wednesday-Choir (7:00 pm)  
Thursday- Scouts (7:00 pm)  
Sunday-Adult Sunday School (9:00 am)

**Please refer to our calendar for a more detailed list of events.**

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

# May Sunday Servants

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
<b>10:00 AM Service</b>				
<b>Altar Care</b>	Dianne Krallman	Inga Solberg	Sandy Birch	Jane Swing
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy and Gary Worley	Butch Akers Dianne Krallman	Gary and Becky Steck	Wilma Pieper Butch Akers
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jane Swing	George Santopietro	Sandy Birch	Dianne Krallman
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	William Allen	Forrest Sloan	Doug Smiley	Jane Swing
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Gesine Newman	Tatiana Villegas-Brown	Lilia Villegas-Brown	Gesine Newman

**Please Note:** Greeters/Ushers please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate and offer “busy bags” to the children.

## Sharing the Story of Micah’s Caring Initiative



Planning is well underway for the Micah’s Backpack Summer Feeding Program. The last delivery to the schools will be on Friday, May 17th.

This summer we will once again partner with the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Bags will be delivered to the food pantry on Wednesday mornings and families will be able to pick them up during regular operating hours. This summer, MBP will provide volunteers to distribute the bags at the food pantry. Look for a signup coming soon!

Our 2023-24 Impact: Bags - 7,671; Meals - 46, 026; Items of Food - 107, 394



Soup for Seniors packs and distributes approximately 85 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth Village. We will be packing the bags at St. Michael on **May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** We encourage all to volunteer to help us pack and deliver at that time. Thank you to all that donate and support Soup for Seniors. Your help brightens the day of the seniors we serve at Warm Hearth.



Thank you to everyone who has donated non- perishable items and winter hats and gloves. Micah’s Mini Pantry is still going strong and used frequently. MMP is now in need of canned Vegetables, pasta sauce, pasta, Mac & cheese, ready rice and snack items. Please make sure all items are within their expiration dates.

THANK YOU ALL! God Bless!

**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.**