



St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

(540) 951-8951

Rev. John Wertz, Jr., Pastor

May 7, 2018

Dear members and friends of St. Michael,

After much prayerful consideration and trusting in the Holy Spirit's guidance, I have made the decision to resign as Pastor of St. Michael and accept a call to become the Director for Evangelical Mission for the Virginia Synod. As the Director of Evangelical Mission, I will have the opportunity to provide resources for congregations around the state who are seeking to grow and strengthen their ministry. I will begin my call with the ELCA and the Virginia Synod on July 1, 2018.

The decision to accept this new call and leave St. Michael was extremely difficult. Over the last 14 years, it has been my privilege to be in ministry with you. From Sunday morning worship services to Thanksgiving Meals to launching new ministries like Micah's Caring Initiative, together we have listened to God's Word and done our best to put that Word into action in the world. Thank you for being so faithful. Thank you for being bold. Thank you for helping me grow as a pastor, leader and child of God.

The Congregational Council will meet on Sunday, May 13 to begin discussing the transition. Bishop Humphrey will be meeting with the Congregational Council in the near future to discuss the next steps for pastoral leadership. As soon as those details are finalized for my last Sunday at St. Michael, we will make that information available to you.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and participation in God's ministry at St. Michael. You have been a blessing to Kris, Corson, Parker and me. May God's presence be with you always.

Peace and hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor John