



St. Michael Lutheran Church
 2308 Merrimac Road
 Blacksburg, VA 24060

U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Blacksburg, VA 24060
 Permit No. 78

October Servants

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Scott McGuigan	Abby Penner	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Jeff and Sandy Birch			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dianne Krallman		Doug Smiley	Jenny Akers
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Jeff and Sandy Birch		Please sign up
<i>Greeters</i>	Cindy Dowdy		Marguerite Olinger	
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Betty Gross	Doug Smiley	Jenny Akers
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Jody Smiley Chelsea Naughton	Jane McGuigan Kelsey Trimble	Karen Brown Jada Brown	Sandy Birch Lauren Robinson
<i>Ushers</i>	Ray Howell Philip Isenhour Sam Akers Cindy Lang	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Randy Robinson	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd	Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle Jeff Birch Roscoe Turman

V
o
l
u
m
e

2
6

N
u
m
b
e
r

1
0

C
e
t
o
b
e
r

1
9

2
0
0



St. Michael Lutheran Church

On September 28, we celebrated the ministry of Pastor Linda Mitchell and wished her well in her new adventure as the interim director of the Women's Center at Virginia Tech.

Go in Peace... dear friend.

Serve the Lord... in your new calling.

Thanks be to God.... for our five wonderful years together.

What's next?

The church council met with Bishop Mauney on September 22 to discuss the search for a new pastor. The council will appoint a Call Committee at its next meeting, October 5. As soon as the Call Committee is organized and selects a chairperson, the Bishop will return to meet with them, the council, and any other interested members of the congregation, to share full details of the search process.

In the meantime....

we will continue to worship and sing and celebrate and learn and plan and serve and give and support one another and share the Lord's Supper and do all that is good and wonderful at St. Michael and in the community. The Synod will make sure we have guest pastors each Sunday to lead our worship service – but it's more important than ever that our Sunday Servants be here each Sunday to assist with our worship.

Please contact the church office by phone or e-mail if you have any questions or concerns. Messages will be checked daily. In case of emergencies, and until a vice-pastor is appointed for us, contact Jim Clemens, council president, at 951-1915. Our congregation is also beginning a new and challenging "adventure".

Church Office Phone Number: (540) 951-8951 Church e-mail address: stmlc@earthlink.net

Mission Statement

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to:

Care for all God's people in need,
Hear of God's love through Word and Sacrament,
Respond to God's grace with thankful hearts,
Invite others into Christ's community,
Serve God in our daily lives, and
Tell the story of God's love for all.

Women of the ELCA

Don't skip this section just because you're not a member – lots of good stuff here.....

Saturday, **October 4**, is the Fall Gathering at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. Registration will be from 9 – 9:30 a.m. and the program theme is Leadership. Please bring a salad to share. Join our sisters for this informative and fellowship-filled event.

The next meeting of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will be Thursday, **October 16**, at 7 p.m., at the home of Betty Gross. Karen Mayer will provide the program. All women of St. Michael are welcome to join us for warm and welcoming fellowship.

Happy Birthday!!

The annual Birthday Dinner will be Sunday, **November 9**, following the 11 a.m. service. Bring a friend...bring the family...and join us for the celebration (and lots of tasty lasagna). Thank you in advance to all the host families who will be decorating each table and providing the birthday cakes. A free will offering will be distributed to area organizations such as the Christmas Store and the Women's Resource Center.

For the food bank this month, let's concentrate on holiday dinners – canned hams, vegetables or sweet potatoes, cranberry sauces, pie or dessert mixes and fillings, rice and potato mixes. But any nonperishable items are always welcome. Our thanks to Pat Smith for delivering our donations each month to the Montgomery County Food Bank.

Planning ahead – WELCA will be collecting sweat suits, light weight jackets or sweaters, slipper socks (all washable please) for the residents of Heritage Hall Nursing Home. These items will be given to those in the nursing home who do not have family support. Last year, the residents were most grateful for our gifts. Collection boxes will be in the fellowship hall through December 8.

WELCA is also supporting the Montgomery County Christmas Store by providing gift boxes (don't have to be new or fancy – they will be wrapped), new or used jackets and new or (gently) used shoes. The boxes will be used in the Children's Store – where the children shop for their parents. Please also bring these items to the fellowship hall during October and November.

By the way.....some of the church tablecloths are missing. If you've borrowed them, please return them. Thanks.

Happy-Go-Lucky

Are you feeling happy? Are you feeling lucky? Hungry? Well, then on Thursday, October 9, the place to be is the St. Michael fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m. as

Be there for **I**nteresting conversation

the Happy-Go-Lucky bunch will be meeting for a potluck lunch and some unusual BINGO games. Last month, the peach cobbler were fantastic – join us!

Leo**N**'s decorations **G**ood **F**ood

October Yard Sale

Members of Thrivent (formerly AAL) will be holding a yard sale to raise money to assist JoAnne Galderisi with expenses to continue her religious education (through Liberty University). If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them by the church on Friday, **October 3**, between 9:00 a.m. and noon. If this is not a convenient time, please call Betty Gross, Jane Lane or Grace Simmers. If you have large items that you cannot deliver, please call one of the above folks to arrange pick up. Thank you.

The yard sale will be on Saturday, **October 4**, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church.

A note about our nursery

Have you noticed the growing numbers of young children attending worship and Sunday School these days? We truly are blessed to have these children among us. Unfortunately, as the number of children has grown, the size of our nursery has not. In order to make the best use of limited space and make sure our children and nursery volunteers have the best experience possible, the worship committee suggests that the nursery be reserved for children kindergarten age and younger. Children's worship bulletins are available for children who attend worship with their families. The worship committee welcomes your feedback on this suggestion; the chair of the committee is Donna Oliver.

The St. Michael Youth (grades K – 6) will meet on October 1, 15, and 29 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Join us for supper, singing, story time, crafts and more!

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

From the St. Francis Peace Prayer: “For it is in giving that we receive”

Sunday Servants

Thank you for dedicating your time for altar care, taking care of children in the nursery, ushering, lay reading, greeting, assisting with communion and serving as an acolyte. If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to take your place. This is especially important in the months to come while we seek a new pastor. More volunteers are needed for the nursery too – please contact Sandy Birch if you can help.

35th Anniversary Tributes Total over \$500 – thank you!

As an anniversary tribute, the following families and individuals made a donation in memory of a deceased or loved one OR to honor a deserving person. The money will be shared with the following organizations: New River Valley Free Clinic, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP), Salvation Army, Red Cross, Women’s Resource Center, Blacksburg Food Pantry and other worthy organizations.

Ben and Grace Simmers

Carol and Ben Crawford

Ross and Hallie Brown

The Krallmans

Burn and Betty Gross

Al and Thelma

Hylton

Stella Mae Keister

The Hyltons

Irene Ashley

Christine McCauley

Dan and Ann Surface

Jane Lane in memory of Kenneth McCauley, Randolph Price and Dutton Olinger

Sandy and Jeff Birch in memory of Mama B

Julie Landes

and the Hodge family in honor of Jody Smiley and her dedication to the youth of St. Michael. This gift will go toward a youth-focused organization.

Justice and Mercy Fund

In September, we were able to help three families: \$75 gift card for groceries at Wal-Mart; \$200 gift card for groceries and clothing at Wal-Mart; and \$12 for medicine from the Free Clinic. Your gifts to the J&M fund are always welcome.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA is sponsoring several collections: the monthly Food Bank; gift boxes, coats and shoes for the Montgomery County Christmas Store; sweatshirts and pants, socks and sweaters for residents of Heritage Hall. Collection boxes will be in the fellowship hall.

Wycliff Bible Translator – Meg Billingsley is “one of our own”.

Meg, granddaughter of Randolph and Rebecca Price, is preparing to work in Bible translation in Saskatchewan, Canada, with the Western Cree. She has completed her linguistics training and is currently putting together a team of people to partner with her in her ministry through praying and giving. If you are interested in helping Meg, please check out the information on the bulletin board in the hallway. She has partners who have committed to covering 65% of her financial needs. Perhaps members of the St. Michael family can help her reach 100%.

Let's Pave the Parking Lot

**Discussion and vote at a congregation meeting
on Sunday, October 12.**

The Property Committee and Church Council have been discussing two major maintenance items for about six months. One is replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and the other is repairing/topping the parking lot. At the August Council meeting it was decided that the parking lot repair has become a CRITICAL need. The Property Committee has taken several bids, and all of the people who looked were in agreement that we are way past resealing and soon may be past topping. The average estimate to complete the work is \$25,000.

Church Council decided to ask the Support Committee to head up a fundraiser similar to the one we conducted when we paved the lot initially. A plan of the lot will be broken up into sections of various sizes, and members will be given the opportunity to "pledge to repave their area." The hope is that since we announced the drive on St. Michael Day 2003, we can be driving on new asphalt on St. Michael Day 2004. That will allow pledges to be spread over almost a year. Of course, the sooner the work can be done the better.

A congregational meeting (following both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services) will be held on October 12 to discuss and vote on the proposal. Please give prayerful consideration of the need for this work and also to your individual ability to participate.

Thank you.
Jim Clemens.

In the community In the world.....

More details on all these activities are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

The Virginia Synod, ELCA presents
ANOTHER DAY: An Event for Senior Adults and Retirees
October 21-23, 2003
Sheraton Hotel-Richmond West, Richmond VA

In our senior and retirement years God has given us *Another Day*; a time of refreshment, reflection, and renewal as God's children. Through lively song, drama, worship, large and small group sessions, and fellowship, *Another Day* will be a time and place to rejoice in the wisdom and faith seniors share with the Church

“Mornings”: Internationals Sharing Friendship

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is sponsoring a program to help international spouses in their adjustment to a new country and culture. We are invited to participate, make new friends, and help these friends practice their English in conversation. “Mornings” is held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Our St. Michael family “in the news” in September

In the *Roanoke Times*, John Price was quoted in an article about West End Market dining hall at Virginia Tech. John is the manager of the West End Market which is rated as one of the finest student dining facilities in the country. (we know why)

In the *News Messenger*, Sharon Robinson, was featured in an article about “hometown school folks you should know.” According to Price's Fork Elementary School principal, Sharon is a “wonderful person who helps set the tone for the whole school” (we knew that). The article is posted on the bulletin board.

Our St. Michael family in military service



Lance Corporal Tommy Howell returned safely to Twenty Nine Palms Marine Base in California on September 4 after 7 _ months in Kuwait and Iraq. The Howell family thanks the congregation for the many prayers, inquiries, and letters/packages for Tommy while he was away. Faith, trust, hope, love and prayers do truly work miracles as they have seen over the past few years.

Our prayers go to Vickie Mouras who was recently selected for deployment to Baghdad with the Task Force RIE (Restore Iraqi Electricity). We hope this is a quick “in and out” mission ending in mid-December so she can be home with us for Christmas.

November Servants

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
<i>Acolytes</i>	Isaac Nagle Abby Penner	Daniel Crowder	Kelsey Trimble Scott McGuigan	Daniel Crowder	Sarah Cro
<i>Altar Care</i>	Jane Lane and Janet Bryant				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Sandy Birch		Hank Schneider		
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Birthday dinner		Need a volunteer	
<i>Greeters</i>	Dan and Ann Surface				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Sandy Birch	Support Committee	Hank Schneider	Jeff Birch	Isaac N
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Teresa Sebastian David Burke	Becci and Isaac Nagle	Grace Simmers Lauren Robinson	Fran Shepherd Jada Brown	Sandie We Chelsea Nau
<i>Ushers</i>	Betty Gross Burn Gross Gary Worley Brian Simmers	Mickey & Scott McGuigan Cindy Lang Ray Howell	Roscoe Turman Dave Surface Bob Brown Peggy Brown	Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd Roscoe Turman Tim Turman	Burn G Betty G Don Lin Randy Ro

Bible Study Bible Study Bible Study Bible Study

Let's do it! There was no perfect day or time for everyone so here's a plan: The Bible Study will be held at noon on Tuesdays at the home of Jeff and Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg)..kind of like an old-fashioned cottage meeting. Bring a bag lunch. We'll watch the video first, then have lunch and discussion. Drinks will be provided. **The first session will be Tuesday, October 7.** Please join us.

XX **The Old Testament**

These video lectures by scripture expert Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University introduce you to the history, religion, and literature of ancient Israel as preserved in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. She not only teaches the content of the biblical books, but explains debates over their meaning, the historical and cultural situations which they both reflect and address, and the critical methods by which they have been interpreted. 6 week video series (30 minute video, 30 minute class discussion)