



## **St. Michael Lutheran Church**

### **He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

A familiar greeting at St. Michael on Easter morning. Please join our St. Michael family in April as we prepare for this day of celebration and great joy.

- April 4: Palm Sunday worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Pastor Walter Vierling
- April 8: Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m. with Pastor Bill King
- April 9: Good Friday service at 7 p.m. led by the choir; beautiful and moving music with Gospel readings
- April 10: Easter egg hunt for the children at 10 a.m. – meet in the fellowship hall.
- April 11: Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. led by Pastor Chip Gunsten, followed by a potluck Easter breakfast

### **Pastor John is coming and he is coming indeed!**

A new greeting at St. Michael. Pastor John Wertz will be joining us on April 23 and leading our worship for the first time on Sunday, April 25. We joyfully welcome Pastor John, his wife Kris, and their two sons, Corson and Parker.

The Call Committee has agreed to continue its service as the newly named Mutual Ministry Committee and will be working with pastor John and his family as they join the Blacksburg community and St. Michael family. They will be the “go to group” and “sounding board” for new ideas and will help him find ways to meet the congregation as quickly as possible.



*Back row:  
Bob Brown,  
PASTOR JOHN,  
Dave Surface, Jim  
Clemens*

*Front row:  
Ben Crawford,  
Linda Naughton,  
Julie Landes,  
Judy Clemens,  
Jennie Hodge*

## Seasons of the Church

**According to home calendars, there are four seasons. The church has seasons, too, but there are six of them. Three seasons center around Jesus' birth. They are Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The other three center around Jesus' resurrection. They are Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. When you put those six seasons of the church together, you have the "liturgical year." Just like spring, summer, winter, and fall, each season of the liturgical year has its own colors and things to do.**

### Palm (or Passion) Sunday

**Palm Sunday** is the final Sunday in Lent. This year Palm Sunday is April 4. Traditionally, the final Sunday of Lent has celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when the people waved palm branches, shouted "Hosanna" and greeted him as a King. Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly seated on the back of a colt. This colt had never been ridden before and the disciples simply threw their coats on its back for Jesus to sit on. This day may also be observed as a time to remember the events that led to Jesus' suffering and death on a cross – Passion Sunday.

Purple, a royal color, is the color for Palm Sunday and reminds us that Jesus is King. If the day is observed as Passion Sunday, scarlet—a reminder of the blood Jesus shed on the cross—may be used.

Palm branches as well as a crown with palm branches are important symbols. The donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem is a reminder that Jesus is a servant king, since other royalty of that time would have ridden on horses. The crown of thorns and the kingly crown bring the message of Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday together showing the victory of Jesus as Lord of all, and the suffering of Jesus as the world's savior.

### Holy Week

**Holy Week** follows Palm Sunday and lasts until Easter Sunday. This week includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Holy Week is a time to remember the events that led up to Jesus' suffering and death on a cross.

**Maundy Thursday** recalls the night when Jesus shared a Passover meal with his disciples. The "Maundy" comes from a Latin Bible translation of John 13:34, *mandatum novum*, which means a "new commandment." At this meal Jesus washed his disciples' feet and commanded them to love one another. He also told them that the bread and wine they shared were his body and blood, given and shed to forgive sins. Christians continue to share the bread and wine in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper.

**Good Friday** is the day we remember Jesus' death on a cross. This would be the saddest day of the church year, except that Jesus' death was not the end but the beginning of new life for all who trust in Him.

**Easter Vigil** takes place on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. The service takes worshippers from darkness into the light of the resurrection. During the early church, the Easter Vigil was the instruction of candidates prior to their baptism. Candles are lit in anticipation of Easter, when the light of Christ overcomes the powers of darkness—sin, Satan, and death.

The colors of Holy Week are scarlet or white for Maundy Thursday, black or no color at all for Good Friday and white for the Vigil of Easter. Bread and wine (wheat and grapes) are symbols for Maundy Thursday as well as the water bowl and towel, which Jesus used to clean his disciples' feet. The cross and crown of thorns are common symbols for Good Friday.

## Easter

**Easter** is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon falling on or after March 21, the first day of Spring. That is why Easter can be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. This way of dating Easter makes it fall just after the Jewish celebration of Passover, since the first Easter took place on the third day after Passover.

Easter is the oldest festival of the church and the most important day of the church year because it celebrates Jesus being raised from death. His "resurrection" means that God has defeated the powers of evil and death, so that all who trust in Christ may one day live with God forever. In the early church Easter was a time for Baptism. Plunging the believers under the baptismal water and pulling them out again were strong reminders of Jesus' own death and resurrection.

The color of Easter and the Easter Season is white or gold. White is used for seasons of celebration and gladness and symbolizes purity and joy. Gold symbolizes the riches of God's grace. The empty cross and empty tomb are Easter symbols. Colorful butterflies, which come out of dark cocoons, and blooming flowers, which grow from seeds planted in the ground, are also symbols of Easter's new life.

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## **Happy-Go-Lucky**

On Thursday, April 8, we're taking a trip to Israel...  
an appropriate destination on Maundy Thursday...  
a visit to the Holy Land during Holy Week. Burn and  
Betty Gross will share their experiences in the Holy Land.  
**Potluck lunch at 11:30 a.m. – bring your friends and family –  
and wear an Easter bonnet (or cap)**

## **Women of the ELCA**

Please join us on **Thursday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.** for our second “dinner meeting” at the home of Jennie Hodge. We had a nice crowd at the March dinner meeting as we assembled 32 big Easter baskets for the children at the Women’s Resource Center and for the Salvation Army. We invite all women of the congregation to join us for our next meeting and for all or any of our events. Jody Smiley will lead the April program.

Thank you to the congregation for your wonderful generosity in providing many, many toys, books, school supplies and lots and lots of candy. You’re all terrific!

For April, we invite the congregation to bring baby foods for the Food Bank...though any non-perishable food item is welcome. WELCA also provides two SHARE food boxes each month to the Women’s Resource Center. Donations for this project can be given to Betty Gross.

***Sign up now for your birthday table and take advantage of all the after holiday sales. The sign-up form is on the bulletin board in the hallway.***

Planning ahead for May: The Mother-Daughter luncheon will be Sunday, May 2, after the 11 a.m. service. We’re all “daughters of Christ”; all women are welcome. Just bring a salad to share.

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## **Spring Clean-up Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m. to noon.**

Let’s gather at the church with our yard tools, buckets and cloths and polish up our building and grounds. All weed pullers, mulch spreaders, window washers are welcome!

**Riddle: What has nine creative minds, eighteen loving arms and can claim over 200 years of membership at St. Michael Lutheran Church?**

You guessed it – in celebrating **the service of special people**, we must include **our 2004 church council**.



*Back row: Mack Brown, Don Linkous, Jim Clemens (President), Ben Simmers, George Naughton  
Front row: Fran Shepherd (Vice President), Kathy Albert (Financial Officer), Jennie Hodge  
(Secretary) and Lori Anne Sheppard*

A few facts about each of our council members:

**Kathy Albert**, assistant controller at Danaher Motion in Radford, wife of Mike, mother of Erin, Ryan and baby girl Albert to be born in May, avid golfer, resident of Riner.

**Mack Brown**, certified occupational therapy assistant for the Center for Rehabilitation & Development, husband of Karen, father of Jada and Renee, singer of beautiful songs in the choir.

**Jim Clemens**, assistant director of physical plant operations at Virginia Tech, husband of Judy, father of Cindy and Tim, and grandpa of MaKayla, 23 years of volunteer service on the BHS “chain crew” for all football home games, avid VT sports fan.

**Jennie Hodge**, Girl Scout leader (two troops meet at St. Michael), wife of Tom, mother of three “Wahokies”, Abbie, Olivia, and David, part-time graduate student at Hollins pursuing a masters degree in Liberal Studies.

**Don Linkous**, personal and commercial lines sales agent with Brown Insurance, husband of

Carol, father of Tammy and Donna, grandfather of Spencer, college and high school football official for 19 and 30 years respectively, on Montgomery County Planning Commission.

**George Naughton**, self-employed operator of a recruiting business, husband of Linda, father of Chelsea and Kylie, moved here three years ago from Pennsylvania, hopes to start a men's ministry group.

**Fran Shepherd**, reading specialist at Prices Fork Elementary School (30<sup>th</sup> year of teaching), wife of Dickie, aunt of many nieces and nephews, Ed.S at Virginia Tech in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

**Lori Anne Sheppard**, counselor (including HIV prevention) at Shiffert Health Center at Virginia Tech, has nearly completed her Information Systems Technology degree from New River Community College, wife of Victor, mother of Tony and Christopher.

**Ben Simmers**, retired from Virginia Tech (34 years of service), husband of Grace, father of Sharon, Benjie and Brian, grandfather of Lindsey, Lauren, Alexis and Carly, treasurer of the Blacksburg Rescue Squad, ticket-taker at Virginia Tech basketball and football games for over 40 years.

Thank you dear friends for leading us so well.

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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.

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## **Kid's Night at St. Michael**

**April 14 and 28**

**6 – 7:30 p.m.**

All children in grades K-6 are invited  
for supper, crafts, music and more...

**Adult Sunday School BIBLE STUDY**

Last month, the adult Sunday School, led by Betty Gross, began a study of the New Testament. Following a well-received study of the Old Testament last fall, the format is similar: viewing a 30 minute lecture by Professor Bart D. Ehrman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then discussion. The class will be using our new 32" TV and DVD player. From the course description, "Dr. Ehrman, an award-winning teacher, will help us understand the content, meaning, and historical accuracy of the 27 books of the New Testament." Please join us on any Sunday – you don't have to attend all the classes.

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**In the community .... In the world.....**

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

**Our St. Michael family "in the news" in March**

In the March 17 issue of the *Roanoke Times Current*, PTSO president Linda Naughton was quoted about Auburn Elementary School's first Family Fit Night. The Albert family was also featured in the article.

In *hokiesports*, John Price was honored as an energetic and dedicated Hokie Rep for the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund. In honor of him and in appreciation for his good work, the Blacksburg Hokie Club has established the "John Price Endowment" for intercollegiate athletics.

In the *Roanoke Times Current*, news of Jim Noonkester's newly published paperback, Seasons of Life Seasons of Love, was highlighted. His book "reveals much about the people, the place and the poetry of those communities west of Blacksburg."

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**St. Michael Scholarship – Deadline: April 15**

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. The scholarship is available to members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County. The application is available on the church bulletin board or from Doug Smiley, scholarship committee chair. He can be contacted at 961-2472 or 231-5364 or at [smileydc@vt.edu](mailto:smileydc@vt.edu).

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Thrivent is sponsoring a work day at Hungry Mother Retreat Center on May 1. They need volunteers for a number of fun projects. Contact Steve Ridenhour at Holy Trinity in Wytheville if you are interested. His e-mail address is: [pastorridenhour@earthlink.net](mailto:pastorridenhour@earthlink.net).

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Tommy Howell's address in Iraq: Cpl. Howell, Thomas R. USMC, H&S Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> BN, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines Scout Sniper PLT, UIC 41575, FPOAP 96426-1575.

**Congratulations to our friends Joan Riessen and Andy Stremmel on the birth of their son, Noah John Stremmel on March 2.**

**Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure**

*We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us...our time, our talent and our possessions*

### **Justice and Mercy**

Our special emergency fund needs you...for contributions (always) and for referrals. While we try to respond to the stranger's call for help with rent or water bills, it would also be nice to help a friend of a friend or the family of a child at the local school or a colleague at work. Let's be watchful for a "neighbor" who needs some assistance and notify the J&M fund administrator, Sandy Birch, of the need.

### **Two thank you letters from Pat Brown, Executive Director of the Women's Resource Center**

*"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, thank you for your donation of dishes....and thank you for your donation of Easter Baskets for the children at our shelter." ....In fiscal year 2003, we provided safe shelter to 141 women and 127 children. This work could not be accomplished without the help of community residents like you."*

### **Thank you to some more "quiet" servants**

To Carol Crawford and Ross Kirk for cleaning up the kitchen; Donna Oliver, chair of the Worship committee, for providing the "Seasons of the Church" articles; Lori Anne Sheppard for creating the nursery door sign, Linda Naughton for sewing a new curtain and Ray Howell for hanging the new blinds in the nursery, Roscoe Turman for "being there" for the ushers each Sunday.

Many thanks from Junior Troop 695 for making our cookie booth at St. Michael a great success. We sold 42 boxes at the Shrove Tuesday supper and enjoyed sharing pancakes too.

### **United Lutheran Appeal: Faith in Action**

By Palm Sunday, we have the opportunity to assist the nine special outreach ministries of the Virginia Synod: Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center, Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia, Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, Lutheran Council of Tidewater, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, National Lutheran Home, Roanoke College and Virginia Synod Lutheran Homes. The needs of these institutions and agencies are increasing every year as more and more people are being served in more ways than ever before. All of us together, through these institutions and agencies, can proclaim the Gospel to others in ways that our individual congregations cannot.

Let's be **Ambassadors for Christ....Stewards of the Kingdom....**and support the ULA with our generous donations. Offering envelopes are available in the pew pockets.





## May Servants

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23
<i>Acolytes</i>	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Kelsey Trimble Abbie Penner	Isaac Nagle
<i>Altar Care</i>	Tammy Veit and Peggy Brown			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Steve Mouras		Bob Brown	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Before cong. meeting		Veit and Brown families
<i>Greeters</i>	Dean and Kelsey Trimble			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Steve Mouras	Dave Surface	Doug Veit	Jeff Birch
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Cindy Dowdy Abbie Penner	Dean Trimble Kelsey Trimble	Sharon Robinson Lauren Robinson	Linda Naughton Chelsea Naughton
<i>Ushers</i>	Ray Howell Sam Akers James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross	Ann Surface Dave Surface Peggy Brown Bob Brown

### The weather is getting perfect for paving....the fund just needs \$7,000 more.....

Almost \$18,000 has been promised by thirty five families (including a \$1,000 matching gift from Thrivent). We look forward to hearing from all members of the congregation by using the commitment form below.

Thank you for your support of this major and **critical** maintenance project.

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St. Michael Parking Lot Repaving Commitment

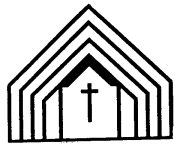
Name \_\_\_\_\_

I/we intend to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to be paid \_\_\_\_\_ in one payment OR

\_\_\_\_\_ in installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over a period ending July 31, 2004.

Please mail to the church (2308 Merrimac Road, Blacksburg) or place in the offering plate. Thank  
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## *April Servants*

	<b>April 4</b>	<b>April 11</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>April 25</b>
<i><b>Acolytes</b></i>	Isaac Nagle Abbie Penner	Kelsey Trimble Scott McGuigan	Dan Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan
<i><b>Altar Care</b></i>	The Smiley family			
<i><b>Comm. Assts.</b></i>	Jody Smiley	Jane Lane	Jeff Birch	
<i><b>Coffee Hour</b></i>		Easter breakfast after the service		Hodge family
<i><b>Greeters</b></i>	Karen and Jada Brown			
<i><b>Lay Readers</b></i>	Amy Garst	Mickey McGuigan	Lori Sheppard	Jay Nagle
<i><b>Nursery Assts.</b></i>	Jane McGuigan Katie McGuigan	No nursery provided	Lorin Crowder Chelsea Naughton	Jody Smiley
<i><b>Ushers</b></i>	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	Ray Howell Sam Akers James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Tim Turman Burn Gross

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