

## SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

### All Saints Day

All Saints' Day is November 1, the day after All Hallows' Eve (Halloween). Churches often celebrate this day on the first Sunday in November. All Saints' is a Lesser Festival of the church, but it has become a popular celebration. In the early church, each city and country commemorated the dates when its local martyrs died. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the hundreds of saints days gave way to a single All Saints' Day on November 1.

On All Saints', churches today remember those who have died, especially those who have died during the past year. As we remember the faithful people of the past, we are reminded that we are to be faithful examples for future generations. All Saints' also reminds us that those who live in faith will one day live in heaven with God.

The color of All Saints Day is white for joy, because the day celebrates the death of the saints as their "birthday" into eternal life. Symbols include The Lamb which represents the Son of God around whom all the saints are gathered in heaven. Angels also symbolize this day as they are the symbols of protection. Another symbol is the hand of God, which is said to care for and protect those who have been faithful.

### Christ the King

Christ the King is celebrated on the last Sunday of the season of Pentecost, which means it is the last Sunday before a new church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The festival of Christ the King celebrates the church's teaching that Jesus is the Christ, God's Chosen One. "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah," the one God promised to send to restore the people of Israel. The Christian church used this title to show that Jesus is the world's Messiah and King. The Old Testament describes the Lord as ruler and judge over the world and the New Testament says that everyone in heaven and earth will bow down at the name of Jesus. Jesus often called himself the Son of Man.

The color of Christ the King Sunday is white. A crown with a cross is used to symbolize Christ the victorious king. The cross is a reminder of what that victory cost. Palm branches are used as a symbol of victory and as a reminder of how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with shouts of "Hosanna!" and "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!". Another symbol for this day is the cross with a circle or globe, representing Jesus Christ's rule over the whole world.



## **TIME AND TALENTS SURVEY MOVES TO MARCH**

St. Michael's annual Time and Talent Survey to identify gifts for ministry is moving to March. Since most of our committees, teams and programs begin in September, the move to March will make it easier to integrate volunteers into the life and ministry of the church.

## **ACOLYTE TRAINING**

All youth 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to take part in Acolyte Training on Sunday, November 21 at 9:50 AM (during Sunday School). Whether you have been an acolyte for several years or you would like to start acolyting, this is a chance to ask questions of Pastor John and learn more about what an acolyte does in the service. For more information, please talk with Pastor John.

## **THANKSGIVING SERVICE ON TUESDAY**

The Thanksgiving Service is moving to **Tuesday, November 23 at 7 PM** to give people who travel and people who are preparing for St. Michael's Thanksgiving Meal the opportunity to participate in the service. Make plans to come and give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives.

## **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER ON THURSDAY**

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 25. Donations of pies, gelatin salads, and money for the turkeys and fixings will be requested during the first Sundays in November. We will also need helpers in the kitchen, servers, and drivers. Let's all make a special effort to invite those in the community who may not have family in the area. Invitations will be available in the narthex for distribution and posting.



## **CHILD IN OUR HANDS**

*Child in Our Hands* is a conference to inspire and equip congregational leaders, parents and grandparents to nurture and support the faith of our children and families. The conference will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke on December 3 and 4. The cost for the event is \$50 per person, but the church will pay \$20 of the registration fee for anyone who wants to attend with Pastor John. Registration forms are in the hallway and registration is due at the church by November 7. For more information, please talk with Pastor John.

# Sharing Our Gifts Time, Talents and Treasure

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

## Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Philip Isenhour for preparing the power point presentation, Dean Trimble for providing the sound equipment and expertise, and Karen Mayer for sharing her experiences for the Papua New Guinea Sunday; Janet Bryant for assisting with the November newsletter mailing; Sandy Birch and Julia Landes for serving at the Holcomb funeral, and all the members who provided food for the reception following the funeral; Sarah Crowder for doing extra acolyte duty last month.

## Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist and custodian, donations to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Lutheran Campus Ministry, our facilities, new music for the choir, and food and supplies for Kid’s Nights. The **Justice and Mercy Fund** paid an electric bill for one family.

## Books and more books

Thank you for all the new and used books which were donated to the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley and the schools in Papua New Guinea.

## Memorial Gifts

Thank you to Richard Quesenberry for our three St. Michael road signs, donated in loving memory of Edna Quesenberry. Thank you to the Clemens and Dowdy families for our new Pentecost paraments, given in loving memory of Frieda and Barney Clemens. Memorials gifts from the families of Randolph Price, Kenneth McCauley and Clairmont Clemens provided a new carpet, table and chairs, bookshelves and curtains for the nursery.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

### **November 16 meeting at St. Michael**

Our November meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16, instead of our usual Thursday. We will meet at the church and enjoy our annual fall clean-up: cleaning the stove and refrigerator, polishing pews in the sanctuary, organizing the nursery, and other worthy projects. Please join us for fellowship, friendship and service to St. Michael. We may even whistle while we work.

### **Remember the Food Bank**

Something different this month. We're told that our needful neighbors cannot use food stamps for soap, toothpaste and cleaning supplies. This month, let's bring bars of soap, toothpaste, shampoo and dishwashing soap. Any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

### **Women of the church meet at the Wertz home/host Fall Gathering**

On October 21, eight women of the Women of the ELCA gathered at the Wertz home for a delicious meal prepared by Kris Wertz, learned about Abigail, a woman of the Old Testament who practiced kindness, and planned a number of activities for November and December. On October 23, St. Michael hosted the annual Fall Gathering of all women of the church in the New River Valley.

### **Sweatsuits and body lotion for residents of Heritage Hall**

We would like to donate twenty sweatsuits to residents of Heritage Hall who are unable to afford warm clothing. Most of the recipients are women and their caregivers have requested size XL in some bright colors. We invite the congregation to help us provide this clothing and also bottles of body lotion. Collection boxes will be in the hallway until December 5. Thank you for caring.

### **Annual Birthday Dinner on November 14**

The annual birthday dinner will be held after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 14. The menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad and a variety of delicious birthday cakes provided by the hosts of each birthday month table. Join us for fun and fellowship. A free will offering will be matched by Thrivent and will benefit the Montgomery County Christmas Store, the Women's Resource Center, and World Hunger.



## **GREETINGS TO KNITTERS AND NON-KNITTERS**

Come to church on November 6, from 10 a.m. to noon, to work on some prayer shawls to comfort others. Jenny Akers will bring donated yarn and extra needles. See you then!

## **HAPPY-GO-LUCKY**

**“going once....going twice.....”**

The November meeting will be Thursday, November 11, at 11:30 a.m. beginning with a potluck lunch. We will conduct our annual “white elephant” auction at our meeting and all proceeds will be sent to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Bring some wild and crazy items for sale and lots of change.

The group members voted to use their \$500 grant from Wal-Mart to purchase Bingo prizes for the participants in Virginia Tech’s adult day care program, sensory tools for the residents of the Alzheimers wing at Warm Hearth, and sweat suits for needy residents of Heritage Hall.

We remember our dear friend, Patricia Holcomb, who died on October 14, 2004. Pat was a school librarian, a loving mother and a good friend. She will be missed.



### **KID’S NIGHT AT ST. MICHAEL WEDNESDAY, November 3 and 17**

All children in grades K-5 are invited to Kid’s Night from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for dinner, crafts, music and more.

### **ALLELUIA! FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 31**

The Youth Sunday School class will sponsor an ALLELUIA! Festival on Sunday, October 31 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the church. The Festival will have games, prizes and food for youth 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger. Bring your friends, wear a costume and come enjoy the fun.

### **THE GREAT TUNA CHALLENGE**

Girl Scout Troops 737 and 695 are collecting tuna for the Montgomery County Christmas Store. If you would like to help us meet our goal of 100 cans of tuna, please put cans in the Tuna Challenge Box in the fellowship hall. The troops meet at St. Michael.

Two mysteries:

1. Some communion linens are still missing. Please check your ironing baskets.

2. Two Bibles were found in a recent workroom clean-up: the names in the Bibles are Pamela Dawn Smith '81 and Jimmy Nelson '87. If you know these folks, please contact Sandy Birch.

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

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***November Servants***

	<b>November 7</b>	<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 21</b>	<b>November 28</b>
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Kelsey Trimble Abbie Penner	Sarah Crowder	Dan Crowder Isaac Nagle	Scott McGuigan
<b><i>Altar Care</i></b>	Inga Solberg and Jennie Hodge			
<b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>	Bob Brown		Jody Smiley	
<b><i>Fellowship Hour</i></b>	Carol Crawford	Birthday Dinner	Betty Gross	“Leftover desserts”
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Dave and Ann Surface			
<b><i>Lay Readers</i></b>	Hank Schneider	Amy Garst	Jay Nagle	Lori Sheppard
<b><i>Nursery Assts.</i></b>	Leslie and Brian Simmers	Angela Peterson Leslie Bland	Grace Simmers Kelsey Trimble	Cindy Dowdy Chelsea Naughton
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	Jeff Birch Jody Smiley George Naughton Linda Naughton	Ann Surface Dave Surface Bob Brown Peggy Brown	Ray Howell Sam Akers James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd

Lawn mowing: Jim Clemens 11/6 Front; Jay Nagle 11/13 Back; Doug Smiley 11/20 Front; Sam Akers 11/27 Back

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Five new members were welcomed to our St. Michael family recently.



Jerry and Frances (Fran) Gallimore both grew up in Blacksburg, but spent the past 35 years in Emporia, Virginia, before moving back to Christiansburg in June 2004. Jerry (Janet Bryant's brother) is retired from the Virginia Tech Agricultural Extension Service; Fran from the Virginia Department of Corrections. They have two sons.



Sandy was there to welcome Shirley and Henderson Linkous (on the left) and Clifton Walters (on the right). Shirley is retired from Virginia Tech (Office of the Vice President for Finance) and Henderson works with his son DeWayne at their taxidermy shop, Linkous Taxidermy. They are often joined by their daughter-in-law Angie at the 9 a.m. service. Clifton is a rural mail carrier and a cattle rancher. He and his wife Fay have five children and 12 grandchildren who also attend St. Michael.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

If you are interested in learning more about the scriptures that are read each Sunday morning in worship, then Pastor John's new Bible Study is for you. You can choose a Study group that meets at either 11 a.m. and at 6 p.m. each Tuesday at the church.





## *December Servants*

	<b>December 5</b>	<b>December 12</b>	<b>December 19</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 26</b>
<i><b>Acolytes</b></i>	Kelsey Trimble Dan Crowder	Abbie Penner	Isaac Nagle Sarah Crowder	TBA	Scott McGuigan
<i><b>Altar Care</b></i>	Sandy Birch and Loren Crowder				
<i><b>Comm. Assts.</b></i>	Jane Lane		Dave Surface	TBA	
<i><b>Fellowship Hour</b></i>	Jody Smiley	Alice Schneider	Jane Lane		Potluck lunch
<i><b>Greeters</b></i>	Julia Landes				
<i><b>Lay Readers</b></i>	Dianne Krallman	Sandy Birch	Cindy Dowdy	TBA	Lori Sheppard
<i><b>Nursery Assts.</b></i>	Cindy Lang Abbie Penner	Loren Crowder Sarah Crowder	Jane Lane Leslie Bland	no nursery provided	Jane/Katie McGuigan
<i><b>Ushers</b></i>	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	TBA	Jeff Birch Jody Smiley George and Linda Naughton

