

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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February 1, 2005

BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS, . . .

Because of your generous gifts in 2004, St. Michael is able to provide additional financial support to several of our ministry partners and programs. Assistant to the Bishop, Chip Gunsten will attend worship to receive an additional \$500 of support for the ministry of the Synod. Students from the Lutheran Campus Ministry program will be coming to worship to receive an additional \$500 to help with campus ministry at Virginia Tech. We will be sending a check for \$500 to our mission partner congregation, Grace Lutheran in Spotsylvania, VA to help them as they move to a new worship space and seek to expand their mission work. We were able to help pay the registration fee for three youth from the congregation to attend a wonderful synod youth event and we were able to set aside additional money for the Justice and Mercy Fund to help people in need in our community.

Because of your generosity, the ministry of St. Michael is reaching out to touch more and more people with the power of God's love. Your support of our ministry together is making ministry happen both here in our congregation, in our community and around the Synod. Thank you for your generous stewardship of God's gifts to you and for your continued support of the mission and ministry of St. Michael.

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.

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 Fran Gallimore for helping with the February newsletter mailing; Cindy Dowdy for our special music in January; Stan Larsen, Ross Brown and Pastor John for putting up/taking down our candle holders for the Christmas Eve services; Jane Lane, Jody Smiley, Alice Schneider and Sandy Birch for preparing lunch for the LSM students on January 23.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January 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, church insurance, food and supplies for Kid’s Nights and Epiphany Faith Night.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped with the rent for two families and paid two electric bills.

THANK YOU FROM PRICE’S FORK ELEMENTARY

Dear Pastor John and the Members of St. Michael Lutheran Church,

Please accept our deepest thanks for the contributions that you recently made to many of our families at Price’s Fork Elementary School. It was a joy to be able to send grocery store gift cards to families at a time of the year that is a difficult time financially. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated so very much.

As investment in children and families is one of the missions of our school. You are helping us do that work when your donation helped our families to have a better holiday season. We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children and for helping our community.

We thank you for your generosity and want you to know how fortunate we feel that our children are to be growing up in a community that cares. We know that this feature of our community makes our children very lucky children. Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Dollie Cottrill
Principal*

*Brenda Smith
Guidance Counselor*

Donations to the Tsunami Disaster Response Fund

We collected \$563 in donations, which will be matched by Thrivent. The 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class made a special collection of \$44.02. Our thanks also to Dean Trimble who recorded a CD of our Christmas cantata and offered the CD as a special “gift” to all who donated to the relief fund.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Planning meeting on February 17

Since our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather, our planning meeting will be on Thursday, February 17, at 6 p.m. at the home of Sandy Birch. We will enjoy a light supper and plan our activities and projects for 2005. Please bring your wonderful ideas and enthusiasm. All women of St. Michael are Women of the ELCA and very welcome at all meetings.

Remember the Food Bank

Let's bring cereal in February.....though any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on February 10 Our February program will be "Healing Music for Body, Mind and Spirit", presented by Debby Hix, a very talented local harpist and music therapist. Debby will share her experiences and musical talent with us.

KID'S NIGHT AT ST. MICHAEL WEDNESDAY, February 2 and 16



All children in grades K-5 are invited to Kid's Night from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. starting with a light supper, crafts, music and more.

MISSION PARTNER

Did you know that St. Michael provides assistance to a mission congregation in the Virginia Synod through the Mission Partner program. Our mission partner is Grace Lutheran Church in Spotsylvania, near Fredricksburg. The congregation has moved to a new worship location that will increase their seating capacity from 40 people to 150 people. As their Pastor Paul Walters said, "As the growth in this area continues at a fantastic pace, people continue to move into the community in need of a place to nurture a relationship with Jesus Christ. Your support helps us provide that place." Thank you for your generous support of this outreach ministry.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, February 6. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please contact Pastor John as soon as possible.

OUR LUTHERAN LITURGY

The form that worship takes is called liturgy. Liturgy is the work of the people to honor God in words and action. The content of the worship liturgy is composed of selections from scripture. Here are a few examples.

Confession	1 John 1:8-9
Apostolic Greeting	2 Corinthians 13:14
Kyrie	Luke 17:13; Luke 18:38-39; Psalm 123:2-3
Hymn of Praise - "Glory to God"	Luke 2:14
Hymn of Praise - "Worthy is Christ"	Revelations 5:9-13; 19:4-9
Prayer of Thanksgiving	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4
Benediction	Numbers 6:24-26
Sending	Luke 7:50

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.

EXCITING INFORMATION ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning on February 12th we will try a new type of Sunday School material. It is called "The Total Family Sunday School". Each Sunday we will have a topic that is introduced in the opening, with story and song. We will then break into "family groups" for about a 15-20 minute group discussion/short project and then come back together to see what we all talked about.

We are hoping that this will give families an opportunity to experience Sunday School together. It will also give adults and children alike a chance to be with different folks. There will be no preparation needed for the group discussion. Materials will be given to each group that will help get them going.

A separate adult class will be offered for those who would prefer a more traditional Sunday School setting

The new material will be used at least through the month of March. The Education Committee needs your input to determine if this approach is a good fit for St. Michael so please let us know.

PRAYER LIST UPDATED

Our prayer list will be updated on Sunday, February 13 – the first Sunday in Lent. Please use the "Welcome to St. Michael" form to include a friend or family on our list.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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February Servants

	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble	Sarah Crowder	Dan Crowder	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Sandy Birch and Charlene Harris			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Bob Brown		Doug Smiley	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>				
<i>Greeters</i>	Hank and Alice Schneider			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Sarah Bohn	Dianne Krallman	Lori Sheppard	Doug Veit
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Cindy Dowdy Abbie Penner	Leslie and Brian Simmers	Karen Brown Jada Brown	Leslie and Brian Simmers
<i>Ushers</i>	Bob and Peggy Brown Ray Howell James Pascoe	Ann and Dave Surface Dickie Shepherd Sam Akers	Burn and Betty Gross Don Linkous Gary Worley	Mickey and Scott McGuigan Ben Simmers Jeff Birch

ALTAR CARE, ALTAR FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME

We invite the congregation to volunteer for altar care, altar flowers and host fellowship hours in 2005. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway. The flowers cost \$21 and you are billed directly by the florist. Most Sundays, you can take the flowers home with you after the 11 a.m. service. This year, the Caring and Sharing committee has recommended that we meet for a snacks, coffee and punch on the second Sunday of the month, with coffee and punch only served the other Sundays of the month.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

At the January 9 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected:

President:	Jim Clemens
Vice President:	Fran Shepherd
Secretary:	Jennie Hodge
Financial Officer:	Kathy Albert

THANK YOU

Many thanks for the prayers, cards and concern for me during my recent illness. Also, thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl which has brought much warmth and comfort.
Freddie Oliver

When it snows.....

If you wake up on Sunday morning and there is snow on the ground....watch WDBJ 7 or check the church answering machine for church cancellations.

ELCA TASK FORCE ON SEXUALITY

The ELCA Taskforce considering issues of homosexuality has issued its recommendations. A copy of the report is available in the front hallway and online at: XXXX. If you have any questions about the recommendations or the information in the report, contact Pastor John.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2004

Some good reasons to use an offering envelope...they help us

1. remember our gift of "treasures";
2. catch up if we've missed a Sunday for vacations or a snow day (since the envelopes are dated);
3. remember to prepare our offering ahead of time instead of frantically writing the check while the ushers are nearing our pew.

Offering envelopes for the current and maintenance funds are available on the shelf in the hallway.

February 8.....Shrove Tuesday.....PANCAKES!!!

Mardi Gras, also known as Shrove Tuesday or Carnival, is an annual festival marking the final day before the Christian fast of Lent, a 40-day period of self-denial and abstinence from merrymaking. Mardi Gras is the last opportunity for reveling and indulgence in food and drink. The term Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”.

At St. Michael, we indulge in PANCAKES....lots and lots of pancakes and all the trimmings. Please join us at 6:00 (pancake picture) p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

SHARING FAITH EACH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

From Caring Conversation to Service, come each Wednesday in Lent and learn more about how we share our faith as our Lenten worship will focus ways the we share our faith with others. The Soup Supper will begin at 6 p.m. and the Service will begin at 7 p.m.. This year all the services will be at St. Michael and the Pastors will rotate. Pastor Philip Bouknight, from the Floyd/Willis Parish, and Pastor Terri Sternberg, from the Trinity, Pulaski, and Pastor John will each preach during the Lenten season. Make plans to come and share fellowship, worship and learn more about sharing your faith.

Lenten Schedule
Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 16
Living the Life of Faith - Pastor John

Wednesday, February 23
Devotions - Pastor John

Wednesday, March 2
Service - Pastor Philip Bouknight

Wednesday, March 9
Caring Conversation - Pastor Terri Sternberg

Wednesday, March 16
Rituals and Traditions - Pastor John

