

Discover and Share Your Gifts

God has blessed each of us with unique gifts for the building up of the body of Christ. This year, the Support Committee would like to provide you with a quick and easy tool to identify your Spiritual gifts. The “Opening Your Spiritual Gifts” survey asks a series of questions to help you determine the gifts God has given you. “Opening Your Spiritual Gifts” will be available to you either through a link on St. Michael’s website (www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org) or you can pick up a paper copy at the church in late March and April. Once you have completed the survey you can use your results to help you fill out St. Michael’s yearly Time and Talent survey which will use the same categories as the Spiritual Gifts Survey. Time and Talent surveys will be distributed in April.

If you have questions about “Opening Your Spiritual Gifts,” you can talk to Jody Smiley, Sandy Birch or Pastor John for more information. In March, we will also provide a variety of opportunities for the congregation to complete the survey, e.g., at the Lenten Suppers.

March and April: “Opening Your Spiritual Gifts” surveys completed
April: Time and Talent surveys for 2005-2006 completed

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 Ann and Dave Surface for helping with the March newsletter mailing; Lori Anne Sheppard for taking care of our poinsettia and lily requests during Christmas and Easter; the Brown families (Ross, Hallie, Bob and Peggy) for bringing Thelma to Happy-Go-Lucky events; Ray Howell for washing ALL the windows in the church including the “high up” ones.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February 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, attendance of three members at Winter Celebration at Roanoke College, Shrove Tuesday supplies, and Sunday School and Kid’s Night materials.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In February, we helped with the rent for one family, paid an electric bill for another, and sent a donation to the Paul Bowyer family to assist with medical expenses.

Thank you

A big thank you to St. Michael for providing the Girl Scouts with meeting space.
Brownie Troop 737, Junior Troop 695, Cadette/Senior Troop 209

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the prayers, caring, and cards while I was in Richmond for surgery. Special thanks to Pastor John for visiting. My family and I appreciate St. Michael so very much.

Carla Schwertz

We appreciate your thoughtfulness in buying sweatsuits for our residents at Christmas time. It is nice to see them in something new, warm and soft. We also appreciate the other donations given – especially the BINGO prizes. The residents love to come to BINGO and win something. May you each be blessed this year!

Debbie Jenson, Heritage Hall Activity Director

Volunteers Needed

For April 3, 17 and 24, we need volunteers to set up/clean up the coffee and juice for our fellowship time after the 11 a.m. service. Please contact Jenny Hodge at 953-2225 if you can help.

Helping our friends, the Bowyers

Donations and cards can be sent to the **Bowyer family** at: Bowyer Family, Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church, 1406 Giles Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Checks should be made payable to Blacksburg First Wesleyan Church. A list of needed items are posted in the hallway on the bulletin board and the collection box is in the fellowship hall. . Information about the family can be found at: www.paulbowyer.info.

Good Friday Blood Drive

The semi-annual blood drive, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the area Lutheran churches, will be at St. Michael on Good Friday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to provide food (soup, sandwiches, cookies, drinks) for the donors and assistance to the medical staff. Sign up at church in March or contact Jane Lane at 552-3653. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Christ gave His blood for us. We can give blood to others.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Easter baskets

The Women of the ELCA will be collecting items for Easter baskets for children at the Women's Resource Center and the Salvation Army. We invite the congregation to provide candy, small toys, school supplies, and books for the baskets. The last day for donations is Sunday, March 13. Thank you.

March 17 meeting at the church

The Women of the ELCA will meet in the fellowship hall on Thursday, March 17 at 7 p.m. to assemble Easter baskets, enjoy a program by Jody Smiley, and complete some small cleaning tasks around the church. Please join us for fellowship, friendship and service.

Remember the Food Bank

Let's bring pasta products in March (spaghetti, sauces, noodle mixes).....though any donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY



The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on March 10 at 11:30 a.m. Our March program will be centered on our spiritual gifts. Bring your friends and family for the potluck, program and Leona's wonderful decorations.

MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP

The men's group will meet on Saturday, March 12 at 9 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship.

Our first project is helping Group Workcamp identify homes in the community which need painting and repair. Perfect homes are older wooden frame homes that have peeling paint and the owner is elderly or a widow. The work will be mostly exterior and/or interior painting, small porches (either replacing bad ones with new ones or building new ones), wheel chair ramps, weatherization around windows. The work is completed by church youth groups supervised by qualified adults. If you know of a home which could use some "loving care", please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or jbbirch@vt.edu by **March 7**. If you are interested in serving as a "trouble shooter" for the Workcamp, let Jeff know also. Trouble shooters move from site to site making sure the work is being done properly, but not actually doing any work other than showing the youth "how it is done."



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

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



GENERATIONS IN FAITH TOGETHER SUNDAY SCHOOL

On February 12th, we initiated a new type of Sunday School called *Generations in Faith Together*. Each Sunday we will have a topic that is introduced in the opening, with story and song. We then break into small groups for about a 15-20 minute group discussion/short project. Topics scheduled for March are: Joseph, Psalms and Wisdom, Jesus the King.

Generations in Faith Together gives youth and adults an opportunity to experience Sunday School together. By working together, adults have the opportunity to share their faith with young people and young people learn about the faith of the adults in their families and congregation. While all adults are invited to *Generations in Faith Together*, an Adult Sunday School class focusing on each Sunday's scripture readings will be offered at the same time in the Sanctuary.

Generations in Faith Together will be used throughout the season of Lent, so come and be a part of this exciting new Sunday School experience.

WELCOME to the RIGSBEES



Jerry and Shannon Rigsbee moved to Christiansburg from Raleigh, NC in 1999. Shannon is an occupational therapist and works mostly with older adults at Friendship Retirement Community in Roanoke. Jerry is an accountant and works as the business manager for Cumulus NRV radio stations. Both enjoy hiking and the outdoors, working out at the Weight Club, and gardening. Welcome to the family!



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

Wednesday, March 2
Service - Pastor Philip Bouknight

Wednesday, March 9
Caring Conversation - Pastor Terri Sternberg

Wednesday, March 16
Rituals and Traditions - Pastor John

Easter Celebration Expands

St. Michael's Easter Celebration is growing. The Traditional Sunrise Service will begin at 7 a.m. on Sunday, March 27 and will be followed by the annual potluck Easter Breakfast. The celebration of Easter will continue at 11 a.m. with a simple Easter Service. The 11 a.m. service will have a different sermon from the Sunrise Service and will provide an opportunity for more people to come and celebrate the resurrection.

Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service. The Women of the ELCA will provide orange juice and set up for the meal. Make plans to come, bring a dish and eat Easter breakfast with the St. Michael family.



We will be able to purchase Easter lilies in memory or in honor of our families and friends. Bulletin inserts will be available in March to order our lilies.



Come and follow Christ's journey to the cross with Holy Week Services at St. Michael.

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, March 20 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Gather in the Fellowship Hall for the Procession with Palms



Maundy Thursday Service

March 24 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

March 25 at 7 p.m.



Good Friday



Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, March 27

Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Easter Breakfast following Service

New Easter Service at 11 a.m.

(This Service will be a simple Easter Service
with a different Sermon from the Sunrise Service)

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

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March Servants

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
<i>Acolytes</i>	Scott McGuigan	Sarah Crowder	Dan Crowder	Kelsey Trimble
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Smiley family			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dave Surface		Hank Schneider	Steve Mouras
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>	Jenny Hodge	Gross/ Lane	Sandy Birch	Easter Breakfast
<i>Greeters</i>	James and Wanda Pascoe			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Jay Nagle	Cindy Dowdy	Mickey McGuigan	Lori Sheppard
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Kris Wertz C. Naughton	Angela and Ted Peterson	Kelsey and Dean Trimble	TBA
<i>Ushers</i>	Josh and Steve Mouras Tom Hodge Roscoe Turman	Bob and Peggy Brown Ray Howell James Pascoe	Dave and Ann Surface Dickie Shepherd Sam Akers	Burn and Betty Gross Don Linkous Gary Worley

March 13

Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck

Come and be a part of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, March 13 immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service.

Come enjoy the:

- * Fellowship and fine food.
- * Celebration of the ministry of the church as we review the annual reports of all committees. The 2004 Annual Report will be available by March 6 and will include an updated phone directory.
- * Opportunity for discussion about the Annual Report and the Ministries of the Congregation.

April 1

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship

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 Sandy Birch, scholarship committee chair. She can be contacted at 951-33455 or at birch@vt.edu.

