

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER - PART II**

Last month, the ELCA met in Assembly in Orlando, Florida to handle the business of the church. The Assembly approved the work of the Renewing Worship Taskforce, which is developing new worship resources for congregations, affirmed our current standards for ordination and approved an interim sharing agreement, which is the first step in reaching full communion with the United Methodist Church. Thank you for joining me in praying for the Assembly as they sought to follow God's will for the ELCA.

One of the many ways that we are the church together is through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Lutheran Disaster Response is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. On their behalf, LDR responds to disasters in the United States and its territories to deliver services to survivors and the impacted community throughout all stages of the disaster response (emergency, relief and long-term recovery). After seeing the pictures coming from the Gulf Coast, it is obvious that LDR will be providing assistance to the people of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for the indefinite future. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry of Lutheran Disaster Response or supporting their response to Hurricane Katrina, you can go to the ELCA's web site: [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster). If you would like to make a donation to help with the relief efforts, you can write "LDR- Hurricane Katrina" on the memo line of your check or on an envelope and place it in the offering plate. Through the ministry of LDR, we can be the church to thousands of people trying to rebuild their lives from this devastating hurricane.

## **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 Sandie and Robert Worley for helping with the September newsletter mailing; to everyone who provided school supplies; to everyone who helped with the carpet project.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in August supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist and custodian, and carpeting for the sanctuary. Generous gifts to the Memorial Fund provided 16 new choir chairs and 4 new usher chairs.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In August, we helped two families; one with rent and a second with their electric bill. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need. In fact, the fund is in need of a “boost”; the balance is under \$500. We have not yet reached our \$5,000 goal for purchases at Kroger with our gift cards, but we’re getting closer. When we reach that goal, 5% of our total will be deposited to the Justice and Mercy Fund. Gift cards are still available; contact Sandy Birch.

### **Thank You from Price’s Fork Elementary**

The faculty and staff of Price’s Fork Elementary School sent a Thank You card to the church to thank St. Michael for providing their back-to-school breakfast. The card contains a number of personal notes including one from the Principal, Dollie Cottrill, who wrote, *“To live and work in a Community with people who care and who are so generous is a gigantic blessing in my life. Thank You!”* The Thank You card will be posted in the front hallway for everyone to see.

### **New Carpet Installed with Your Help**

New carpet in the sanctuary was installed during the week of August 22-26 with the help of volunteers from the church who removed and re-installed pews and furnishings in the church. Without the help of the volunteers, we would not have been able to undertake such a large project. Volunteers included: Carol Bland, Leslie Bland, Jeff Birch, Ross and Hallie Brown, Jim and Judy Clemens, Ben and Carol Crawford, Chris Dowdy, Jane Lane, Lynn Hickok, Ray Howell, Rick Mayer, Don and Iris Moore, Donita Moore, Jaid Moore, James and Wanda Pascoe, Randy Robinson, Hank Schneider, Dickie and Fran Shepherd, Lori Ann Sheppard, Jody Smiley, Tim Smiley, Dave Surface, Dean Trimble, Gary Worley, Stuart Worley and Pastor John. Thank you to everyone who helped.

## **Kitchen and Narthex Flooring Update**

Due to production schedules, the carpet for the narthex and front hallway was not available when the carpet was installed in the sanctuary. The new flooring in the narthex, front hallway and kitchen will be installed during the week of September 19 through 23.

### **Thank You Price's Fork Fair Volunteers**

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Price's Fork Fair this year. With your help, the church gave away nearly 100 Bible activity books, painted over 100 faces and provided fun for youth in our community. Thank you for using your gifts to make Christ known in our community.



*Pictured are Pastor John, Carol Crawford, Peggy Price and Francis Gallimore*

### **Thank you from the Howells**

Carol and Ray would like to thank everyone for their prayers, encouraging support and well wishes for Lauren Lee. Thank you also to Pastor John for his hospital visits and all who sent cards, flowers or stopped by with food after her recent hospitalization, surgery and recuperation.

### **Monthly Prayer Group Forming**

Make plans to be a part of St. Michael's new Monthly Prayer Group. The group will meet once a month to pray for each other, the congregation, the community and the world. The first Prayer Group Gathering will be on Tuesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. at Pastor John's home at 2013 Broken Oak Drive in Blacksburg. For more information or for directions, contact Pastor John.



## Exploring Faith in Sunday School

Come and explore your faith in Sunday School as St. Michael begins a new Sunday School year on September 11 at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Classes will be offered for everyone from infants to adults. To better meet the needs of our classes, our Sunday School space will be arranged differently this year. The 4 year old through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Class, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class and the Adult Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Middle School and High School Class will meet in the Sanctuary and the Infant to 3 year old Class will meet in the nursery.



For more information about Sunday School, please contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu) or at 961-2472.



## Kid's Night Begins September 14

All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night on Wednesdays, September 14 and September 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy pizza, music, crafts and more. For more information, contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu) or at 961-2472.

## Confirmation Starts a New Year

Confirmation class for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will start a new year on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the food, fun and learning. For more information about the class, contact Pastor John.

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Synod Youth Event – Lost and Found

The Virginia Synod is sponsoring a Synod Youth Event for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders called Lost and Found. This weekend event is an exciting way to explore your faith, meet Lutherans from around the synod and have a good time. The deadline for registration is October 17 and the church will pay all registration fees. If you are interested in attending, contact Pastor John.

## **St. Michael Day Homecoming Picnic on September 25**

The St. Michael Day Homecoming Picnic will take place on September 25 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited to bring a friend and a dish to share as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.



### **Make a Joyful Noise**

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all you people. Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing!*

Anyone who likes to sing and would be willing to serve God through leading in worship is invited to be a member of the choir. This fall, the St. Michael Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For more information about the Choir contact Donita at: [domoore1@vt.edu](mailto:domoore1@vt.edu).



God will take all our joyful noises and blend them into beautiful song for His praise and glory.

### **Finance Team Meeting**

The Finance Team will meet on Sunday, September 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to assist the Finance Team is invited to attend. For more information, contact Kathy Albert at: [Kathy.Albert@DanaherMotion.com](mailto:Kathy.Albert@DanaherMotion.com).

### **Support Team Meeting**

The Support Team will meet on Wednesday, September 7 at 8 p.m. We invite anyone to attend who is interested in promoting congregational stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

### **Congregational Council Meeting**

The Congregational Council Meeting will be on Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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***September Servants***

	<b>September 4</b>	<b>September 11</b>	<b>September 18</b>	<b>September 25</b>
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Scott McGuigan	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble	Scott McGuigan
<b><i>Altar Care</i></b>	Lorin Crowder and Sandy Birch			
<b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>	Tammy Veit		Randy Robinson	
<b><i>Fellowship Hour</i></b>		Krallman and Simmers families		St. Michael Day Picnic
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Sandie and Gary Worley			
<b><i>Lay Readers</i></b>	Jody Smiley	Sara Bohn	Doug Veit	M. McGuigan
<b><i>Nursery Assts.</i></b>	Kris Wertz	Leslie and Brian Simmers	Ted and Angela Peterson	Jody Smiley
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	M. McGuigan Ray Howell Sam Akers Philip Isenhour	Jeff Crowder Dave and Ann Surface James Pascoe	Steve and Vickie Mouras Gary Worley Don Linkous	Ben and Grace Simmers Jeff Birch Josh Mouras

Lawn mowers: Jim Clemens (9/3) – front, Jay Nagle (9/10) – back, Doug/Tim Smiley (9/17) – front, Sam Akers (9/24) - back

## Women of the ELCA

Thirty women attended the annual **Ladies Night Out at the Kabuki Restaurant** on August 18 and enjoyed a fun evening of fine food and fellowship. Pictures of the event are on the hallway bulletin board.

**Remember the Food Bank:** September is SOUP month...bring cans of soup though donations of any non-perishable food are very welcome.



Thank you to everyone who brought **school supplies**. We delivered 6 filled backpacks to the Salvation Army in Christiansburg. There were several families waiting for our donations; six happy children left with our backpacks within minutes. Several large boxes of supplies were given to Ellison-Layfayette and Prices Fork Elementary Schools and another large box of spiral notebooks were donated to Blacksburg Middle School. The school personnel expressed heartfelt thanks for our donations; many children who cannot afford the supplies will be assisted.

Pictured above is Pastor John delivering supplies to Sharon Robinson, secretary at Price's Fork.

**In all, we donated:** 361 pencils, 52 packages of paper, 12 backpacks, 155 pens, 51 boxes of crayons, 20 bottles of glue, 125 spiral notebooks, 68 folders, 51 glue sticks, 17 pairs of scissors, and 31 packages of Magic Markers.

On Thursday, September 8, the Women of the ELCA will host a **farewell gathering for one of our long-time members, Jane Lane**, who will be moving to Richmond, VA. All members of the congregation are invited to the home of Sandy and Jeff Birch, from 2 to 4 p.m., to wish Jane "Godspeed" in her new adventures.

Our September meeting will be a **joint meeting with the women's group at New Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m.** (please note the new date). We will be sharing stories of our activities with our New Mt. Zion sisters and talking about the preparation of Christmas boxes. Please join us! Rides will be provided from St. Michael; just meet at the church at 6:30 p.m.

In September and October, the WELCA members at St. Michael will be encouraging our congregation **to fill and wrap shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. The reservation is located in the poorest county in the United States, where family income averages \$3,700 and unemployment is 93%. Many families live in tents or old cars. As part of the American Indian Ministry, we will also be sponsoring a **bed project** for the reservation. We will encourage the congregation to donate funds for a bed and bedding for one family. The Christmas boxes and bed donations will be brought to the annual Fall Gathering on October 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on the bulletin board.



### **Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast**



All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 17 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a wonderful breakfast, talk about the Lutheran Men in Mission national gathering and plan for a fall mission project. For more information, contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455

### **Happy-Go-Lucky**

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, September 8, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and program. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier.

We are also invited to attend XYZ socials at the United Methodist Church in Blacksburg. More details will be shared at our meeting.



A Brief Summary of Actions from the Ninth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA and a brief Report of the Assembly from Bishop Jim Mauney is available on the hallway shelf. The theme for the Assembly, held August 8-14, was "Marked With the Cross of Christ Forever."