

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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October 1, 2005

## **Investing in the Ministry of St. Michael**

Thank you for the investment you make in the ministry of St. Michael. Your generous gifts allow the congregation to provide Sunday School, Kid's Night and Confirmation for the youth, to give assistance to people in need, to gather for worship each Sunday, and to provide support for our mission partners in the Synod and around the ELCA. Your gifts have also made it possible to upgrade our facilities over the last year. The parking lot was repaved. New flooring was installed in the sanctuary, hallway and kitchen, new chairs were purchased for the choir and new landscaping was completed in front of the building. Each of those improvements will support and strengthen the ministry of St. Michael for years to come. Thank you!

In the next few weeks, you will be asked to estimate your giving for 2006. You will receive a letter with an estimate of giving card and a return envelope. I hope you will take a few moments to think and pray about your giving to St. Michael and to consider returning the card to the church by Sunday, October 23. The estimate of giving is an opportunity for you to reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide on your response. The estimate of giving also gives St. Michael the opportunity to more accurately plan for our ministry in the year ahead. With your help, the ministry of St. Michael will continue to grow and make a difference in our community.

## **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 and Shirley Linkous who helped with the October newsletter; James Pascoe, Sandy Birch, Sandie and Gary Worley and Dean Trimble who returned the fellowship hall to “Sunday School mode” after the picnic, Pastor John for setting up the tables for the picnic, the Caring and Sharing Committee for sponsoring the St. Michael Day picnic; Ray and Jonathan Howell for completing several projects around the church; and Philip Isenhour for work on the Church website.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in September 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, over \$1,200 for disaster relief (Katrina), computer software, conference registration, an exterior sign and floor covering for the narthex and hallway.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we contributed to two electric bills and provided food (grocery gift cards) for six families. 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 September, we exceeded our \$5,000 goal for purchases at Kroger with our gift cards and 5% of our total will be deposited to the Justice and Mercy Fund. Gift cards are still available; contact Sandy Birch.

### **Thank You from Lafayette-Ellison Elementary**

The faculty and staff of Lafayette-Ellison Elementary School sent a Thank You card to the church to thank St. Michael for providing school supplies.

### **Godspeed to Jane Lane**



Jane Lane and Alice Schneider share a good story at Jane’s going away party. Jane’s new contact information is 12108 Fontana Run – Apt. 102, Richmond, VA 23235 (804-272-2924).

## **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.

### **Kid's Nights on October 5 and October 19**



All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night on Wednesdays, October 5 and October 19 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.

### **Exploring Faith in Sunday School**

Come and explore your faith in Sunday School every Sunday at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Classes will be offered for everyone from infants to adults. For more information about Sunday School, please contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu).

### **Caring and Sharing Team Meeting**

The Caring and Sharing Team will meet on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. We invite anyone to attend who is interested in promoting congregational fellowship and outreach.

### **2 to 1 Ladies Choir**

If you enjoy singing, but don't have time to be a part of the Service Choir, come and sing in the 2 to 1 Ladies Choir in October. The Choir will practice twice during the month and then sing on one Sunday in October. Come and share your musical talents in the 2 for 1 Ladies Choir. Watch the bulletin for practice times and dates. For more information, contact Donita at: [domoore1@vt.edu](mailto:domoore1@vt.edu).

### **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 5 at 8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in being a part of the Worship Committee, please contact Donna Oliver at: [luther@lmlc.org](mailto:luther@lmlc.org).

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2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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***October Servants***

	<b>October 2</b>	<b>October 9</b>	<b>October 16</b>	<b>October 23</b>	<b>October 30</b>
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble Katy McGuigan	Kelsey Trimble	Scott McGuigan Steffan Bohn	S.McGuigan
<b><i>Altar Care</i></b>	Carol Crawford, Kitty Kirk, Lori Ann Sheppard				
<b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>	Sandy Birch		Mickey McGuigan		
<b><i>Fellowship Hour</i></b>		Crowder family			
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Mouras family				
<b><i>Lay Readers</i></b>	Jenny Akers	Mickey McGuigan	Shannon Rigsbee	Sara Bohn	Josh Mouras
<b><i>Nursery Assts.</i></b>	Lauren and Sharon Robinson	Cindy Lang Leslie Bland	Jane and Katy McGuigan	Kris Wertz	Grace Simmers
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Jeff Crowder Dickie Shepherd Ben and Grace Simmers	Bob and Peggy Brown J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Ray Howell Sam Akers Philip Isenhour Burn Gross	Roscoe Turman M. McGuigan James Pascoe Jeff Birch	Vickie and Steve Mouras Gary Worley Don Linkous

Lawn mowers: Jim Clemens (10/1) – front, Jay Nagle (10/8) – back, Doug/Tim Smiley (10/15) – front, Sam Akers (10/22) - back

## Women of the ELCA

Everyone can be an artist at Earthworks! **Our October meeting will be Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m.** at Earthworks Pottery Store at 3147 N. Franklin St. (in the mall across from Corning, between Barewood and the bakery outlet). We'll be creating Blessing Bowls, starting with a plain pottery bowl for \$10; then painting and "baking" our creation. There is no extra cost for our "artistry". This will be a fun and "crafty" night. Rides will be provided too....just contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995. We'll even pick you up at your home.



A Blessings Bowl holds written acknowledgement of the blessings in our lives. Parchment paper and ribbons will also be provided so we can write down our many blessings. You may want to create your bowl as a gift for a friend or someone in your family. It could be a very meaningful gift; a gift of gratitude, a way to share the beauty we see in others, a customized gift that celebrates life's blessings.

**Remember the Food Bank:** October is Cereal Month....though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** October is Paper Month....donations of toilet paper and paper towels will be appreciated.

### **The American Indian Ministry: Shoe boxes and Beds**

In October, the WELCA members at St. Michael will be encouraging our congregation **to fill shoe boxes (or similar size boxes) for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. Items for the boxes could include mittens, caps, pencils, crayons, coloring books, books, toys, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo. Plastic shoe boxes are available at church or you can use your own box. The Women of the ELCA will wrap your box for you if desired – and we'll even do your shopping for you if you'd like to donate \$15. A box can be filled for \$10-\$15 – especially if you shop at the dollar stores.



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. For many of the children, our shoe box gifts may be their only Christmas gifts.

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. Offering envelopes for the bed project are in the pews. The Christmas boxes and bed donations will be brought to the annual Fall Gathering on October 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski.

## Acting Boldly at the New River Conference Fall Gathering

The **annual Fall Gathering of the Women of the New River Valley** will be held **Sunday, October 23, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pulaski**. Our theme “Act Boldly” will be celebrated through Bible study, music, an outreach project and fellowship with our sisters in Christ. We will be leaving after the 11 a.m. service on October 23; arriving in time for registration and a potluck salad lunch. The program, featuring the American Indian Ministry with guest speakers Rex and Rieky Hartson, will begin at 2 p.m. This is a wonderful time to meet with our sisters in the New River Valley, share friendship and service ideas and learn of the work of our state organization, the Virginia Synodical Womens Organization (VSWO). A love offering will be taken at the gathering for the projects of the VSWO of which Jody Smiley is a Board Member. Rides will be available from the church. Just bring a salad or dessert to share.

## Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast



All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a wonderful breakfast and discuss our fall mission projects. 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, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and program about the new voting machines. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier.



A special invitation from Blacksburg United Methodist Church is extended to fun-loving seniors (ages 55 and older). On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (except November – meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in December), a group called **XYZs (Xtra Years of Zest)** meets in the Whisner Building at Blacksburg United Methodist Church at 111 Church Street at 5:30 for a Happy Half Hour (punch and snacks), then feasts on a buffet catered by Country Kitchen (\$5.50 per person). Following dinner, there is a half hour of entertainment. On October 27, five members (including Wanda Price who led our karaoke session in May) will sing selections from Broadway. Call the church office (552-5424 Ext. 0) by Monday, October 24 to reserve your place at this great interdenominational gathering!!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Stanley and Margaret Larsen who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in New York with friends and family. Margaret and Stan were married at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Woodhaven, NY on September 10, 1955. Present at the celebration were their daughter Amy Garst and their two granddaughters, Emily and Katie, also members of St. Michael.



## Gallimore Scholarship Winners Announced

This fall, we are pleased to announce two recipients of \$300 scholarships named in memory of Festus and Ora Gallimore. Kevin Krallman, son of Dianne and John Krallman and grandson of Thelma Hylton, is attending Virginia Commonwealth University. Kevin has not yet selected a major, but is very curious about the world around him and is interested in the field of biology. Tina Graham, a member of Shiloh Lutheran Church, is attending New River Community College in the Health and Medical Science Department. Tina plans to get her bachelor's degree in nursing at Radford University. We wish Kevin and Tina great success in their college careers.



## Reformation Sunday

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis on the doors of the church at Wittenberg and the Reformation was born. Each year on the last Sunday in October, we celebrate the work of Luther and others to bring about reform in the church. Make plans to celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 30 at St. Michael as we remember our past and look to our future.

Daylight Savings ends on October 30,  
so turn your clocks back on Saturday, October 29



**The Girl Scouts are collecting Tuna for the Christmas Store.  
Please place donations in the box in the Fellowship Hall.**



## **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Funerals, Wills, and Planned Giving, But Were Afraid to Ask**

Whenever someone dies, the grief and pain can be compounded by the hundreds of decisions that have to be made about the funeral and the estate. In order to help make these times easier, St. Michael will have an informational meeting on Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to Noon to discuss funerals, wills and planned giving. Pastor John will discuss the funeral service. A representative from McCoy Funeral Home will be present to talk about procedures and costs. Pastor George Sims from the Virginia Synod will explain planned giving and local attorney, Greg Campbell, will be present to talk about wills and living wills. For more information, contact Pastor John at the church.

### **Hurricane Relief Update**

The ELCA Disaster Response is continuing to provide assistance in the areas of the Gulf Coast affected by recent hurricanes. If you would like updated information on how the response is going, you can check: [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster) for the latest updates.

The Virginia Synod is providing financial assistance to Peace Lutheran Church in Slidell, LA so that their Pastor, Barb Simmers, will be able to serve the congregation and help in the recovery efforts. St. Michael, along with over 100 other congregations and individuals, has committed \$50 per month in support of this congregation. The following letter was received from Bishop Mauney to thank St. Michael for their support.

*On behalf of Pastor Barb Simmers and the people of Peace Lutheran congregation in Slidell, LA, I would like to thank you for your faith, love, partnership, compassion and generosity. I also want to acknowledge your pledge/gift of 1 congregational unit for \$50 per month for one year.*

*I want to thank you again for your gift in partnership for our brothers and sisters in Slidell, "and my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

*May our Lord bless and keep you.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*The Rev. James F. Mauney  
Bishop*