

## 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 Margaret Larsen and Judy Clemens who helped with the November newsletter mailing; Carrie Mayer and Kris Wertz for helping Jody Smiley with Kid’s Night; Andrea Sharpe for assisting Jody with Children’s Church; Gary Worley for helping Pastor with the Confirmation class; Peggy Brown for folding and stamping the Stewardship letters; Bob Brown for creating the beautiful new cabinets in the fellowship hall.



### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October 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, the American Indian Ministry, Kid’s Night pizzas and materials, our seminary partnership, and lawnmower repair.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In October, we provided food cards, rent for one family, contributed to one electric bill and postage for Christmas shoeboxes. 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. Kroger Gift cards are still available; contact Sandy Birch. Five percent of our purchases will be deposited to our fund.



### ***Lost and Found in Concert***

The Christian Band, *Lost and Found*, will be having a free concert on Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Roanoke College. Pastor John will be taking a group of Middle School and High School students up to the college for the show. If you are interested in going, talk to Pastor John or sign up at the church. For more information on the band, you can go to: [www.speedwood.com](http://www.speedwood.com).

### **Winter Celebration**

All 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to be a part of the Virginia Synod Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center. The event will take place in late January and registrations must be sent by Dec. 27. If you are interested in attending Winter Celebration, please talk with Pastor John.

### **2 to 1 Teen 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 Teen Choir in November. The Choir will practice twice during the month and then sing on one Sunday in November. Come and share your musical talents in the 2 for 1 Teen Choir. Watch the bulletin for practice times and dates. For more information, contact Donita at: [domoore1@vt.edu](mailto:domoore1@vt.edu).

### **Kid's Nights on November 2, 16 and 30**



All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night on Wednesdays, November 2, 16 and 30 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.

### **Online Coloring Book added to Web Site**

This month, St. Michael added an online coloring book to the church web site to provide a safe and fun online activity for children. Simply click on the coloring book link and you will discover a number of coloring pages focused on Jesus' life and stories from the Old and New Testament. St. Michael's web address is: [www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org).

## 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 are offered for everyone from infants to adults.

Pictured in the nursery class (L-R clockwise) is Sara Albert, MaKayla Dowdy, Delanie Veit, and Alexis Niemiera. Parents of our youngest children share teaching responsibilities.

## Sunday School Adopt-A-Seminarian Program

This year, the Sunday School will be adopting a seminarian from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. This year's seminarian is Kristy Buyok, a first year student from Beckley, West Virginia. She and her husband Ernie have two children, Kailyn and Evan. Watch for more information in Sunday School and the December newsletter.



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

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***November Servants***

	<b>November 6</b>	<b>November 13</b>	<b>November 20</b>	<b>November 27</b>
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Kelsey Trimble	Sarah Crowder Katy McGuigan	Scott McGuigan Steffen Bohn	Scott McGuigan
<b><i>Altar Care</i></b>	Alice Noonkester and Inga Solberg			
<b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>	Tammy Veit		Randy Robinson	
<b><i>Fellowship Hour</i></b>		Birthday Dinner		
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Ann and Dave Surface			
<b><i>Lay Readers</i></b>	Hank Schneider	Kelsey Trimble	Lori Ann Sheppard	Fred Spengler
<b><i>Nursery Assts.</i></b>	Lorin and Dan Crowder	Ted and Angela Peterson	Leslie and Brian Simmers	Kelsey and Dean Trimble
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Jeff Crowder Roscoe Turman Jeff Birch Philip Isenhour	Ben and Grace Simmers Dickie Shepherd Burn Gross	Bob and Peggy Brown J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	M. McGuigan James Pascoe Ray Howell Sam Akers

Lawn mowers: Jay Nagle (11/05) – back , Doug/Tim Smiley (11/12) – front, Sam Akers (11/19) - back

## Women of the ELCA

**The November meeting** will be held at the church on Thursday, November 17 at 7 p.m. Our program will include the annual cleaning of the nursery, work room and kitchen. Join us for service and social time.



### **Mom and Dad Gifts for the Christmas Store:**

The Montgomery County Christmas Store provides a Children's Gift Store where children can shop for their parents. Often, these are the only gifts that the parents receive. Charlene Harris and Sandy Birch, who work in the children's store, have asked the Women of the ELCA to sponsor a collection of gifts for moms and dads. Appropriate gifts might include flashlights, tools, after shave lotion, perfume, candles, kitchen towels.... gifts that cost less than \$5. We all might have a few such gifts around the house that we could share. We invite the congregation to donate (unwrapped) gift items through December 4. Thank you.

**Remember the Food Bank:** November is Canned Vegetables Month....though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** November is Paper Month....donations of any kind of paper product (e.g., paper towels, toilet paper) will be appreciated.

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

In October, our congregation **filled 30 shoe boxes for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. Along with five other congregations in the New River Conference, we provided 95 shoebox gifts. Additional offerings of \$300 for postage were also donated.



As part of the American Indian Ministry, we sponsored a **bed project** for the reservation. St. Michael members contributed \$351, with total offerings from the six New River congregations totaling \$1053. Two queen size beds with appropriate bedding will be purchased. Pictured is Alice Schneider, WELCA president, with our shoeboxes.

**Thank you to all who participated in this important ministry.**



## **Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast**

All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 5 at 8 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 [jbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.

## **Happy-Go-Lucky**

**“going once....going twice....”**

The November meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 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.



A special invitation from Blacksburg United Methodist Church is extended to fun-loving seniors (ages 55 and older). On December 1, a group called XYZs (**Xtra Years of Zest**) will meet 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 feast on a buffet catered by Country Kitchen (\$5.50 per person). Following dinner, there is a half hour of entertainment. Call the church office (552-5424 Ext. 0) by Monday, November 28 to reserve your place at this great interdenominational gathering!!

## **Christmas Show at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater**

The Happy-Go-Lucky group is sponsoring a trip the Wohlfahrt Dinner Theater to see a special matinee performance of "A Wohlfahrt Haus Christmas" on Thursday, December 15 at 2 PM. The cost for the performance, which includes a meal, is \$30 per person. In order to reserve our seats, reservations must be made by November 15. For more information about the trip or to reserve your spot, call Pastor John at 951-8951 or sign up in worship.

## **Annual Meeting Planned for December 11**

St. Michael's Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, December 11 immediately following the 11 a.m. service. At this year's meeting, we will be electing new members to the congregational council, considering a Spending Plan for 2006 and considering an amendment to the Church Constitution. Make plans to come and help make these important decisions.

**Advent Services and Soup Suppers Begin November 30 at St. Michael**  
**Soup Supper at 6 p.m. and Worship at 6:45 p.m.**



## **Annual Birthday Dinner on November 13**

The annual birthday dinner, sponsored by the Women of the ELCA, will be held after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, November 13. 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 benefit the Montgomery County Christmas Store and the Free Clinic.

## **Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22**

The Thanksgiving Service will be on **Tuesday, November 22 at 7 p.m.** 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, November 24**

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 24. 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. An invitation is also included in the November newsletter....spread the word!



## **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.

## **Congratulations to....**

**Ross and Hallie Brown** who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 1.



**Carole Schneider and Mark Noyes** who were married on October 1. Mark and Carole, the daughter of Hank and Alice Schneider, live in Hockessin, Delaware.

**Jody Hewitt and Michael Kull** who were married last summer and now reside in Danville, Pennsylvania. Jody and Michael attended St. Michael while completing their degrees at Virginia Tech.

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Over the past year, the Congregational Council has been working on a proposed amendment to the Church Constitution which will make it easier to conduct the daily business of the church. The current constitution allows the council to spend up to \$500 more than a line item in the spending plan without congregational approval. The \$500 figure has not been adjusted since it was adopted when St. Michael was formed in 1970. In today's world where an emergency repair of a roof or heating system could easily exceed \$500, the existing cap creates potential problems for our ministry together. In addition, the current constitution makes no provision to limit the number of line items and thus actually allows an additional \$500 to be spent in each of our over 60 line items.

To correct this problem, the Congregational Council is proposing the following amendments which will create an overall spending limit, provide more flexibility for the council in dealing with emergencies and new ministry opportunities, and make it clear that these additional funds can only be spent if they have already been given. The council will be able to spend up to a total of 10% more than the approved spending plan without congregational approval. No individual expenditure within that 10%, however, may exceed 5% of the approved spending plan. This will allow for larger single expenditures than the current constitution, but will cap the total extra spending much sooner than the current constitution. Below you will see both the existing section of the constitution and the proposed amendment. If you have any questions about this proposal, please talk to any council member or Pastor John.

*Existing C12.05.c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$500 for items not included in the budget without the approval of the congregation.*

**Proposed C12.05.c** The Congregational Council may enter into individual contracts of up to five (5)% of the total approved current budget for items not included in the budget provided the expenditure does not require borrowing additional funds. The Congregational Council, with the approval of the congregation, may enter into contracts of more than five (5) % of the total approved current budget.

*Existing C12.05.d. The Congregational Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$500 in excess of the budgeted line item only after approval by a Congregational Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.*

**Proposed C12.05.d.** The Congregational Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur total obligations in excess of ten (10) % of the approved current budget only after approval by a Congregational Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.