

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

[stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net)

[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

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## A Wonderful Christmas, A Thank You and A Word about the Future

What a wonderful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we shared. Over the course of the two days there were almost 200 different people who came to St. Michael to worship and remember the baby born in Bethlehem. From the soloists and musicians to the greeters and ushers to the kids who helped me with the Children's Sermon, a lot of work goes into preparing for the services and I would like to thank everyone who helped out this year.

Kris and I would also like to thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave us. We truly appreciate your kindness and generosity and thank you for giving us the privilege of being in ministry with you.

As I look ahead to 2006, I am excited about the opportunities for ministry that are before us. We will be expanding our ministry with families by adding programs like the "Parent's Night Out Fellowship Dinner". As the number of youth in our congregation continues to grow, we will be looking for ways to continue to develop our ministry with children and teenagers and in August, we will be hiring a new pianist to provide music for the 9 a.m. Service. We will also work to strengthen and expand our existing ministries, like the Justice and Mercy Fund, Kid's Night, the Women's and Men's Groups and 2 to 1 Choirs. If you have a passion for any of these ministries and would like to get involved or if there is some other ministry that you would like to explore, please let me know.

May God's blessings be with you in this new year.

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 Stan Larsen and Ross Brown for setting up the candle holders in the sanctuary; to Kris and Pastor John for providing fellowship time after the Christmas Eve service; to Jody Smiley, her “helper elves”, and all the children who performed a wonderful youth Christmas pageant; Alice Noonkester for mailing reminders to Sunday servants; Sandie Worley for helping with the January newsletter mailing; and to everyone who provided Angel Tree Gifts.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in November supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist, custodian and nursery worker, snow removal, Winter Celebration registration for our youth, and computer software.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In December, we provided Wal-Mart food cards for 25 families in Prices Fork, mom and dad gifts for children shopping at the Christmas Store, rent assistance for three families, and contributed to two electric bills. 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 are deposited to the fund.



Thank you to all who serve as ushers, choir members, teachers, altar care helpers, greeters, acolytes, lay readers, communion assistants, fellowship hour sponsors, and more.... We will recognize our Sunday Servants on January 15.

**Sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers, Altar Care and Fellowship Hour are posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please add your names to the list. Thank you for sharing and serving in these special ways.**



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***January Servants***

	<b>January 1</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>January 22</b>	<b>January 29</b>
<i><b>Acolytes</b></i>	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble Steffen Bohn	Kelsey Trimble Katy McGuigan	Scott McGuigan	Sarah Crowder
<i><b>Altar Care</b></i>	Hank and Alice Schneider				
<i><b>Comm. Assts.</b></i>	Karen Mayer		Jeff Birch		
<i><b>Fellowship Hour</b></i>		Schneider family			
<i><b>Greeters</b></i>	James and Wanda Pascoe				
<i><b>Lay Readers</b></i>	Jenny Akers	Cindy Dowdy	Shannon Rigsbee	Sara Bohn	Josh Mouras
<i><b>Ushers</b></i>	Jeff Crowder Dickie Shepherd Philip Isenhour Don Linkous	Dave and Ann Surface J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Ray Howell Sam Akers Burn Gross Jeff Birch	Roscoe Turman M. McGuigan Bob and Peggy Brown	Gary Worley Ben and Grace Simmers James Pascoe

## Women of the ELCA

The January meeting will be held at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg) on Thursday, January 19 at 7 p.m. We will be planning our programs and projects for 2006. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship.



**Remember the Food Bank:** January is cereal month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** January continues as Cleaning Products Month....donations of dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, etc. will be appreciated.



### Happy-Go-Lucky

The group went to the Wohlfahrt Dinner Theater on Thursday, December 29, for a special matinee performance of "A Wohlfahrt Haus Christmas". Regular meetings will resume in February.

### Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast

All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 14 at 8 a.m. at the Birch home. For more information, contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.



We remember Tim Clemens, who passed away on November 28. We know God is holding him in his loving arms.

#### Thank you from the Clemens family

We would like to thank everyone in our Church Family for your kind expressions of sympathy and many acts of kindness during the sudden and tragic loss of Tim, our dear son, brother and uncle. We greatly appreciate your love and support throughout this very difficult time in our lives. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Jim and Judy Clemens, Cindy, Chris and MaKayla Dowdy



## Child Care Provided at Both Services

We welcome Dominique Dupras as our new child care assistant for the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services and Sunday Church School. Two substitute assistants have also been hired: Carrie Draper and Lindsay Robinson. Dominique, Carrie and Lindsay are all students at Virginia Tech. Child Care is provided during worship for youth from birth through 6 years old.

## Children's Church Gets New Name and New Format

Children's Church, the educational time for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade that takes place during the sermon is getting a new name and new format. Starting in January, the program will be called **Christ's Kids**. The youth will still leave following the Children's Sermon, but on Communion Sundays, the youth will return to their parents for the rest of the service right before communion so that the whole family can commune together. Jody Smiley will continue to coordinate and lead the program, but she is looking for volunteers to take one Sunday a month. If you are interested in helping, contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu) or Pastor John at [stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net).

## Kid's Nights on January 4 and 18



All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night on Wednesdays, January 4 and 18 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jody Smiley at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu) or at 961-2472. Join us for supper, music, crafts and more.

Teachers and substitute teachers are needed for Sunday Church School and Children's Church. Share your love and enthusiasm with the children of our St. Michael family. Please talk with Pastor John or Jody Smiley if you can help.

**Sunday Church School begins on January 8 at 9:50 a.m. There are classes for all ages....little ones to adults.**



## Confirmation Meets January 4 and 18

The Confirmation Class will meet on January 4 and 18 at 6 p.m. Come for pizza, fun and learning.

# Christmas Memories



Pastor John invites the children to a birthday party for Jesus on Christmas Eve.





## *Wee Three Kings a Big Success*



Ryan Albert and Emily Hoops as Joseph and Mary

## **New Member Dinner on Sunday, January 29**

Pastor John and Kris will be hosting a dinner on Sunday, January 29 at 5:00 p.m. at their home for individuals and families interested in joining St. Michael (2013 Broken Oak Drive in Blacksburg). We will share a meal together and have time for discussions about St. Michael and the Lutheran church in general. If you are interested in joining St. Michael or for more information about the New Member Dinner, please talk with Pastor John or email him at [stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net).



**Parents'**  
**Night Out**

### **Parents' Night Out**

In January, planning will begin for St. Michael's first **Parents' Night Out**. Child Care will be provided at the church and then the parents will go enjoy dinner together as a group. If you would like to be a part of the planning team or for more information, please contact Pastor John ([stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net)).

### **Sunday School Returns January 8**

Sunday School will return on January 8 after a break for Christmas and New Years Day. Everyone from youth to Adults is invited to come and learn more about God's Word. The Adult Class will continue to study the book of Romans beginning at Chapter 8

### **Congratulations to our new Congregational Council Members**

At the December 11 congregational meeting, Jim Clemens, Fran Gallimore, Gary Worley and Tammy Veit were elected to the Church Congregational Council. The 2006 Spending Plan was approved and the proposed constitutional amendment providing more flexibility for the council in dealing with emergencies and new ministry opportunities was passed.



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

**Olga and Ross Kirk** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with the renewal of their wedding vows on December 17.

**Darron and Sharon Oliver** who were united in marriage on December 10.