

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
540.951.8951

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

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

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## Caring and Sharing

One strength of the ministry of St. Michael is the way we both care for our family and share our gifts with people in need. In March, we will begin two new projects which will enhance and expand the caring and sharing of St. Michael.

**Caring** - One way that we care for our congregational family is to offer support and prayers following the death of a family member. In the past, we have tried to call as many people as possible when a death occurs, but inevitably, someone gets missed. To make sure that this information gets out in a timely fashion, we will now send out a *Remember in Your Prayers* email that includes information about the visitation and funeral. If you don't have email or would not like to receive this information in an email, then we will have a group of *Caring Callers* who will phone those who have signed up to be called in these situations. If you would like to be a Caring Caller or would like to receive a phone call to inform you of a death in the congregation, please sign up on the *Welcome* sheet in the bulletin.

**Sharing** - For the last several years, St. Michael has been partnered with Soi Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea. We have prayed for their ministry and have seen pictures from Karen Mayer's visit with the congregation. Thanks to the efforts of the Virginia Synod, we now have the opportunity to share our resources with the church in Papua New Guinea by supporting the Virginia Synod Youth to Youth Project. This project will help build a *New Guinea Islands District Office Ministry Complex* to provide office space, housing for youth and women when they gather for district events and a guest house for visitors. The Council has decided to designate our 2006 Midweek Lenten Offerings to support this wonderful project. If you would like more information about our ministry with the Lutheran church in Papua New Guinea, please talk to Karen Mayer.

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 Shirley Linkous and Carla Schwertz for helping with the March newsletter mailing; Thurston Knapp for serving as the Happy-Go-Lucky photographer; Philip Isenhour for his excellent work on the church website.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March supported supplies for Kid’s Nights, 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, electrical and carpentry repairs to the church and bulletin inserts.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In February, we provided assistance with electric bills for two families and medicine for a third. 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. In February, the **Kroger contribution** to the fund was \$322.25.

### Shower of Blessings



We are richly blessed by God. We share God’s blessings in our actions as we give our time and share our talents in the ministry of St. Michael.

Beginning on March 5, you will have the opportunity to complete time and talent surveys and share your blessings with the congregation and the community. The survey will also be available on-line on St. Michael’s website. On the website, you will also find the “Opening Your Spiritual Gifts” survey which helps you determine the gifts God has given you. By sharing your gifts generously, you make ministry happen at St. Michael. Thank You!

### Old Paraments, New Home

Thanks to generous memorial gifts, St. Michael has now been able to purchase new paraments for every season of the church year. Out of that blessing came an opportunity to help another ministry in need. Our old paraments have found a new home in Brooklyn, New York where they are now being used by a Latino Ministry. We give thanks for the beauty those paraments provided our worship across the years and we rejoice that they have a new home supporting the worship of another Lutheran congregation.

## **Welcome to the Family**

We recently welcomed the Tschetters (pronounced like “cheddar”) to our St. Michael family. Douglas and Jolynne Tchetter both work at Virginia Tech. Jolynne is a research scientist in Large Animal Clinical Sciences and Doug is a graphic designer for the Alumni Association. They have two daughters, Erin and Victoria.



### **More Additions to the Family on March 26**

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, March 26 at both services. If you are interested in becoming a member of the St. Michael family on that day, please talk with Pastor John.

### **Couple’s Night Out on March 4**

On Saturday, March 4, St. Michael will have a Couple’s Night Out fellowship event. We will meet at the church at 6 p.m. and free child care will be provided. If you have not yet signed up, but would like to attend, please call Pastor John or email him at [stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net).

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

All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, March 18 at 9 a.m. at the church. For more information, contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.

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

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***March Servants***

	<b>March 5</b>	<b>March 12</b>	<b>March 19</b>	<b>March 26</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble	Scott McGuigan	Steffen Bohn
<i>Altar Care</i>	Betty and Burn Gross			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dave Surface		Jeff Birch	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>		Annual Meeting		
<i>Greeters</i>	Hank and Alice Schneider			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Doug Veit	Dianne Krallman	Mickey McGuigan	Vickie Mouras
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff Crowder Burn Gross Ben and Grace Simmers	Ray Howell Sam Akers Bob and Peggy Brown	Burn Gross Dickie Shepherd Dave and Ann Surface	Jeff Birch James Pascoe Hank Schneider Philip Isenhour

## Women of the ELCA

**The March meeting** will be held in the fellowship hall on Thursday, March 16 at 7 p.m. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Karen Mayer will be leading our program.

In March, we will be **collecting items for Easter Baskets** for the Salvation Army and for the Women's Resource Center. All donations of candy, small toys, school supplies and books will be gratefully accepted.

**Remember the Food Bank:** March is "dishes in boxes" month, e.g., boxes of rice and pasta mixes, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In March, we'll continue collecting items for infants such as diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, teething rings, baby toys.



## Happy Go Lucky



Over twenty members attended our first potluck and program of the new year. Ms. Betty Jahn, Director of Volunteer Programs at Montgomery Regional Hospital, shared an exciting and beneficial program called H2U: Happiness, Health and You.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share and a friend for fellowship. Our program will be led by Bob and Peggy Brown: Physical Fitness Made Easy....or how to exercise without getting up from your chair ☺.

## Spring Clean-up Scheduled for Saturday, March 25

Fellowship, fun and fresh air....while raking, mulching, trimming, and planting. Organizing the storage shed is also on the agenda. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. Bring your tools and enthusiasm for a good morning workout and beautification of our church grounds. The rain date will be Saturday, April 8.



## Kid's Nights on March 15 and 29



All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night on Wednesdays, March 15 and 29. We will share in the Lenten Midweek meal and then have a program for the children during the Lenten Service. 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.

## Christ's Kids

Christ's Kids is St. Michael's Sunday morning program for youth from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. The youth are invited to go to the fellowship hall following the Children's Sermon for a brief lesson. On Communion Sundays, the youth will return to worship prior to communion so that families can commune together. If you are interested in helping with Christ's Kids, please contact Jody Smiley.

## 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 March. The Choir will practice twice during the month and then sing on one Sunday in March. 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).

## Boy Scout Update

There is a strong commitment at St. Michael to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop. We have an active committee, several of whom have considerable Scouting experience, and an ample number of assistant troop leaders. What is needed is a volunteer 21 years old or older who can commit to being the Scout Master; an individual who can meet weekly at a designated time and take the scouts on a monthly outing. **If you are interested in serving as Scout Master or Assistant Scout Master**, please contact Ben Crawford at 961-5733 or [ben.crawford@vt.edu](mailto:ben.crawford@vt.edu).

Congratulations to **Daniel Ehrich**, of Troop 706, for earning his Boy Scout Eagle Award on February 13.

## 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. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board or from Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)).



## Ash Wednesday Service on March 1 at 7 PM

### *People of Purpose Each Wednesday in Lent*

Each Wednesday in Lent, we will focus on a different person from the New Testament and explore what that person can teach us about living a life of faith. If you are interested in learning more about *People of Purpose* in the New Testament, you can read the book by the same name by Pastor Robert Driver-Bishop. Pastor John has several copies of the book available if you would like to borrow one. The book can also be purchased from Augsburg Fortress.

The Soup Supper will begin at 6 PM and the Service will begin at 6:45 PM. This year all the services will be at St. Michael and the Pastors will rotate. Pastor Philip Bouknight, from the Floyd/Willis Parish, Pastor Terri Sternberg, from Trinity in 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 6:45 p.m.

*Wednesday, March 8*  
Zacchaeus - Pastor John

*Wednesday, March 15*  
Mary Magdalene - Pastor Terrie Sternberg

*Wednesday, March 22*  
Caiaphas - Pastor Philip Bouknight

*Wednesday, March 29*  
The Woman at the Well - Pastor John

*Wednesday, April 5*  
The Grace-Filled Father - Pastor John

### **Food for the Lenten Soup Suppers**

If you would like to provide food for the Lenten Soup Suppers, you can sign up on the back of the *Welcome* sheet in the bulletin each Sunday. Thank You!

### **Easter Lilies**

The year Easter Lilies will be \$10 per plant. Watch for order forms in the bulletin.

## **Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 12 at 9:50 a.m.**

On Sunday, March 12, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2005 Annual Report and the 2006 Phone Directory and we will take a second vote on the constitutional amendment approved at the December meeting.



## **The Pictorial Directory is coming....**

Everyone in the St. Michael family is invited to participate in our new pictorial church directory. **The photographs will be taken on Tuesday, March 14 and Wednesday, March 15** in the church fellowship hall. Sign-ups are now taking place...the schedule is on the table in the church hallway.

All participants will receive a free 8 x 10 professional photograph, a church directory, and the opportunity to purchase additional photographs if desired from Olan Mills. You or your family needs to be at the church 10 minutes early for your sitting and video image proofing will allow families to select poses during the same appointment. Participating in the directory is free, but if you choose to purchase additional portraits, payment by cash, check and all major credit cards will be due when placing the order.

If you cannot schedule an appointment for these two days, please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or at [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu) for alternate opportunities. Rides are also available to the church for your appointment. The directory is for everyone in the St. Michael family. If you haven't done so already, please sign up and be a part of this St. Michael family photo album.





## 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 proposed 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.