

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **God loves you! Be at Peace! Have Fun! Say, “Thank You!”**

There is a sign in my office that Kris cross-stitched for me that says, “God loves you! Be at Peace! Have Fun! Say, ‘Thank You!’.” These four simple phrases help me to remember:

- Whose I am - - a child of God
- Who God calls me to be - - God’s servant in the world, and
- How God calls me to do this ministry - - with a spirit of joy and gratitude.

This month, I wanted to take the opportunity to say “Thank You” to some of the people who make ministry happen at St. Michael.

Thank you to Sandy Birch for serving as our secretary and ministry coordinator. I added the second unofficial title, because she has a talent for helping people use their gifts in God’s service. For all her ministry, I give thanks!

Thank you to everyone who helps with worship. From Donita and the Choir, to the ushers, lay readers and acolytes, to the counters, your willingness to share your gifts helps us to have wonderful and meaningful worship experiences. For all your ministry, I give thanks!

Thank you to Jody Smiley and everyone who helps with Sunday School, Kid’s Night and Christ’s Kids. These opportunities for fellowship and learning shape the faith and lives of the youth in our congregation. For all your ministry, I give thanks!

Thank you to all of you, for generously sharing your gifts, talents and blessings with the ministry of St. Michael in so many ways. Together we are making Christ known in our family of faith and in the community around us. It is a joy for me to be in ministry with you. For each of you and the ministry we share, I give thanks!

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 everyone who provided Easter candy, toys, baskets and gifts; Leona Criner for her lovely Easter breakfast decorations; Barbara Corbett and Lynn Hickok who created our “Shower of Blessings” mobile in the narthex; Judy Clemens, Shirley Linkous, Sandy Birch and Ann Surface who greeted members during picture-taking for the directory; everyone who helped with the spring clean-up on April 8; John Krallman for sharing his musical gifts with us during Holy Week and Easter; Donna Epperly, Pat Smith, and Juanita Simpson for preparing communion for five worship services in April.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in April 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, nursery workers and supply pastor, and confirmation camp registration fees.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In April, we provided assistance with an electric bill for one family. 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.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring Announces Total**

On Super Bowl Sunday, St. Michael participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring along with thousands of congregations around the country. Thanks to your generosity St. Michael was able to raise \$ 110 to help people in need in our community. The Souper Bowl of Caring recently announced that all of the congregations together raised \$4,724,240. Thanks for helping us be a part this remarkable ministry.

### **Lenten Offerings for Papua New Guinea**

During Lent, the offering from the Mid-week Lenten Services was designated for the Virginia Synod Youth to Youth Project in Papua New Guinea. 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. Thanks to your generous gifts, we will be giving over \$400 to support the project. Thank you for your generosity.



## Shower of Blessings

Thank you to everyone who completed time and talent surveys and will share their blessings with the congregation and the community. By sharing your gifts generously, you make ministry happen at St. Michael. A summary of the surveys is posted on the bulletin board.

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8*

Some thank you notes received recently.....

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*Thanks be to God for your faithfulness. Your gracious gift was received just as we prepare to send out 10,000 invitations to people in the community to join us for worship Easter Sunday. Once again your gracious generosity helps make this type of outreach possible. Thanks be to God for you.*

*In Christ's Holy Name,  
Pastor Paul Walters  
Grace Lutheran Church in Spotsylvania*

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*Dear Members of St. Michael Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you very much for letting us meet here this year for Girl Scouts. We really appreciate it!*

*Yours in scouting,  
Brownie Troup 737*

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*I want to thank Jeff Birch, Burn Gross, Dave Surface and Pastor John from the Men's group for trimming the low branches on the trees in my backyard.*

**Martha Wade**

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*Dear Friends,  
The Easter Basket Campaign was very successful. The generous donations from our community supporters enabled us to provide Easter baskets to 133 families.....without our many friends in the community providing support and help, this would not have been possible. All of you have been a blessing to us. Thank you.*

*Darlene Bond  
The Salvation Army*

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***May Servants***

	<b>May 7</b>	<b>May 14</b>	<b>May 21</b>	<b>May 28</b>
<b><i>Acolytes</i></b>	Scott McGuigan	Steffen Bohn	Sarah Crowder	Katy McGuigan
<b><i>Altar Care</i></b>	Sandie and Gary Worley			
<b><i>Comm. Assts.</i></b>	Hank Schneider		Shannon Rigsbee	
<b><i>Fellowship Hour</i></b>		Gallimore Family		
<b><i>Greeters</i></b>	Ben and Grace Simmers			
<b><i>Lay Readers</i></b>	Kris Wertz	Kelsey Trimble	Lori Sheppard	Jody Smiley
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Dickie Shepherd Philip Isenhour Don Linkous Randy Robinson	Ray Howell Sam Akers Dave and Ann Surface	Burn Gross James Pascoe Steve and Vickie Mouras	Hank Schneider M. McGuigan Roscoe Turman Bob Brown

## Women of the ELCA

The annual **Sisters in Christ luncheon** will be held on Sunday, May 7, in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Invite a neighbor, daughter, sister-in-law, friend to share in the food, fun and fellowship. Beverages and dessert will be provided for this salad potluck luncheon.



In May, the women of the ELCA will host **a reception for our high school and college graduates** following the 11 a.m. service. Please join us as we recognize our BHS graduates, Leslie Bland, Tim Smiley, Stuart Worley, Jada Brown, and Daniel Ehrich; our VT graduates, Josh Mouras, William Walker and Kim Lehman; Emily Lippard, graduating from JMU and Angie Dolph graduating from Bridgewater College.

**Remember the Food Bank:** May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce, and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women’s Resource Center:** In May, we’ll continue to collect cleaning products, e.g., dish soap, window cleaner.

## Happy Go Lucky

Our next meeting – and last meeting until the fall -- will be Thursday, May 11 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share and a friend for fellowship. The program, “Remembering Our Story”, will be led by Jan McGilliard, of ElderConnections. Thank you to Jody Smiley for leading our April program.



On April 30, the Happy-Go-Lucky group gave “survival kits” to our St. Michael college students. We’re certain the homemade brownies, cookies and other goodies will help them all earn high grades on their final exams. ☺



## Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast

All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, May 13 at 8 a.m. at the church provided by Betty Gross. If you know of anyone or any organization which could use some assistance from the men’s group, please contact Pastor John or Jeff Birch at [jbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.

## Calling All Kids!



## Kid's Nights on May 10 and May 24

All children from kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Kid's Night at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10 and May 24. 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.

The **children's Sunday School classes** will be singing "Amazing Grace" for the 11 a.m. service on June 4. All children are invited to come and make a joyful noise.

## Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults

The fun begins on Sunday, June 11 and continues through Thursday, June 15. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m.

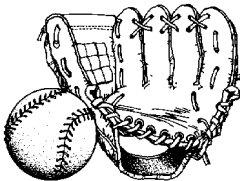
For more information, see Pastor John or email at: [stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@earthlink.net)



## Couple's Night Out on May 20

On Saturday, May 20, 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. Watch the bulletin for more information.

## Softball Season begins



The team invites everyone out to the Tom's Creek softball field on Monday nights for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better. The times are listed on the St. Michael May calendar and in the Sunday bulletins.

## **Stuart Worley awarded St. Michael Scholarship for 2006-2007**

Stuart Worley, son of Gary and Sandie Worley, was recently awarded the St. Michael Scholarship for \$600. He will begin his studies this fall at Christopher Newport University in Hampton Roads. Stuart, an honor roll student, earned varsity letters in football and track and played the trombone in the BHS Symphonic Band. He also served as a community volunteer at the Adventure Club at Kipps Elementary.

Barbara Pond, the scholarship recipient in 2004, writes that she will begin her internship this fall at Trinity Lutheran in Camp Hill, PA. Trinity has 2,600 baptized members with five worship services. Barb is attending Gettysburg Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania and asks that we keep her and her daughter Kristen, in our prayers.



The Layout and Design Phase of the Pictorial Directory is currently underway. Hopefully the completed Directory will be delivered this summer.

The final directory photos were recently sent to the church and to everyone who ordered pictures. If you would like to order more pictures from Olan Mills, you can call 1-800-845-1157 or you can access their website: [www.olanmillsdirectories.com](http://www.olanmillsdirectories.com). Your 10 digit order number should be on the receipt you received at the time your picture was made and our Church ID Number is 06319.



# Easter Memories

