

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 29, Number 7

August 1, 2006

FaithChest

The FaithChest is a concept I first encountered while attending the “Child In Our Hands” Conference put on by the Youth and Family Institute. A FaithChest is a box/chest built by members of the congregation and given to someone who is baptized. The FaithChest is the place for the newly baptized and their family to keep memories from a life of faith (baptismal candle, certificates, etc).

The conference leaders also discussed the work they were doing with FaithChests for older adults. The FaithChests were given to older adults so they could fill the chest with items collected over a lifetime of faith, family histories and stories. The FaithChest would eventually be given to their family as a way of sharing the faith of one generation with the next.

I would like to see St. Michael begin producing FaithChests for both the newly baptized and for older adults. Using Thrivent money and carpenters from the congregation, I’d like to build six FaithChests and begin providing them to people in the congregation with instruction on how to use them. I think this would be a wonderful way to strengthen faith in families both young and old. If you are interested in helping to build a FaithChest or if you are an older adult who would like to put together a FaithChest for your family, I’d love to have you be a part of this new and exciting ministry.

If you’d like to learn more about FaithChests, you can look on the Youth and Family Institute website at: http://www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org/services_faithchest.html.

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 Don Linkous for mowing around our St. Michael sign on Prices Fork Road; our lawn mowers, Sam Akers, Jim Clemens, Jay Nagle, Doug Smiley and Dave Surface; the softball team and their loyal fans for representing St. Michael so well this season; Forrest Worley for his computer graphics assistance; Linda Elliott for helping with the weekly bulletins and Sandie Worley for helping with the newsletter mailing.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided fellowship supplies, Christ’s Kids videos, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist, custodian, and nursery workers.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In July, we provided assistance with electric bills for two families and rent for a third 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.

A Thank You

I appreciate all of you for sending me to Lutherock confirmation camp. The two years I spent at the camp were exceptionally fun filled. The different tasks we had to face, whether group interactive or individual, taught me a lot about different aspects of life. These tasks also brought me closer to God in many ways. The biggest difference I have made from these two years is in my communication with God. I’ve been taught to be able to talk to God anywhere now...whether I’m walking down the street or singing in the sanctuary. Confirmation has taught me a lot about Our Father.

Sincerely, Scott McGuigan

New Memorial Book

The Memorial Committee is assembling a Memorial Book which will list all of the items given to the church in memory or in honor of someone. Once completed, the book will be on display in the narthex. While gathering a complete list of all the memorial items given through the years is probably impossible, the committee would like to include as many gifts and people as possible. If you know of an item given in memory of someone that may not currently be recorded, particularly any items that are no longer in use, please share that information with Judy Clemens or Ann Surface so it can be included in the Memorial Book. Thank you for your help!

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August Servants

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Stephen Bohn	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Crowder Family			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Bob Brown		Randy Robinson	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>				
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	The Woods	Henderson and Shirley Linkous	The Walters (Sr.)	
		Linda Elliott and Alice Noonkester		
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Doug Veit	Doug Smiley	Mickey McGuigan	Fred Spengler
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Gary Worley Ray Howell	Roscoe Turman James Pascoe Burn Gross Hank Schneider	Ben and Grace Simmers Dickie Shepherd Philip Isenhour	Randy Robinson Dave and Ann Surface M. McGuigan

Mowing schedule: Jim Clemens (8/5 – front); Jay Nagle (8/12 back); Doug Smiley (8/19– front; Sam Akers (8/26 - back)



Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out will be Thursday, August 17 at the Kabuki restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Alice Schneider (552-6995) or check the box on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form if you will be attending. This is always a fun fellowship event; bring a friend, neighbor or family member.

Remember the Food Bank: August is “meal-in-a-box” month, e.g., macaroni and cheese, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In August, we’ll continue to collect personal hygiene products, e.g., toothpaste, deodorant. The collection basket is in the hallway.

The Birthday Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 19. The sign-up form for table hosts is now posted on the hallway bulletin board.



Thank you for your generous donations of Foster Care kits, childrens books, and the love offering for the Papua New Guinea youth center. Your gifts were delivered to the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization (VSWO) state convention last week.

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 Cor. 9:8

Baby Boomers Celebrate



The St. Michael Baby boomers celebrate good music, good food and good friends at their 60th birthday celebration.

School Supplies for Children in Need

In August, St. Michael is collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork and Lafayette-Elliston Elementary Schools.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissue
Black and White Composition Notebooks	
3-ring Binders	

All supplies will be welcome. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

Backpack Blessing on August 20

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 20. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.

Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary

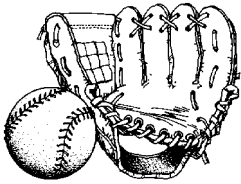


St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork on Wednesday, August 16. If you would be interested in helping, you can sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin.

St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working the game at the booth, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin or talk with Carol Crawford at 961-5733.

Softball Season a Success



The softball team would like to thank the St. Michael fans for their support and loyalty throughout the season. The team finished with a 6-8 record and great memories of well-played games and fine fellowship in the dugout. Team members who played in at least one game include Doug and Jody Smiley, Tim and Travis Turman, Jeff Birch, Dean Trimble, Randy Robinson, Chris Dowdy, J.D. Robinson, Hank Schneider, Jerry Rigsbee, David Gilham, Mickey McGuigan, Scott McGuigan, Dominic Holmes, William Allen and Pastor John.



Boy Scout Troop Begins at St. Michael



Boy Scout Troop 158 will begin meeting at St. Michael this fall. The Troop Planning Committee is being led by Ben Crawford. If you would be interested in serving as Scoutmaster or would like more information about Boy Scouts, please talk to Ben Crawford at 961-5733 or ben.crawford@vt.edu or Bob Brown at 552-8141 or rbrown@triplecom.net. The Scoutmaster needs to be willing to meet with boys ages 11 through 17 once a week and take them on monthly outings. Experience in scouting is helpful, but not required.

Thoughts from our Missionaries in Malawi

Malawi, Africa was amazing. "The Heart of Africa" was their slogan and boy did they live up to that slogan. We were touched by the joy of the people we met and their deep love of Christ. The people had a hope and peace that passes all understanding. Considering that they lived in a place that had so little, they had rich, full lives. Malawi is a poor country which needs help with health care, education and food. The programs that the Lutheran Church in Malawi have set up are wonderful and will help provide for some of these needs, but with support from fellow Christians they will be able to do much more. Some of their pastors serve up to 14 congregations and need bikes and bike parts to be able to travel to those congregations. Villages need wells to provide fresh water for their people and there are programs to adopt a young person to help them get an education. Finally, they need prayers that their joy and peace and hope continue to grow and spread. It was a trip of a lifetime and one I will never forget and I hope will make again.

Kris Wertz

IN THREE WEEKS TIME

I was privileged to spend two weeks in Malawi and two days at Roanoke College.

What I have seen with my eyes in Malawi - - Is gratitude.

What I saw was the children's beautiful faces.

What I saw in the eyes of the woman I danced with, - - Was Christ.

What I saw at Roanoke College Friday morning

Was illness, concern, and sadness.

What I saw from Bishop Mauney was tears.

What I saw from the Power In The Spirit participants

Was the caring of Christ.

What I heard in Malawi was lovely, beautiful singing.

What I heard from Bishop Bvumbwe and the people,
was hope.

What I heard from our Malawian friends was gratitude.

What I heard from the director of Power in The Spirit,

Was love and dedication.

What I heard from Bishop Mauney, was

gratitude for God's servant, Pastor Walter Vierling.

What I heard from the speakers and participants,

Was acceptance and gratefulness to God for all things,
Especially for the life of Pastor Walter Vierling.

Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Karen Mayer



Be A Part of a 2 to 1 Choir

Do you enjoy singing, but can't make it to a weekly choir practice? If so, then the **2 to 1 Choir** is for you. A **2 to 1 Choir** will practice for two weeks and then sing on the following Sunday. The participants in the **2 to 1 Choir** will change each month, so one month it will be a Men's Choir, the next month it might be a Children's Choir. Practices will be held on Wednesday Nights either before or after the weekly choir practice. The first group to sing will be the **2 to 1 Men's Choir**. The **2 to 1 Choir** schedule for the year is listed below. For more information about the **2 to 1 Choirs**, contact Donita Moore at domoore1@vt.edu.

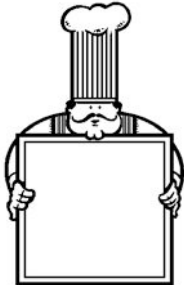
2006 – 2007 2 to 1 Choir Schedule

September 17	2 to 1 Men's Choir
October 15	2 to 1 Mixed Quartet
November 19	2 to 1 Women's Chorus
December 17	2 to 1 Kid's Choir
January 21	2 to 1 Men's Choir
February 18	2 to 1 Mixed Quartet
March 18	2 to 1 Women's Chorus
April 15	2 to 1 Men's Choir
May 27	2 to 1 Kid's Choir

11 AM Service Choir Begins Practice on September 6 at 7 p.m.

The 11 AM Service Choir, which provides music leadership for our services each week, will begin practice on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:45 p.m. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to come and share their gifts as a part of the choir. For more information about the 11 AM Service Choir, please contact Donita Moore at domoore1@vt.edu.

Recipes still needed



We are compiling a St. Michael cookbook and need copies of your favorite recipes. No, they don't have to be original gourmet creations – just recipes for favorite casseroles, salads, and desserts or other dishes that you like to make for your family and friends. You can leave the recipes in the box in the hallway or give them to Betty Gross, Carol Crawford, Fay Walters or Carla Schwertz, the “Cookbook Committee.” Please share your favorites with the St. Michael family by August 31.