

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Wordshops and the Book of James

I'm convinced that God is calling God's people to a life of discipleship - a life of following Jesus. This life of discipleship begins in the waters of baptism and continues to grow and change throughout our lives. As a congregation, God calls us to be the place where God's people are equipped for this life of following Jesus. To begin to answer this call to discipleship more fully, I will begin teaching a series of classes called *WORDshops* and begin a sermon series on the Book of James.

Tools for a Life of Faith *WORDshops* offer practical tips and ideas for growing in your relationship with God. Each *WORDshop* will focus on an aspect of a life of faith. The **first *WORDshop* will be on Prayer on Wednesday, September 13**, followed by Giving on October 11 and Service on November 8. *WORDshops* on Reading the Bible, Nurturing Relationships and Worship will take place on January 10, February 7 and March 7. You are invited to come for a light supper at 6 PM and the *WORDshop* will run from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.. Child care is provided. The *WORDshops* are based on the book "Real Faith for Real Life" by Pastor Mike Foss. If you are interested in learning more about any of the tools discussed in the *WORDshops*, you can borrow a copy of the book from the church. Sign up on the "Welcome" form or talk to Pastor John for more information.

On Sunday, September 3, I will begin a five week **sermon series** based on our reading from the Book of James. The series entitled "Beyond Belief" will focus on deepening our lives of faith and growing in our response to God's love for us. A series of daily and weekly devotional materials on James will be available at worship each week to help you continue your focus on James.

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 Fran Shepherd and Bob Brown for weeding and trimming our grounds; to Margaret Larson and Shirley Linkous for helping with the September newsletter mailing; to Andrea Sharpe who organized the **Price’s Fork Teachers Breakfast** and all who brought food: Andrea, Judy Clemens, Angela Peterson, Pat Smith, Dianne Krallman, Fran Sheppherd, Shannon Rigsbee, Alice Schneider, the Wertz family, Ann Surface and Burn and Betty Gross; to all the volunteers at the **Price’s Fork Fair**: Shannon Rigsbee, Fran Gallimore, Carol Crawford, Kris Wertz, Nancy Franz, Betty Gross, Carol Bland, Dianne Krallman, Linda Elliott and Pastor John. With your help, the church gave away nearly 100 Bible activity books, several Bibles and offered free face painting and games for youth in our community. Thank you for using your gifts to make Christ known in our community.

To everyone who brought school supplies for needy children. We provided 12 backpacks (7 filled with supplies); 12 pencil boxes, 10 3-ring binders, 14 rulers, 29 bottles of glue, 80 glue sticks, 141 spiral notebooks, 3 composition notebooks, 95 folders, 47 boxes of crayons, 11 scissors, 34 packages of colored pencils, 14 boxes of markers, 390 pencils, 60+ pens, 45 packages of notebook paper, and other assorted supplies. The supplies were delivered to very grateful teachers at Elliston-Lafayette and Price’s Fork Elementary Schools. Thrivent also provided two \$200 Wal-Mart gift certificates for the schools to purchase extra supplies as needed.



Dottie Cottrill, principal of Price’s Fork, Pastor and Sharon Robinson, secretary



Alice Schneider, Linda Elliott and Pastor sort the school supplies

A very nice “**Thank You**” from **Price’s Fork Elementary School** for the Back to School Breakfast is posted in the front hallway at the church.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided music licenses, family and youth program supplies, 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 August, we provided assistance with electric bills for six families and rent for a seventh 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.

Welcome



We welcome our newest member, Nancy Franz, to St. Michael. Nancy joined St. Michael because she loves the sense of community and spirit of the congregation. She moved to Blacksburg from New Hampshire by way of New York and Wisconsin to be a Program Development Specialist and Professor for Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech. Her husband Bill Gahnz and their cat, Bayfield, have joined her as they discover their new life in Blacksburg enjoying silent sports like hiking in the mountains.

We also welcome our newest nursery assistant, Heather Wright, a psychology major at Virginia Tech. Heather, who also works at the Infant Perception Lab and Child Studies Center at Virginia Tech, joins Carrie Draper on our nursery staff.

Receiving New Members on September 24

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, September 24 at both services. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

St. Michael Day Homecoming Picnic on September 24

The St. Michael Day Homecoming Picnic will take place on September 24 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited to bring a friend and a dish to share as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael.



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2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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September Servants

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Stephen Bohn	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Doug and Jody Smiley			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Daniel Crowder		Karen Mayer	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Sandy Birch	Jody Smiley	Kris Wertz	Andrea Sharpe
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	Fay and Cliff Walters	Ted and Angela Peterson	Tschetter family	
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Jeff Birch	Kris Wertz	Hank Schneider	Shannon Rigsbee
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Gary Worley Ray Howell	Bob and Peggy Brown James Pascoe Burn Gross	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jay and Isaac Nagle	Randy Robinson Steve and Vickie Mouras J.D. Robinson

Mowing schedule: Jim Clemens (9/2 – front); Jay Nagle (9/9 back); Doug Smiley (9/16– front; Sam Akers (9/23 - back); Jim Clemens (9/30 – front)



Women of the ELCA

All women of St. Michael are invited to the first fall meeting on September 21 at 7 p.m. at the home of Kris Wertz. Kris will share her experiences from Malawi this summer. She returned with lots of pictures, memories and inspiring stories for us.

Twenty-four ladies enjoyed an entertaining dinner at the Kabuki restaurant on August 17.

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

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In September, 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.



In September and October, the WELCA members at St. Michael will be encouraging our congregation **to fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. The reservation is located in the poorest county in the United States, where family income averages \$3,700 and unemployment is 93%. Many families live in tents or old cars. As part of the American Indian Ministry, we will also be sponsoring a **bed project** for the reservation. We will encourage the congregation to donate funds for a bed and bedding for one family. The Christmas boxes and bed donations will be brought to the annual Fall Gathering on October 15 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Christiansburg. Last year, we donated 32 Christmas boxes and \$351 towards a bed. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and 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 Cor. 9:8

A Thank You

I would like to thank Jane Lane and Jenny Akers for knitting my beautiful prayer shawl. Thank you also to all my St. Michael friends for all you do for me.

Sincerely, Leona Criner

Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast on Friday, September 22



All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Friday, September 22 at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Note the new time and new day.** We will enjoy a wonderful breakfast, review Virginia Tech's football successes, and plan for our fall mission project: such as serving a meal at the Rescue Mission in Roanoke and serving at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. For more information, contact Jeff Birch at jbirch@vt.edu or at 951-3455

Happy-Go-Lucky

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, September 14, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and program led by Pastor John. He will talk about "Passing on Your Faith", sharing the faith lessons you've learned with those you love. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier.



On October 12, we've invited the current principal of Price's Fork Elementary School, Dollie Cottrill, and the first principal, Eugene Peyton, as our guests. They will share their memories and experiences at Price's Fork. Many of our happy-go-lucky members may have stories to share as well.

Help Finishing FaithChests

As mentioned in the Pastor's note in August, one tool for a life of faith that St. Michael will soon offer is a **FaithChest**. The FaithChest will provide a place for the newly baptized and their family to keep memories from a life of faith (baptismal candle, certificates, etc) and a way for older adults to share a lifetime of faith, family histories and stories with the next generation. We will soon have the first set of FaithChests that will need to be finished. If you would like to help stain and finish a FaithChest, please talk to Pastor John or sign up on the "Welcome" form.

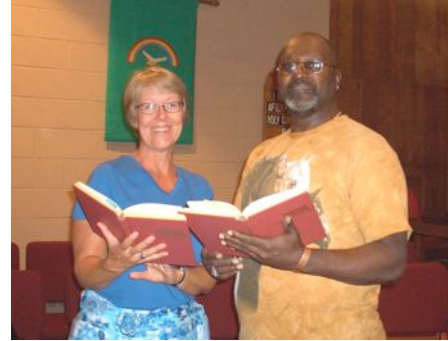
Facilities Task Force

At the August meeting, the Congregational Council decided to appoint a Facilities Task Force to evaluate our current facilities and make recommendations about future facility needs and maintenance. Ben Crawford, Cindy Dowdy, Don Linkous, Sharon Robinson, Carla Schwertz, Jody Smiley, Doug Veit and Pastor John will serve on the Task Force which will begin meeting in September. For more information about the work of Task Force, please speak with Pastor John.

Make a Joyful Noise

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all you people. Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing!

Anyone who likes to sing and would be willing to serve God through leading in worship is invited to be a member of the choir. This fall, the St. Michael Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. For more information about the Choir contact Donita at: moore@pathwayacademy.us. The **Men's 2 for 1 Choir** will be singing on September 17. Donita will contact members regarding practice times.



Carol Bland and Mack Brown share one of their favorite hymns with the congregation during worship service.

ChoirChimes Are Coming!

Thanks to a gift in memory of Clairmont Clemens, St. Michael will soon be getting a three octave set of ChoirChimes. ChoirChimes are fun, easy to play instruments that are similar to handbells. The instruments can be played by everyone from kids to adults and the best part is you don't have to be an accomplished musician to play. Watch for more information in the bulletin about how you can start playing ChoirChimes.

Friends with Flowers

Friends with Flowers is a new interdenominational volunteer group whose mission is to provide a weekly bouquet of fresh flowers to each hospice patient in the New River Valley. They use in-season flowers from their own gardens as well as flowers from formal floral arrangements at churches. Any one at St. Michael who desires to donate their altar flowers may do so by contacting Linda Elliott at 552-3554. With your donations you will lift the spirits and brighten the days of terminally ill patients in our area.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Dorothy and Brian Birch on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Lee on August 23. Proud grandparents are Jeff and Sandy Birch and Scott and Di Clifford. Abbey weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. with lots of brown hair and dark blue eyes.





New Red Hymnals

At the last ELCA National Assembly, the church approved a new hymnal for ELCA congregations. Unlike previous hymnals that provided all new resources, the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (ELW) seeks to combine current resources and new resources into one hymnal. The new ELW Hymnals will be available in October and the Council has approved purchasing them for St. Michael.

- LBW Setting I and Setting II are included in the ELW which means we will not need to learn new service music.
- The ELW contains 189 of the 209 hymns we have used over the last two years. Of the 20 hymns not included in the new hymnal, only 9 are recognizable hymns and we have a copyright license that will allow us to continue to use those hymns in worship.
- With the ELW we will no longer have to shuffle two worship books and it will free up space to place Bibles in the pew racks.
- We will be keeping all of the WOV Hymnals and about 30 of the LBW, but anyone who gave an LBW in memory or in honor of someone is invited to take that hymnal home once the new hymnals arrive.
- The hymnals will be paid for by a combination of individual donations and existing memorial funds.
- The cost for a hymnal is \$17.50 (after October 2 the cost will be \$20). If you would like to purchase a hymnal for your personal use, you can do so through the church. A Hymnal Order form is in the Sunday bulletin.

Blessing of the Animals on October 1 at 3 PM

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 1 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. The Blessing of Animals is generally held on October 4, the day that the church remembers St. Francis of Assisi or somewhere near that date. This service gives Christians an opportunity to give thanks to God for our pets who bring us joy and offer us unconditional love. To keep some semblance of harmony and order at this service, please maintain control of your animal. Do not let your pet roam free, even if he or she is well-behaved. :) Also, please tend to any necessary clean up.

Cats In Need Of A Home

A couple of abandoned cats were found near the church and have been nursed back to health by Donita Moore. Donita is now looking to find new homes for the cats. If you are interested in adopting a cat, please talk to Donita one Sunday after worship.

All New Youth Night Begins September 20

On Wednesday, September 20 at 6 p.m., St. Michael will have the first Youth Night with programs for youth from Kindergarten to Senior High. We will all gather for dinner at 6 p.m. and then we will split into three different groups.

Kid's Night will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade. If you would like more information about Kid's Night, contact Jody at esmiley@vt.edu.



Confirmation for youth from 6th through 8th Grade will be taught by Pastor John and will offer a chance to have fun while learning more about what we believe as people of God. For more information about Confirmation, contact Pastor John at stmlc@earthlink.net.

The new **Senior High Youth Group** for 9th through 12th Grade will be led by Carrie Mayer and will provide an opportunity for fun and service. If you would like more information about the Senior High Youth group, contact Carrie at cmayer@mail.mcps.org.

The **September to May Youth Night Schedule** (meeting every other Wednesday) is available through the on-line church calendar at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

We are still looking for someone to **coordinate meals** for Youth Night. If you are interested in help coordinate the meals or if you would be willing to provide a meal for Youth Night, please talk with Pastor John.

New Sunday School Year Begins on September 10 at 9:50 AM

St. Michael will kick off the Sunday School year on September 10 at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary with a time of songs and celebration. There will be classes for youth from infants to Senior High and an Adult Class taught by Pastor John. Make plans to come and be a part of Sunday School at St. Michael as we seek to learn more about God's love for us.