

# 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)

---

Volume 29, Number 10

October 1, 2006

## Serving, Growing and Sharing

**Serving** - If you look carefully at the October Servants on the back of the newsletter, you will notice three new opportunities for service at St. Michael. We are adding a Youth Servant each Sunday. These youth help pick up bulletins and straighten the sanctuary after worship. In addition to the youth servants, we now have Greeters and Worship Assistants at the 9 AM Service. Thank you to these new servants and to everyone who uses their gifts and talents to support the worship ministry of St. Michael.

**Growing** - Thanks to God's grace and your generous support, the ministry of St. Michael is growing. The early service now averages about 37 people per Sunday in worship and the 11 AM Service averages between 90 and 100 people per Sunday in worship. Sunday School is off to a wonderful start averaging nearly 40 people per Sunday and more people than ever are participating in the various small groups and ministries of the congregation.

**Sharing** - From Christmas Boxes to a Papua New Guinea Project to Canned Food for the Food Bank, there are several opportunities listed in the newsletter for you to share your gifts with people in need. While I realize that no one can do everything, I encourage you to find a project that touches your heart and share your gifts in that area. In addition, you will soon receive a letter and an Estimate of Giving card from St. Michael. Please take a few moments to read the letter, think about the ways that God has blessed your life and respond by sharing your blessings as God has blessed you. We will receive the Estimates of Giving as a part of worship on Sunday, October 22.

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 Gallimore for providing music for the 9 a.m. service; Sandy Birch and Shannon Rigsbee for serving as worship assistants at the 9 a.m. worship service in September; the 2 for 1 Men’s Choir who shared their special music on September 10; to Debra Schneider Stafford and Carol Schneider Noyes for donating their dollhouses to raise funds for our Papua New Guinea sisters; to Brownie Troop 737 for planting flowers at the church; to the volunteers who set up and cleaned up after our St. Michael Day Picnic; and to our Sunday School teachers and music leaders, Cindy Dowdy, Kris Wertz, Kim Lehman, Sandy Birch, Dianne Krallman, Jody Smiley, Lorin Crowder, Donita Moore and Pastor John.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided Sunday School curricula, 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 September, we provided assistance with electric bills for three families, a water bill for one family, rent for three more families and assistance with a second grade project at Prices Fork Elementary School. 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.

Thank you to everyone who has **contributed their altar flowers to the Friends with Flowers program**. We have helped provide fresh bouquets weekly to nearly 60 hospice patients in the New River Valley. We continue to pray for the patients, their families and care givers, and all the Friends with Flowers volunteers. If you would like to contribute your flowers in the future, please contact Linda Elliott at 552-3554 or Sandy Birch at [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu).



### Thank you from Elliston-Lafayette

*Dear members of St. Michael Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for the \$200 gift card and school supplies for our children. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all of us. This will help to ensure our children begin the school year with all their necessary tools.*

*Thanks again,  
Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School Staff  
Denise Boyle, Principal*

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

<p><b>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</b></p>
--

## *October Servants*

	<b>October 1</b>	<b>October 8</b>	<b>October 15</b>	<b>October 22</b>	<b>October 29</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan	Sarah Crowder
<b>Altar Care</b>	Alice Noonkester and Inga Solberg				
<b>Comm. Assts.</b>	D. Krallman		Bob Brown		Carol Crawford
<b>Christ's Kids</b>	Jody Smiley	Kris Wertz	Sandy Birch	Andrea Sharpe	Tacey Apisa
<b>Youth Servants</b>	Corson Wertz	Matt Sharpe	Katy McGuigan	Will Sharpe	Matt Sharpe
<b>Fellowship</b>		Wertz family			
<b>9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters</b>	Tschettters	Carla Schwertz and Charlene Harris Robinson family		Walters Jr. family	
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Lori Sheppard	Kelsey Trimble	Jay Nagle	Cindy Dowdy	Hank Schneider
<b>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</b>	Sandy Birch	Lori Sheppard	Shannon Rigsbee	Sara Bohn	Lori Sheppard
<b>Ushers</b>	Sam Akers Jeff Birch Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd	Jay Nagle James Pascoe Burn Gross M. McGuigan	Ben and Grace Simmers Philip Isenhour Don Linkous	J.D. Robinson Dave and Ann Surface Ray Howell	Bob and Peggy Brown R. Robinson Jeff Birch

Mowing schedule: Jay Nagle (10/7 – back); Doug Smiley (10/14 – front); Sam Akers (10/21 – back); Jim Clemens (10/28 – front)



## Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Rd in Blacksburg). All women are invited.

**Remember the Food Bank:** Any kind of non-perishable food is welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** We will be collecting items for babies, though any donation of personal health care items and cleaning supplies is always welcome.

**The Birthday Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 19.** The sign-up form for table hosts is now posted on the hallway bulletin board. Hosts are asked to provide a birthday cake (or pie or cookie) and decorate the birthday table. Party favors and other individual treats are not necessary to keep things simple and inexpensive.



In October, the WELCA members at St. Michael will be encouraging our congregation to **fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children (ages 4-6) in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. 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. Last year, we donated 32 Christmas boxes and \$351 towards a bed. Special envelopes for the bed offering will be provided October 1 and 8.

### A Dollhouse for Papua New Guinea

In October and November, the Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring a raffle for a lovely two-story dollhouse which is on display at church. For a donation of \$1 (or 6 chances for \$5; 13 chances for \$10), you will have the opportunity to win the house. All proceeds from the raffle will be sent to our sisters in Papua New Guinea to help build a new computer center to help raise literacy skills for the women and youth in our sister congregations. Raffle tickets will be on sale after each worship service in October through November 19. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Birthday Dinner on November 19.



### WELCA New River Conference Fall Gathering

Sunday, October 15 at 1 p.m. at Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Potluck salad luncheon followed by a program on the American Indian Ministry

All women are invited for fellowship with our sisters from other Lutheran congregations.

## **WORDshop on Giving**

**Tools for a Life of Faith WORDshops** offer practical tips and ideas for growing in your relationship with God. Each *WORDshop* will focus on one aspect of a life of faith. There will be a **WORDshop on Giving** on Wednesday, October 11. You are invited to come for a light supper at 6 p.m. 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 to St. Michael” form or talk to Pastor John for more information.

## **Dinner With Friends**

The *Dinner with Friends* group for 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings will be having dinner at Shakers in Christiansburg on Sunday, October 22 at 6 p.m. Sign-up on the “Welcome” form or talk to Pastor John for more information. Child care will be provided at the church.

## **Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast on Friday, October 20**



All the men of the congregation are invited to the Men’s Breakfast on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a wonderful breakfast and confirm our mission projects such as serving a meal at the Rescue Mission in Roanoke on Sunday, January 28 and serving at the Montgomery County Christmas Store (week of December 4). For more information, contact Jeff Birch at [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu) or at 951-3455.

All men of the church are asked to **contribute used clothing and shoes** for the Rescue Mission. A collection box is in the church hallway. Everything is needed in every size: coats, sweatshirts, T-shirts, pants ....even underwear.

## **Happy-Go-Lucky**

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, October 12, at 11:30 a.m. 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 tell as well. Bring a friend and a dish to share.



## **Youth Night for K – 12 on Wednesdays, October 4 and 18**

On Wednesdays, October 4 and October 18 at 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Nights 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade. For information about Kid's Night, contact Jody at [esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu).

**Confirmation** for youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade is taught by Pastor John and offers 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 [stm1c@earthlink.net](mailto:stm1c@earthlink.net).

The new **Senior High Youth Group** for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade is led by Carrie Mayer and provides 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](mailto:cmayer@mail.mcps.org).

## **Youth Service Project**

The Senior High Youth Group and the Confirmation Group will be helping with the YMCA Book Fair on Saturday, October 7 from 10 a.m. until Noon. If you are interested in being a part of this service project, call Carrie Mayer at 961-2533 or sign up on the "Welcome" form.

## **Lost and Found 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Retreat**

All youth in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to *Lost and Found*, a youth retreat sponsored by the Virginia Synod, November 17-19 at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg. The cost for the retreat is \$25. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

## **Akaloo – Following Jesus in Sunday School**

Come discover Akaloo at Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:50 a.m. Akaloo is taken from the greek word that means "to follow" and it is the name of our new Sunday School material. Akaloo tries to connect faith with everyday life and starts by inviting you to discover the Bible. You can learn more about Akaloo by visiting: <http://learner.akaloo.org/>. On the site, you can play games connected to this Sunday's lesson and you can also find fun, family activities. Contact Pastor John for login information.

## **Calling All Boys Ages 11-18**

Boy Scout Troop 158 is forming at St. Michael. The troop meets each Thursday from 7:15 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Jan Helge Bohn is the Scout Master and Marlon Harris is the Assistant Scout Master. All boys ages 11 through 18 are eligible for membership. Scout Master Bohn can be contacted at 951-2080.

## Make a Joyful Noise

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. The **St. Michael Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. and is already practicing the new Christmas cantata. This seasonal music is especially beautiful and meaningful. For more information about the Choir contact Donita at: [dmoore@pathwayacademy.us](mailto:dmoore@pathwayacademy.us). New choir members are welcome at any time. The 2 for 1 Men's Choir shared their love of old hymns at a recent service.



## Congratulations to....

Ingrid Solberg and Matthew Van Eps who were married on September 2 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Ingrid is the daughter of Inga and Todd Solberg.



Iris and Don Moore who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 8. Don and Iris are the parents of Donita Moore and Jaid's grandparents.

## Welcome New Members

On Sunday, September 24, we welcomed **Jeanette Pasier, Betty Falta, Chris and Amanda Quesinberry** to the St. Michael family.



The Pasier family moved from Palmer, Alaska to Blacksburg last summer. Mark is the Director for Human Resources for Montgomery County Public Schools and Jeanette is a Teaching Assistant at Eastern Montgomery High School. They have been enjoying Virginia Tech football and look forward to being a part of the St. Michael church family.

Another Virginia Tech football fan, Betty Falta, moved to Blacksburg after retiring from 32 years of teaching elementary school in both Florida and New York. She enjoys gardening and raising beagles.



Amanda and Chris Quesinberry have lived in Blacksburg for 6 1/2 years. Chris, who works at The Inn at Virginia Tech, is originally from Floyd while Amanda, a Carroll County native, is a pharmacist with Kroger at University Mall. Their hobbies include target shooting with a bow. Chris also enjoys hunting, fishing and drawing and Amanda likes to run and enjoys scrap booking.