

## 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 Daniel Crowder for sharing his talent on the tenor sax; Carol Crawford and Alice Noonkester for cleaning the kitchen; Linda Elliott for assisting with bulletins and mailings; Jody Smiley, Kris Wertz, and Carrie Mayer for planning and helping with Youth Nights; Ted and Angela Peterson and Jeanette Pasier for setting up food for Youth Nights.

**Thank you to everyone who estimated their giving for 2007.** With your help, St. Michael will be able to more accurately plan for our ministry in the coming year.

**Thank you to everyone who donated a new hymnal.** The hymnals have been ordered and should be arriving in the next few weeks. Watch the bulletin for information about when the new hymnals will be dedicated.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in October provided music supplies, conference registrations, 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 October, we provided assistance with an electric bill for one family, rent for two families, assistance with funeral expenses for a fourth family and eyeglasses for a young child. The Kroger Gift card program added \$286 to the fund. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to Justice and Mercy and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

### Some Thank You Notes

*Dear Pastor John and the Members of St. Michael Lutheran Church:*

*We want to again say a special thank you for helping our school! Book bags, filled with supplies, pencils, paper, gluesticks,— the list goes on and on. This LARGE donation of school supplies that you made to Price’s Fork Elementary School at the beginning of the school year will allow our children to have what they need to be able to better learn throughout the school year. Please accept our deepest thanks to you and your congregation for being so generous and so thoughtful. We are thankful to live in a generous community, but to also be in a community that is thoughtful enough to ask what is needed is a joy. We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children.*

*Sincerely, Dollie Cottrill, Principal and The Price’s Fork Faculty and Staff*

I want to thank Pastor John for being with me when I needed him and to thank all of you for your lovely cards, for your phone calls and most of all I thank you for all your prayers. No wonder I got along so well. Thanks for being so caring and being there for me when I needed you most. Love, Leona

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

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***November Servants***

	<b>November 5</b>	<b>November 12</b>	<b>November 19</b>	<b>November 26</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Bob and Peggy Brown			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Jody Smiley		David Surface	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Tacey Apisa	Andrea Sharpe	Sandy Birch
<i>Youth Servants</i>	Corson Wertz	Elizabeth Berg	Matt Sharpe	Will Sharpe
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	Amy and Steve Woods		Henderson and Shirley Linkous	
	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Jenny Akers	Steve Mouras	Fred Spengler	Jeff Birch
<i>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</i>	Sandy Birch	Sara Bohn	Shannon Rigsbee	Ted Peterson
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd	Hank Schneider M. McGuigan Ben and Grace Simmers	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Randy Robinson Ray Howell	Gary Worley Steve and Vickie Mouras J.D. Robinson

Mowing schedule: Jay Nagle (11/04 – back); Doug Smiley (11/11 – front); Sam Akers (11/18 – back)



## Women of the ELCA

In October, our congregation provided 39 gift filled shoe boxes for children in the Head Start program on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Along with seven other congregations in the New River Conference, we provided over 100 shoebox gifts. Additional offerings of \$300 for postage were also donated.

As part of the ONE Spirit Indian Ministry, we sponsored a “Buy-a-Bed” project for the reservation. St. Michael members contributed \$385, with total offerings from the eight New River congregations totaling \$1,155. Two queen size beds with appropriate bedding will be purchased. **Thank you to all who participated in this important ministry.**

### **Mom and Dad gifts for the Montgomery County Christmas Store**

The Christmas Store provides a children’s Gift Store where children can shop for their parents. Often, these are the only gifts that the parents receive. We invite the congregation to donate unwrapped gift items through December 3. Appropriate gifts might include flashlights, tools, after shave lotion, perfume, candles, kitchen towels...gifts that cost less than \$5. We might all have a few gifts around the house that we could share. Thank you.

**Remember the Food Bank:** November is SOUP month, though any non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women’s Resource Center:** New and used towels and new and used twin-sized bed sheets are welcome.

**The Birthday Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 19** after the 11 a.m. service. All are welcome to share a lunch of ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad...and of course, delicious birthday cakes provided by the hosts of each birthday month table. Join the St. Michael family for fun and fellowship. A free will offering will benefit the Widow’s Fund in Malawi, Africa.



### **A Dollhouse for Papua New Guinea**



The WELCA will be sponsoring a raffle for a lovely two-story dollhouse (and some furniture) which is on display in the narthex. 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 build a new computer center for women and youth in our sister congregations. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Birthday Dinner on November 19.

## **Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast on Friday, November 17**



The St. Michael Men in Mission has already planned two projects for the year, with more likely to follow. The two projects are serving at the Christmas Store and serving at the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

At the Christmas Store, we will be helping customers place their items in their cars and returning the carts to the store. Our day will be Saturday, December 9 (a very busy day), working in shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Our service to the Roanoke Rescue Mission will involve working in the kitchen and serving food to over 200 guests. We are scheduled to serve on Sunday, January 28, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar. This will be the first time members of St. Michael have served at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Members of the High School Youth group and the WELCA will be joining us.

The Rescue Mission desperately needs men's clothing of all types, including underwear, socks, shirts, pants, gloves, coats. Any item is acceptable so long as it is wearable and clean. Over 200 men sleep at the Mission nightly and all of them need clothing. There is a box in the hallway where you can place your items. We will be collecting up through January 28 and have already received over ten big bags of clothing – thank you!

If you have questions about these projects or ideas for new projects, please contact Jeff Birch (951-3455) or Pastor John.

The next meeting of our Men in Mission group is Friday, November 17 at 7:30 a.m. at the church. Please come for breakfast, fellowship, scripture reading and discussion, and to help plan our future activities.

### **Mission Trip to Louisiana**

The VT Lutheran Student Movement is planning a mission trip to Louisiana in March 2007 and is looking for skilled workers to accompany them on the trip. If you are skilled at framing, electrical work, dry wall or in other construction related areas, your help is greatly needed. For more information about this mission trip, please talk with Pastor John.

### **Pictorial Directories Coming Soon**

St. Michael's new pictorial directories are currently being printed and will be distributed in November.

## Happy-Go-Lucky

“going once...going twice...” The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, November 9, at 11:30 a.m. for our annual White Elephant auction, with all proceeds sent to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Bring some wild and crazy items for sale and lots of change. Bring a dish to share for our potluck lunch preceding the auction too.



The H-G-L members are also sponsoring a special collection for the Christmas Store: toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap. The store hopes to give one each of these items to every shopper at the store. The collection box is in the narthex.

### Christmas Show at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater

The Happy-Go-Lucky group is sponsoring a trip to the Wohlfahrt Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 3, to see a matinee performance of “My Favorite Things.” The cost for the performance, which includes a meal, is \$34 per person. We will leave right after the 11 a.m. church service that day and transportation will be provided. For more information about the trip or to reserve your spot, call Pastor John at 951-8951 or sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form in worship.

### 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. For more information about the choir contact Donita at: [dmoore@pathwayacademy.us](mailto:dmoore@pathwayacademy.us). New choir members are welcome at any time.

If you enjoy singing, come and sing in the **2 to 1 Ladies Choir in November**. The Choir will practice twice during the month and then sing on one Sunday in November. Watch the bulletin for practice times and dates. For more information, contact Donita.

**Adult and youth ChoirChime choirs** are also forming at St. Michael. ChoirChimes are easy to play instruments that are similar to handbells. The best part is you don't have to be an accomplished musician to play. The choirs practice on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (youth) and 7:45 p.m. (adult). To participate in this new musical program, contact Donita or sign up on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form. The schedule is listed on the November calendar.

### Welcome to New 9 a.m. Service Pianist

Katie Beck is the new 9 a.m. pianist. Katie has been a resident of Blacksburg for a little more than a year, where she works full time as a speech therapist. She originally hails from Western Pennsylvania, where most of her family still resides. Music has always been important in her life, and she is elated to be able to share the gift that God has given her with others. She is very excited to become a part of the St. Michael community! Welcome Katie!

## Youth Night for K – 12 on Wednesdays, November 1, 15, 29

On Wednesdays, November 1, 15 and 29 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 [stmlc@earthlink.net](mailto:stmlc@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).

**St. Michael Youth at Adventure World** – All 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to go to Adventure World on Sunday, November 12 from 2 PM until 5 PM for an afternoon of skating and games. The approximate cost for all the activities is \$20. Talk to Carrie for more information or to sign up.

**Akaloo Sunday School Website:** <http://learner.akaloo.org/>  
User Name: stmlcstudent                      Password: student

### Party with a Purpose



The Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 6 p.m. at church. We'll share a meal with the participants in Youth Night and then prepare all the Christmas boxes and other gifts for mailing to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We need lots of "Santa's helpers." All in the congregation are welcome to help.

### Holiday Helpers

To help families prepare for the holidays, St. Michael will offer two Holiday Helper events. The Women of the ELCA and the Senior High Youth will provide child care so that parents in the congregation can do holiday shopping and preparations. The first Holiday Helper will be on November 19 following the Birthday Dinner until 4 p.m.. The second Holiday Helper will be scheduled for December. Sign up using the "Welcome" form in the bulletin or talk with Sandy Birch ([birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information.

## Service of Prayer for Healing on November 5



On Sunday, November 5, St. Michael will have a Service of Prayer for Healing. In the rite of healing, the church does not seek to replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community nor does it promise a cure. Rather, the church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

## WORDshop on November 8

**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 Service** on Wednesday, November 8. 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.

## New Members To Be Received November 12

St. Michael will be receiving new members on Sunday, November 12 at both services. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk with Pastor John as soon as possible

## Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 21

The Thanksgiving Service will be on **Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m.** to give people who travel and people who are preparing for St. Michael's Thanksgiving Meal the opportunity to participate in the service. Make plans to come and give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner On Thursday, November 23

Our annual community dinner will be held at 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. Donations of pies, gelatin salads, and money for the turkeys and fixings will be requested during the first Sundays in November. We will also need helpers in the kitchen, servers, and drivers. Let's all make a special effort to invite those in the community who may not have family in the area. Invitations will be available in the narthex for distribution and posting.....spread the word!



## Advent Services and Suppers begin December 6

**Advent Services and Soup Suppers begin December 6** for Luther Memorial and St. Michael congregations. Supper will be at 6 p.m. with worship beginning at 6:45 p.m. at Luther Memorial on December 6 and 20 and at St. Michael on December 13.

## **Congregational Brunch and Meeting on December 10**



St. Michael will have a congregational brunch and meeting on Sunday, December 10 at 10 a.m. to approve the Spending Plan for 2007, elect new council members, and to consider both constitutional amendments and a constitutional bylaw. Bring a dish to share and come be a part of this congregational meeting.

### **Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Establish Mission Endowment Fund**

The Council is recommending several amendments to the constitution to allow St. Michael to establish a Mission Endowment Fund. The purpose of the mission endowment fund will be to provide for mission work beyond the operating budget of the congregation in the following areas of ministry: Youth and Family Ministry, Caring and Sharing Outreach Ministry, Music Ministry, Major Maintenance and Improvement, and Scholarship Funds to include the Gallimore Scholarship. The exact wording of the proposed amendment will be available following the November Council meeting.

### **Proposed Constitutional Bylaw to Protect Historic Cemetery**

The council is recommending that the congregation adopt a new constitutional bylaw to protect the historic cemetery on the church grounds. The small cemetery behind the sanctuary dates back to the original Lutheran Church that sat on the property in the 1800s and is a part of the history of the area. To ensure that the cemetery remains historic, the council recommends closing the cemetery to future burials by adopting bylaw C 16.05.

C 16.05      In order to preserve the historic nature of the cemetery on the grounds of St. Michael Lutheran Church, no further burials will be allowed on church property.

### **Bequest Received**

An undesignated bequest has been received from the estate of Janet Bryant. As outlined in our Bequest Policy, the council tithed the gift and made contributions in memory of Janet to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program and the Christmas Store. The Council is considering ways to use the remainder of the bequest to support the ministry of St. Michael. We give thanks to Janet for remembering St. Michael in her will.

### **Free Tools Available**

Tools for your life of faith are available in the yellow tool box in the fellowship hall. Take a look at these tools and please feel free to take any that you think will be helpful.