

# St. Michael Messenger

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## Giving Locally, Nationally and Internationally

When the Congregational Council met on Sunday, January 14, we received the joyous news that your generous giving had exceeded our spending in 2006 by over \$4500. As a way of giving thanks for your support of God's ministry at St. Michael, the Council decided to gift this money to help people in need by giving three gifts of \$1500 locally, nationally and internationally.

On the local level, the council transferred \$1500 to the Justice and Mercy Fund. The Justice and Mercy Fund provides assistance to people in our community who need help with things like power bills, water bills and rent. On the national level, the council authorized a \$1500 gift to Peace Lutheran Church in Slidell, Louisiana. I will deliver a portion of the money when I travel to Slidell for a mission trip in March. The rest will be given to help with the Virginia Synod's on-going support of their pastor, Barb Simmers. On the international level, the council gave \$1500 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. The check was presented to Bishop Bvumbee when he and his wife spoke to the Women of the ELCA on January 18 and will in part provide food for hundreds of hungry children.

God has made us stewards of a variety of gifts. I give thanks for your generous stewardship of God's gifts to you and for the Council's wisdom, leadership and generosity.

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 Betty Gross, Fran Gallimore and Sandy Birch for serving at the luncheon for the family of Cleo Lytton, mother of Charlene Harris, and to all who provided food; to all who set up and cleaned up after the potluck lunch with Bishop Bvumbwe; to Dean Trimble for creating DVDs and CDs of the choir’s Christmas cantata; to Dan Bowen and Wal-Mart for a \$500 donation to the Justice and Mercy fund.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported supplies for Kid’s Night and Christ’s Kids, 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 and nursery workers.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped one family purchase heating oil. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see the need.

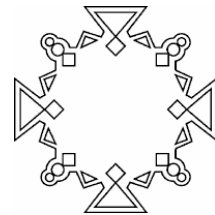
### A Thank You for the Christmas Gift Boxes

*On behalf of ONE Spirit and the Lakota people I want to personally thank you and the Lutheran churches for your part in making Christmas special for so many children on the Pine Ridge Reservation. For many the Christmas Gift Box was the only present they got. Your kind and giving heart is sincerely appreciated. If you would pass our thanks on to the others it would be most appreciated.*

*Blessings and love, Sue Allgood, Donor Services, ONE Spirit*

### When It Snows

If you wake up on Sunday morning and there is snow on the ground....watch WDBJ 7, check the church website, your email or church answering machine for service cancellations.



### March 11 is Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

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***February Servants***

	<b>February 4</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<i><b>Acolytes</b></i>	Sarah Crowder	Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan
<i><b>Altar Care</b></i>	Inga Solberg and Jennie Hodge			
<i><b>Comm. Assts.</b></i>	Steve Mouras		Sandy Birch	
<i><b>Christ's Kids</b></i>	Kris Wertz	Tacey Apisa	Andrea Sharpe	Jody Smiley
<i><b>Youth Servants</b></i>	Corson Wertz	Elizabeth Berg	Matt Sharpe	Will Sharpe
<i><b>9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters</b></i>	Walters Jr. family	Amy and Steve Woods Dean and Kelsey Trimble		Linkous family
<i><b>Lay Readers</b></i>	Vickie Mouras	Cindy Dowdy	Shannon Rigsbee	Fred Spengler
<i><b>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</b></i>	Sandy Birch	Ted Peterson	Lori Anne Sheppard	Sara Bohn
<i><b>Ushers</b></i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Ray Howell Jeff Birch	Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross J.D. Robinson	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jay Nagle Mickey McGuigan	Randy Robinson Dave and Ann Surface Dickie Shepherd

## Women of the ELCA

**The February meeting** will be held at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg) on **Tuesday**, February 13 at 7 p.m. We will be planning our programs and projects for 2007. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship and sharing of ideas for programs and projects.



On Thursday, January 18, the women of the church met with Amaya Bishop, wife of Bishop Bvumbwe of Malawi. She spoke on women's issues in Malawi including the Widows Fund and the feeding program for children. Together with sisters from Our Saviours Lutheran, Luther Memorial, and Zion Lutheran who also attended the meeting, an offering of \$170 was collected for women's projects. A check for \$1,500 from the St. Michael congregation was also presented to Bishop Bvumbwe for mission programs.

**Remember the Food Bank:** February is Italian month (spaghetti sauces, canned ravioli, etc), though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Womens Resource Center:** In February, donations of cleaning products such as dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, etc. will be appreciated.

## Lutheran Men in Mission



On January 28, the Men in Mission group and members of WELCA served dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Those participating were Pastor John, Jeff and Sandy Birch, Doug and Jody Smiley, Ben Crawford, Dave Surface, Bob and Peggy Brown, James Pascoe.

The next breakfast meeting is scheduled for Friday morning, February 9 at 7:00 a.m. at the church. We will be planning our next projects while enjoying a hearty breakfast and fine fellowship.

## Happy Go Lucky



Our first potluck and program of the new year will be Thursday, February 8 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share and a friend for fellowship.

## Youth Nights on February 14 and 28



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, February 14 and 28. We will all gather for dinner at 6 p.m. and then we will split into three different groups.

**Kid's Night**, led by Jody Smiley (esmiley@tvt.edu), will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**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.

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

## Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 4. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring \$1 to place in the Soup Pot and a can of food. The money and canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP).



## WORDshop on Nurturing Relationships on February 7

**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 Nurturing Relationships** on Wednesday, February 7. 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.

## **Filling Your Toolbox**

*Filling your Toolbox is a new article which will appear monthly in the Messenger offering practical tips and ideas for living your faith in the world.*

According to Pastor Mike Foss, there are six *Marks of Discipleship*: Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Daily Bible Reading, Service, Nurturing Relationships and Giving, which “are spiritual aids that are biblical and have grown out of the tradition of the Christian Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they can help us” find our way in a confusing and difficult world (Real Faith, Real Life, Foss, p. 4). In the coming weeks and months, select one of these marks that interests you (*not all six at once*) and grow that mark as a strength in your life of faith. Here are some tips for how you can get started.

- For daily Bible reading or daily prayer, try using the Daily Toolbox resource found on St. Michael’s website.
- For service, look for one opportunity to use your gifts to help someone else.
- For nurturing relationships, try praying for and with members of your family.
- For giving, contribute time or money to one additional cause or ministry you believe in.

## **United Lutheran Appeal**

Why have a United Lutheran Appeal (ULA)?

- because we care,
- because the nine agencies and institutions of our synod supported by this appeal serve on our behalf,
- because these ministries respond to the needs of many people – our youth, the aged, church leadership, families, and educators,
- because this once-a-year appeal takes the place of separate appeals by each of the ULA ministries: Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, Lutheran Family Services of Virginia, Chaplain Services, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, National Lutheran Home for the Aged, Lutheran Council of Tidewater, Roanoke College, Virginia Lutheran Homes.

Offering envelopes will be available for the ULA during the month of February. As Ambassadors for Christ, let us make a difference in the lives of others and give generously.

## Shrove Tuesday – February 20.....PANCAKES!!!

Shrove Tuesday is an annual celebration marking the final day before the season of Lent, a 40-day period traditionally marked by self-denial and reflection.

At St. Michael, we indulge in PANCAKES....lots and lots of pancakes and all the trimmings. Please join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.



### Lenten Service Schedule

#### Ash Wednesday Service

February 21 at 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service begin on Wednesday, February 28

Supper at 6 p.m. and Service at 6:45 p.m.

### Congratulations to our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 14 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected:

President:	Jim Clemens
Vice President:	Gary Worley
Secretary:	Tammy Veit
Financial Officer:	Kathy Albert

### Annual Meeting and Brunch, March 11 at 9:50 a.m.

On Sunday, March 11, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2006 Annual Report and the 2007 Phone Directory and we will take a second vote on the constitutional amendment approved at the December meeting.

## Welcome to the St. Michael Family



We welcome back the Hodge family to St. Michael

**Welcome to the Abrams family,** Marc and Terry and daughters Maria and Katherine who joined the St Michael family last November.



## Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA at the Roanoke Rescue Mission

