

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Twelve Keys for Living

Several years ago, my friend, Dr. Kennon Callahn wrote a book entitled *Twelve Keys for Living: Possibilities for a Whole, Healthy Life*. The book is not a step-by-step guide to fix your life, but rather a discussion of the twelve different strengths that he has observed in whole, healthy lives. The twelve keys are : mission, compassion, hope, community, leadership, simplicity, joy, wisdom, encouragement, creativity, health and generosity. Dr. Callahan describes the twelve keys in this way:

Keys open doors. The twelve keys open doors for a whole, healthy life. . .  
. These twelve keys help you open the doors to advancing and growing, building and developing your life. I call these twelve keys “possibilities” because they are, in fact, potential ways you can grow forward. I shy away from referring to them as virtues or values. Those terms raise the specter of “should,” “ought,” “must,” “law.” We are people of grace, not law. These twelve keys are possibilities, generously available to you.”  
(TKFL, pg. 11)

I found the book and the twelve possibilities he discusses to be extremely helpful for me and I would like to share these keys for living with you in the Adult Class during Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in looking at the book, I have one copy in my office. If you would like to read the book, it is available at all the major, online book retailers. I look forward to sharing the *Twelve Keys for Living* with you. I think you will find these keys to be a wonderful tool as you build a whole, healthy life.

## **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 our Youth Bell Choir, Jaid Moore, Michele Pasier, Abbi Penner, Matthew Pasier, and Emily Garst who provide beautiful music for our worship services; Jenny Akers, Jerry Gallimore, Jay Nagle and Kris Wertz for working on FaithChests.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in May supported supplies for Youth Nights, VBS materials, music supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organists, custodian, and nursery assistant.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **twelve** families: five with electric bills, rent for five more families, a water bill for one family, and a storage fee for the last 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.

**Brownie Troop 737 designed, planted, and donated the three terra cotta pots** under the Fellowship Hall windows as a thank you to St. Michael for providing a meeting space for the last three years. Many thanks from Claire C., Claire U., Dominique, Ellie, Jessika, Josie, Katie, Kylie, Lilleigh, Mariel, Olivia, and Taylor.

### **Timothy Smiley awarded St. Michael Scholarship for 2007-2008**

Timothy Smiley, son of Doug and Jody Smiley, was recently awarded the St. Michael Scholarship for \$600. He will continue his studies at The University of Missouri at Rolla where he will be a second year student. While at Blacksburg High School, Tim was an honor student and outstanding athlete in baseball, winning several team awards.

### **An Invitation to Prayer**

Prayer is a wonderful and powerful part of our lives of faith. During June, you are invited to include in your prayers, the Virginia Synod, which will be gathering in Assembly from June 8 to 10 to conduct the business of the church and our Confirmation Students who will be at camp from June 17-23 as they seek to grow in their lives of faith. Thank you for remembering these ministries in your prayers.

### **Cookbook Draft Available on June 10**

The cookbook is about ready to be printed. A draft of the cookbook will be available on June 10. During the process of collecting recipes, a few were submitted without names. If you submitted a recipe, please see Betty Gross on June 10 so you can double check and make sure your name is on your recipes. Thanks!

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

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***June Servants***

	<b>June 3</b>	<b>June 10</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>June 24</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Matthew Pasier	Olivia Hodge	Kelley Robinson	Will Sharpe
<b>Altar Care</b>	Linda Elliott			
<b>Comm. Assts.</b>	Shannon Rigsbee		Karen Mayer	
<b>Christ's Kids</b>	Michele and Elizabeth Berg	Kris Wertz	Jane McGuigan	Andrea Sharpe
<b>Youth Servants</b>	Michele Pasier	Corson and Parker Wertz	Matt and Will Sharpe	Andrew Bales
<b>9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters</b>	Shirley and Henderson Linkous		Clifton and Fay Walters	
	Jim and Judy Clemens			
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Jenny Akers	Joanne Pascoe	Doug Smiley	John Krallman
<b>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</b>	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Larsen	Ted Peterson	Fred Spengler
<b>Ushers</b>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd Jeff Birch	Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross Randy Robinson	Philip Isenhour J.D. Robinson Andrea Sharpe Ray Howell	Roscoe Turman Brian Simmers Ben Simmers Joanne Pascoe

## Women of the ELCA

**Remember the Food Bank:** June is “snack food” month – bring fruit or pudding cups, cookies, etc., though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women’s Resource Center:** In June, we’ll collect baby food.

**Donations of new or gently used books** are requested for libraries in Papua New Guinea and children’s books for the Roanoke Rescue Mission. The collection box is in the hallway. Thank you.



**Happy Go Lucky  
on the Go!**

## Happy Go Lucky

On May 24, eight members of St. Michael traveled along the Blue Ridge Parkway and visited a winery, a candy factory and Mabry Mill. The next adventure is to the P. Buckley Moss Museum on Thursday, June 21. Reflecting the rich architectural heritage of the Shenandoah Valley and her inspiration in the Amish and Mennonite people, the museum in Waynesboro was constructed to house the permanent collection of Moss. Our lunch stop will be authentic German food at the Edelweiss German Restaurant. The tour will also include a stop at the Cheese Shop, a Mennonite family store that carries a variety of cheeses, bulk health foods and other baking items. The cost is \$17 plus the cost of lunch and the registration deadline is June 14.

Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for the next six trips planned for this year are available in the narthex and on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information.

## Dinner With Friends Family Night on June 30

The *Dinner with Friends* group for 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings will be having a Family Night at the home of Chris and Cindy Dowdy (3236 Tucker Road) on Saturday, June 30 at 5 p.m. Bring a dish to share, something to cook on the grill and come enjoy the fun and fellowship.

## St. Michael serving at the Roanoke Rescue Mission

Volunteers are requested to help serve dinner to homeless men, women and children on Sunday, June 17, at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Sign up on the Welcome to St. Michael form in the Sunday bulletin.

## **Celebrations**

We celebrate the baptisms of Katherine Lauren Stafford on May 20 and Jake Pierson Albert on May 27. Katherine is the daughter of Deborah and Daniel Stafford and the granddaughter of Hank and Alice Schneider. Jake is the son of Kathy and Mike Albert and little brother of Erin, Ryan and Sara.

We celebrate the birth of Emily May Graves on April 19. Emily is the daughter of Ricky and Elizabeth Graves and Jack's little sister.

Congratulations to Hank Schneider, who retired from Federal Mogul on June 1, after 27 years of service.

Congratulations to all our Virginia Tech graduates: Luke Harris, who graduated with a degree in Biology and is interested in the medical field; Kim Lehman who received her Masters degree in Education and will teach elementary school in Fairfax County; Lindsay Robinson who received a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and will attend graduate school in education; and Matthew James who received a Civil Engineering degree and will help design airport runways in Charlotte, NC.

Congratulations to Erin Keister, who earned her Masters degree in nursing from the Jefferson College of Health Sciences.

## **Relay for Life**

Show your support for cancer survivors and those who have been lost to cancer by supporting the Montgomery County Relay for Life. This event takes place June 15 to 16 at the track at Christiansburg High School starting at 6:30 pm. You can support this event by:

- putting a donation in the collection can in the church narthex
- give or send a donation
- buy a luminaria in memory or honor of a cancer victim  
or survivor for \$10 each
- sign up to lend a hand with the event

To show your support in any of these ways, contact Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz at 951-1393.

## **Lutheran Course on Marriage begins June 24**

Whether you have been married for 40 years or are planning to get married in the near future, the Lutheran Course on Marriage is for you. This video-based course will be led by Pastor John and uses *The Lutheran Handbook on Marriage*. The course discusses everything from "Five Noteworthy Things Martin Luther Said About Marriage" to "How to Maintain Your Marriage as You and Your Spouse Change". The class will begin on Sunday, June 24 at 9:50 AM and will run for several weeks in the Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

## **Filling Our Toolbox: Where is God in our grief and pain?**

We are people of the empty tomb and the risen Lord. We believe that God in Christ Jesus enters into our grief and pain and that through Christ's death and resurrection, God ultimately overcomes the power of death. We live knowing the promise of eternal life with God. While the promise doesn't take away our pain, it gives us hope.

As Lutheran Christians, we do not ask, "Why did God allow this to happen?", because we don't believe that God causes evil. God is good. We certainly believe that God knows what will happen. God is omnipotent, but knowing something will occur and causing something to occur are different. God gives us free will. We live in a world where sin is a reality and unfortunately evil acts in our world. The question we ask is, "Where is God in all of this?", because this question helps us to see the presence of our loving God. We see God's presence through the community of God's believers that gathers together in times of grief and pain. We see God's presence through the professionals who use their gifts to provide help and hope and through the resources that are made available to us. We see God's presence through the words of Scripture and times of prayer which bring us comfort and peace. Pain and grief can make it difficult at times to see God's presence even when it is all around us, but as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## **Care of Creation Toolbox**

In the next newsletters, we will include simple ways we can reduce our output of carbon dioxide and slow down global warming. #1 – if every American household replaced just ONE 60-watt incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb, we would save enough energy to turn off two entire power plants.

Collections continue for used printer cartridges for the Justice and Mercy Fund and pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke. We will also recycle old magazines. The recycle table in the front hallway.

## **Update on Our Seminary Partner – Kristy Buyok**

Over the past two years, our Sunday School offerings have helped support the seminary education of Kristy Buyok who is preparing for ministry at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Kristy has finished her first two years and is preparing for internship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Walhalla, South Carolina. Kristy will spend a year working at St. John's before returning to the seminary for her final year of classes. In an email to Pastor John, Kristy said, "Please pass along my appreciation for the support of the congregation. It is so good to know that the church as a whole cares about the education of the seminarians!" We will continue to include Kristy in our prayers and look forward to hearing about the progress of her internship.

## **Dive into Vacation Bible School**

The Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School begins on Sunday, June 10 and continues through Thursday, June 14. There are classes for everyone from the young children to adults. Each night the children will learn about Bible stories, like the disciples amazing catch of fish and the blind man who comes to believe. The adult class will be discussing Twelve Keys for Living. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m. Hope to see you there!



## **Sunday School Summer Break**

St. Michael's regular Sunday School is taking a break for the summer. Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this a wonderful year.

## **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp**

Pastor Wayne Shelor, Executive Director of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, will be at St. Michael on Sunday, June 3 to tell us about the camp's wonderful ministry. From summer programs for youth to family camp weekends, Caroline Furnace offers camp experiences for the entire family. More information on the camp is available in the fellowship hall or you can talk to Pastor Shelor at either service on June 3.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class visits Heritage Hall**



On Sunday, May 20, seven of our children sang and gave cards and stuffed animals to residents of a local nursing home. As many of the residents stated, the children “made their day.”

## **Facilities Expansion Task Force Update**

On Saturday, May 19, the Facilities Expansion Task Force met with three architects to discuss their ideas for how to add educational space to our facilities. After listening to three wonderful presentations, the task force is in the process of reviewing the ideas and preparing recommendations for the Congregational Council regarding the possibilities for expanding our facilities. The Council will discuss the Task Force recommendations at its meeting on June 3 and then make recommendations to the congregation. The Council's recommendations will be formally presented to the congregation at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 17. For more information on the work of the Facilities Expansion Task Force, please talk with Pastor John or any of the Task Force members.

### **Congregational Meeting on June 17 at 10:00 a.m**

St. Michael will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 17 at 10 a.m. to consider recommendations from the Council regarding possible facilities expansion. In addition, the congregation will also be reaffirming the six trustees of the congregation. All six, Jeff Birch, Jim Clemens, Betty Gross, Fran Shepherd, Ben Simmers and Dave Surface, have been elected at previous meetings, but our lawyer has asked that we affirm all six at one meeting so that all six names will appear in one place in the minutes of a congregational meeting.

### **Setting Ten on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.**

On Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the 11 a.m. Service, St. Michael will begin using one of the new resources in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal. Setting 10, which begins on page 203 in the front of the red hymnal, sets the familiar words and elements of the service to well known hymn tunes like *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*. Hopefully, this change for the summer will give you a chance to enjoy these tunes and hear the words of the service in a new way.

### **Online Giving Option Available**

St. Michael now has the ability to receive gifts through a link on our web site. The "Make A Donation" link, which is found on the left side of our home page, will take you to a secure server where you can make a donation through an electronic fund transfer, debit card or credit card. The site allows you to make a one-time, weekly or monthly gift. If you are currently using an online service which charges a fee to make a donation to St. Michael, you can use this service at no charge to you or the church. See <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/donations.html> for more information.



## RETURN FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Greetings from Papua New Guinea (PNG). Soi Lutheran Church, our sister congregation, sends their greetings to St. Michael Lutheran Church. The people are so wonderful, so gracious, so loving. Some teenage girls made me yarn flowers, and I made room in the suitcase to bring them home. All the churches in the Bialla District were happy to see us and I enjoyed the sing-sings with all women. I received a painting made by an eleven year old young man, whose name is Israel, who wanted it to be displayed in our Sunday School room. The painting is his gift to St. Michael and is now in the Fellowship Hall at church. His mother, Rose, befriended us immeasurably and I will write about her in another newsletter.

Our mission team of three women from the Virginia Synod visited eight Lutheran churches, but the people from many other Lutheran churches came to each stop we made. When we went to Bialla, all the parishes were there to greet us, and the women from four other churches made presentations. Soi is currently made up of three parishes; all were present to greet me. My name is now 'Mama Sokana' to stand for Soi, Kabaya, and Navo, the three parishes that are connected. When we were at Bethel, Kimbe, four other churches came to be with us and to worship with us on Easter morning.

We visited many schools, and Soi Primary School had each grade level do a presentation. They do not receive many American visitors, so they went all out for us. We also went to the three Lutheran Seminaries in PNG, which was quite meaningful. The students are so grateful for the opportunity to visit with us and we greatly enjoyed meeting them. One of the seminaries needs a volunteer English teacher and I am considering that calling. Please pray for me to be given guidance and discernment about this.



*Karen Mayer with Pastor Bade and his family.*

During our visits to the Elementary, Primary, and High Schools, we discovered that they are in great need of library books! Two of the schools showed us empty libraries, one

school was using their library room as a classroom. They need English books and novels; even the seminaries need novels and religious books so they can improve their reading skills. The only students who do not speak English are the little ones, pre-school to grade 2, so just about any type of book could be used and would be appreciated.

We met with President Hynna Motec and Youth Leader Dacca Waggai who were at St. Michael last summer. We are working with them on the office project for the District President. In addition, we are assisting with the education of the children of the New Guinea Islands District pastors and the education of seminarians within the District.

We felt we accomplished a great deal. We certainly made many lifelong friends and many students want pen-pals! If anyone is interested in being a pen-pal, please see me!

**GOD IS SO GOOD!**

Karen Mayer