



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Signs of Scripture

Usually when you see the words “signs” and “scripture” in the same title, someone is preparing to talk about the Book of Revelation. In this case, however, I am actually talking about the small paper signs with a passage of scripture printed on them that are posted around the church. For the last several years, I have been posting signs near my desk with meaningful phrases, ideas and passages of scripture. When I arrive in the morning, I am reminded of these thoughts. If I am having a tough day, I look over and see a word of hope and help. If I am struggling for an idea, I often find a word of inspiration. For me, these signs are visible reminders that I am a child of God who is loved unconditionally and called to respond to that love by being God’s hands and feet in the world.

A few weeks ago, I decided to add to my collection of signs, but instead of putting them in my office, I posted them around the church. Each sign contains one of my favorite passages of scripture and gives a small glimpse of the wonderful story of God’s relationship with God’s people. Hopefully, these signs will remind you of God’s love for you, will inspire you to read the surrounding verses of scripture in your Bible and will encourage conversation about scripture among family and friends.

I plan to add new signs every few months and I would love to have your help in picking scripture for the next wave of signs. If you have a favorite passage of scripture that reminds you of God’s love for you, please write it down for me or email it to me and, quite possibly, your favorite may be the next sign of scripture at St. Michael.

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 Bob Brown for constructing the cove lighting in the sanctuary; Lynn Hickok for finishing a FaithChest, Cindy and Chris Dowdy for hosting the dinner with family and friends in July; Linda Elliott and Sandy Birch for working with Friends with Flowers (washing vases, arranging and delivering flowers); Judy Clemens for keeping our altar linens clean; Sandie Worley for assisting with the newsletter mailing; all the lawnmowers and weed controllers for their diligent work this summer.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July supported the St. Michael Scholarship, a sanctuary construction project, office and cleaning 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 assistants.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In July, we provided assistance for six families: four with electric bills, one with a water bill, and a fifth family with a telephone bill. 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.

Some thank you notes

Thank you to everyone at St. Michael for supporting the Montgomery County Relay for Life. The event raised \$122,304 to fight the battle against cancer. The “Keep the Memory Team” including Carol Crawford, Nancy Franz, and Bill Gahnz from St. Michael raised \$6,893 with your help. The Relay organizers also appreciated the support of the youth from St. Michael who provided decorations and helped with youth activities at the event. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Nancy Franz and Bill Gahnz

I was very honored to be awarded the 2007 St. Michael Scholarship. It means a great deal to me to receive this scholarship having been a part of the church for so long. I am grateful for the funds and appreciate your generosity in providing them. As an out-of-state student at the University of Missouri-Rolla, this scholarship will certainly assist me toward completing my goal of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry.

Sincerely, Timothy Smiley

Dear congregants of St. Michael Lutheran Church: Thank you so much for all that you have done for us during the events of April 16 and the time following. The poster was greatly appreciated by all, but most of all, your kindness and prayers sustained us. This was the most devastating tragedy in our history. We continue to move through the healing process. Again, thank you for your kindness and support.

The Virginia Tech Police Department and Communications Department

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August Servants

	August 5	August 12	August 19	August 26
Acolytes	Sarah Crowder	Katherine Berg	Will Sharpe	Kelly Robinson
Altar Care	The Crowder family			
Comm. Assts.	Dianne Krallman		Jay Nagle	
Christ's Kids	Michele Berg	Kris Wertz	Andrea Sharpe	Jane McGuigan
Youth Servants	Katherine Berg	Corson and Parker Wertz	Matt and Will Sharpe	Andrew Bales
9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters	Hodge family	Ted and Angela Peterson Julia Landes and Dianne Krallman		Andrea Sharpe
Lay Readers	Shannon Rigsbee	Kris Wertz	Lori Anne Kirk	Vickie Mouras
9 a.m. Worship Asst.	Margaret Larsen	Shannon Rigsbee	Ted Peterson	Lori Anne Kirk
Ushers	Sam Akers Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd Jeff Birch	Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross Randy Robinson	Philip Isenhour J.D. Robinson Brian Simmers Ben Simmers	Roscoe Turman M. McGuigan Ray Howell Jay Nagle

Fellowship Hour: hosted by the McGuigan family on August 12

Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out will be Thursday, August 16, at the Kabuki restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Alice Schneider (552-6995) or check the box on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form if you will be attending. This is always a fun fellowship event; bring a friend, neighbor, or family member.



Remember the Food Bank: August is “boxes of macaroni and cheese” month though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In August, we’ll collect personal hygiene products, e.g., shampoo, soap, deodorant.

Thank you for your donations of new or gently used books for libraries in Papua New Guinea and children’s books for the Roanoke Rescue Mission.



**Happy Go Lucky
on the Go!**

Happy Go Lucky

On July 20, several members of St. Michael traveled south to the Hungry Mother State Park Arts and Crafts Festival. On August 29, the next adventure is to the Barter Theater to see “Harry Chapin: Remember When – the Music”. The cost of the trip, including transportation, a southern style lunch at the Greenway Haven Party House, and theater tickets is \$56. The registration deadline is August 7.

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

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. For example, every food item in the grocery has traveled an average of 1500 miles. If we buy local goods, e.g., at the Farmer’s Market, we can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide needed for transportation and we support the local economy. We can also help by bringing our purchases home in our own bags and avoid buying products with lots of packaging.

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 is in the front hallway.

School Supplies for Children in Need

In August, St. Michael be will collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork and Lafayette-Elliston Elementary Schools.



Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissue
Black and White Composition Notebooks	
3-ring Binders	

All supplies will be welcome. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

Backpack Blessing on August 19

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 19. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their backpacks blessed as we ask for God's blessing for all teachers and students.

Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary



St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork on Wednesday, August 15. If you would be interested in helping, you can sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin.

Interested in knitting/crocheting?...a new project

A twelve year old middle schooler, Jessica Vance, crochets baby hats, blankets and booties for mothers in need at the Montgomery Regional Birthing Center and The Caring Pregnancy Center. She would like some assistance in crocheting/knitting some squares for this project. Her website, www.onesquareatatime.wetpaint.com, and the brochure posted on the hallway bulletin board state all the particulars. Jessica can also be contacted at jl40092@verizon.net.

St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working the game at the booth, please sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin or talk with Carol Crawford at 961-5733.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame on August 11

St. Michael is going to a Salem Avalanche Game on Saturday, August 11. The game begins at 6:07 p.m. Reserved Seat tickets are \$6.50 per person. Sign up on the "Welcome" form in the bulletin. The deadline for signing up is August 5.

Come Celebrate Pastor's Ordination Anniversary

On Sunday, August 26, at 4 p.m., the St. Michael family is invited to a covered dish supper to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Pastor John's Ordination. The supper will be held at the home of Cindy and Chris Dowdy at 3236 Tucker Road in Blacksburg. If you have any questions, contact Kris Wertz at 951-1587.

Youth and Family Lending Library Now Available

St. Michael is developing a Youth and Family Lending Library in memory of Courtney Schwartz. The Library is located in the hallway next to the kitchen and contains books ranging from children's story books to books on developing faith in families. Each book has a library card for you to sign and place in the file box on the top library shelf. In order for everyone to have the opportunity to use these wonderful resources, please return books within three weeks and videos within one week. Thank you to everyone who have helped make this Library a reality.

11 AM Service Choir Begins Practice on September 10 at 6:45 PM

The Service Choir, which provides music leadership for the 11 a.m. service each week, will begin practice on Monday, September 10 at 6:45 p.m. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to come and share their gifts as a part of the choir. For more information about the 11 a.m. Service Choir, please contact Donita Moore.

Blood Drive Returns to St. Michael

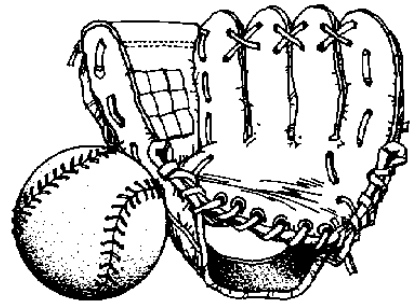
On Saturday, October 28, St. Michael will sponsor a community-wide blood drive. Circle the date on your calendars as lots of volunteers will be needed

First Communion Instruction

First Communion instruction is open to children of any age. When a child begins to express interest in communion and the parent thinks it is an appropriate time for instruction, then First Communion instruction will begin. Pastor John will meet with the family on three different occasions. The first meeting will introduce concepts about Communion and provide the parents and child with a set of questions and activities for them to do together. The second meeting will occur when the questions and activities are finished so that Pastor John can expand on the concepts discussed and answer any questions that may have come up. The third meeting will take place at the church to walk the family through what happens during Communion. The family and Pastor John will then schedule a Sunday for the child's First Communion. If you are interested in beginning First Communion instruction with your child, please contact Pastor John.

Softball Season a Success

Some great wins over strong teams, fun fellowship, and loud fan support added up to a successful softball season. The team welcomed the addition of Tom Hodge, Rick Mayer, Jim Weseloh, Gary Fetter and Mark Pasier to the roster. The "veterans" include David Gilham, Jody, Doug and Tim Smiley, Travis and Tim Turman, Pastor John, Jeff Birch, Chris Dowdy, Hank Schneider JD Robinson and Randy Robinson. Olivia Hodge, Corson Wertz and Parker Wertz served as a bat girl and bat boys. Thank you to the team for representing St. Michael so well.



Filling Your Toolbox: Lutheran Principles of Scripture Interpretation

Adapted from a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Marcus Miller, President of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at the Virginia Synod Assembly on June 9, 2007

Whether we realize it or not, we all read scripture through a set of lenses that are colored by our life's experience. It is helpful to know what ideas and information shape how you read and interpret scripture. Rev. Dr. Miller proposed that as Lutherans our interpretation of scripture is guided by this set of principles.

1. *The Word of God is Jesus Christ.* The Bible is like the cradle that holds the Christ child. It proclaims the story of God's relationship with God's people and reveals Jesus as God's final word.
2. *The Bible is authoritative for us.* As it says in our constitution, "This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life."
3. *Scripture interprets Scripture.* One of the ways that we discover what God is saying through scripture is to look at a passage in light of other teachings in scripture.
4. *The Bible is a public book.* Scripture is not the private domain of any one individual. Our reading of scripture is informed by the overall witness of the Christian community.
5. *Scripture is divided into Law and Gospel.* The Law is that word of God that judges, directs and orders our lives. The Gospel is that word of God that calms and comforts us and is centered in Jesus Christ. Both Law and Gospel are gifts from God and can be found in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
6. *The Bible is more like a library than a book.* The Bible is a collection of books, letters and other writings which are inspired by God. Adjusting to the different styles of writing makes it easier to understand what you are reading.

Daily Devotions Available Online

St. Michael has daily devotions available on our homepage. Click on the *Daily Toolbox* Link in the calendar on the right side of the page for scripture readings and prayer thoughts.