



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Facilities Expansion News

In the fall of 2006, a task force of congregational members evaluated our current facilities to determine what changes, if any, would be needed to support the growing ministry of St. Michael. The Task Force determined that:

- there is currently enough sanctuary space, fellowship hall space and parking to meet the needs of the congregation and to allow for continued growth.
- based on generally accepted standards of space required for education, St. Michael does not have enough dedicated educational space to meet the current and future needs of the congregation.
- over the long-term, the lack of dedicated educational space will inhibit the growth of the educational program and the ministry of St. Michael.

With the help of local architect Tom Koontz, the Facilities Expansion Task Force has been exploring ways to meet this growing need for dedicated classroom space at St. Michael. A preliminary drawing is almost ready and the Task Force would like to share the results of their work with you at a series of small group meetings in October. These meetings will be held in people's homes and at the church. They will offer you the opportunity to look at the preliminary drawings, give feedback to the Task Force and learn how you can support this exciting ministry project. Invitations to each meeting and additional information will be mailed in early October. If you have any questions about the work of the Facilities Expansion Task Force, please contact me or any of the Task Force members. They are: Carol Bland, Bob Brown, Jim and Judy Clemens, Carol Crawford, Cindy Dowdy, Dianne Krallman, Fran Shepherd, Don Linkous, Sharon Robinson, Jody Smiley, and Doug Veit.

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 Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for helping with folding bulletins and preparing stewardship mailings; to Fran Gallimore for playing the piano at 9 a.m. worship services; the Caring and Sharing Team for hosting our St. Michael Day picnic; Suzanne Gay for typing and assembling the new Memorial Book.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided new acolyte robes, publicity for worship services, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, support of our facilities, and salaries for our pastor, secretary, organists, custodian, and nursery workers.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we assisted eight families: six with electric service and two with rent. 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

Dear Members of St. Michael Lutheran Church: We gratefully acknowledge your donation of tab tops for our House. The tabs were added to our collection, then will be taken to be recycled and the proceeds will go back into the operation of the facility. Your donation helps us in our day-to-day operation to make our guests’ stay more comfortable. We appreciate your help to us in this area of our work. Sincere thanks, Ronald McDonald House Staff



Thank you to the members of St. Michael for donating your altar flowers to the Good Samaritan Hospice. The patients look forward to these lovely floral arrangements and appreciate your generosity. Sincerely, Rev. Amy Jennings, Chaplain and Coordinator of Volunteer Services.

Note: The Good Samaritan Hospice is in need of volunteers who are willing to offer a caring heart and hand to people in the final stages of a life-limiting illness. Information is available on the hallway bulletin board. The next training sessions are scheduled for October 22 through November 14 in Blacksburg.

Congratulations to...

Katie and Lance Lafon on the birth on their daughter Grace Elizabeth Lafon. Grace was born on August 18, 2007.

A Wedding Invitation

Andrea Sharpe and Jeff Robinson together with their children invite you to share in their joy as they exchange marriage vows and begin their new life together on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Michael.



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| <p align="center">Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</p> |
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October Servants

| | October 7 | October 14 | October 21 | October 28 |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Acolytes | Sarah Crowder | Katy McGuigan | Matthew Pasier | Olivia Hodge |
| Altar Care | The Noonkesters | | | |
| Comm. Assts. | Randy Robinson | | Dave Surface | Karen Mayer |
| Christ's Kids | Kris Wertz | Jody Smiley | Tacey Apisa | Michele Berg |
| Youth Servants | Corson and Parker Wertz | Katherine and Elizabeth Berg | Michelle Pasier | Andrew Bales |
| 9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters | Amy and Steve Woods Burn and Betty Gross | | Shirley and Henderson Linkous | |
| Lay Reader | Hank Schneider | Jen Daskal | Fran Shepherd | Dianne Krallman |
| 9 a.m. Worship Asst. | Lori Anne Kirk | Sandy Birch | Ted Peterson | Fred Spengler |
| Ushers | Sam Akers Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd Randy Robinson | Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross M. McGuigan | Philip Isenhour Ray Howell Bob and Peggy Brown | Roscoe Turman Brian Simmers Ben Simmers Joanne Pascoe |



Women of the ELCA

All women of St. Michael are invited to a **dinner meeting on October 18 at 6 p.m.** at the home of Kris Wertz. Jody Smiley will lead us in a new Bible study. Contact Alice Schneider at 552-6995 if you need a ride. Directions to Kris' home are available on the narthex bookshelf.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 21 at 1 p.m. at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference. A potluck salad luncheon will precede a program by Kris Wertz and Karen Mayer who will share their experiences from their Malawi, Africa trip last year. There is a need for girls' underwear in Malawi and at the gathering we will be collecting panties (preferably white) for young girls in Malawi. Donations are very welcome even if you cannot attend the gathering. Please speak with Kris or Jody if you have any questions.

Remember the Food Bank: October is **cereal** month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In October, we'll continue to collect **baby supplies**, e.g., diapers and baby food. The collection basket is in the hallway.

In October, the WELCA members at St. Michael will be encouraging our congregation to **fill shoe boxes for Christmas for children in the Head Start program (ages 4-6) on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. This gift box is often the only gift a child receives. The reservation is located in the poorest county in the United States, where nearly every family income is below the Federal poverty level and unemployment is more than 80%.



The contents of each box should be worth about \$15 (e.g., about 14-15 items from the Dollar Tree), including books and other educational items (especially those that help them with reading or arithmetic), crayons, pens, pencils, water colors, coloring books, toys (nothing that requires batteries, no toy guns), candy, games, personal hygiene items like toothbrushes and toothpaste, warm hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. Boxes can also be filled for older children, but in that case, please identify the box with an appropriate label, e.g., "teenage girl". The boxes should be unwrapped. Empty shoe boxes are available in the narthex.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8

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. This fall, the St. Michael Choir will rehearse on Mondays at 6:45 p.m. For more information about the Choir contact Donita at: [moore \[at\] pathwayacademy.us](mailto:moore@pathwayacademy.us)

pathwayacademy.us

Blood Drive at St. Michael on Saturday, October 27

On Saturday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Michael will sponsor a community-wide blood drive with the American Red Cross. Volunteers are needed to assist the Red Cross workers, to donate blood, and to provide food for the donors. Sign-up sheets will be available on Sunday mornings. Volunteers can also contact Sue Dolph at [kdsldolph \[at\] nrvunwired.net](mailto:kdsldolph@nrvunwired.net). Our goal is 25 pints of blood. **Together we can save a life!**

Happy-Go-Lucky

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, October 11, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and program. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier. Start collecting those white elephant items for our annual November auction too.



**Happy Go Lucky
on the Go!**

Our next trip is to the Swinging Bridge Restaurant on Thursday, October 18. This unique breakfast dining experience features southern “stick to your ribs cookin” with a Hillbilly gourmet flair in a rural setting in the Alleghany Mountains. The registration deadline is October 10 and the cost is \$12 (plus the cost of your breakfast). Registration forms are available in the hallway. There are only three trips left and spaces are filling up.....join us! The Hotel Roanoke Christmas lunch buffet is November 14 and the Wohlfhart Haus Christmas Show Matinee and lunch is December 5.



Pictured are the travelers to the Barter Theater in Abington. A stop at a Roses Store was a surprise treat. Many of the group remembered the old Roses Store on Main Street in Blacksburg.

Youth Night on October 10 and 24



On Wednesday, October 10 and 24 at 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night 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. The complete schedule is available online at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Kid's Night will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade. If you would like more information about Kid's Night, contact Jody at [esmiley \[at\] vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu).

Confirmation for youth from 6th through 8th grade will be taught by Pastor John and will offer 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 [stmcl \[at\] earthlink.net](mailto:stmcl@earthlink.net).

The **Senior High Youth Group** for 9th through 12th grade will be led by Carrie Mayer and will provide an opportunity for fun and service. If you would like more information about the Senior High Youth group, contact Carrie at [cmayer \[at\] mail.mcps.org](mailto:cmayer@mail.mcps.org).

**Sunday School for All Ages Begins at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary
Everyone is Welcome!!**

Christian Questions, Lutheran Answers Adult Sunday School Class

This year, the Adult Sunday School class will be considering a series of common Christian questions using a book by Dr. Martin Marty entitled, *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers: Exploring Christian Faith*. Each week will focus on a different question. In October the questions discussed will be:

Oct. 7 – How do Lutherans Interpret the Bible?

Oct. 14 – What is the Mission of the Church?

Oct. 21 – What is the Priesthood of All Believers?

Oct. 28 - What makes Lutherans different from Presbyterians, Methodists or Baptists?

Confirmation on October 28

On Sunday, October 28 at the 11 a.m. Service, Sarah Crowder, Michelle Pasier and Abbi Penner will affirm their faith and be confirmed. The congregation is invited to a reception immediately following worship.

Filling Your Toolbox: Major in Grace

At some point in a college career, every student chooses a major upon which to focus. Max Lucado, in his book *Everyday Deserves a Chance* suggests that Christians would benefit from selecting a major for their life of faith.

Major in the Grace of God. When Paul sent Timothy off to spiritual university, he told him to major in the grace of God: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:1 NKJV). Do the same. Grow fluent in the language of redemption. Linger long at the foot of the cross. Immerse yourself in the curriculum of grace. . . . If you look long enough and hard enough, you’ll find something to bellyache about. So quit looking! Lift your eyes off the weeds. Major in the grace of God. And . . . *Measure the gifts of God.* Collect your blessings. Catalog his kindnesses. Assemble your reasons for gratitude and recite them. “Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NCV)

(Note: “NKJV” stands for New King James Version of the Bible and “NCV” stands for New Century Version of the Bible. Whenever passages of scripture are quoted from different translations, the abbreviation for the translation used is usually included for your reference.)

Care of Creation Toolbox

Here are some more ways to reduce your output of carbon dioxide and slow down global warming. You will save up to 4 miles per gallon if you drive 60 mph rather than 70 mph. If you carpooled, biked or walked two days a week, you could save 1600 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Gas mileage decreases by 3% with under-inflated tires and up to 10% with a clogged air filter. With every gallon of gas that is burned, 20 pounds of carbon dioxide are released into the air. Take better care of your car and you will be taking better care of creation.

Being Christians After Christendom

Dr. Douglas John Hall, Emeritus Professor of Theology at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec and noted Christian author, will be at Luther Memorial and Virginia Tech on Monday, October 8. Dr. Hall will be making a presentation over lunch entitled, “Believing and Thinking: The Necessity of Theology” at Luther Memorial at noon.

Lunch will be provided. Call 951-1000 for reservations. In addition, Dr. Hall will present a lecture entitled, "Being Christians After Christendom" at 7 p.m. in Torgerson 2150. For more information, talk to Pastor John.

Blessing of the Animals on October 7 at 3 PM

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. The Blessing of Animals is generally held close to October 4, the day that the church remembers St. Francis of Assisi. This service gives Christians an opportunity to give thanks to God for our pets who bring us joy and offer us unconditional love. To keep some semblance of harmony and order at this service, please maintain control of your animal. Do not let your pet roam free, even if he or she is well-behaved.

Building a Caring and Generous Community

As we plan for continued ministry growth at St. Michael, the Stewards team is asking you to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to the General Ministry Fund and Property Fund in 2008. Estimating your giving offers you the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide what God is calling you to give in response. You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship on Sunday, October 7. With your help, we will continue to build a caring and generous community of God's people.



Malawi Mission

Each Sunday, we pray for our mission partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). If you would like more information on how you can support the local ministry group working with the ELCM, check out the Malawi Mission website at: www.malawimission.org .

ELCA Study on Sexuality

The ELCA is currently conducting a study focused on broad and deep principles for Christian thinking about sexuality. The task force hopes that the study will offer a nurturing way for individuals to listen to the Holy Spirit, to Scripture and to one another in a quest for Christian wisdom about human sexuality. Study materials are available online at: www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/study/ . If you are interested in sharing your opinions with the task force, please work through the study and submit a response by December 15, 2007 using the form at the end of the study.