



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church
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New Year, New Beginnings

As we begin a new year, exciting things are happening at St. Michael. Sandy Birch is preparing to begin her new position as a lay associate in ministry who will focus on welcoming people in to the life of the congregation and seeking to expand our ministry with senior adults. We are in the process of hiring a new administrative assistant who will provide ministry support for the congregation for twelve hours per week. The Women of the ELCA are starting a New Baby Ministry to provide resources for new parents in the congregation. The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary has asked if we will partner with a second student, a senior named Matt O'Rear, and pray for him as he finishes his preparation for pastoral ministry. We will be welcoming new members into the life of the congregation in January and our architect, Tom Koontz, is preparing our application for a Special Use Permit as we continue steps to expand our facilities. With God's grace and help, the ministry of St. Michael will continue to grow.

While there are a number of new beginnings at St. Michael, I also realize that this is a time of year when people often take stock of their lives and look for new ways to move forward. I invite you to take a few moments in that process and consider what new beginnings in ministry God may be calling you to embrace. You may feel called to spend more time in Bible Study and prayer. You may feel called you use your gifts in service to help others. You may feel called to lift up your voice as a part of the choir or use your talents to lead a one-time ministry project for the congregation. If I can be of assistance in that process or if you have wonderful ideas for growing the ministry of St. Michael, please let me know. May God's blessings surround you in this new year.

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 Stan Larsen and Doug Smiley for setting up the candle holders in the sanctuary; Charlene Harris for arranging for all our altar flowers this year; Alice Noonkester for mailing reminders to Sunday servants; Linda Elliott and Shirley Linkous for helping with newsletter mailings; Linda Elliott and Bill Greer for helping prepare Sunday bulletins; Judy Clemens for cleaning the altar linens; Angela Peterson and Suzanne Gay for supervising the Angel Tree project; Michelle Pasier, Dan Crowder, Sarah Crowder, and Robert Worley for helping out at the Christmas Store; Gary Worley, Robert Worley, Hank Schneider and Tom Hodge for putting up the Chrismon tree; all the Christmas Eve worship servants; and to everyone who provided food for the Advent Suppers.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in December supported 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.

Offering envelopes for 2008 are now available on the hallway shelf. Thank you for sharing your resources.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In December, we contributed to one electric bill and three rent payments. The fund also provided two nights lodging and a food card for a homeless woman. 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.



Sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers, Altar Care and Fellowship Hour are posted on the hallway bulletin board. Please add your names to the list. Thank you for sharing and serving in these special ways.

Thank you to all who serve as ushers, choir members, teachers, altar care helpers, greeters, acolytes, lay readers, communion assistants, fellowship hour sponsors, and more.

Thank You from the Wertz Family

Kris and I would like to thank you for the generous Christmas gifts you have given us. We appreciate your generosity and kindness. It is a privilege to be in ministry with you at St. Michael

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January Servants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Olivia Hodge	Matthew Pasier	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Jennie Hodge and Inga Solberg			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Daniel Crowder		Jeff Birch	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Sandy Birch	Andrea Robinson	Jody Smiley
<i>Youth Servants</i>	Corson Wertz	Elizabeth Berg	Matt Sharpe	Andrew Bales
<i>9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters</i>	The Petersons	Charlene Harris and Linda Elliott Jeff and Sandy Birch		The Walters Jr.
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Cindy Dowdy	Hank Schneider	Doug Smiley
<i>9 a.m. Worship Asst.</i>	Ted Peterson	Fred Spengler	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Larsen
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Ray Howell Jeff Birch	Grace and Ben Simmers James Pascoe David Hillis	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Burn Gross J.D. Robinson	Randy Robinson Bob and Peggy Brown Dickie Shepherd



Women of the ELCA

The January meeting will be held at the home of Sandy Birch (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg) on **Tuesday, January 15 at 6 p.m.** We will share a light supper and plan our programs and projects for 2008. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. If you need a ride, please call Sandy at 951-3455.

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

Remember the Womens Resource Center: In January, donations of toilet paper will be appreciated.



(December Meeting at Alice Schneider's Homer)

Lutheran Men in Mission



On December 8, the Men in Mission group helped at the Montgomery County Christmas Store by loading presents into shopper's vehicles, helping distribute food, and directing traffic. Those participating from St. Michael were Pastor John, Jeff Birch, Jerry Gallimore, John Krallman, Stan Larsen, Hank Schneider, Dave Surface, Gary Fetter, Bob Brown, Gary and Robert Worley. The group is scheduled to serve Easter dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission in March.



Youth Nights on January 16 and 30



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, January 16 and 30. 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 5th grade.

Confirmation for youth from 6th through 8th 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 9th through 12th Grade is led by Carrie Mayer (cmayer@mail.mcps.org) and provides an opportunity for fun and service.

The Youth Christmas Program, *Greetings from the Heart*, plays to record crowd

Thank you to all the angels, shepherds, and Bethlehem residents who participated in the Christmas program on December 16. The cast of characters included Erin Albert, Ryan Albert, Bryce Apisa, Katherine Berg, Elizabeth Berg, Steffen Bohn, Jessica Brown, Dan Crowder, MaKayla Dowdy, Jack Graves, David Hodge, Olivia Hodge, Hailey Howell, Alexa Mayer, Katy McGuigan, Alexis Neimeira, Matthew Pasier, Zach Peterson, Matt Sharpe, Will Sharpe, Alexis Simmers, Carlie Simmers, Delanie Veit Corson Wertz, Parker Wertz. Special thanks to the Donita Moore and the Chimes Choir, Elizabeth Berg, Steffen Bohn, Jaid Moore, Matthew Pasier, Michelle Pasier, Kelly Robinson and Will Sharpe, the Three Kings, Ted Peterson, Randy Robinson and Pastor John and all our leaders, including Jody Smiley (director), Jeanette Pasier, Dianne Krallman, Sandy Birch, Cindy Dowdy, Carrie Mayer, Tammy Veit, Kris Wertz and Angela Peterson.



Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 3. 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.



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.

Congratulations to...

Christopher Sheppard and Tanya Cervone on the birth of their son Owen Christopher. Proud grandmother is Lori Anne Kirk.

Steffen Bohn for achieving 1st Class Rank in Boy Scout Troop 158. Steffen is now on the "Eagle Trail" and merit badges become key for him in the next three ranks. Additionally, 1st Class Rank qualifies Steffen to be considered for Order of the Arrow and other leadership opportunities. Boy Scout Troop 158 is sponsored by St. Michael.



Ben Crawford who has been recognized by AARP Virginia for his outstanding volunteer service. Ben has served on more than 100 volunteer boards, committees and commissions and beginning January 1, 2008 will serve on the AARP Executive Council. More than 1 million Virginians are AARP members.

Evening Bible Study Beginning

On January 20th at 7 p.m., St. Michael will begin a new, evening Bible study. The Bible Study group will meet once a month on the 3rd Sunday and focus on a different book of the Bible each month beginning with the book of Romans. If you would like to be a part of the Bible Study or for more information, please contact Pastor John (stmlc@earthlink.net.)

St. Michael Cookbook Has Arrived

The new St. Michael Cookbook, *Feeding the Flock*, has arrived and is now for sale. The cost is \$12 per book and any proceeds will be given to the Justice and Mercy Fund. Thank you to everyone who submitted recipes and worked to put the book together. For more information about the cookbook or to purchase a cookbook, please talk to Betty Gross or Carol Crawford.

Report on December Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting on December 9, the congregation approved the 2008 Spending Plan for Ministry. The 2008 Plan includes the creation of a new lay associate in ministry position, the creation of an administrative assistant position and growth in several areas of ministry. In addition, all four recommendations concerning the possible facilities expansion were approved and Ben Crawford, Rick Mayer, Andrea Robinson and Tammy Veit were elected to the Congregational Council.

Administrative Assistant Needed

On December 9, the Congregation approved expanding the administrative support for our mission and ministry. We are now beginning the search for a **new Administrative Assistant** who will work 12 hours per week at the church. If you or someone you know is interested in more information about this position, please contact Pastor John.

Thank You for Happy-Go-Lucky

The Happy-Go-Lucky group would like to **thank Jay and Becci Nagle and New River Engraving** for providing and updating the Memorial plaques which are displayed in the Fellowship Hall. The most recent nameplate on the plaque honors our sister, Julia Landes.



Christmas Eve at St. Michael



Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas Eve at St. Michael such a wonderful, meaningful worship experience!