

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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hope@stmlc.us

When the church recently switched to a new high speed internet provider, I realized that we would need to select a new email address for the church. Our current email address: stmlc@earthlink.net will remain active for several months, but eventually that account will be closed. I started working through all the possible variations of the name St. Michael, before I finally decided that what we needed was not a new way to abbreviate our name, but a description of the type of ministry that we are undertaking in God's name. I considered a number of different possibilities before I finally settled on hope@stmlc.us. Hope at St. Michael Lutheran Church (hope@stmlc.us) seemed like the perfect choice for our new email address because it captures the heart of our ministry. Whether it is gathering for worship on Sunday morning or sharing faith with youth or providing help to people in need through a mission project, the people of God at St. Michael are constantly proclaiming the hope we experience thanks to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

In addition to a new general email address for the congregation, we will now have email addresses for staff members. You can always send an email to hope@stmlc.us and it will get forwarded to the proper person, but if you want to email someone directly you can use the following addresses.

Pastor John Wertz, Jr.

pastorjohn@stmlc.us

Donita Moore

dmoore@stmlc.us

Sandy Birch

birch@stmlc.us

Suzanne Gay

suzanneg@stmlc.us

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 Fran Gallimore for serving as the 9 a.m. pianist for two Sundays; Bob Brown for constructing the new valance light soffits in the sanctuary; Leona Criner for providing Happy-Go-Lucky and holiday event decorating; everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported supplies for family programs, our postal service permit, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In January, we helped 12 families: one family with heating oil; five families with electric bills; two families with water bills; two families with rent payments; one family with gas for their car; and one homeless woman with a night’s lodging at a local motel. 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

I want to personally thank the Lutheran churches for your part in making Christmas special for so many children on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Thanks to you, all the children in the Head Start/Early Head Start centers received a gift box. Thank you for making this happen! Rex Hartson, ONE Spirit and Christ Episcopal Indian Ministry

March 18 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.

Girl Scout Cookies

Girl Scout Troop 737 will sell cookies after the 11 a.m. service on February 24.

Cookies are \$3.50 per box.

See Jennie or Olivia Hodge to place an advance order.



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February Servants

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Acolytes	Sarah Crowder	Will Sharpe	Matthew Pasier	Elizabeth Berg
Altar Care	Pat Smith and Juanita Simpson			
Comm. Assts.	Dianne Krallman		Bob Brown	
Christ's Kids	Kris Wertz	Tacey Apisa	Andrea Robinson	Michelle Berg
Youth Servants	Corson Wertz	Matt Sharpe	Michelle Pasier	Katherine Berg
9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters	Walters Jr. family	Amy and Steve Woods	Shirley and Henderson	Linkous
Lay Readers	Mickey McGuigan	Andrea Robinson	Lori Anne Kirk	Fred Spengler
9 a.m. Worship Asst.	Jen Daskal	Ted Peterson	Lori Anne Kirk	Sandy Birch
Ushers	Sam Akers Don Linkous Ray Howell Jay Nagle	David Hillis James Pascoe Burn Gross J.D. Robinson	Philip Isenhour Roscoe Turman Jeff Birch Mickey McGuigan	Randy Robinson Dave and Ann Surface Dickie Shepherd

Women of the ELCA

The **February meeting** will be held at the home of Lisa Moehling (317 Country Club Road in Blacksburg) on **Thursday**, February 21 at 7 p.m. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Alice Schneider will lead the program.



On February 10 - March 9, we invite the congregation to **donate items for Easter baskets**, such as candy, books, and small toys. The Easter baskets are distributed to needy children at the Women's Resource Center and through the Salvation Army.

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.

Youth Nights on February 13 and 27



All youth from Kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, February 13 and 27. 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@vt.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.

Come and Learn about the Ten Commandments on February 17

Come and learn about the Ten Commandments and some of the laws of ancient Israel (Exodus 20:1-17; Exodus 22:1-15) on Sunday, February 17 at 7 p.m. at the home of John and Kris Wertz. Directions to the Wertz home are available on the shelf in the narthex. Everyone is Invited!

Congratulations to...

Chris and Amanda Quesinberry on the birth of their daughter, Mallie Katherine. Mallie was born on January 14 and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces. Welcome to the family!

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 (MCEAP).



United Lutheran Appeal

Why have a United Lutheran Appeal (ULA)?

- because we care,
- 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 United Lutheran Appeal on Sunday, February 3.

Wanted: more Friends with Flowers



For over a year, members of St. Michael have been donating their sponsored altar flowers to Friends with Flowers, a cross-denominational volunteer group whose mission is to provide a weekly bouquet to each hospice patient in the New River Valley. We have two needs: someone to help create six arrangements for the hospice patients from our two altar bouquets and donations of used flower vases of all sizes. If you can help with the arrangements and/or delivery to the hospice office in Christiansburg, please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455. Donated vases can be left at the “recycle center” in the church hallway. Thank you for your help.

Christian Children’s Fund Update

Anjali and Christa, our CCF foster children from Indonesia and India, sent Christmas greetings to St. Michael that just arrived. Both girls are doing well and enjoying school. Anjali sent us a copy of her handwriting and a picture of her mother and brothers. She had a school break in October. Christa writes that she finished her semester and was taking exams. Christa wishes us a “season [that] brings peace joy and much blessings, wisdom and happiness to all of you in your daily life in the new coming year.” Cards, letters, and pictures are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Shrove Tuesday – February 5.....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. Come and enjoy the wonderful food beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.



Living In The Covenant

During the Lenten season, St. Michael will be exploring the question, “What does it mean to live in the covenant God makes with us in Holy Baptism?” Each Wednesday will focus on a different part of our life of faith.

February 13	“To live among God’s faithful people”
February 20	“To hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper”
February 27	“To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”
March 5	“To serve all people, following the example of Jesus”
March 12	“To strive for justice and peace in all the earth”



Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

February 6 at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service begin on Wednesday, February 13

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

If you’d like to help provide food for one of the Lenten Midweek Meals, you can sign up on the back of the “Welcome” form in the weekly bulletin.

Setting the Tone for Lent

Beginning on Sunday, February 10, the 11 a.m. Service will begin using Setting 5 in the front of the Red Hymnal. The music for this setting is not difficult to sing and beautifully conveys the reflective mood of the season of Lent.

Welcome to the St. Michael Family



In July, **Bryan and Katie Katz** moved to Christiansburg from Herndon, Virginia where Bryan worked as a transportation engineer for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and Katie worked as an intensive care nurse at Georgetown Hospital. Bryan recently completed his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech and still works full time for SAIC from their new Blacksburg office while teaching part-time at Virginia Tech. Katie is attending Radford University to become a Family Nurse Practitioner and working part time at Montgomery Regional Hospital. Bryan originally is from Haymarket, VA and Katie is from Mooresville, NC. Katie grew up attending and then worked at Lutheridge, a Lutheran camp near Asheville, NC. They both love Virginia Tech football and traveling in their motorhome. Bryan and Katie are looking forward to being active at St. Michael.

Matt Belue, Lisa, Alex, Sarah and Noah Moehling moved to Blacksburg from Panama City, Florida last fall. Lisa is a homemaker. In her former life before children, she was an elementary school teacher for 7 years and was also in the Air Force Reserves for 11 years. She enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, jogging, volunteering at school, and being with her family. Matt, a Spartanburg, SC native, was in the U.S. Marine Corps for 13 years. He worked for Delta Airlines and also was a contractor before beginning his Civil Service job at the Radford Army Ammo Plant last September. Matt's interests include baseball, hockey, High Power Rifle Competition (200, 300 and 600 meter), Long Range Rifle Competition (600+Meter), Tactical Three Gun Competition (Carbine, Shotgun and Pistol), hiking, camping, fishing, backpacking and Military History.



We also welcomed **Viktoria Andri** to the St. Michael family on January 20. Viktoria, a resident of Blacksburg, is the mother of Skye and River King. She returned her life to Christ on Ash Wednesday, 2006, after a 17 year absence. Viktoria is grateful to have found such a caring and welcoming community with which to share Christ. On most Sunday mornings, Viktoria will have a pot of coffee brewing in the kitchen for the coffee lovers at St. Michael.

Filling Your Toolbox: People Served in Mission

One way to measure the impact of a congregation is to look at the total number of "People served in Mission." People served in Mission includes all the people who are touched directly by the mission and ministry of St. Michael during the course of a year. This includes people in worship, educational ministries, youth ministries, senior adult ministries, community helping ministries and any people directly helped or involved in the various ministries of the congregation. While approximately 140 people attend worship each week at St. Michael, the congregation served about 2000 people in mission and ministry in 2007.

Congratulations to our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 20 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected:

President:	Jim Clemens
Vice President:	Gary Worley
Secretary:	Tammy Veit
Financial Officer:	Rick Mayer

Annual Meeting and Brunch, February 24 at 9:50 a.m.

On Sunday, February 24, 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 2007 Annual Report and the 2008 Phone Directory.

Suzanne Gay joins St. Michael staff as Administrative Assistant

Suzanne began her duties on January 14 in her new office space in the corner of the fellowship hall. She is looking forward to her duties in support of the mission and ministry of St. Michael. Suzanne and her husband Keith have been attending St. Michael since the summer of 2006 after moving from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Keith is in the Air Force and teaches Air Force ROTC at Virginia Tech. Their daughter, Leah, is a sophomore at Blacksburg High School and son, John, is a sophomore at the College of William and Mary. As Virginia Tech graduates, Suzanne and Keith enjoy attending Hokie sporting events.



Feeding the Flock Cookbooks now available

The new St. Michael cookbook, *Feeding the Flock*, is available for \$12.00 from Betty Gross or Carol Crawford and others staffing the "cookbook table" following worship services. All profits from the sales will be donated to the Justice and Mercy Fund.