

# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## **Facilities Expansion Update**

The Facilities Expansion Task Force and our architect, Tom Koontz, have been hard at work and have made significant progress in the last few months. On January 31, we submitted our Special Use Permit to the Town of Blacksburg requesting approval for our Master Site Plan (on display in the Fellowship Hall). The Town has been in communication with us and has selected Friday, March 7 at 6 p.m. for the community meeting. Following that meeting, our site plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and considered at their public meeting on April 1 at 7:30 p.m.. Hopefully, our request will then be considered by the Town Council in May. Once the Special Use Permit was filed, we were able to request information from the County Health Department concerning our septic system and what action will be required to handle our future growth. We have also begun contacting possible contractors to determine their interest in the project and to obtain their assistance in projecting a more accurate cost for the project. In addition, new special fund offering envelopes have been ordered and will soon be available for those of you who would like to use an envelope for your gift to the Facilities Expansion Fund.

Even with all those steps underway, there are still many decisions to be made before any building could begin. In the coming months, the Facilities Expansion Task Force and Congregational Council will be providing you with an estimated cost for the project, details on any financing necessary to complete the project and a recommendation to the congregation on whether or not to proceed with construction. Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of St. Michael and the work of the Facilities Expansion Task Force. Together we are growing God's ministry 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**

Thank you to Linda Elliott and Shirley Linkous, who helped with newsletter and other mailings; Ray Howell, who painted the front doors and completed other repairs; Philip Isenhour for helping with our new computer set-ups; Hank Schneider, who finished a FaithChest; Stan Larsen for moving the music storage cabinet; Gary Worley, who compiled the 2007 Annual Report; and everyone, who set up, cleaned up, and cooked for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in February supported the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Sunday School supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our staff.

### **Justice and Mercy Fund and the Kroger Cares Program**

In 2007, we served 74 families through the Justice and Mercy Fund. We assisted our neighbors with water and electric bills, rent payments, medical expenses, clothing and other needs. To supplement our offerings to the fund, St. Michael formed a partnership with Kroger in 2005. Twenty-five members of the congregation purchased “Kroger Cares Gift Cards” for an initial investment of \$25, redeemable at any Kroger store. Supporters add value to their cards by recharging or “reloading” the value of the card up to \$500 at any time at any Kroger Store. Five percent (5%) of all card purchases and “reloads” are credited to the Justice and Mercy account when our account reaches \$5,000 or above. Since June, 2005, we have earned over \$2,200 for the fund.

**The \$25 gift cards will again be available for purchase beginning Sunday, March 2.** Please join the partnership as we continue to support our neighbors in need. See Sandy Birch to obtain your card.

### **Hungry? Buy Your Cookbook Now**

For only \$12, you can purchase a new St. Michael cookbook. The cookbook entitled *Feeding the Flock* features favorite recipes from our members and friends. All profits from sales go to help others through our Justice and Mercy Fund. Cookbooks are available from Betty Gross (552-2154), Carol Crawford (961-5733) or others staffing the “cookbook table” in the Fellowship Hall following worship services.

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

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**Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9**

### *March Servants*

	<b>March 2</b>	<b>March 9</b>	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 30</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Will Sharpe	Olivia Hodge	Matthew Pasier Katy McGuigan	Elizabeth Berg
<i>Altar Care</i>	Linda Elliott and Bill Greer				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Randy Robinson		Dianne Krallman	David Surface M. McGuigan	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Andrea Robinson	Jody Smiley		Michelle Berg
<i>Greeters-9 AM</i>	S. and H. Linkous	Clifton and Fay Walters	Clifton and Fay Walters		Carol and Ben Crawford
<i>Greeters-11 AM</i>	←	Ann and	David Surface		→
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Andrew Bales	Carlie and Lexi Simmers	Corson and Parker Wertz	Michelle Pasier	Katherine Berg
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Margaret Larsen	Ted Peterson	Lori Anne Kirk		Fred Spengler
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Joanne Pascoe	John Krallman	Kris Wertz	Jeff Birch (7) Lori Anne Kirk	Jay Nagle
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Jeff Birch Don Linkous Ray Howell	Dickie Shepherd Jeff Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle	Ben and Grace Simmers Roscoe Turman David Hillis	Randy Robinson Sandy Birch Bob and Peggy Brown	P.Isenhour McGuigan B. Gross R. Turman

Easter Servants: 7 A.M.: David Surface, Jeff Birch, Matthew Pasier, Randy Robinson,  
Bob and Peggy Brown, Sandy Birch

11 A.M.: Mickey McGuigan, Katy McGuigan, Scott McGuigan, Lori Anne Kirk,

## Women of the ELCA

**The March meeting** will be held at the church on Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. We will be assembling the Easter baskets for distribution to needy children through the Salvation Army and the Women's Resource Center. There will also be a program on women's health led by Amy Woods.



On Saturday, March 22, volunteers are welcome to meet at the church at 1 p.m. to **set up tables and decorate for the Easter brunch.**

We will continue to **collect Easter candy, toys and books through Sunday, March 9.** Thank you for your generosity.

**Remember the Food Bank:** March is peanut butter and jelly month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

**Remember the Women's Resource Center:** In March, donations of toilet paper will be appreciated.

## Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will be serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Easter Sunday, March 23. If you would like to volunteer for the kitchen staff, please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or sign up on the "Welcome" form in the bulletin. We will leave St. Michael at 3 p.m. and celebrate Easter with our neighbors at the Mission.

## Happy Go Lucky

We will gather together on Thursday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m. for our first meeting of the new year. Our spring programs continue with a local history theme. Kemvia Adams-Bush from Montgomery County Parks and Recreation will also meet with us to discuss possible trips for 2008.



**Happy Go Lucky  
on the Go!**

## Just an O.K. Dinner on March 30

St. Michael's **Older Kids** (50 and older) will gather at The Texas Roadhouse (next to Wal Mart) on Sunday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. for their first dinner with friends. Please make your reservation by using the "Welcome" form in the Sunday bulletin or contacting Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or birch@stmcl.us.

## Youth Nights on March 12 and 26



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, March 12 and 26. On March 12, we will all gather for the Lenten suppers at 6 p.m. The confirmands will meet with Pastor John during dinner and the other two groups will meet during the service.



**Kid's Night**, led by Jody Smiley ([esmiley@vt.edu](mailto:esmiley@vt.edu)), offers games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Confirmation** for youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade is led by Carrie Mayer ([cmayer@mail.mcps.org](mailto:cmayer@mail.mcps.org)) and provides an opportunity for fun and service.

## Youth take a Journey to Jerusalem on Saturday, March 15

All youth are invited to take part in Journey to Jerusalem on Saturday, March 15 at noon. Pastor John will discuss the events of Holy Week and Easter using a variety of items for the youth to touch and see. Come and learn a little more about the events of Holy Week and then stay for lunch.

### Hands On Holy Week for Youth and Families

**Saturday, March 15 at Noon**

**Journey to Jerusalem**

*Touch and see Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and then stay for pizza*

**Sunday, March 16 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m**

**Palm Sunday Procession led by Youth**



**Saturday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m.**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, March 23 at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

**Easter Service**

*Youth are asked to bring flowers to place on the Easter Floral Cross.*



## An Invitation to Cruise on the St. Michael Steward Ship

As we allow God to work through us, we become witnesses to God's love and care in the world. One way that we witness to God's presence in our lives is by being good stewards of the time, talents and treasures that God has given us and by using those gifts in our community of faith and in the world. In March, the congregation will have the opportunity to complete a Time and Talent survey to share ways that you would like to use your gifts as we "cruise" on the Steward Ship. Your willingness to share your gifts makes ministry happen!

Here are a few examples of the ministry opportunities you'll find on the Time and Talent survey.

- Sunday Servants: *Serve as a lay reader or usher*
- Mission and Service Opportunities: *Staff the Price's Fork Fair booth*
- Fellowship Opportunities and Common Interests: *Play softball*
- Prayer and Shepherding: *Help with a meal for funerals*
- Leadership Teams: *Serve on the Caring and Sharing Team*
- Teaching: *Help with Kid's Night for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade*

### March 18 is Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship. Thanks to the congregation's generous gifts in 2007, \$2100 in scholarship funds are available 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.

### Troop 148 earns Quality unit Award in 2007



Lee Anderson, New River District Training Chair presents Pastor John and Jan Helge Bohn, Scout Master, with the *Quality Unit Award*. Only select troops in this District achieved the *Quality Unit Award*. St Michael's Troop also recently participated in a Klondike Derby at Camp Powhatan in Pulaski County: there were 17 sleds in the race involving competition in first aid, knots and outdoor skills. Congratulations!

## Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule



**Wednesday Night  
Lenten Soup Supper and Service  
continue on Wednesday, March 5 and 12**

Supper at 6 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer Service at 6:45 p.m.

Each Wednesday will focus on a different part of our life of faith.

**March 5** “To serve all people, following the example of Jesus”

**March 12** “To strive for justice and peace in all the earth”

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

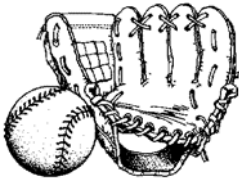
### **Make a Joyful Noise. Join the Choir!**

Music is an integral part of worship at St. Michael Lutheran Church. Come and be at the heart of this critical aspect of worship by joining the choir! Life as a choir member has become more convenient and enjoyable than ever before:

- we sing one to two Sundays each month
- we fit our practice schedule around personal schedules
- we have a variety of vocal ensembles which highlight a variety of musical tastes and talents, and
- there is no need to read music.

Join our community of singers to share your musical gifts and strengthen the worship life at St. Michael. To join, contact a choir member or Donita Moore ([donita.moore@dayspringchristianacademy.org](mailto:donita.moore@dayspringchristianacademy.org)), or just join us on Monday evenings at St. Michael at 6:45 p.m. We look forward to your voice joining others at St. Michael to **make a joyful noise!**

### **Softball Sign-ups in March**



If you are interested in playing for the St. Michael team and have not been listed on a previous roster, contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbirch@vt.edu) or check the space on the Time and Talent survey. Games begin in April.



**March 16**                      **Palm Sunday**                      **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
Reading of the Passion Story

**March 20**                      **Maundy Thursday**                      **7 p.m.**  
Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar

**March 21**                      **Good Friday**                      **7 p.m.**  
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

## **Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, March 23**



**Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.**

**Easter Breakfast following Service**

**Easter Service at 11 a.m.**

### **Easter Breakfast**

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service. Make plans to come, bring a dish and eat Easter Breakfast with the St. Michael family.



### **Flowers for the Easter Floral Cross**

The congregation is invited to bring flowers for the Easter Floral Cross. The cross was created years ago by Barney Clemens from a St. Michael Chrismon tree and has been a part of our Easter tradition.

### **Do You Need a New Bible?**

St. Michael has a variety of Bibles available for people of all ages and reading levels. We have recently added copies of the New International Reader Version, which is a translation designed for those people looking for a Bible that is easy to read. If you need a new Bible for your *Toolbox for a Life of Faith*, please see Pastor John and he will be happy to help you find one that fits your needs.