



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

hope@stmhc.us

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Volume 31, Number 9

September 1, 2008

Education Celebration on September 7 at 9:50 AM: Groundbreaking to Kick-Off New Sunday School Year

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Education Celebration on Sunday, September 7 at 9:50 a.m. as we celebrate the beginning of a new Sunday School year and break ground for the “Phase 1 - Classroom Addition”. Students will have an opportunity to meet their new teachers, everyone will have an opportunity to take part in the service to officially begin work on our new classroom building and then we will have time to share in fellowship and refreshments. I hope you will be able to take part in this celebration of a new year and new space for Christian education at St. Michael.

Growing with Faith Update

Once the congregation had unanimously approved construction of the “Phase 1 - Classroom Addition” on August 17, the Facilities Expansion Task Force and Council began working on the details that will allow us to begin construction. Our engineers have submitted a site plan to the Town of Blacksburg and they are working through the site plan process with the Town. Lionberger Construction has officially applied for a building permit from the Town of Blacksburg and is preparing to begin construction as soon as the permit is granted. The paperwork for our loan with Thrivent is nearly complete, so we should be able to schedule the closing on our loan in the near future. We received notice from the Town of Blacksburg that they have approved our request to connect to the County’s water line, so we are now working with the County to have them install a meter for our new service. I look forward to seeing construction begin and to the expanded ministry the classroom addition will support.

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran church is to:

- Care for all God’s people in need,
- Hear of God’s love through Word and Sacrament
- Respond to God’s grace with thankful hearts,
- Invite others into Christ’s community,
- Serve God in our daily lives, and
- Tell the story of God’s love for all.

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 Andrea Sharpe who organized the **Price’s Fork Teachers Breakfast** and all who brought food; to Rick and Carrie Mayer who hosted a 20-30-40 somethings dinner and to Hank and Alice Schneider who hosted the O.K. dinner; to Kris Wertz and Jennie Hodge for helping organize and shelve the new library books; to all the volunteers at the **Price’s Fork Fair**: Carol Bland, Carol Crawford, Gary Worley, Robert Worley, Pastor John, Corson Wertz, Joanne Pascoe, Matthew Pasier, Michelle Pasier, Kris Wertz, Nancy Franz, Bill Gahnz, Fran Shepherd, Doug and Tammy Veit, Ross and Kitty Kirk, and Scout Troop 158; Judy Clemens for selling St. Michael cookbooks at the Prices Fork Fair; Shirley Linkous, Linda Elliott, Bill Greer, Hallie Brown for helping with newsletter and bulletin folding; the Hodge family, Sandy Birch and Pastor John for preparing and delivering the school supplies and to everyone who donated the supplies.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided Sunday School supplies, \$676 for phone cards for servicemen and women (matched by \$400 from Thrivent), architectural and engineering fees for the new addition, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, 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. 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. In August, we assisted six families; three with electric bills, one with gas, one with a water bill and a sixth with their rent.

Some Thank You Notes

*To St. Michael Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the scholarship. You all have truly blessed me. As long as I can remember, I have found nothing but love and support at St. Michael Lutheran Church.
God bless, Justin Dolph*

*Pastor Wertz and St. Michael friends,
Thank you for the wonderful gifts and donations to support our students as we returned for the 2008-2009 school year. I wish you could have been there to see the joyous faces of our beautiful children as they received your generosity. Many, many thanks!
Kipps Teachers and Staff*

More Thank You Notes

Lots of notes from Prices Fork Elementary teachers and staff for the breakfast provided on August 13... "thank you for thinking of us, providing for us and feeding us." ... "your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated..." "Your support means a lot!" ... "thank you so much for taking such good care of us!"

To our St. Michael family,

Thank you for your loving care after the death of my mother, Betty Eggert. We appreciated the beautiful music, comforting words and delicious desserts at her visitation, and all your cards and prayers and hugs. We love you all. Sandy and Jeff Birch and family

Overflowing with School Supplies

Thank you to everyone who brought school supplies for needy children. Your generosity provided:

23 backpacks	127 folders	38 3-ring binders
104 spiral notebooks	64 packages of crayons	35 rulers
44 packages of pencils	31 scissors	48 packs of paper
24 packages of colored pencils		

and a variety of other much needed supplies.

In addition, Thrivent provided 3 gift certificates from Wal-Mart for a total of \$400 for the schools. The supplies and gift certificates were delivered to very grateful teachers at Elliston-Lafayette, Kipps and Price's Fork Elementary Schools. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies.



Pastor John delivers school supplies to Sharon Robinson and Dottie Cottrill, Principal at Prices Fork Elementary School

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September Servants

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Andrew Bales	Matthew Pasier	Will Sharpe
<i>Altar Care</i>	Sandy Birch and Jeanette Pasier			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Karen Mayer		Linda Elliott	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Michelle Berg	Tacey Apisa	Jody Smiley
<i>Youth Servant</i>	MaKayla Dowdy	Cam Nagle	Carlie Simmers	Matt Sharpe
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Keith Gay	Sandy Birch	Fred Spengler	Lori Anne Kirk
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Sandie and Gary Worley		Hodge family	
	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Katie Katz	Dianne Krallman	John Krallman	Andrea Robinson
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Ray Howell David Hillis Dickie Shepherd	Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle Burn Gross	Don Linkous Ben and Grace Simmers Philip Isenhour	Dave and Ann Surface Jeff Birch Hank Schneider

Weed control: Week ending 9/13 –Jeff Birch; 9/27 – Barbara Corbett
Mowing schedule: Sam Akers – back on 9/6; Jim Clemens – front on 9/13; Jay Nagle – back on 9/20; Doug Smiley – front on 9/27.
Rear lot: David Hills – 9/1 and 9;29; Jeff Crowder – 9/8; Dave Surface – 9/15; Tom Hodge –9/22

Women of the ELCA



All women of St. Michael are invited to the first fall meeting on September 18 at 6 p.m. at the home of Alice Schneider. A light supper will be provided. The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 12 at 2 p.m. at St. Michael. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference.

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

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In September, we'll collect paper supplies: toilet paper and paper towels. The collection basket is in the hallway.

In September and 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 on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation** in South Dakota. The reservation is located in the poorest county in the United States, where family income averages \$3,700 and unemployment is 93%. Many families live in tents or old cars. Last year, we donated 131 Christmas boxes with the help of friends at other Lutheran congregations and a Girl Scout troop. Watch for announcements in future bulletins and on the bulletin board.



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. The choir year will start with a songful and foodful kickoff with the first annual choir sing down complete with prizes!

When: Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: St. Michael fellowship hall

Bring: A dish to share; beverages will be provided

Contact Nancy Franz at nfranz@vt.edu or 951-1393 by September 2 if you plan to attend. The St. Michael Choir will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the fall.

Chime Choirs

The young adult Chime Choir will meet on Thursdays from 6 – 6:30 starting on Thursday, September 11. The youth Chime Choir will meet on Youth Sundays at 4:30 p.m.



St. Michael 40th Anniversary Picnic on September 28

The St. Michael 40th Anniversary Picnic will take place on September 28 immediately following the 11 a.m. Service. Everyone is invited to bring a friend and a dish to share as we celebrate the ministry and history of St. Michael. Our special guests that day will be Rev. Glenn London, St. Michael's pastor from 1976 – 1985 and Anne London. Many memories will be displayed throughout the picnic grounds as we celebrate forty exciting and blessed years together.

The O.K.s (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, September 11, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck lunch and program. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier. In September, we will be celebrating the special birthdays of six of our members: Peggy Price, Betty Gross, Roscoe Turman, Hallie Brown, Richard Price and Richard Quensenberry, who will celebrate their 80th birthdays during the coming year. We will recognize all our members in their 80's too and have a big birthday party for all.



Pictured are seven O.Ks at the Virginia Highlands Arts and Crafts Festival in Abington last month. The October 23 trip to Pearisburg is full, but if we get more registrants,

perhaps a second bus will be added. The Chrismon trip on December 15 still has spaces available. There are a few spots left for the Wohlfahrt Theater trip as well on November 30. Contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 if you would like to attend this Christmas Show and lunch.

Twenty-two O.K.s enjoyed a potluck dinner at the home of Alice and Hank Schneider on August 9. The next O.K. dinner is planned for Sunday, October 19 at Mamma Concetta Italian Restaurant.



Church Volleyball Team Forming

St. Michael will have an Adult Co-ed Volleyball team which will play in the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation League this fall. If you are interested in playing, please sign up on the "Welcome" sheet in the bulletin.

**Bible Study on the Book of Habakkuk
September 21 at 7 PM at the Wertz Home – Everyone is Welcome!**

Youth Night Moves to Sunday Night Beginning September 14



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to Senior High has moved to Sunday evenings from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Sunday, September 14. Come enjoy the fun!

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 Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmhc.us.

The **Middle School / Senior High Youth Group** for 6th 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 Youth Group, contact Carrie at cmayer@mail.mcps.org.

The **September to May Youth Night Schedule** (meeting every other Sunday) is available through the on-line church calendar at: www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org.

Sunday School Launches a New Year on September 7

St. Michael's Sunday School program for all ages will begin a new year with the Education Celebration on Sunday, September 7 at 9:50 a.m. Students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers and then take part in the groundbreaking for the new classroom addition. Classes will start on Sunday, September 14 at 9:50 a.m. Join your friends and come learn more about God's Word in Sunday School.

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 September the questions discussed will be:

Sept. 14 – What is the Purpose of the Bible?

Sept. 21 – Why is the Bible Considered an Authority for the Church?

Sept. 28 – 40 Years of Ministry at St. Michael

Confirmation Class Moves to Sunday Mornings

St. Michael's Confirmation Class will now be taught on Sunday mornings as a part of Sunday School. All youth from 6th through 8th grade are invited to be a part of the class to learn more about what it means to live a life of faith. The first class for the year will be on Sunday, September 14 beginning at 9:50 a.m.

Care of Creation Toolbox

Recycling is one way to take good care of our precious earth. Blacksburg recycling customers may now recycle mixed paper and commingled containers curbside. Please refer to the following guidelines:

Mixed paper: All clean, dry paper that can be torn including newspaper, cardboard, office paper, magazines and catalogs, junk mail, phonebooks, paperboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.); construction paper, colored paper, envelopes with and without windows, tissue and wrapping paper.

Cardboard: must be no larger than 3'x3'. Please cut larger pieces to this size. Place cardboard that will not fit in the bin underneath the bin.

Items not accepted: items with food residue, plastic padded envelopes, waxy or laminated paper, food-to-go-boxes, carbon paper, paper towels, tissues, used paper plates and cups and hardback books.

Christian Children's Fund (CCF)

We have received cards and notes from our two CCF foster children. Anjali's letter tells us she "is keeping in good health" and she "continues well in her studies. She enjoys going to school." The CCF contact person reports that St. Michael is a "great gift of God to Anjali." Likewise, our older foster child, Christa, asks that "God bless you and the whole family." Both letters are posted on the Christian Children's Fund poster in the church entryway. If you are interested in sending a note to either girl, please see Jennie Hodge.

Men in Mission



The Men in Mission have a new mission project.....to remodel the outdated and unfriendly restrooms in Kid's World at the Montgomery County Christmas Store. We have funds from Thrivent and the Christmas Store, a project leader (Bob Brown), and a deadline: by Thanksgiving. All we need are willing workers who know a little about plumbing, carpentry, painting, installing linoleum, or assisting those who do. Please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or jbbirch@vt.edu if you can help. Work dates will be announced soon.

New Books Added to the Library

Thirty seven new books have been added to St. Michael's lending library. The new books expand the library's scope to include books on Lutheran theology, world religions and living a life of faith. Check out some of the new titles including:

The History of Lutheranism	The Book of Concord
Introducing the Old Testament	Introduction to World Religions
Faith and Fitness	Jim and Casper Go to Church.