



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

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St. Michael Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry



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 Linda Elliott, Shirley Linkous and Margaret Larsen for helping with newsletter mailings; to Fran Gallimore for playing the piano at 9 a.m. worship services; the Caring and Sharing Team for planning our St. Michael Day 40th Anniversary celebration; Viktoria Andri for her many, many hours dedicated to preparing the 40th Anniversary exhibit; Carol Crawford, Judy Clemens, Kris Wertz and Sandy Birch for sorting through historical records for the anniversary; Pastor John, Ray Howell, Gary Worley, Robert Worley, Betty and Burn Gross for helping clean out the storage shed; Ben and Carol Crawford, Judith Wolfe and Sandy Birch who staffed the St. Michael booth at the AARP Health Fair.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided 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 ministerial staff. A new copier was also purchased in September.

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

You can support the Justice and Mercy Fund by purchasing a *Feeding the Flock* cookbook. The cookbook sells for \$12 and all funds received are contributed to the fund. Last year, the fund provided emergency assistance for 74 families for rent and medical expenses, electric, phone and water bills, heating oil, and food. If interested in purchasing a cookbook, contact Betty Gross, Sandy Birch, Carol Crawford or Pastor.

Some Thank You Notes

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,
Thanks be to God for your steadfast faithfulness and gifts of support. Recently we have begun participating in a feeding program in our community. Each month that has a 5th Wednesday, we prepare a dinner and a sack lunch and deliver food to the working poor staying in local motels. These are people without the means for an apartment deposit and instead live week to week in tiny motel rooms. It is a privilege to serve Jesus in this simple way.
Peace, Rev. Paul Walters, Grace Lutheran Church*

*To St. Michael,
I want to personally thank your congregation for the phone cards and candy...The phone cards were delivered to Army chaplain Zapsic today. He will be giving those cards to the soldiers, sailors, airmen, coasties, and marines that he meets on his job here in Kuwait and Iraq.....It means a great deal to know that people back home support us for our service and our sacrifice for our country!! Thank you. Captain David Lehman USN*

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October Servants

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Acolytes	Sarah Crowder	Katy McGuigan	Matthew Pasier	Andrew Bales
Altar Care	The Noonkesters			
Comm. Assts.	Daniel Crowder		Dave Surface	Karen Mayer
Christ's Kids	Andrea Robinson	Jody Smiley	Tacey Apisa	Michele Berg
Youth Servants	Lexi Simmers	Katherine Berg	MaKayla Dowdy	Parker Wertz
9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters	Steve and Jen Daskal		William Allen and Henderson Linkous	
	Dean and Kelsey Trimble			
Lay Reader	Lori Anne Kirk	Mickey McGuigan	Joanne Pascoe	Kris Wertz
9 a.m. Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Jen Daskal	Matthew James	Fred Spengler
Ushers	David Hillis Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Hank Schneider James Pascoe Burn Gross Jeff Birch	Philip Isenhour Randy Robinson Bob and Peggy Brown	Roscoe Turman Grace and Ben Simmers Joanne Pascoe

Weed control: Week ending 10/11 – Nancy Franz; 10/25 – Jennie Hodge

Mowing schedule: Sam Akers – back on 10/4; Jim Clemens – front on 10/11; Jay Nagle – back on 10/18; Doug Smiley – front on 10/25

Rear lot: Jeff Crowder–10/06; Dave Surface–10/13; Tom Hodge–10/20; David Hillis-10/27

Women of the ELCA

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. Pastor John will be presenting a program on nurturing faith in families. We will also visit the St. Michael Soda Shoppe where we will enjoy ice cream sundaes and sweets.



Birthday Dinner: On Sunday , October 26, the Women of the ELCA will be hosting an Italian Festa, the annual birthday dinner. Volunteers are needed to serve as table hosts and provide a birthday cake, or pie, or big cookie, or cupcakes for each of the twelve birthday tables. The sign-up sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you for helping with the birthday celebration.

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 paper supplies, e.g., toilet paper, paper towels. The collection basket is in the hallway.

In October, the WELCA members at St. Michael are 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 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. We will be collecting the boxes through mid-November.

Many Lakota families on the Pine Ridge Reservation are without heat in their homes. The Tribal Energy Office has recommended that the best way to help people have heat is with energy efficient and safe electric heaters costing \$50 each. Donations will also be accepted for heaters. Please use the special envelopes in the pew and designate your donation for "heaters". Thank you.

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

100 Cans of Chicken Noodle Soup for the Montgomery County Christmas Store

Girl Scout Troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, is collecting chicken noodle soup for the Christmas Store. In October, we invite you to bring a can or cans to our drop off box in the hallway. If you have any questions, please see Jennie or Olivia Hodge.

Boy Scout Troop 158 Needs Drivers

Boy Scout Troop 158, which meets at St. Michael, needs some help driving the boys to and from meetings and activities. We are trying to reach some disadvantaged boys with little or no family support. To volunteer or for more information, contact Todd Solberg at 951-1110 or tsolberg@yahoo.com or contact Ben Crawford at 961-5733 or ben.crawford@vt.edu.

Holden Evening Prayer Service Thursday, October 9 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

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 Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. For more information about the choir contact Donita at dmoore@stmlc.us. The young adult chime choir meets at 6-6:30 p.m.

O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet on Thursday, October 9, at 11:30 a.m. for a "Celebration of the 70's" and a potluck lunch. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier. Start collecting those white elephant items for our annual November auction too.



**OKs
on the Go!**

Our next trip is a Pearisburg excursion on October 23 when we'll tour the Andrew Johnston Museum, explore the unique shops and boutiques in downtown Pearisburg and have lunch at The Bank Restaurant.

On Sunday, October 19, the **O.K.s** will gather at a **buffet luncheon** at Mama Concetta's on Rt. 114 (near the Valley View Mall) beginning at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$7.99 (beverage extra) for an Italian feast: pasta, pizza, salad and dessert. Older kids can make their reservations on the *Welcome to St. Michael* form.

Youth Night on October 12 and 26



On Sunday, October 12 and 26, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night programs for youth from Kindergarten to Senior High. 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 and is led by Pastor John.

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.

The Youth Chime Choir will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Youth Nights.

**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. 5** – Since we have the New Testament, why do we need the Old Testament?
- Oct. 12** – What is the Apocrypha?
- Oct. 19** – Who was Jacob?
- Oct. 26** – What Do we mean by a “Lutheran” Church or “Lutheran” Theology?

Bible Study on October 19

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Book of Titus on Sunday, October 19 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and discover what Titus is all about!

Blessing of the Animals on October 5

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 5 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.

Sail on the St. Michael Steward Ship



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 Maintenance Fund in 2009. Estimating your giving provides you with the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to decide what God is calling you to give in response. Estimate of Giving cards will be mailed this week. You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship on Sunday, October 19. With your help, we will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

St. Michael's annual giving to the VA Synod and your additional generous gifts to the ELCA make it possible for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to help bring God's comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. Even after the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR *stays* -- providing ongoing assistance to those in need. Here is one story of how your gifts make a difference.

When a tornado struck Enterprise, Ala., in March 2007, the members of Christ the King Lutheran Church were equipped to respond, bringing help and hope to the community.

Only 18 days before, two seminary interns had come to this small city to give a presentation at Christ the King on behalf of Lutheran Disaster Response. Prior to the presentation, many members of the congregation had never heard of LDR, a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

The members of Christ the King started putting together their congregational plan, and several members agreed to serve on a disaster preparedness committee. Just over two weeks later, a devastating storm tore through the city, destroying two schools, leveling portions of downtown and residential areas, and killing eight high school students.

When Lutheran Disaster Response personnel arrived the next morning to begin assessing the situation, members at Christ the King were their first contacts. The church was soon named as the volunteer reception center for anyone coming to help, and within a month, nearly 4,000 volunteers participated in work projects around Enterprise.

Donations to [ELCA Domestic Disaster Response](#) fund hardship grants, spiritual and emotional care, disaster preparedness, volunteer coordination, and other relief and recovery efforts. ELCA Domestic Disaster Response is at work bringing healing and help around the country in areas like Galveston, Texas as it recovers from Hurricane Ike.

Buon Compleanno! (that's Happy Birthday in Italian)

The congregation is cordially invited to the annual Birthday Dinner, an Italian Fiesta, on Sunday, October 26, at 12:10 p.m. (after the 11 a.m. worship service). Come enjoy lasagna, salad, delicious birthday cakes and wonderful fellowship together. At the birthday dinner, the folks born in January sit together, the folks born in February share a table, ...well, you get the idea. A free will offering will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. The event is hosted by the Women of the ELCA.



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.

St. Michael Receiving New Members on October 12

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, October 12. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

Growing with Faith Update

Lionberger will begin construction on our classroom addition as soon as they receive a building permit from the Town of Blacksburg. You can follow the construction through weekly updates that will be posted at:

www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/facilities-expansion/

Congratulations to....

Roscoe and Dot Turman who welcomed their fifth great grandchild, Olivia Turman, in August. Olivia is the daughter of Ben and Brooke Turman of St. Charles, MO.

Daniel Crowder, who was selected as a member of the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech. Dan is one of the tuba players doing the Hokie Pokie before the start of the 4th quarter at the football games. That's what it's all about. Our 9 a.m. pianist, Brandy Buckles, is also a member of the Marching Virginians.