



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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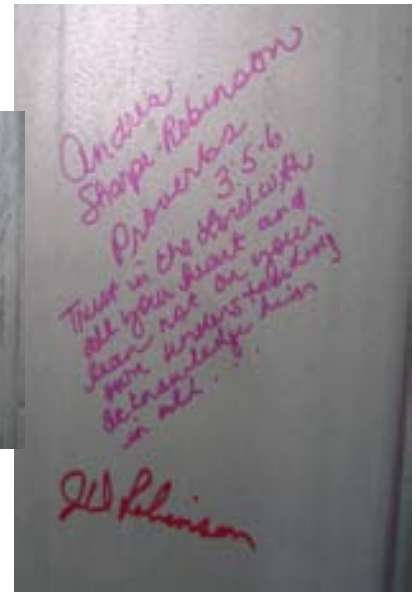
www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org

Volume 32, Number 3

March 1, 2009

Blessing the Building

On Sunday, February 22, the people of St. Michael added their names and their favorite scripture verses to the walls of the new classroom addition as a sign of the community, as a symbol of our shared faith in God and as a remembrance of the shared gifts that made the new space possible.



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

Thank you to Linda Elliott and Shirley Linkous, who helped with newsletter and other mailings; Jody Smiley, Alice Schneider, Bill Gahnz, Dianne Krallman, Judy Wunderlich, and Judy Clemens who provided lunch (L-Cubed) for the Lutheran Student Movement group; Linda Elliott who helped collate conference materials; Gary Worley, who compiled the 2008 Annual Report; Judith Wolfe for hosting the February WELCA meeting; Shirley Linkous, who coordinates the 9 a.m. ushers and greeters; 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.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In February, we contributed to power bills for four families and rent for two families. 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.

Sharing Our Time and Talents



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. In March, we all have the opportunity to complete a Time and Talent survey to identify those ministries that we are passionate about and interested in supporting. We do God’s work in Christ’s name for the life of our congregation, the community and our world.

Here are a few examples of the ministry opportunities you’ll find on the survey:

- Sunday Servants: serve as a lay reader or usher
- Mission and Service: help with SHARE
- Fellowship: play softball or go on an OK trip
- Prayer and Shepherding: provide food for funerals
- Ministry Teams: serve on the Stewards Team
- Teaching: help with Youth Night

“Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.” - ELW Hymn 840

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March Servants

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Andrew Bales	Matthew Pasier	Alex Moehling	Corson Wertz
<i>Altar Care</i>	Hank and Alice Schneider				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Karen Mayer		Bob Brown		
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Jody Smiley	Tacey Apisa	Andrea Robinson	Michelle Berg	Kris Wertz
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Camden Brewer	Corson Wertz	Matt Sharpe	Cam Nagle	Parker Wertz
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Keith Gay	Katie Garst/ Olivia Hodge	Lori Anne Kirk	Jen Daskal	Matthew James
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Hodge family Sharon & Randy Robinson	Steve & Jen Daskal	William Allen & Grace & Ben Simmers/Lexi and Carlie		
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Cindy Dowdy	Joanne Pascoe	Will Sharpe	Katie Katz	Doug Veit
<i>Ushers</i>	David Hillis Ray Howell Dickie Shepherd Don Linkous	Randy Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Hank Schneider	Roscoe Turman Philip Isenhour Ben and Grace Simmers	Bob and Peggy Brown Jay Nagle Jeff Birch	Surfaces Scott and Mickey McGuigan

Lenten worship assistants: Karen Mayer 3/4; Dianne Krallman 3/11; Lori Anne Kirk 3/18; Maggie Maloney 3/25

Women of the ELCA

The March meeting will be held at the home of Betty Gross on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. The program will be led by Kris Wertz. Directions to Betty's home can be found on the hallway shelf. If you need a ride, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455. All women of the church are invited for fun, fellowship and friendship.



During the five Sundays of March, **we will collect Easter candy, toys and books for Easter Baskets** for the children at the Women's Resource Center and others sponsored by the Salvation Army. We also need empty baskets; children's sandbox pails (often found at the dollar stores) also work very well. On Sunday, March 29, volunteers are welcome to meet in the fellowship hall after the 11 a.m. service to assemble the Easter Baskets.

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

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In March, we will continue donations of toilet paper. Thank you.

Lutheran Men in Mission



The Lutheran Men in Mission will be serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Palm Sunday, April 5. 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 the season with our neighbors at the Mission.

O.Ks (Older Kids)

On Sunday, March 1, all are welcome to a "Mind and Memory" party. Our program will be led by Rhoda Janosik, a licensed clinical social worker, and a member of Luther Memorial. The program will begin with a catered lunch (\$5/each) following the 11 a.m. service and will conclude at 1:30. Contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 by February 28 if you would like to attend and have not yet signed up.



**OKs
on the Go!**

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together on **Thursday, March 12, at 11:30 a.m. for our first potluck meeting** of 2009. Pastor John will join us and share the plans for "God's Stories for Today" beginning in May. Kemvia Adams-Bush from Montgomery County Parks and Recreation will also meet with us to discuss possible trips for 2009.

Youth Night on March 8 and 22



On Sunday, March 8 and March 22, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Michael will have Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th Grade. Come enjoy the games, crafts and learning opportunities led by Pastor John.

**Sunday School for All Ages Begins at 9:50 AM in the Sanctuary
Everyone is Welcome!!**

Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for March

During Lent, we will be discussing the themes and readings from our Wednesday night Lenten Services.

March 1	Deep Devotion - Acts 2:43-47
March 8	Trusting the Power of the Holy Spirit - Acts 4:23-31
March 15	Mission Calls People to Action - Acts 6:1-7
March 22	Engaging the World - Acts 8:26-40
March 29	Proclaiming God's Word - Acts 28:23-31

Reduce/Reuse/Recycle – Care of Creation

There's a new service at the Y Thrift Shop at 1000 North Main Street in Blacksburg. Waste Management is testing out a single-stream recycling bin in the parking lot. You can drop off (all co-mingled): plastics (#1 - #7), flattened cardboard, glass, aluminum, catalogs, phone books, etc. A full list can be found at www.vtymca.org and on the hallway bulletin board. This is a FREE service to anyone in the New River Valley. Before you go to the Y Center, consider cleaning out those bookshelves and closets and bring in those reusable items too.

Lent and Literacy (and Recycling)

On Wednesday, March 18, bring your used books to the fellowship hall for a **St. Michael Book Fair**. Pick up some new books to read . . . leave some books for others . . . all at no cost. At least one table will be filled by 500+ mystery paperback books recently cleaned off the shelves of a “mystery donor.” The Fair begins at 5:00 p.m. before the Lenten supper. Remaining books will be donated to the Y Thrift Shop



and Literacy Volunteers of America.

Lenten Service Schedule

Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service begin on

Wednesday, March 4

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, please sign up on the back of the "Welcome" form in the weekly bulletin.



Acts for Today

During the Lenten season, St. Michael will be exploring the Book of Acts and the ways in which the experiences of the early church speak to our life and ministry today. In Acts we hear that the church is called to be a community:

March 4

"Of Deep Devotion"

Acts 2:43-47

March 11

"That Trusts in the Power of the Holy Spirit"

Acts 4:23-31

March 18

"Where Mission Calls People to Action"

Acts 6:1-7

March 25

"That Sends People Out to Engage the World"

Acts 8:26-40

April 1

"That is Bold in Proclaiming God's Word"

Acts 28:23-31

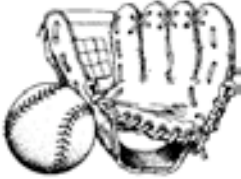
Mid-Week Noon Worship at Luther Memorial

In addition to our gatherings on Wednesday evenings during Lent, we are invited to worship at 12:00 noon each Wednesday in the Luther Memorial chapel. The services, beginning on March 4, will consist of prayer, scripture reading and Holy Communion. The services will last about 30 minutes.

Bible Study on March 15

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on Sunday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. We will discuss Jesus' prayer and experiences by exploring Mark 14:32-42 and Matthew 26:36-56.

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 jbbirch@vt.edu or check the space on the Time and Talent survey. Games begin in April.

Scrapbooking

If you enjoy scrapbooking, bring your pictures and supplies to church on Saturday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and scrapbook with friends from church. For more information, contact Sheila McCartan at rbsm517@nrvunwired.net or at 381-2957.

Dinner with Friends Gathering on March 14

The Dinner with Friends group for 20, 30 and 40 somethings will gather at the home of Pastor John and Kris on Saturday, March 14 at 6 p.m. Child care will be provided. Check the bulletin for more information.

Report on the Annual Meeting

St. Michael's Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 22. The 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Directory was distributed and approved by the congregation. In addition, the congregation approved several updates to the Church Constitution. The fully updated Constitution will be available for download on the church's website or a printed copy can be requested from the church office. Copies of the Annual Report and Directory are available in the front hallway.

Meetings in March

The **Property Team** will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, talk to Fran Shepherd.

The **SHARE Planning Team** will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. For more information, talk to Pastor John.

The **Finance Team** will meet on Sunday, March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information talk to Pastor John or John Krallman.

St. Michael Mission Trip - June 28 to July 3

A group from St. Michael will be traveling to the McDowell Mission in Welch, West Virginia to share God's love by doing home repairs for elderly and low income families in need. The cost for the week is \$225 which will cover our lodging and materials for the week. If you are interested in being a part of this hands-on ministry group, please talk to Pastor John. More information on the ministry of the McDowell Mission can be found at www.mcdowellmission.org.

Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring at St. Michael. Over 110 food items and \$300 was given to support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program Food Pantry and Micah's Backpack. Nationally, over 11,800 organizations participated in 2009 raising more than \$9,365,000 to fight hunger in communities around the country.



Micah's Backpack Update

Thank you! The ministry of Micah's Backpack continues to grow with generous support from the people of God at St. Michael and in the community. The ministry now feeds a total of 11 children each weekend. On the website, www.micahsbackpack.org, you will see a list of our partners in ministry including the Fitness and Nutrition Club at Virginia Tech which added its support to Micah's Backpack in February.

Growing with Faith Update

Construction on our Classroom Addition is going well. The walls are up. The windows are being installed. The roof is on. Over the next month, the doors will be installed and the brick will start to go up on the outside of the building. You can see updated pictures of construction on the website at: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/facilities-expansion/> The dedication date for the classroom addition will be Sunday, August 9. Bishop Mauney will be here to preach and help dedicate the new space.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship – April 15

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.