



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 32, Number 9

September 1, 2009

School Notes

Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies. Your gifts make a difference for children in our community. Make sure you check out the complete list of donations in the newsletter. It is an impressive list of supplies.

Micah's Backpack begins delivering backpacks on September 4. In November of 2008, Micah's Backpack started as a pilot program delivering five backpacks filled with healthy meals to students in need at Price's Fork Elementary School. Over the last year, this helping ministry has been so successful that it is now supported by 18 community partners and will deliver a total of 30 backpacks to students at all five Blacksburg Elementary Schools. With your support, Micah's Backpack is a wonderful example of how we can be God's heart and hands and voices in the community.

On September 13, we will begin Sunday School in the new classroom addition. There is plenty of room for everyone, so I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about God's love for God's people. This year, we will have classes for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, 3rd through 5th Grade, 6th through 12th Grade and Adults. In the Adult Class, I will be leading a study of the Book of Revelation. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of discussion and learning in Sunday School.

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 Teacher’s Breakfast** and all who brought food; Cindy, Chris and MaKayla Dowdy who hosted the family picnic and pool party; to all the volunteers at the **Price’s Fork Fair**: Vivian Williams, Carol and Ben Crawford, Gary Worley, Robert Worley, Pastor John, Joanne Pascoe, Kris Wertz, Fran Shepherd, Lori Anne Kirk, Judith Wolfe, Joyce Coupey, Dianne Krallman, Deloris Raines; and Alice Schneider, Sandy Birch, Parker Wertz and Bryce Apisa for preparing and delivering the school supplies and to everyone who donated the supplies.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in August provided funds for 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 seven families; two with their electric bills, two with automobile expenses, one with rent, one with a water bill, and a seventh with the purchase of eyeglasses.

More servants needed: **altar care assistants** are needed for October, November and December to prepare the communion meals. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you can help – if even for one communion Sunday – or speak with Sandy Birch. Training is available if you are interested in this important ministry. There are three Sundays remaining in the fall which would welcome a gift of **altar flowers** as well. Our altar flowers, which can be donated in celebration of an event, or in memory of a loved one, are then donated to the Good Samaritan Hospice following each Sunday service. The altar flower sign-up sheet is also on the hallway bulletin board.

Some Thank You Notes

A collection of comments from the teachers and staff at Prices Fork Elementary for the breakfast provided on August 12: What a wonderful breakfast! Thank you so much for being such good neighbors and friends. Delicious! Thoughtful! Thank you! We loved your yummy breakfast. Wonderful way to start the school year. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Overflowing with School Supplies

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

14 backpacks	49 folders	11 3-ring binders
231 spiral notebooks	65 packages of crayons	15 rulers
699 pencils	31 scissors	57 packs of paper
32 packages of colored pencils	122 glue sticks	51 composition books

and a variety of other much needed supplies.

In addition, Thrivent provided three gift certificates from Wal-Mart for a total of \$333 for the schools. The supplies and gift certificates were delivered to very grateful teachers at Elliston-Lafayette, Kipps and Price's Fork Elementary Schools. Pictured below are Marcia Settle (Asst. Principal), Chris Widrig (Principal) and Sandie Worley from Kipps and Sharon Robinson, a Hokie Bird, Marsha Smith (Librarian) and Dollie Cottrill (Principal) from Price's Fork. Sandie and Sharon, members of St. Michael, are on staff at the elementary schools.



Youth Ministry News



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, September 13 and Sunday, September 27 at 5 p.m. Come enjoy the fun and learn a little more about God's love for you. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John at pastorjohn@stmlc.us.

Come and be a part of the new Middle School / High School Youth Group beginning on Sunday, September 13 at 6 p.m. This new group, which will meet each Sunday evening from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., will feature an opportunity for Bible Study, service and fun.

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September Servants

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Altar Care	Inga Solberg			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	William Allen Shirley Linkous	Steve and Jen Daskal	Cliff/Shelane Walters	Cliff/Shelane Walters
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Fred Spengler/ Sandy Williams	Jacob Dennis	Jen Daskal
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Sarah Crowder	Corson Wertz	Matthew Pasier	Seth Brewer
Comm. Asst.	Bob Brown		Bryan Katz	
Greeters	Ben/Grace Simmers	Ben/Grace Simmers	Pasier family	Birch family
Lay Reader	Joanne Pascoe	Andrea Robinson	Katie Katz	Sarah Crowder
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell David Hillis M. McGuigan	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Jay Nagle	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous Jeff Birch	Philip Isenhour Hank Schneider Dave/Ann Surface
Youth Servant	Carlie Simmers	Cam Nagle	Sarah Moehling	Parker Wertz

Weed control: Week of 9/5 – Barbara Corbett; week of 9/19 – Nancy Franz
Mowing: William Allen – back on 9/5; Matthew James/Jacob Dennis – front on 9/12;
Jay Nagle – back on 9/19; Doug Smiley – front on 9/26
Rear lot: Ron Brewer on 9/7; Dave Surface on 9/14; Tom Hodge on 9/21; Jeff Crowder
on 9/28

Women of the ELCA



All women of St. Michael are invited to the first fall meeting on September 15 at 6 p.m. at the home of Alice Schneider. Directions to the Schneider home are available on the hallway shelf. A light salad supper will be provided. We will be planning our activities for the coming year and all ideas are welcome.

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Pulaski. 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.

During the next few months, the congregation will again be encouraged **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%. Last year, we donated 220 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. This year we also plan to send Christmas gift boxes to Rev. Karen Rupp, a Lutheran pastor who oversees a homeless shelter on the reservation. These boxes will be for older children and adults.



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

Men in Mission



The Men in Mission have a new mission project – to finish building the storage shed behind the church. Please contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or jbbirch@vt.edu if you can help. Work dates will be announced as required.



St. Michael Picnic on September 27

The annual St. Michael Picnic will take place on September 27 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.

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* form in the bulletin. Games will be played on Thursday nights and should begin in late September or early October. See Pastor John for more information.

The O.K.s (Older Kids)

The **Happy-Go-Lucky group will meet on Thursday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m.** for a catered lunch and program. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier. Our guest will be Bonnie Birch (sister of Jeff), a retired software engineer, and now professional musician who has played her accordions around the world, including Carnegie Hall. Her music will make you smile. We will continue our luncheons of ethnic food and featured in September will be dishes from Poland. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required).



**OKs
on the Go!**

The trip to the Fort Chiswell Animal Park on Friday, September 18, still has a few spaces available. The cost of the trip which includes transportation and park fees (lunch extra) is \$16. The registration deadline is September 11. The trip includes stops at several antique malls in the area.

Montgomery County Parks and Recreation is planning a trip to Washington, D.C. on October 16 and 17 to view the peak fall foliage and experience the sights of our Nation's Capitol. The fee (\$199 double/\$289 single) includes all admissions, transportation via deluxe motor coach, sightseeing, one night's accommodations and tour guide services. Contact Kemvia now at 382-6975 to register. Final payment is due September 10.



The next **O.K. dinner is planned for Wednesday, September 23**, at 6 p.m. at Amelia's Pizzeria and Restaurant in Cambria (Christiansburg). The food is delicious (much, much more than pizza) and the cost of our own personal buffet in the private dining room will be \$10 which includes beverages and gratuity...yes, really...only \$10! Reserve your place at the table on the *Welcome* form in the bulletin or contact Sandy Birch.



Classes for All Ages

Sunday School Launches a New Year on September 13

St. Michael's Sunday School program for all ages will begin a new year on Sunday, September 13 at 9:50 a.m. in our new education addition. This year, we will have classes for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, 3rd through 5th Grade, 6th through 12th Grade and Adults. Join your friends and come learn more about God's Word in Sunday School.

Adult Sunday School Class focuses on the Book of Revelation

This year, the Adult Sunday School class will begin the year by discussing the Book of Revelation. We will use the book "Come, Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation" by Mark Braaten as our guide.

Care of Creation Toolbox

Our recycling center in the hallway is working well. Donations of pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, small bottles of shampoos for the Roanoke Rescue Mission, and used printer cartridges are dropped off each week. Two items are now added to the center: **used eyeglasses** which will be donated to the Lions Club International for distribution to needy brothers and sisters around the world and **old cell phones**. Cell phones represent about 65,000 tons of electronic garbage every year. Simply by recycling the phones, we could save enough energy to power more than 194,000 homes for an entire year. Cell phones are made from copper, other valuable metals, and plastics – all of which require energy to extract and manufacture. Recycling cell phones helps recover these valuable resources and saves energy. In addition to cash rebates to the Justice and Mercy Fund, a tree will be planted for every 24 qualifying phones and print cartridges we collect.

Make a Joyful Noise



Anyone who likes to sing or play the hand chimes and would be willing to serve God through leading in worship is invited to be a member of our choirs. The St. Michael Choir will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the fall; the hand chimes choir on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Eric Young, our choir director, has ordered some new music and is looking forward to seeing you at practice.

Reflections on the ELCA Churchwide Assembly by Jody Smiley

As most of you know, I attended the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis as a voting member from Virginia. While there were parts of the Assembly that were challenging, we did so many wonderful things that I wasn't sure where or how to begin to tell you about it. Then I had a thought (sometimes an unusual thing for me); I would give my top ten list. So here we go:

- 10) Adopted the 2010-2011 operating budget and elected the vice president who chairs the church council, elected members to the church council, and members of other committees.
- 9) Passed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. One of these sets a goal of having more youth and young adults active in the governance of our church.
- 8) Adopted many resolutions, one of which addressed comprehensive health care reform.
- 7) Discussed memorials from synods dealing with everything from parish nurses, comprehensive immigration reform, worship material in Braille to environmental stewardship.
- 6) Requested that the ELCA develop a social statement on the topic of justice for women in the church and society to be given to the 2015 churchwide assembly.
- 5) Adopted a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church.
- 4) Voted overwhelming to support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI). This program in conjunction with the Missouri Synod, Lutheran World Relief, and the UN Foundation seeks to eliminate malaria in South Saharan Africa by 2015.
- 3) Agreed to raise 10 million dollars over the next 3 years to support the HIV and AIDS strategy.
- 2) Gave well over \$60,000 in offerings. The moneys will be divided equally between ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Fund for Leaders, and the HIV & AIDS Strategy.
- 1) And most importantly, we communed, worshiped, and prayed together every day.

This is only my top ten list. If you would like to know more about the actions of the Assembly, you can visit www.elca.org, talk to Pastor John, read the reflections of Bishop Mauney and Bishop Hansen on St. Michael's website, or talk with me. I would be glad to discuss my experiences with you. I could tell you about the tornado that slightly damaged the convention center or what the second coming of Brett Farve means to Viking fans. Thank you for the opportunity to attend and be part of this assembly. I got to see how we, through the ELCA, are doing God's work with our Hands.

Jody Smiley

Dedication of the New Classroom Addition - August 9, 2009

