



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Gallery of Gifts

In Corinthians, the Apostle Paul points out that “there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Cor 12:4-7).

By sharing our gifts, we build up the community of God’s people. Musicians enhance our worship life together. Teachers help others learn about their faith. Builders construct much needed space. Encouragers build up the heart and the spirit. Caregivers offer compassion and help. Organizers help groups work together to accomplish goals.

Beginning in October, St. Michael hopes to bring together our artists to enhance our life together as Christians through bulletin covers and a Gallery of Gifts. First, we would love to have as many artists as possible interpreting our scripture reading through their art. Each artistic interpretation invites us into conversation and contemplation which strengthens our study of scripture. If you are interested in creating a bulletin cover, I would love to talk with you. Second, we are starting a Gallery of Gifts which will display congregational artwork in the hallway in the Classroom Addition. A team is forming to guide this effort. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m. If you are an artist or simply enjoy art, I hope you will come to the meeting and share your ideas as we seek to lift up more of our artistic gifts.

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 J.C. Martin for repairing our old septic tank system; Linda Elliott, Shirley Linkous Charlene Harris, and Margaret Larsen for helping with newsletter mailings; the Caring and Sharing Team for planning our St. Michael picnic.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided materials for our new storage shed, food supplies for Micah’s backpacks, 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.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In September, we assisted **14 families**: seven with electric service, one with water, two with rent, two with car expenses, one child with a scholarship for an after school program, and help for one family with funeral expenses.

**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. If interested in purchasing a cookbook, contact Betty Gross, Sandy Birch, Carol Crawford or Pastor. Following is a sample recipe from Hallie Brown.

### Little Cheddar Meat Loaves

1 ½ lbs. ground beef	1 egg
¾ cups oats	¾ cup milk
1 tsp. salt	2 Tbs. firmly packed brown sugar
½ cup sharp grated cheddar cheese	2 Tbs. prepared mustard
¼ cup chopped onion	2/3 cup catsup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine all ingredients except brown sugar, mustard and catsup. Shape into 6 small loaves. Place in a shallow pan. Combine sugar, mustard and catsup and spread over top of loaves. Bake for about 35 minutes.

### Directory Updates

If you would like to email Renee Brown, her address is: [rbrown073@aol.com](mailto:rbrown073@aol.com) .

Charlie and Frances Edge  
215 Upland Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Kay Edge  
1710 Grove Ave.  
Radford, VA 24141  
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## *October Servants*

	<b>October 4</b>	<b>October 11</b>	<b>October 18</b>	<b>October 25</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	The Smileys			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Steve and Amy Woods	Steve and Amy Woods	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Matthew James	Jennie and Olivia Hodge
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Seth Brewer	Andrew Bales	Matthew Pasier	Corson Wertz
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jeff Birch		Sheila McCartan	Kris Wertz
<b>Greeters</b>	Wanda and James Pascoe	Wanda and James Pascoe	McGuigan family	McGuigan family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	John Krallman	Doug Veit	Doug Smiley	Jennie Kelly
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell David Hillis Cindy Lang	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Jeff Birch	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous M. McGuigan	Philip Isenhour Hank Schneider Dave/Ann Surface
<b>Youth Servant</b>	MaKayla Dowdy	Delanie Veit	Camden Brewer	Parker Wertz

Weed control: Week ending 10/3 –Lynn Hickok; 10/17 – Jennie Hodge

Mowing schedule: William Allen–back on 10/3;Matthew James/Jacob Dennis–front on 10/10;  
Jay Nagle– back on 10/17; Doug Smiley–front on 10/24;William Allen-back on 10/31

Rear lot: Ron Brewer–10/05;Dave Surface–10/12;Tom Hodge–10/19;Jeff Crowder -10/26

## Women of the ELCA

**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. Rex Hartson will be describing his visit to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation this past summer and has lots of pictures and experiences to share. We will also visit the Trinity Soda Shoppe where we will enjoy ice cream sundaes and sweets. We'll meet at St. Michael at 1:15 to carpool to Pulaski.



**The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 7 p.m.** at the home of Sandy Birch. Jody Smiley will be leading our program. All women of the church are invited.

**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 or adults, but in that case, please identify the box with an appropriate label, e.g., "teenage girl".** These Christmas boxes will be sent to Rev. Karen Rupp, who oversees a homeless shelter on the reservation. Plastic shoe boxes are available in the narthex.

Over 100 Lakota families representing 1,000 or more people on the Pine Ridge depend on SHARE boxes for fresh fruit, vegetables and meat, and every day urgent requests for additional food are received. SHARE also provides employment as the Lakota people unload the food trucks, sort of the food, and deliver it to homes. Donations will also be accepted in October and November for SHARE boxes for the reservation. Please use the special envelopes in the pew and designate your donation for "SHARE".

*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*

## O.K.s (Older Kids)



The **Happy-Go-Lucky** group will meet on Thursday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. for a catered lunch and program. Bring a friend; the more, the merrier. In October, we will continue our luncheons of ethnic food with dishes from France. A \$5 contribution towards the groceries will be appreciated (though not required). Pictured is Bonnie Birch who entertained the O.K.s at the September meeting. Start collecting those white elephant items for our annual November auction too.



On Friday, September 18, a group of O.K.s traveled to the Fort Chiswell Animal Park. It was a delightful, “smiley” day.

On Wednesday, September 23, twenty-six O.K.s enjoyed an Italian feast at Amelia’s Pizzeria and Restaurant. The food and fellowship were wonderful.



### *Some seminars/trips of interest:*

Caregiver Conference and Resource Fair at New River Community College on Saturday, October 31, 2009. Keynote address, “Baby Boomers as Caregivers”. Free.

Living as Spiritual Older Adults at the Blacksburg United Methodist Church in Blacksburg on Monday, October 19. \$20 fee includes lunch. October 12 deadline.

A number of fall trips are available through the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department including a tour of historic churches on Wednesday, October 21.

More information is posted on the hallway bulletin board or on the hallway shelf.

## 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. The hand chimes choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Eric Young, our choir director, at [ericyoung@stmlc.us](mailto:ericyoung@stmlc.us).



## **Youth Ministry News**



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sunday, October 11 and Sunday, October 25. 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](mailto:pastorjohn@stmlc.us).

## **Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX**

The Senior High and Middle School Youth Group has a new name - LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh **i**n **C**hrist (**X**). The group, which is off to a wonderful start, went bowling in September and is planning to meet twice in October. On October 11, LYNX will meet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for fun, food and a discussion of the Book of Revelation. On October 25, LYNX will be undertaking a service project, so the exact meeting time is still to be arranged.

## **Help Furnish the Youth Room**

The Youth would like to have a little furniture for the Youth Room in the classroom addition. If you have a old couch or chair in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please talk to Pastor John.

## **Confirmation Ministry**

Each year, St. Michael takes a group of confirmands to camp to spend a week learning about what it means to live out our faith in daily life. This model has been so successful, we are using a similar format for our regular Confirmation classes. Instead of trying to meet on Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings, we are going to have three Sunday afternoon mini-retreats and two lock-ins. Each confirmation event will cover a specific topic and will allow us to explore an area of faith more fully. The next confirmation event will be a lock-in focusing on the Lord's Prayer on November 13 and 14.

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

## **Adult Sunday School Class focuses on the Book of Revelation.**

This fall, the Adult Sunday School class will be discussing the Book of Revelation. We will use the book, "Come, Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation" by Mark Braatan as our guide. Notes from each class will be posted weekly on the "Studying Scripture" page of the website.

## Blessing of the Animals on October 4

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 4 at 3 p.m. in front of the church. This is the day that the church remembers St. Francis of Assisi. The service gives Christians an opportunity to give thanks to God for our pets who bring us joy and offer us unconditional love.



## Men with a Mission



The Men in Mission completed a huge project the last few months -- building our new storage shed in the back of the church. Led by Bob Brown, project manager, and the professional

expertise of Ray Howell and Tommy Howell, the hard working volunteers contributed 100's of hours of labor. Many thanks to Ben

Crawford, Jeff Birch, Ron Brewer, Hank Schneider, Pastor John, Corson Wertz, Dickie Shepherd, Don Linkous, Freddie Oliver, Jeff Crowder, Doug Veit, James Pascoe, Ben Simmers, Dave Surface, William Allen, John Krallman, Doug Smiley, Matthew James, J.C. and Amelia Martin for sharing their time and talents. J.C. also donated a huge quantity of building materials.



## Storage Moving Day - October 3//Fall Clean-Up Day - October 24

Now that the new storage building has been completed, we will move everything from the temporary unit to the building on Saturday, October 3 at 9 a.m. Please let Pastor John know if you are planning to help.

The Fall Clean-Up Day will be October 24 beginning at 9 a.m. We will be doing some exterior painting and general yard work. Hope to see you there!

## Congratulations to....

**Tatiana Renei Villegas Brown**, who was baptized on Sunday, September 6. Tatiana's parents are Jada Brown and Nicolas Mendoza, her grandparents are Mack and Karen Brown and her proud Aunt is Renee Brown.

**April Brown and Daryn Cockram** who were married on September 9 (that's 9-09-09!). Joining in the celebration were their children, Dustin, Brittany, Jessica and Matt.



**Mary Kate Law and Tim Jordon** who were married on August 1 at Tim's grandparents' farm in Fort Defiance, VA. Mary Kate and Tim are doctoral students at Virginia Tech and have been worshipping with us for several years.

**the St. Michael Softball Team** who finished the season in August with a 9-3 record. You represented us very well. Thank you for sharing your athletic talents.



## Sharing our Treasures

As we seek to be God's heart, hands and voices in the world, the Stewards Team is asking you to prayerfully consider estimating your giving to ministry at St. Michael in 2010. 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. **You are invited to offer your estimate to God as a part of worship on Sunday, October 25.** With your help, we will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us.

## Volleyball Team

St. Michael's Volleyball Team will begin play on Thursday, October 1 at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Center. The complete schedule is on the church calendar if you'd like to come out and watch a game.



## Welcome New Members

On Sunday, August 30, we welcomed five new members to the St. Michael family. **Stephanie Gardner** moved from Wytheville to work at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). She is studying for her librarian's degree at North Texas University and serves on the Cranwell International Center Council. Stephanie enjoys hiking, photography, and living in Blacksburg with her two cats.



Pictured are Kay, Charlie, and Frances Edge, Joyce Coupey and Stephanie Gardner with Pastor John

**Joyce Coupey** moved to Blacksburg over 13 years ago to be near her daughter and grandchildren. She lives at the New River House at Warm Hearth and enjoys sewing for her family – four children, 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Pastor John wears a number of beautiful chasubles (elaborate vestments or stoles) that Joyce has sewn. Joyce has lived a very interesting life and loves to share her adventures. This summer, she served as the Vacation Bible School “story mistress” and captivated the children with Bible stories.

**Frances and Charlie Edge** moved to Blacksburg this past spring from Rockhill, South Carolina. They met at Newberry College, a Lutheran college in South Carolina, over 63 years ago, and just celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this June. Charlie retired from Celanese and Frances says she has a new full-time job, “taking care of Charlie.” They recently moved into their new home in Blacksburg which was designed by their daughter Kay, who also supervised the construction. Frances enjoys gardening, sewing, and is a new member of the St. Michael chimes choir.

After earning her degree in architecture, **Kay Edge** worked in New York and Connecticut; one of her firm's projects was the remodeling of National Airport. In 2001, she moved to Virginia and joined the faculty at Virginia Tech. Now an Associate Professor in Architecture, Kay specializes in teaching graduate courses and, of course, helping her folks move into their new home.

**Welcome to the St. Michael family!**

## News from our Foster Children (CCF - Christian Childrens Fund)

Our CCF children have sent us thank you notes for the Easter treats and books they received from us in the spring. Anjali “prays that God may shower all the blessings on you and your family.” She sent a drawing she made for us. Christa finished taking her exams and she hopes for our prayers for her future success. She is in senior high school, studying tourism, and likes “to play basketball and always trains twice a week.” Their letters are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please see Jennie Hodge if you'd like to send a note to them in this fall's letter.