



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

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Many Hearts and Hands and Voices In Ministry Together

While most of us are aware of the ministry that goes on at St. Michael, it can be difficult to see the ministry that your generosity enables the larger church to undertake in our name. Here are a few example of the ministries that you support through the Virginia Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

- Approximately 1000 youth from around Virginia participate in weekend retreats and faith building events led Assistant to the Bishop Dave Delaney. Virginia has one of the strongest Synodical youth ministry programs in the country.
- The ELCA supports 260 missionaries in 50 countries and maintains relationships with Lutheran bodies around the world. The Virginia Synod provides support to the Lutheran Church in Papua, New Guinea, including our sister church, Soi Lutheran.
- Each year, Lutherans give approximately 20 million dollars to the ELCA World Hunger program. Of those gifts 72 % goes to international assistance, 10% goes to hunger education and advocacy, 8 % goes to administration, and 10% goes to Domestic Hunger grants, including the \$4000 awarded to Micah's Backpack.
- The ELCA, the 65 Synods and local congregations support 8 seminaries, 147 outdoor ministry programs and 187 campus ministry programs, including the Lutheran Student Movement at Virginia Tech.

Together, we are making a difference in Blacksburg, in Virginia, and around the world.

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

David and Ann Surface, Charlene Harris, Margaret Larsen and Linda Elliott for helping with the newsletter mailing; Juanita Simpson, Pat Smith, and Deloris Raines for serving at the funeral meal for Leona Criner, Judy Clemens for arranging the meal, and all who brought food; everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported our *Lutheran* magazine subscriptions, Haiti relief, shipping costs for the Christmas gift boxes, the postal service permit, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, 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. In January, we helped 10 families: three families with an electric bill; one family with a water bill, one family with car repairs and five families with a rent payment. Funds were also used for Christmas gifts for several needy families at Prices Fork Elementary School. Remember that sales of the St. Michael cookbook, *Feeding the Flock*, directly benefit the J&M Fund. See Sandy Birch, Betty Gross or Carol Crawford to purchase a cookbook for \$12.

Altar Flowers and Altar Care

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Thank you for serving in these special ways. The opportunity to donate your altar flowers to the “Friends with Flowers” program for hospice patients and nursing homes will continue in 2010.



St. Michael Wish List

The Wish List consists of items which would enhance and strengthen ministries of the congregation. Gifts may be given for these items in thanksgiving for God’s goodness or in memory/honor of a loved one, friend or occasion. If you have an interest in contributing toward one of the following items or if you have an idea for something that could be added to the wish list, please contact Pastor John.

- Kids Play Handball Song Card Sets - \$25
- 3 x 5 Bulletin Boards (3 needed) - \$50 each
- Portable ice making machine - \$250
- Commercial Grade Lawn Mower - \$6000 - \$7000

Thank you to Ann and David Surface who donated funds for three white dry-erase boards for our classrooms and Lisa Moehling who provided a classroom bulletin board.

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February Servants

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Altar Care	Judith Wolfe and Sandy Birch			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	Cliff & Shelane Walters	Cliff & Shelane Walters	Steve & Amy Woods	Steve & Amy Woods
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Fred Spengler Sandy Williams	Jen Daskal	Jennie and Olivia Hodge
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Sarah Crowder	Andrew Bales	Matthew Pasier	Corson Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Tacey Apisa		Sheila McCartan	Kris Wertz
Greeters	Robinson family	Grace and Ben Simmers	Robinson family	Grace and Ben Simmers
Lay Reader	Nancy Franz	Doug Veit	John Krallman	Jennie Kelly
Ushers	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
Youth Servant	Bryce Apisa	Delanie Veit	Camden Brewer	Parker Wertz

Women of the ELCA

The February meeting will be held at the home of Judith Wolfe (2755 Old Fort Rd. in Blacksburg) on **Tuesday**, February 9 at 7 p.m. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship. Alice Schneider will lead the program. Directions to Judith's home are available on the hallway shelf. Call Sandy Birch at 951-3455 if you'd like a ride.



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*



The congregation is invited to **donate items for Easter baskets**, such as candy, books, and small toys. The Easter baskets are distributed to needy children at the Women's Resource Center and through the Salvation Army. The Women of the ELCA will assemble the baskets at a March 21 meeting after the 11 a.m. service. A light lunch will be served.

Remember the Food Bank: February is Italian month (spaghetti sauces, canned ravioli, etc.), though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In February, donations of cleaning supplies and trash bags (13 and 30 gallon size) would be appreciated. The Center can also use any kind of art supplies for children at any time.

The O.K.s (Older Kids) Go to Lunch on February 28

On Sunday, February 28, the older kids have reservations in the private dining room at the Hokkaido Buffet in the Gables Shopping Center at 12:30 p.m. The buffet features a variety of Chinese dishes, a Mongolian grill where you can special order grilled meats and vegetables, prime rib, salmon and all-you-can-eat crab legs....a huge variety of delicious dishes to suit all our tastes. The cost will be \$10.55 plus drink, tax and tip. Join the group for a feast and fellowship on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

More O.K. events

The February 16 AARP chapter meeting, held at the Blacksburg Recreation Center, will focus on **Health Care Fraud and Abuse**. After a brown bag lunch at 11:30 a.m., the program will begin at noon. On Friday, February 19, Warm Hearth Village will host a **Health & Wellness Fair** in the Kroontje Health Care Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The March **AARP driver safety course** will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 2 and 3, from 1 – 5 p.m. To pre-register, call Cecil McBride at 552-4396. The course fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. This 8-hour classroom course assists drivers age 50 and over in refining current driver skills and developing defensive driving techniques. (no tests!)

We are invited to **MUSIC, MUGS, MUFFINS AND MESSAGE**, an older adult ministry at the United Methodist Church Christian Life Center on Harding Avenue, on Monday, February 15 from 10 – 11:30 a.m.



Youth Nights on February 14 and 28 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, February 14 and Sunday, February 28 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.

Senior High and Middle School Youth - LYNX February 7 and 28

LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh in **C**hrist (**X**) – will meet on February 7th from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the home of Chris and Cindy Dowdy (3236 Tucker Road in Blacksburg) for a Super Bowl Party and on Sunday February 28 from 5 – 7 p.m. for a service project. For more information, please talk to Carrie Mayer, Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 7. St. Michael will join thousands of churches across the country by raising money to help fight hunger. Everyone is asked to bring \$1 to place in the Soup Pot and a can of food. The money and canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) and Micah's Backpack.



Help for Haiti

We are invited to prepare a Lutheran World Relief Health Kit for our Haitian neighbors. Each kit should contain:

- one hand towel (dark color recommended)
- one washcloth (dark color recommended)
- one bath-size bar (4 to 5 oz.) of soap in its original wrapping
- one adult-size toothbrush in its original packing
- one sturdy comb, remove packaging
- one metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging
- six band-aids, preferably 1/2" – 3/4", secure together with a rubber band.

Please do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap smaller items in the washcloth; wrap washcloth and remaining items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. **Bring the kits to St. Michael by February 14 and they will be shipped from the church. What a perfect "gift of love"!**

Members can also send urgently needed financial gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief. 100% of all gifts will be used for our Haitian brothers and sisters: ELCA Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. To give by credit card, visit www.elca.org/disaster or call 800-638-3522.

Annual Meeting and Brunch, February 21 at 9:50 a.m.



On Sunday, February 21, St. Michael will have a Covered Dish Brunch and Annual Meeting at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. At the Annual Meeting, we will receive the 2009 Annual Report and the 2010 Phone Directory, complete our 2010 Time and Talent Survey and consider updates to St. Michael's Constitution.

Bible Study on February 21 on Proverbs

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about Proverbs on Sunday, February 21 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and explore prayer for healing, mercy and repentance as we prepare for the beginning of the season of Lent.

St. Michael Receiving New Members on February 21

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, February 21. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

Congratulations to...

Clifton Walters, who retired from the United States Postal Service after 25 years of service.



Lt. Col. Keith Gay, who retired from the United States Air Force after over 28 years of service to our country.

Roger Ehrich, who retired from the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech after 33 years of service.

Richard and Gisela Mitmann, who celebrated the birth of their first grandchild, Hannah Bom, on September 10, 2009. Hannah is the daughter of Christine and Charles Bom.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 25

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.

Shrove Tuesday – February 16.....PANCAKES!!!

Shrove Tuesday is an annual celebration marking the final day before the season of Lent, a 40-day period which traditionally includes self-denial and reflection.

At St. Michael, we indulge in PANCAKES....lots and lots of pancakes and all the trimmings. Come and enjoy the wonderful food beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.



Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17 at 7 p.m.

Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service begin on Wednesday, February 24

Supper at 6 p.m. and Service at 6:45 p.m.

Each week, we will have a guest preacher who will focus on a different element of Luther's Small Catechism.

February 24

Mrs. Sandy Birch, St. Michael: The Ten Commandments

March 3

Rev. Bill King, Luther Memorial/Campus Ministry: The Apostle's Creed

March 10

Rev. Terrie Sternberg, Trinity, Pulaski: The Lord's Prayer

March 17

Linda Mitchell-Motley, Floyd/Willis Parish: Holy Baptism

March 24

Magdalena Sevcikova, New River Parish: Holy Communion

If you'd like to help provide food for one of the Lenten Midweek Meals, you will have the opportunity to sign up on the back of the "Welcome" form in the weekly bulletin.

Girl Scout Cookie Booth

Girl Scout troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, will host a cookie sales booth on February 16 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please contact Olivia or Jennie Hodge to place an advance order. The cookies are \$3.50/box. pix of cookie

Congratulations to our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 10 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected:



President
Gary Worley

Vice President
Rick Mayer

Secretary
Nancy Franz

Financial Officer
John Krallman

Back row: Ben Crawford, Michelle Pasier, Lori Anne Kirk, Randy Robinson, Pastor John, Andrea Robinson. Front row (council officers): John Krallman, Nancy Franz, Gary Worley and Rick Mayer.



Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Thank You for being
God's heart and hands and voices in the world.