



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2308 Merrimac Road

Blacksburg, VA 24060

540.951.8951

[hope@stmlc.us](mailto:hope@stmlc.us)

[www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org](http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org)

---

Volume 33, Number 3

March 1, 2010

---

## Turning Space into Ministry

Now that we are settled into our new classroom space and have begun to discover our patterns of usage, the time is right to begin exploring ways that we can use our space to expand our ministry in the community. Here are two ways that we are currently using our new space for ministry in the community and three opportunities for ministry that we are beginning to explore.

### Current Ministry Opportunities

#### *Space for Blacksburg High School Students*

Following the collapse of the roof at Blacksburg High School, various student groups will need meeting space prior to the school day. St. Michael will be hosting groups such as these for the next several months.

#### *Wired Community Workspace*

If you are working with a group that needs a meeting space for a one-time meeting, talk to me about the possibility of St. Michael hosting your group.

### Future Ministry Opportunities

You are invited to help explore and discover future uses for our classroom space. We will be exploring the possibility of:

1. Starting a Pre-School,
2. Starting an Alzheimer's Respite program for families in need,
3. Developing summer day camps.

Over the next few weeks, we will be posting more information on each possibility, offering ways to get involved and setting initial meeting dates for each task force. I hope you will share your gifts and help St. Michael turn space into 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

Thank you to Linda Elliott, Bill Greer who help fold the newsletter and bulletins; Shirley Linkous, who coordinates the 9 a.m. ushers and greeters; everyone who set up, cleaned up, and cooked for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and first Lenten Supper, and all who brought food, served and cleaned up (Maggie Maloney, Fran and Dickie Shepherd, Pat Smith, Fran Gallimore, Deloris Raines, Judy and Jim Clemens, and Sandy Birch) at the dinner following the funeral for Renee Brown.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in February supported the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, snow removal, Haiti earthquake relief, 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 assisted eight families with funds towards one electric bill, one car insurance payment, one water bill, one tank of gas, and two rent payments. 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



Thousands of years ago, God called a young boy named Samuel. He answered, “Here I am Lord” and became God’s servant. God continues to call his servants, and like Samuel, we too can respond boldly. We can share our time and talents and be God’s heart, hands and voice at St. Michael, in the community, and in the world. Our annual Time and Talent Survey is an opportunity to respond to God’s call and proclaim, “Here I am Lord”.

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 Worship Team

**St. Michael Lutheran Church  
2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060**

<p><b>Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78</b></p>
--

***March Servants***

	<b>March 7</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 28</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	The Smileys			
<b>9 AM Service</b>				
<b>Greeters</b>	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Judith Wolfe Sandy Williams	Clifton and Fay Walters	Clifton and Fay Walters
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	Keith Gay	Margaret Larsen	Amy Dandro Katie and Emily	Matthew James
<b>11 AM Service</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>	Sarah Crowder	Alex Moehling	Matthew Pasier	Seth Brewer
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	David Surface		Tacey Apisa	Lorin Crowder
<b>Greeters</b>	Ann and David Surface	Ann and David Surface	3rd-5th grade Sunday School	Dianne Krallman Judy Clemens
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Maggie Maloney	Lori Anne Kirk	M. McGuigan	Joanne Pascoe
<b>Ushers</b>	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell David Hillis Jennie Kelly	R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Jeff Birch	Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous Joanne Pascoe	Philip Isenhour Jay Nagle M. McGuigan Scott McGuigan
<b>Youth Servant</b>	Sarah Moehling	Delanie Veit	Bryce Apisa	Jessica Brown

## Women of the ELCA

**The March meeting** will be held in the fellowship hall after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, March 21. We will assemble the Easter Baskets and enjoy a light lunch together. All women of the church are invited for fun, fellowship and friendship.



During the first three 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.

**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 welcome donations of cleaning supplies. Thank you.

## O.Ks (Older Kids)

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will gather together for its "First Tuesdays" spring luncheon on March 2. Dr. Jake Moll, a retired physician and member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, will share a presentation entitled, "A Healthy Diet to Feed Our Aging Gut". We will have a catered, healthy lunch that day too. A donation of \$5 for the groceries will be appreciated, though not required. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; program around 12:30 p.m. You don't have to be retired to join the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons, so slip out of work for an hour and come enjoy lunch and a program.



## Younger Older Kids

Got older teenagers, college students or young adults in your family? Too young for AARP meetings? Then we've got the place for you on Saturday, March 20, at 6 p.m. Sandie and Gary Worley are hosting a potluck heavy appetizers/snacks and social time for the St. Michael "tweenies"; those between PTA and AARP. You know who you are. Or, if not, contact Sandie Worley (961-2709) or Dianne Krallman (552-1668 or [dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com](mailto:dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com)) and they can answer your questions. Come enjoy some good stories and great food and explore a new fellowship opportunity. Bring your favorite beverage too.

## 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 Doug Smiley at 961-2472 or Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or [jbbirch@vt.edu](mailto:jbbirch@vt.edu). Games begin in April.

## Youth Ministry News

### Youth Night on March 14 and 28



Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Sundays, March 14 and 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.

### LYNX (Lutheran Youth in Christ (X))

The middle school/high school group will meet on Sunday, March 14, for a Bible study on Noah's Ark, and on Sunday, March 28. Thank you to the LYNX group for organizing one of the classrooms in the education addition. Your service is very appreciated.

### Welcome New Members

On Sunday, February 21, we welcomed Deloris Raines, Nancy Goad, and Matthew James to the St. Michael family. **Nancy Goad**, daughter of Juanita Simpson, has returned to the area after a 33-year absence, living in Memphis, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Nashville.



She and her husband Glen have two daughters, Amy, who has blessed them with two grandsons, and Kelly, who is a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech. Nancy loves being back home among family and friends and back to the church where she was married in 1974. **Matthew James** is originally from Lynchburg, VA and came to Blacksburg for his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering. After graduating in

2007, he worked in Charlotte, NC before returning to Virginia Tech to pursue a Master's degree. He plans on staying in the Blacksburg area after graduation in May. In his spare time, Matthew enjoys hiking, triathlons, and playing the piano. **Deloris Raines** moved to Blacksburg from Pulaski 30 years ago and worked at MOOG for 18 years until her retirement. She has two sons, Brandon and Andrew, and spends her time sewing and attending craft shows, where she displays and sells her crafts.

Matthew and Nancy, pictured with pastor, serve as a worship assistant and greeter respectively at the 9 a.m. service and Deloris, pictured to the right, has been a faithful assistant for our fellowship meals.





## Lenten Service Schedule

**Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper and Service**  
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.

### 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.



### Saturday, March 27 at Noon Journey to Jerusalem

*Children can touch and see Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and then stay for pizza*

**March 28**                      **Palm Sunday**                      **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**  
*Reading of the Passion Story*

**April 1**                      **Maundy Thursday**                      **7 p.m.**  
*Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar*

**April 2**                      **Good Friday**                      **7 p.m.**  
*Good Friday Tenebrae Service*

**Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for children**





## **Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 4**

**Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.**

**Easter Breakfast following the 7 a.m. Service**

**Easter Service at 11 a.m.**

### **Adult Sunday School Discussion Topics for March**

During March, the Adult Sunday School class will discuss our Lenten Midweek topics.

March 7	The Apostle's Creed
March 14	The Lord's Prayer
March 21	Holy Baptism
March 28	Holy Communion

### **Bible Study on March 21 on the Ten Commandments**

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about the Ten Commandments at his home on Sunday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Directions to the Wertz home are on the hallway shelf.

### **Report on the Annual Meeting**



The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 21. The 2009 Annual Report and 2010 Directory was distributed and approved by the congregation. In addition, the congregation approved several updates to the Church Constitution. Copies of the 2010 Directory and Annual Report are available on the hallway shelf.

Pictured with Pastor John is Jan Helge Bohn who was recognized at the annual meeting for earning the prestigious Scoutmaster's Key. Jan Helge is the scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 158 which meets at St. Michael.

### **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.

## **Health Kits for Haiti**

The congregation provided 107 Health Kits for our neighbors in Haiti. Pictured are members of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class who assembled 41 of the kits from class and congregational donations.

**Thank you everyone!**

## **In Memory of our Servants of Hospitality Leona Criner and Renee Brown**

We fondly remember our sisters Leona Criner and Renee Brown and their gifts of invitation and hospitality. Leona was our “chief decorator” at Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons, Thanksgiving dinners and Easter breakfasts. A whole closet at St. Michael is filled with her supply of tablecloths, napkins and table decorations which she generously donated. Renee’s wide and warm smile made her a favorite greeter at St. Michael, as well as at the Red Cross Center and Montgomery Regional Hospital. She made everyone feel welcomed and treasured. Ms. Leona passed away on January 15 and Ms. Renee on February 18. Their families are grateful for the cards, prayers and wonderful food provided by the St. Michael family.

## **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 Board (1 needed) - \$50



## **Souper Bowl of Caring Update**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring at St. Michael. Over 50 food items and \$148 was given to support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program Food Pantry and Micah's Backpack. Nationally, over 11,800 churches participated in 2010 raising more than \$8 million to fight hunger in communities around the country.

