



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

Volume 33, Number 6

June 1, 2010

Toolbox for a Life of Proclamation

Over the last several weeks during our study of Ephesians, the Adult Sunday School class began talking about the obstacles we face in sharing our faith with others. Our discussions confirmed my belief that in our hearts, most people know what they believe. The problem is translating that belief into words and confidently sharing those words with others.

In response to these questions, the Sunday School class has decided to spend the next year building a *Toolbox for a Life of Proclamation*. Our hope is to become better equipped to understand our faith and express that belief in words. The goal is not to create a team of people to go knocking on doors, but rather to create a comfort level that makes it easier to talk about God with our family, friends and neighbors.

Over the summer, will focus on comparative religion, so we can feel more comfortable talking to others about their beliefs. We will discuss the following religions and denominations: Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Unitarian, Mainline Protestant, Islam, and Buddhism. In the fall, we will focus on learning and sharing key stories from the Bible and then next spring, we will focus on specific Lutheran teachings and on translating faith into the modern world. I am still working out the details for the fall and spring, but I am excited about the possibility of developing a language of faith and growing in our ability to follow Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations. Summer Sunday School will meet on the third and fourth Sundays of the month at 9:50 a.m. I hope you will come.

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 David Hillis for making the hymnal bookmark ribbons; all the women and young ladies who participated in the Celebrating Bold Women worship service on May 2, including Jody Smiley, Nancy Franz and Lori Anne Kirk who delivered the sermon; Charlene Harris, Linda Elliott and Shirley Linkous for helping with the newsletter mailing.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in May supported our playground rehabilitation, Micah’s Backback food, Vacation Bible School supplies, emergency lights and motion sensors in the new restrooms, Christ in Our Home subscription, food for the confirmation lock-in, scholarships for Girl Scout camp, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we provided assistance for **17** families: ten with electric bills, four with rent, two with a water bill, and one with a tank of gas. 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.

Thank You Note

Many thanks to St. Michael for helping Troop 737 make it to Adventure Camp weekend. At Camp Horizons in Harrisonburg, VA, the scouts enjoyed rock climbing, zip lining, geocaching, archery, horse back riding, caving and campfire fun. Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Claire, Chelsie, Claire, Irene, Josie, Kaela, Katie, Olivia, Rachel, and Shannon. (Note: Troop 737 meets at St. Michael on Mondays)



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

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

June Servants

| | June 6 | June 13 | June 20 | June 27 |
|----------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Altar Care | Burn and Betty Gross | | | |
| 9 AM Service | | | | |
| Greeters | Gary and Sandie Worley | William Allen Nancy Goad | William Allen Nancy Goad | Linda Elliott Sandra Hough |
| Worship Asst. | Keith Gay | Matthew James | Jacob Dennis | Fred Spengler Sandy Williams |
| 11 AM Service | | | | |
| Acolyte | Greg Moehling | Corson Wertz | Seth Brewer | Katherine Berg |
| Comm. Asst. | | | Sheila McCartan | |
| Greeters | Wanda and James Pascoe | Wanda and James Pascoe | Jeff and Sandy Birch | Jeff and Sandy Birch |
| Lay Reader | Kris Wertz | Carrie Mayer | Cindy Dowdy | Doug Veit |
| Ushers | Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Jennie Kelly Hank Schneider | R. Robinson James Pascoe Burn Gross Rick Mayer | Ben/Grace Simmers Don Linkous M. McGuigan | Philip Isenhour Jeff Birch Dave/Ann Surface |
| Youth Servant | Sarah Moehling | Parker Wertz | Camden Brewer | Delanie Veit |

Weeding team: June 12–Jeff Robinson; June 26–Joe Young
Mowing: 6/5–William Allen (back); 6/12–James/Dennis (front); 6/19–Jay Nagle (back);
6/26–J.C. Martin (front)
Rear Lot: 6/7–Joe Young; 6/14–Jim Clemens; 6/21–Dave Surface; 6/28–Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA

\$463.04! Our Thank offering! Thank you to everyone who saved their change in the little thank offering boxes last month. This special offering has been sent to the ELCA to support national and international projects to help women and children living in poverty. All of our pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters really added up.



The annual Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) convention will be held at Roanoke College on July 16-18. The theme of the convention is "Washed and Forgiven: Called to Serve". If you are interested in attending, additional information and registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. You can also talk with Jody Smiley, VSWO state president, or Alice Schneider, New River Conference chair as well. **Donations of new children's books for the Roanoke Rescue Mission will be collected at the conference and we welcome contributions from the congregation in June and July.**



Over 40 sisters attended the annual Sisters in Christ luncheon in May as we celebrated our sisterhood with Mary and Martha. Thank you to everyone who brought a delicious salad to share. **Thank you to all the sisters who participated in Celebrating Bold Women** at the worship services on Sunday, May 2 too.

Remember the Food Bank: June is "kid-friendly food" month – bring fruit or pudding cups, small cans of pasta, cookies, etc., though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In June, we'll collect baby food.

We are all Sisters in Christ, members of the Women of the ELCA, serving together with love.

Feeding the Flock

Need a gift for a June wedding or birthday? Or a tried and delicious new recipe to add to your summer meals? Purchase a copy of the St. Michael cookbook, *FEEDING THE FLOCK*, and also provide help for those in need. Every dollar from the sale of the cookbook (\$12) is used by the Justice and Mercy Fund to assist someone unable to meet a bill or provide food for their family.

Contact Sandy Birch, Betty Gross, or Carol Crawford to purchase a copy of the cookbook. Your help is also needed in promoting the sale of the cookbook; if you would like to take copies to your workplace, your club meetings, etc., let us know.

O.K.s (Older Kids) on the Go



OKs
on the Go!

On May 25, seven members traveled to Roanoke for our first trip of the season. We enjoyed a gourmet cupcake at the Bubble Cake Shop, shows at the Megadome Theater, and time at the Farmer's Market in the historic downtown district. Our next trip is to the Blue Ridge Parkway on June 23, with stops at several Buffalo Mountain Churches built by the followers of Bob Childress, lunch at Mabry Mill (on our own), with stops at a Farmer's Market, Nancy's Fudge Shop and the Bread Basket. The cost of the trip is \$12 and **the registration deadline is June 16**. Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for the trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

Young O.K.s go bowling and to dinner on Saturday, June 5

The "tweeners", those between PTA and AARP, mostly with high school and 20's something children, are invited to a social gathering on Saturday, June 5 beginning at the Squires Bowling Lanes on the campus of VT and continuing on to dinner. For more information, contact Sandie Worley (961-2709) or Dianne Krallman (552-1668 or dhkrallman@hubbell-ltg.com). One of your assignments is to think up a new name – something different than YOKs! The editor suggests the BGs (Before Grandkids).

Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheons continue through the summer

Save the **Second Tuesday** of June, July and August for fun, fellowship and a tasty catered luncheon. In June and August, we'll start with some social time at 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon and then our program. The July luncheon will begin earlier; more details to follow in the July newsletter. A \$5 donation for groceries is appreciated, but not required.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuesday, June 8 | Our theme of healthy bodies will continue...we've covered healthy tummies, brains and hearts.....what's next? |
| Tuesday, July 13 | Lunch at Claytor Lake (and an optional tour of Claytor Lake Dam) |
| Tuesday, August 10 | The conclusion of our series on healthy bodies. We'll be so healthy and happy, we'll just glow. |

The latest issue of *Home Sweet Home* news, a local monthly newsletter dedicated to helping seniors stay active and healthy, covers the topic, "What My Loved Ones Need to Know" – lots of timely information. The website which contains this issue and all back issues is www.home-sweet-home-news.com. Hardcopies are available on the hallway bulletin board and at Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons too.

Congratulations to

College and University Graduates



Matthew James who earned his Masters in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech. Matthew accepted a position at Draper-Aden in Blacksburg.

Joe Young who received his MBA from Averett University in Danville, VA and plans to use his degree to obtain an upper management position in the Department of Juvenile Justice. Joe is currently a financial administrator in NRV Juvenile Detention.

John Gay, who earned a B. A. in Philosophy from the College of William and Mary and will be starting graduate school this fall at Syracuse University, studying international relations.

Tim Smiley, who graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology with a B. S. degree in Chemistry and will start his professional career this fall.

Lauren Harber, our nursery worker, who graduated from Virginia Tech with degrees in Biology and Psychology and has been accepted in the Physicians Assistant program at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke.

Jarred Walters, who earned his Bachelor's degree at Virginia Tech in Business Management and looks forward to beginning his professional career soon.

Blacksburg High School Graduates

Leah Gay, who will be attending Virginia Tech and studying Apparel Merchandising. Leah was active in the DECA (marketing) club at BHS.

Scott McGuigan, who will be attending Emory & Henry College. Scott was a member of the 2009 Boys Soccer State Championship Team and plans to play soccer for Emory & Henry.

Kelley Robinson, who will be attending Radford University and studying Criminal Justice. Kelley has been volunteering for the past year with the Blacksburg Rescue Squad and is CPR certified. Kelley is also the recipient of the 2010 St. Michael Scholarship.

Robert Worley, who will be attending Radford University to study Media Production. Robert has been an active member of the concert and symphonic bands at BHS and has played on the varsity tennis team.

Our graduates will be honored at the Second Sunday Brunch on June 13 at 10 a.m. (between worship services) in the fellowship hall. Please join the St. Michael family to celebrate with our graduates and their families.

Congratulations to

Lance and Katie Lafon on the birth of their daughter Addison Lynn on April 26. She joins her happy big sister Grace.



Ben Crawford, who was honored on April 29 at an Acorn to Oaks presentation and banquet for his outstanding service to the Boy Scouts of America. Beginning as a Cub Scout, Ben achieved Eagle Rank in 1949 and has been involved in Scouting ever since, serving in positions such as Scoutmaster and Council President.

Luke Harris, who was recognized at the White Coat ceremony of the Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University on May 7. Luke is a member of the DMD Class of 2012.



“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on June 13 at 10:00 AM Honoring our 2010 Graduates New Art Exhibit Unveiled

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, June 13 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael. In addition to enjoying the food and fellowship, we will be recognizing our 2010 high school and college graduates.

We will also be unveiling our new Gallery of Gifts art exhibit in the hallway of the classroom addition. Our featured artist is Joyce Coupey who has provided us with our beautiful bulletin covers. Pictures from our first exhibit featuring the work of Dorothy Birch will be available for sale at \$40 each. Contact Sandy Birch or Pastor John if you are interested.

Summer Sunday School

This summer, we will have Sunday School on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month beginning at 9:50 AM. The class for youth will focus on each Sunday's Scripture reading. The class for adults will focus on understanding other religions and denominations. Here is the schedule for the Summer.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Adult Class Topic</u> | <u>Youth Class Topic</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 20 | Mormans | Luke 8:26-39 |
| June 27 | Jehovah's Witness | Galatians 5:1, 13-25 |
| July 18 | Unitarians | Luke 10:38-42 |
| July 25 | Mainline Protestant Churches | Luke 2:1-16 |
| August 15 | Islam | Luke 1:46-55 |
| August 22 | Buddist | Luke 13:10-17 |

Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults



The fun begins on Sunday, June 20 and continues through Thursday, June 25. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m.

If you or your children are planning to attend, please sign up on the *Welcome Sheet* in the bulletin or email the church at: hope@stmlc.us, so we can make sure we have enough food and materials. Thanks!

Thank You Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to all the teachers and leaders who have helped make this an exciting year. From the pre-school class to the adults, the story of God's love and presence in our lives has been proclaimed. We appreciate all those who shared their time and talents this year including: Loren Crowder for leading our opening music, Cindy Dowdy and Lisa Moehling for teaching the K-2 class, Sandy Birch, Maggie Maloney and Renee Brown for teaching the grade 3-5 class, Kris Wertz and Jeanette Pasier for leading the middle and high school class, and Pastor John for leading the adult class.

3rd-5th grade class visits Heritage Hall on May 16

The 3rd – 5th grade Sunday School class brought smiles, songs, and stuffed animals to residents of Heritage Hall Nursing Home on Sunday, May 16. Pictured are Parker Wertz, Corson Wertz, Erik Bohn, Sarah Moehling and Camden Brewer with their teachers, Sandy Birch and Maggie Maloney.



Power in the Spirit is July 8-10 at Roanoke College

“Shaped by the Master’s Hands” is the theme for Power in the Spirit, an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. Additional information is available on the hallway bulletin board.