



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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October 1, 2010

Mother's Morning Out and Preschool Task Force Update

Beginning in October, St. Michael will host a Mother's Morning Out program on Mondays and Fridays. The program will be led by Judy Clemens and will provide social interaction for children ages 18 months to 3 ½ years old. Judy has successfully run a Mother's Morning Out for over 12 years and will continue to offer Mother's Morning Out at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The program will utilize the first room on the right in the classroom addition. For information about the cost of the program or to sign up, please contact Judy at 951-1915.

In September, the Preschool Task Force met for the first time to explore opening a preschool at St. Michael. Unlike the Mother's Morning Out program, a preschool would require approval by the congregation, the Town of Blacksburg, the Montgomery County Health Department and at least one state agency. There are a multitude of questions to be answered before the group can begin crafting a proposal. The meeting produced a list of questions to be answered and agreement on five guiding principles for a possible preschool. Those principles include:

1. 1/2 Day Preschool focused on 3 -5 year olds meeting from 9 a.m. until Noon
2. Provide space for children with Special Needs (inclusion or self-contained)
3. Create a program with an Educational Focus
4. Create a program with a Religious Foundation
5. Maintain a student to staff ratio of 5:1 or less

If you would like to be a part of the Preschool Task Force, the next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 12.

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 Linda Elliott, Shirley Linkous, Suzanne Gay and Margaret Larsen for helping with newsletter mailings; the Caring and Sharing Team for planning our St. Michael picnic; Jeff and Sandy Birch, Jeanette and Michelle Pasier, and Doug Smiley who served dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on September 19; Jim Clemens, Cindy Dowdy and Ben Simmers for counting the offering each Sunday.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in September provided music and office supplies, shelving for the library and Micah's Backpack, 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 **20 families**: six with electric service, one with a water bill, five with rent, five with car expenses, one with dental assistance, and two with children's clothing. In addition, J&M funds were used to purchase supplies for health kits.

S.H.A.R.E.

After a steady decline in program participation at many sites (though not St. Michael) and an increase in program costs over the past 10 years, New River Community Action's S.H.A.R.E. held its final food distribution on September 25. Our thanks to Betty and Burn Gross, Wanda and James Pascoe, and Sam and Jenny Akers for nurturing SHARE for many years with the help of other congregational volunteers. The distribution site at St. Michael was considered a “model” program and volunteers were often sent to our site to observe.

Some thank you notes

The family of Jeanne Keister would like to express their sincerest thank you for all the prayers and visits following Jeanne's death. Your generosity and fellowship made this difficult time a little easier. We would like to extend a thank you to Judy Clemens for coordinating the lunch after the funeral services. Also, we thank all those who sent food or helped serve the lunch, including Kris Wertz, Fran Shepherd, and Ingrid Solberg. Thank you again, and our family wishes each and everyone PEACE.

Thanks so much for the wonderful food that you provided for the family and friends of Alice Noonkester. We thank you sincerely for your kind expressions of sympathy.

Here is a sample of comments from the teachers at Prices Fork Elementary School:

“Everything was delicious”; “Thank you so much for the amazing food”; “Thank you for everything you have done for PFES and our community”; “Thank you for taking such good care of us.”; “Thank you for a wonderful start for our year.”

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October Servants

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
Altar Care	Lorin Crowder				
9 AM Service					
Greeters	Shirley and Angie Linkous	Ben and Carol Crawford	Shirley and Angie Linkous	Ben and Carol Crawford	Hodge family
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Lori Anne Kirk	Carrie Mayer Alexa Mayer	Amy Dandro Katie and Emily	Margaret Larsen Sandy Williams
11 AM Service					
Acolyte	Alex Moehling	Sarah Crowder	Seth Brewer	Parker Wertz	Corson Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Kris Wertz		S. McCartan		David Surface
Greeters	Tim and Mary Kate Jordan Law	Berg family	Berg family	Deloris Raines S. Gardner	Deloris Raines S. Gardner
Lay Reader	Anna Rossomando	Lori Anne Kirk	Doug Veit	Dianne Krallman	Hank Schneider
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Hank Schneider Jennie Brogan	James Pascoe Burn Gross M. McGuigan Jay Nagle	Grace and Ben Simmers R. Robinson Jeff Birch	Dave and Ann Surface Rick Mayer Don Linkous	M. McGuigan Philip Isenhour Jennie Brogan Dickie Shepherd
Youth Servant	MaKayla Dowdy	Delanie Veit	Camden Brewer	Sarah Moehling	Bryce Apisa

Mowing schedule: 10/2 and 10/30: James/Dennis (front); 10/9: Jay Nagle (back);
10/16: JC Martin (front); 10/23: Mike Berg (back)

Rear lot: 10/4: Dave Surface; 10/11: Jeff Crowder; 10/18: Mike Berg; 10/25: Joe Young

Weeding Team: 10/2: Mary Kate Law and Tim Jordan; 10/16: Rick Mayer; 10/30: Jeff Robinson

Micah's Backpack unloading: 10/11: Bob Brown, Dean Trimble; 10/25: J. Birch, Rick Myer

Women of the ELCA

The Fall Gathering of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) will be Sunday, October 24 at 2 p.m. at Our Saviours Lutheran Church. Plan to attend this wonderful fellowship time with our sisters in the New River Conference. **At our October meeting on Tuesday, October 19,** we will be assembling Health Kits to be collected at the Fall Gathering. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the church.



On November 9, the Women of the ELCA will begin a year long Bible Study entitled "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity". The study will be led by Lori Anne Kirk, and held in the church fellowship hall at 6 p.m. A light supper will be served. Mark your calendars.

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.



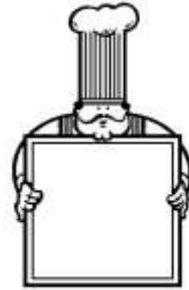
The contents of each box should be worth about \$15 (e.g., about 14-15 items from the Dollar Tree), including books and other educational items (especially those that help them with reading or arithmetic), crayons, pens, pencils, water colors, coloring books, toys (nothing that requires batteries, no 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. We will be collecting the filled and unwrapped boxes through mid-November and on Sunday, November 21, we will prepare the boxes for mailing at our annual Party with a Purpose.

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 Tuesday, October 12, at noon** at the home of Frances and Charlie Edge (215 Upland Road in Blacksburg). The regular Tuesday morning Bible Study will be at 11 a.m. at the Edge's – so everyone is invited to come early to join the discussion. The menu includes delicious South Carolina barbecue – with “imported” sauce – and all the fixings. The Edge's home was designed for them by their daughter, Kay Edge, an architect and professor at Virginia Tech. Kay will take us on a tour of the home, and highlight the custom features for assisted living. If you'd like a ride to the Edge's home, contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455.



We continue to walk...and walk...around the church using both an indoor and outdoor “track.” Walk with us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Walkers and canes welcome.

Some seminars/activities of interest:

Tuesday, October 5 at 2 p.m.: “What the Government Gave You for Long Term Care Planning.” Karr Activity Center at Warm Hearth Village.

Tuesday, October 19 at noon: “What Your Loved Ones Need to Know: Important Papers for Everyone to Have.” AARP meeting at the Blacksburg Community Center.

Following the meeting, there will be a Community Conversation about Blacksburg's comprehensive plan that guides future growth and development.

Fitness classes designed for those ages 50 and above are held at the Blacksburg Senior Center. A free general orientation to the Senior Fitness Center is offered once you register for a class.

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.

Blessing of the Animals on October 3

St. Michael will have a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 3 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.





Youth Nights on October 10 and 24 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, October 10 and Sunday, October 24, 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 October 2, 10 and 24

LYNX - which stands for **L**utheran **Y**outh **i**n **C**hrist (**X**) – will meet on Saturday, October 2 to help pack food from 10 a.m. to noon for the Stop Hunger Now Mission Project. On Sunday, October 10, from 3 to 5 p.m., the youth invite members of the congregation to a **free** car wash in the church parking lot. On Sunday, October 24, the LYNX will gather at 5 p.m. for a Bible study. For more information, please talk to Carrie Mayer, Jeanette Pasier or Kris Wertz.

Confirmation Ministry

All youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are invited to take part in confirmation as we learn more about what it means to live a life of faith. This year we will have three mini-retreats and two lock-ins. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

October 3	3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Martin Luther
December 3-4	6 p.m. - 10 a.m.	Faces of the Old Testament
January 20, 2011	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Other Faiths
February 18-19, 2011	6 p.m. - 10 a.m.	Sacraments
April 3, 2011	3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Sharing our Gifts

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

St. Michael's Sunday School provides learning opportunities for individuals from kindergarten through Adults. The Adult Sunday School class will build a toolbox for a life of proclamation by focusing on learning the Bible, Lutheran teachings and living out our faith in the modern world

Sunday Night Bible Study on October 17

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study entitled "Short Books, Big Ideas: 1, 2 and 3 John" on Sunday, October 17 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home.

Sharing our Treasures



As God is calling us to be His 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 2011. 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 24.** With your help, we will continue to be good stewards of the treasures that God has given us.

Welcome to the St. Michael family!

On August 29, we welcomed Samantha Blevins and the Christle family to the church family.



Mike & Margaret have lived in the Long Shop area of Montgomery County since 1998. They married in 1995 after both graduating from JMU in 1994. Mike is store manager at the Kroger on University City Blvd in Blacksburg. Margaret is the librarian at Narrows High School in Giles County. David is in the 5th grade at Prices Fork Elementary School and enjoys reading, baseball, Cub Scouts, and hiking. Megan is in Kindergarten at Prices Fork Elementary School and enjoys dressing up, swimming, and being with her friends.

Samantha is from Galax, Virginia and moved to Blacksburg two years ago to pursue a PhD in Instructional Design & Technology. She is a graduate assistant in the Faculty Development Institute and Online Learning Collaboration Services and her hobbies include traveling, reading, photography, and of course, Hokie football.



Caring for Our Extended Family

Hank and Alice Schneider's 1-year-old grandson, Johnathan, is fighting a cancerous tumor. You can make a donation to help with his treatment through the Johnathan Noyes Fund which has been established at St. Michael and you can follow the progress of his treatment on <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/johnathannoyes>. Our prayers are with him and his parents, Carole and Mark Noyes. The Noyes can be contacted at 2908 Oak Bridge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610.

Walking to Bethlehem: The Journey Continues

We're off to a good start. Through September 25, we walked over 1,024 miles; only 5,090 more to go. The congregation is reminded to record their miles on the chart on the hallway bulletin board. The O.K.s are keeping up with the younger folks, logging 396 miles thus far. Of course, the Four Church Gems (Opal, Pearl, Ruby and Garnett) have the aid of their "ringer", Ron Brewer, our marathon runner now known as "Sapphire".



A ¼ mile track has been established in the church parking lot and a 1/10 mile walk inside the church building has been determined. Walking trails around Virginia Tech and the town have been established and maps are available on the hallway bulletin board. Just a walk around the outside aisles in the S. Main Street Kroger is 1/10 mile! Remember that walking boosts our energy levels and promotes better sleep. Walking and other physical activity improves our moods and stimulates chemicals in our brains that can make us feel happier.

We're walking....we're walking.....

Learning the Liturgy on October 24

On Sunday, October 24, the 11 AM Service will be a little different than usual. We'll be learning about our liturgy - the words we say each Sunday in worship and where these words come from in Scripture. Before each piece of the liturgy, we will read the Scripture which gave birth to the words we use and have a short explanation about that section. Many of these words have a long history in the church and have been used for centuries. Hopefully taking the time to learn about our service will help to strengthen and enhance your experience of worship.

Grieving is...nature's way of healing a broken heart. - Doug Manning

You are not alone!



Hope for the Holidays

A Grief Support Group is a safe place to share your loss

This group is open to all! Please join us from
7 to 8:30 p.m Thursday evenings
Nov. 11, 2010 — Jan. 20, 2011

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
Corner of Prices Fork Rd. and Toms Creek Rd.
Blacksburg, VA

There is no charge, but we ask that you preregister
before October 29 by calling
Rhoda Janosik, LSCW, MSW
at 540.230.5376



www.griefvirginia.org