



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Crowd Accelerated Faithfulness and Growing In Faith

I recently read an article in the January issue of Wired magazine entitled “Film School” by Chris Anderson which suggests that “throughout history, the best creativity has happened when groups of artist, reformers, writers, or scientists connected regularly with one another.” Anderson refers to this process as Crowd Accelerated Innovation. As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the Christian movement is at its best when we take advantage of Crowd Accelerated Faithfulness. God blesses us with a variety of gifts and invites us to take advantage of the “crowd” God has gathered together, the body of Christ, to innovate, to problem solve and to lead.

As the Council and I began to discuss *Growing with Faith: Expanding God’s Mission*, a capital campaign to strengthen, enhance and expand our ministry together, it became clear that we needed to gather the wisdom of the congregation to identify the area for growth. One component of the campaign is debt reduction which will provide for the mortgage on the classroom addition and reduce the principal of the loan. The other two components of the campaign are renovation projects and future ministries. These projects will be selected at the congregational meeting on February 27. If you have ideas for projects or future ministries, please talk to me or to a member of Council by February 13. I will be sending a letter to the congregation next week to provide more information on *Growing with Faith: Expanding God’s Mission*, but for now I hope you will begin to dream about needed renovations and future ministries which can strengthen our witness to God’s love in the community.

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 John Krallman, our financial officer who oversees all our church accounting and prepares the monthly and yearly financial reports; Jo Lynn Price who audits our annual financial reports; Jay Nagle, Kris Wertz, Jim Clemens and Linda Elliott who prepared a Faith Chest for Bryce Dowdy; Jennie Hodge and Dianne Krallman for their on-going work with Micah's Backpack; everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in January supported snow removal, our property insurance policy, the postal service permit, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, ChildFund International, 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 13 families: 8 families with an electric bill and 5 families with a rent payment.

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.

Choir robes - \$100 each

ELW Hymnals (8 needed) - \$25 each

Thank you to Pat Smith who donated hymnals and to Bob and Peggy Brown, Tammy and Doug Veit and Missy and Todd Burch who donated three tables for Micah's backpack in loving memory of Jeanne Keister.

Congratulations to...

Our New Congregational Council Officers

At the January 10 congregational council meeting, the following officers were elected: Jim Clemens, President; Rick Mayer, Vice-President/Secretary; John Krallman, Financial Officer.

Zachary and Mary Nagle on the birth of their first child, Landon Thomas Nagle, on January 4. Proud grandparents are Jay and Becci Nagle.

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February Servants

	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
Altar Care	Inga Solberg			
9 AM Service				
Greeters	J.C. & Amelia Martin	J.C. & Amelia Martin	Jan Helge & Sara Bohn	Jan Helge & Sara Bohn
Worship Asst.	Keith Gay	Fred Spengler Sandy Williams	Jennie and Olivia Hodge	Carrie Mayer & Alexa Mayer
11 AM Service				
Acolyte	Sarah Crowder	Parker Wertz	Seth Brewer	Corson Wertz
Comm. Asst.	Randy Robinson		Sheila McCartan	
Greeters	Grace Simmers Joanne Pascoe	Grace Simmers Joanne Pascoe	Tim and Mary Kate Jordan	Tim and Mary Kate Jordan
Lay Reader	Dianne Krallman	Lauren Robinson	Jay Nagle	M.McGuigan
Ushers	Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell	Randy Robinson James Pascoe	Ben/Grace Simmers	Philip Isenhour Don Linkous
Youth Servant	Bryce Apisa	Delanie Veit	Camden Brewer	Parker Wertz

Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out will be Wednesday, February 16 at 6 p.m. at O'Charley's in Christiansburg. Call Sandy Birch at 951-3455 if you need a ride. All women of the congregation are invited to this annual fellowship event. And no one has to cook!



*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*



In March, the congregation will be 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 an April 10 meeting after the 11 a.m. service.

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)

Happy Birthday George Washington! The Happy-Go-Lucky group will enjoy a catered luncheon on **Tuesday, February 22 at noon**, with a social time beginning at 11:30 a.m. A \$5 donation for the food is helpful, but not required. The theme for our spring luncheons will be "The Happy Habit – easy ways to lighten up."



O.K.s are encouraged to sign up for the **Montgomery County Recreation Dept. trip to Historic Churches on April 26**. We'll learn a bit of history about Eastern Montgomery County as Fran Poole, Director of the Eastern Montgomery Museum accompanies us on a driving tour through Ellett Valley to tour the McDonalds Mill Methodist Church, still active after 200 years; Roanoke Valley Presbyterian Church, built in 1790; Ellett Valley Pentecostal Holiness Church; North Fork Baptist Church; and Trinity United Methodist Church, established in the 1700's by the ancestors of Amelia Earhart. A light luncheon will be provided by the Trinity Women's Group. The registration deadline is April 12 (though early sign-up is encouraged) and the cost is \$28. Sign-up forms are available on the hallway bulletin board. We'll also talk about other trip possibilities at our February luncheon.

More O.K. events

The February 15 AARP chapter meeting will be held at the Blacksburg Recreation Center. After a brown bag lunch at 11:30 a.m., the program will begin at noon. AARP provides free tax preparation starting February 1. See Sandy Birch for details and dates.



Youth Nights on February 13 and 27 Youth Ministry News

Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade will be on Sunday, February 13 and Sunday, February 27 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 13 and 27

LYNX - which stands for Lutheran Youth in Christ (X) - will meet on February 13th and 27th for fun activities and a Bible study. On the 13th, the group will be helping with a service project for the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley. The youth are encouraged to bring a friend to the meetings and activities.

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Sunday, February 6. 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 food for Micah's backpack. Suggested items are: canned vegetables, granola bars, fruit cups, Easy Mac, Ravioli. The money and canned goods will be donated to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) and Micah's Backpack. Thank you to LYNX for sponsoring Souper Bowl Sunday.



Recycle Plastic Grocery Bags with Micah's Backpack

Micah's Backpack uses 200 plastic bags a week to deliver food to the children in the program. Please help out by dropping off clean, tear-free plastic bags in the Micah's Backpack room (the former nursery). Many thanks from your Micah's Backpack volunteers!

Annual Meeting and Brunch, February 27 at 9:50 a.m.



Congregational Brunch and Meeting

On Sunday, February 27, 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 2010 Annual Report and the 2011 Phone Directory, complete our 2011 Time and Talent Survey and discuss possible projects for *Growing with Faith*.

Bible Study on February 20 on 1 Corinthians 13

Pastor John will be leading a Bible Study about 1 Corinthians 13 on Sunday, February 20 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. Come and study this familiar chapter which speaks of faith, hope and love.

St. Michael Receiving New Members on February 27

St. Michael will be receiving new members at both services on Sunday, February 27. If you are interested in joining St. Michael, please talk to Pastor John.

Shrove Tuesday – March 8.....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, March 8 for our annual Pancake Supper. Bring your friends and family for the celebration.

Ash Wednesday service will be March 9 at 7 p.m. with Wednesday Night Lenten Soup suppers and service beginning on March 16. Mark your calendars for an active and meaningful Season of Lent.



Girl Scout Cookie Booth

Girl Scout troop 737, which meets at St. Michael, will host a cookie sales booth on March 8 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please contact Olivia or Jennie Hodge at 953-2225 or blacksburghoo@comcast.net to place an advance order. The cookies are \$3.50/box.



Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship - April 15

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.

A Note from one of our sponsored children

Anjali Korwar and her family sent a note updating us on her successes in school and sending us “hopes that we are in good health by grace of God.” She sent us a picture she made and it is posted on the ChildFund International bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Christmas greetings and stockings filled with treats were sent to our two sponsored children. Thank you to the Hodge family for overseeing this project.



Church Directory Photographs on February 6

Church directory photos will be taken on Sunday, February 6, including “retakes” from this summer as desired. Everyone who worships with us is welcome to be included in the directory – you don’t have to be a member. Joe Young, our photographer, will be available after the 9 a.m. service and before/after the 11 a.m. service. These are no-cost digital photos. You can also view your photo that Sunday. Copies of the color directory prepared this fall are still available. See Sandy Birch for your copy. The next printing of the updated directory will be in “black and white” and distributed at the annual meeting on February 27.

Altar Flowers and Altar Care

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. The opportunity to donate your altar flowers to the “Friends with Flowers” program for hospice patients and nursing homes will continue in 2011.



We especially need altar care assistants who set up our communion. Mentors are available to assist and serve with you. See Sandy Birch for more information.

IRA Rollover Update from the Mission Office for Planned Giving

Tax legislation which includes the extension of the IRA Rollover was signed into law December 17, 2010, returning an opportunity for individuals to make a charitable gift by directing a transfer from a regular IRA to qualified 501(C)(3) organizations of their choice. The extension expires December 31, 2011. All gifts must be completed by that date. **Who qualifies?** Persons who are 70½ or older may direct an amount up to \$100,000 per individual or \$200,000 per couple (with separate annuities) without incurring a taxable event. The gift would qualify for the annual required minimum distribution. **How does it work?** The IRA owner makes a written request to the IRA administrator to make a gift to an organization of his/her choice including his/her congregation or other 501(C)(3) ministry/charity. The donor would also notify the receiving organization of the forthcoming gift. For more information, please talk to Pastor John or call Pastor George Sims at **877-526-2448** or e-mail him at **director@plan2giv.org**.

Let Us Build A House



Where All are Welcome!

Let us build a house where love can dwell

The verses of a favorite hymn, “All Are Welcome”, encourage us to build a house where love can dwell;
where prophets speak and words are strong and true;
where love is found in water, wine and wheat and peace and justice meet;
where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach and live the Word they’ve known.

On Sunday, February 27, we will have the opportunity to be the foundation of such a house as we complete our **Time and Talent surveys for 2011** and share our gifts of time and talents with the St. Michael family, the community and the world. Our hearts, hands and voices will live the Word we’ve known.



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.