



St. Michael Lutheran Church

THE MESSENGER



SEPTEMBER 2008

SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

**Behold, I am about to do a NEW THING;
NOW it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I want to invite you to COME AND SEE the new things God is doing here at St. Michael in September!

"God is doing something NEW at St. Michael, what's new?" I am glad you asked!

September 7th is RALLY DAY. We'll be kicking off a New Year of SUNDAY SCHOOL with a PICNIC in the afternoon! Here's a great chance to meet the NEW people God has been gathering here to worship this summer.

September means a NEW YEAR for Choirs! Come and make a joyful noise to the Lord and explore the new music the faithful are being inspired to compose. We have 3 choirs, so if you are 4 or 40 or 40+40 there is a choir for you!

September means a NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS! Starting 7th grade? Already in high school, but new to St. Michael? Then, join the fun as we retreat each month to deepen our understanding of the Faith! Orientation is September 6 at 10:30am!

September 14th God's healing power will flow as we use the NEW HEALING RITE in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. Come and be renewed in mind, body, and spirit.

September brings NEW LEADERS to our YOUTH Program! God has been working to raise up new leaders for our Children's (LCF), Middle School (LMF) and High School (LYF) youth groups. This will be a historic year as our LYF group prepares to travel to the ELCA National Youth Gathering for the first time ever!!!

And to top it all off...God has brought a NEW PASTOR into our congregation. Come and meet Pastor Rob and his family in September. Be with us on September 28 (St. Michael Sunday) as we officially install Pastor Rob as the 4th Pastor to ever lead our congregation!

God is certainly doing NEW THINGS in September. I invite you to join us in worshipping, in learning and in serving Jesus Christ as we begin a NEW CHAPTER in the life of our congregation!

Ever thankful to God for you all,

Pastor Chris Bowen

Christian Education Sunday School for Adults



Many exciting opportunities await you in **Adult Christian Education**

On Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 10:

⇒ **"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD"** Pastor Rob will be leading an evening study on the Gospel of John

On Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 7

⇒ Ralph Sroufe will be teaching **"DISCOVERY"** a series of classes for the newly churchd, adults who never attended Sunday School as a child, or anyone who wants a refresher course on the basics. No experience necessary. This series topics are:

- Discover the Bible!
- Discover Jesus!
- Discover Christianity!
- Discover being a Lutheran 1
- Discover being a Lutheran 2

⇒ Joe Fairchild will be teaching the Old Testament book of **"DANIEL"**

⇒ Dave Cote will hold a **BOOK DISCUSSION**

GROUP on four books written by noted authors:

"The Myth of the Christian Nation" by Dr. Gregory Boyd

"Silence" by Shusaku Endo

"The Mystery of Christ...and why we don't get it" by Robert Capon

"Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection and the Mission of the Church" by N. T. Wright

⇒ **RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD**, a young adults study with Kevin Gilbert

On Sunday mornings beginning Sept. 14

⇒ **A Lasting Promise** couples group moderated by George Wadzita

⇒ **WALKING WET**, for those interested in becoming members of St. Michael, led by Pastor Rob

RALLY DAY - SEPTEMBER 7th

Where: At the church at approx. 12:30 pm

What: Food, Fun and Fellowship

Dress: Come in your Rally Day clothes

Sign-up: On the poster in the fellowship hall

"Save the Date"



Pastor Rob's installation at St. Michael will be Sunday, September 28th - St. Michael Sunday - at 3 p.m. Pastor William Trexler of First Lutheran, Norfolk, will preach and there will be a reception following the installation service. It will be a big day for the congregation so please save the date. More details to follow.

ST. MICHAEL LADIES GROUPS

⇒ Prayer Shawl Ministry - will start up on Thurs., Sept. 4, 10 am and meet the 1st & 3rd Thurs. of each month. No skills required - we will teach you how to make a prayer shawl.



⇒ Sewing Ministry meeting dates for Sept. are:

September 9	7:30 pm
September 16	10:00 am
September 23	7:30 pm
September 30	10:00 am



⇒ Crafter's Fellowship - Inundated with summer pictures? Have a crafting "to do" list now that kids are back in school? Join us on Sept. 14 for 3 hours of dedicated time for your favorite craft. We meet from 1-4 in the Martin Murphy room. Friends are welcome! Can't make it this month? Mark your calendar for the second Sunday of the month - October 12 and November 9. Please contact me if you would like to coordinate a teenage babysitter at the church. Cynthia Bowen, 689-8128



Aluminum Can Recycling Supports Rawanda School Project

Our aluminum can recycling ministry, (AKA AfriCans or Cash from Trash), under the leadership of John Marken, helps to raise funds to support the Virginia Synod ELCA Youth-to-Youth Mission Project for 2008, to provide funds to build a middle school and high school classroom building in Rawanda, opening in 2009. Many of you are already faithful in bringing your aluminum cans each week for recycling and **the amount collected so far this year is \$190.90 (our 2008 goal is \$300)**. Please help by emptying the cans and bringing them to the church in clear plastic bags. Please place your bags of cans in or beside the marked black bin on the playground just behind the choir practice room.



SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Join the fun! Sign up for our Autumn Men's Softball Team. Games will be doubleheaders on Tuesday nights at Princess Anne Park beginning in September.

The Spring/Summer league had a great season! If you were there to cheer on the Softball Team this Spring/Summer - then we extend a big THANK YOU to you and invite you and everyone to come on out and support our Autumn League. For more info give Tim Worst a call at 353-1555.



St. Michael Food Collection/Distribution Team

Started by Martin Murphy, who served as Coordinator of the Food Collection and Distribution Ministry, we have successfully operated for well over five years. And today the team continues to pick up surplus food on a weekly basis at two Food Lion stores and the Naval Air Station Oceana Commissary for delivery to the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (JCOC). The cooperation and generosity of these donors have been outstanding. Although the team has considered expanding its operation, the head of the JCOC kitchen deems the current weekly supply to be ample.

JCOC is a Partner Agency (#53B) of the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia, which is located at 800 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23504. By agreement, Food Bank specifically tasks JCOC "To use the food donated only for your program participants unless there is a surplus, in which case it should be shared with another FB member agency."

Food Bank issues identification cards designating team members as Authorized Agents of JCOC. At my request, JCOC provides a letter of request to the Food Bank whenever new/renewed ID cards are needed. My contact at Food Bank has always been very cooperative, cheerfully providing assistance whenever needed.

The Team members pickup as follows:

Monday Food Lion store (1):

Paul Barrow, Rolf Nelson and George Pilgrim.

Wednesday Oceana Commissary:

Michael Bowen, George Horvath, Carl Matyas and Paul Neuman.

Friday Food Lion store (2):

Barbara and Norm Venzke

We are blessed to have faithful volunteers for this important operation. For more information or to join a team please contact Norm Venzke at 491-0050.

Music at St. Michael September 2008

Joyful songs to God we sing! It is hard to believe how much St. Michael has grown in size and faith and it is exciting to see what the guidance of the Holy Spirit brings to our congregation. As we move into the next phase of growth with our new pastoral team, be prepared for lots of new surprises. The music team members at St. Michael this year will continue to teach new liturgies, new hymns, and of course enhance worship with new anthems and cantatas. Rally Sunday "kicks off" our Senior Choir with a special anthem based on the "Prayer of St. Francis". This famous prayer begins with "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace." We must all continue to pray for and bring God's peace to the darkness that surrounds us. The next two Sundays we will be reminded of God's free grace with a beautiful arrangement of John Newton's famous words. John Newton was the slave trader who wrote the words to one of our favorite hymns, "Amazing Grace". The last Sunday is our celebration of St. Michael and Pastor Rob's installation service. Musically, we are pulling out all the "stops" with our child and adult musicians.

We will also begin our children's choir rehearsals on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:15 PM. Parents can register their children for choir early on Rally Sunday or at our first rehearsal. Wendy Barcroft and I are thrilled about being your children's music directors and have many new plans to fulfill. This will be an exhilarating month and I look forward to singing and making a joyful noise unto the Lord with all of you!

Thank you and God's Peace to you! Michael Burke, Minister of Music

SENIOR MINISTRY



Senior adult retreat sponsored by the Virginia Synod in Strasburg, Virginia, October 21-23. The retreat will provide mature adults the opportunity to grow in their faith, relationships and knowledge of scripture. The event will include study, fellowship, worship, recreation and discussion. It will be led by Pastor Brad Hales. The cost is \$100 which includes 2 nights lodging, meals and study material. There are only 19 spaces available, so please register quickly! You may download a registration form from <http://www.vasynod.org/> or contact Ann Walls, 426-2653.

The Eagles have two events scheduled for September. They are open to all members of the congregation.

- ◆ First is a Luncheon Cruise onboard THE SPIRIT OF NORFOLK on September 10. We will meet at the church at 10:30 or pier side at 11:30. The cost is \$42.75; however, we have "two for one" coupons. You do not need to have a second person to go with you, we will match tickets.
- ◆ Second is a trip to Rocky Hock Theatre, near Edenton, NC, to see "Gospel Jubilee", If 10 people sign up we can use a tour bus. If we have less than ten, we will rent a van. The exact cost and time we leave will depend on how many sign up but the cost should be between \$65 and \$75.

For more information, contact Ann Walls, 426-2653, hulet.walls@cox.net

MEN OF ST. MICHAEL

Men's Monthly Breakfast, 9 am, Saturday, Sept. 13th: Come and join us (9 am on the second Sat. of each month) for some great food,

fun, fellowship, and service. After a hearty man-sized breakfast and some friendly banter, we'll worship together and work together around the church. We are always looking for Breakfast chefs to prepare the breakfast feast! Bring a friend to **come and see** all that God is doing through His mighty men here at St. Michael! If you can help, please contact Mike Young at 518-9699.



Thanks to Kevin Black

Don't recognize the name? Well, Kevin is not a member of St. Michael, but he does have a daughter who attends our Pre-school. He is so pleased with the care and training his daughter receives, he wanted to do something to help the Church and Pre-school. Kevin is in the U.S. Navy. Along with his partner, Matt Dove, they own and operate B&D Pressure Washing, a part-time business when they are off duty. Kevin and Matt have pressure cleaned our facilities at "no charge." What a difference it makes to get rid of the green and black mildew! Thanks again to Kevin and Matt. If your house needs pressure cleaning, you may contact Kevin Black at 646-7082. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks, Roger Whittaker

SOCIAL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2008

As everyone returns this September from summer activities and St. Michael begins to prepare for the fall, we are reminded that many in our community are facing this year without resources to buy medications, warm coats, blankets or food. Some are just in need of Christian fellowship as they are confined to a nursing home. St. Michael continues to be a vibrant partner in our community providing resources for those in need and fellowship for our elderly. If anyone in our church is in need of help or you know someone who is in need of help, please contact Carol Pilgrim at 301-3329.

SEPTEMBER COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

During the month of September, St. Michael is sponsoring our annual coat drive for homeless shelters in Virginia Beach and two identified schools with children in need. This year we are adding the blanket drive at the same time because the homeless shelters have told us they are in dire need of blankets in October as well as coats. If you have any gently used coats or blankets that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church during the month of September and place them in the back of the fellowship hall. The social ministry team will distribute and deliver these items the first week in October.



JUDEO CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

We want to thank Dave and Mary Kaufman who have generously given their time and talents organizing and planning meals at the JCOC. Our next scheduled meal at the JCOC is 10/22/08 (Wednesday). If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Carol Pilgrim at 301-3329. Remember "many hands make little work."



BINGO AT SENTARA NURSING HOME

St. Michael sponsors Bingo every month for the residents of Sentara Nursing Home. This ministry provides a time of Christian fellowship and respite for many who are infirmed and sometimes forgotten. Our next visit is scheduled for Tuesday September 9 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the nursing home.



ONGOING MINISTRIES



Ongoing ministries throughout the year include donating eye glasses, cell phones, and toiletries for the homeless shelter and pennies for prescriptions. The social ministry has provided areas where you can drop off your unused eye glasses, cell phones and toiletries. There is an ever growing need for assistance with prescriptions. Our congregation continues to support this important and sometimes life saving ministry for those who are struggling to buy essential medications. Please keep this ministry in mind each month by donating your spare change.

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Lastly we want to remind everyone that the social ministry will be coordinating and distributing our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for needy families. This year we hope to reach 60 needy families in our community each holiday. Details of this ministry will be forth coming. If you would like to be a part of this ministry come and join us Wednesday Sept. 10 at 7:00 PM when we will be planning this ministry.



THANKS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Once again we look forward to an exciting year of reaching out to those in need. We want to thank all of you who have selflessly and anonymously contributed their time, talents and resources making St. Michael Lutheran Church a leader of Christian faith in action in our community. "By this all men will know you are my disciples, that you love one another." John 13:35

ENJOY GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL BUT DON'T FORGET ARTICLES for the OCTOBER MESSENGER are due by Monday, September 15. Information received after the deadline is not guaranteed publication due to space and time limitations. Submit all articles and information by email to: alleypoop1@gmail.com

Check us out on the web at stmichaelvb.org





YOUTH NEWS!!



It's September.....which means fall is around the corner, school starts back up, and it's time for youth stuff at St. Michael! Check out our following announcements!

C.O.W.S. (Church On Wednesday Supper): It's fall, which means it's time to bring you all back to the "barn." Starting September 10th, join us for supper, games, fellowship and some time with God! **Remember: in order to plan for food, you need to let us know if you are coming by the Sunday prior!** Either let Aaron know by telling him that Sunday or e-mailing him: adfuller03@gmail.com. OH, AND BRING A FRIEND!!

2009 ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: ARE YOU GOING?!?! The deadline for registration is September 14th! Please fill out a registration worksheet and include a \$125.00 non-refundable deposit to Aaron, Pastor Chris, or the church office by the deadline. This is a big commitment, and we need to know now b/c registration fills up FAST. See Aaron or Pastor Chris for more information! **Those entering grades 8-12 this fall are eligible to go to the Gathering, July 22-26, 2009.**



LOST AND FOUND (7TH AND 8TH GRADES): This is the annual Virginia Synod fall retreat for 7th and 8th graders! It's held November 21-23rd, but now is the time to start thinking about whether or not you want to go! Please contact Aaron Fuller for more information (contact information above).

Be on the lookout for more events in September and in coming months for youth of all ages (Elementary, Jr. High, & Sr. High). If you would like to receive e-mails about upcoming youth events, please send an e-mail to Aaron Fuller (adfuller03@gmail.com) and indicate the name of the youth & grade, parent(s) name(s), and phone number.

"BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING":
St. Michael Youth make a difference!

The title above was the theme for the Virginia Synod Vocations Conference past month that I attended. The focus of the conference was that discernment of God's call is really about being good and faithful stewards of what He has gifted us with. In short, stewardship is all about living the life given to us at Baptism for God daily, "Blessed to be a Blessing"!

Our Youth at St. Michael have been busy this summer, and their accomplishments serve as the very stewardship example I described above! As you read below on how our youth are living their lives faithfully in service to God, I hope you are inspired to live out your lives' as faithful stewardship to what God has gifted us! I know they definitely inspire me, and I give great thanks to God for that!

Peace, Aaron Fuller, Council for Youth Ministry

ST. MICHAEL YOUTH HELP MAKE VBS 2008 A SUCCESS!!

THANKS SO MUCH to all of the youth, both middle school and high school, who volunteered their time at Vacation Bible School's Rainforest Adventure this year! Each pair of hands and feet made a difference! Your help was a true ministry to the kids and families who attended and you are appreciated! Thanks for being a blessing!

Alex Riker	Alissa Tamayo	Allyson MacCleod	Brent Wadzita
Cheryl Weinberger	Conner Cosmas	Dominique Doege	Emily Bruton
Erin Comerford	Hunter Barcroft	Jasmyn Cuffee	John Marken
Kathryn Walls	Kyle Hennett	Lauren Burke	Lili Weinberger
Lizzie Cox	Missy Pringle	Morgan Shrum	Natasha Cote
Nikki Ostby	Rachel Leach	Samantha Freeman	Sierra Taylor
Spencer Laird	Tim Wadzita	Victoria Long	Zack Freeman
Debbie Nichols			

NICHOLE OSTBY ATTENDS LUTHERAN STUDENT MUSIC CAMP

Nichole Ostby attended the Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) Camp from June 22 to July 20. This 4 week camp is held at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, and gives youth nationwide a chance to develop and grow their musical skills and talents! This is the second year that Nikki has attended LSM! Thank you Nikki for your faithful commitment to God through your musical gifts!

YOUTH NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**TIM WADZITA IS PROMOTED TO EAGLE SCOUT**

Life Scout Tim Wadzita was promoted to Eagle Scout at a ceremony at St. Michael on August 11. His proud parents are George and Janeen Wadzita, sister Kerri and brother Brent (Eagle Scout 2007). Many friends and family were in attendance. Tim has earned 32 merit badges since joining Scouting, including American Heritage, Computers, Environmental Science, Genealogy, Scholarship, Soil and Water Conservation, Personal Management, Citizenship of the World, Atomic Energy, Family Life and many others. Tim recruited approximately 20 people to help him construct a raised box flower bed for Pendleton School as his Eagle project. He planned the project from start to finish, including procuring all of the materials required. Tim is the 19th Eagle Scout from Troop 14, promoted since 1998 to Scouting's highest achievement. Tim will begin college at George Mason University in the fall. Congratulations Tim!!!

**CONGREGATION SUPPORT
MINISTRY TEAM**

Thank you to all who serve on the Congregation Support Ministry Team! The meals, cards, prayers, funeral receptions, flowers, home and hospital visits are appreciated by those in need more than words can say! We have recently held two potlucks for the military families of St. Michael. We would like to welcome Karen MacLeod as our team leader for the SMLC Military Families Ministry Team. If you are interested in helping Karen with her team, please contact her at 427-0005 or 5bostonfans@cox.net.

With the summer winding down, the Ministry Fair behind us and a new school year right around the corner, I would like to invite each of you to join our team. For more information on how you can help support your brothers and sisters at St. Michael, please call Jodi Cox at 689-2142 or email me at BillandJodi@cox.net. We "invite" you to join us and get "connected" with your St. Michael family. This will "empower" you in ways you cannot image!

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." (Galatians 6:10)

***VBS Was a Tree-top
Bible Blast!***

The Rainforest Adventure VBS held the first week in August was a Tree-Top Bible Blast! Over seventy volunteers, including 30+ teens, worked together to serve 103 children that week. We had so much fun getting to know the children and working with one another. We enjoyed dinner each night put together by our fabulous kitchen team led by Carole Trott. The kids tiptoed through the rainforest put together by the skilled hands of Rich Kessman. A visit each night with Miss Juliet Hutchins with music and we sang joyful songs to the Lord! Add crafts and games and sky-high storytelling with the great teachers and leaders and you have what we call a Rainforest Adventure to remember! Special thanks to all the adults and youth who worked together to make this year's VBS the best ever! We're so glad for everyone who was such a valuable part of Rainforest Adventure VBS! "I have not stopped giving thanks for you." Ephesians 1:16

St. Michael Lutheran Preschool....

is off to a good start and in full swing! For your planning information, we will be conducting three fundraising events during the academic year.



We hope that you will join us in our Annual Fundraisers starting with our Joe Corbi Pizza and Cookie Dough beginning September 24th and ending October 9th.

The second fundraiser is our "Reach For The Stars Reading Program." The Reading Program will begin November 14th and end December 4th.

The third fundraiser, our Usborne Book Fair which will be in the Spring of 2009.

These fundraisers are important to help us obtain computer programs, books for our School Library, another computer for our Computer Lab, games, and other needs for our students' enrichment.

In addition, we collect Campbell Soup Labels which are instrumental in getting PE equipment and learning materials. We greatly appreciate your participation and support for our Preschool!

God's Blessings to You!

Ms. Fran, Director of Preschool Ministry

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Meet our
New
Members



We welcome the Cosmas Family to our congregation. Pastor Rob, of course, is our new Pastor. He is married to Janelle, and the family includes Connor (14), Sarah (9), and Asher (7). Pastor Rob was born in Manville, NJ, and completed high school in Winter Park, FL. Janelle, a "Florida Cracker," was born and reared in Jacksonville, FL. Brought to Virginia Beach by the Grace of God, a Penske Truck, lots of prayers and the joy of doing ministry among the folks at St. Michael, the family moved into their Virginia Beach home at 3264 Sacramento Dr., Zip Code 23456, in the Courthouse Estates development, around the first of July. Their phone number is 689-3275. Janelle is an elementary school teacher and has taught for over 14 years, principally in second and third grades. Currently she's a stay-at-home mom and Rob's chief support in ministry. She enjoys movies, reading, activities with the children, teaching, travel and time at home with the family. Pastor Rob likes to read, especially historical fiction. He also enjoys social commentary, politics, spectator sports, golf, swimming, travel and biking. He follows the Yankees baseball team and FSU college football. Connor plays golf and will be attending Kellam High School as a sophomore in the fall. Sarah enjoys dance, gymnastics and theater productions and will be entering fourth grade. Asher likes most ball sports and is focusing on baseball though he can't wait to play football. He is entering the second grade in the fall. Through the call from our congregation the Cosmas were joyfully brought to St. Michaels where they feel both theirs and the church's needs are being met. They have been swept up in kindness and hospitality from the congregation.

Moving here via Charlotte, NC and Hampton, VA, Joshua and Katrina Oakes, and their 9 month old daughter Amelia now live at 1513 Chirnside Court, Virginia Beach 23464. Contact them at joakes03@gmail.com or kdoakes@gmail.com or on the phone at 274-2076. Joshua is a Navy Lieutenant stationed with COMOPTEVFOR, an annex of Norfolk Naval Base. He enjoys all sports activities, especially golf and is always looking for a golf partner. Katrina is a civilian Regional Base Military Counselor whose hobbies are quilting, mountain biking and blogging. They found St. Michael on the Internet.

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

Kevin and Laura Gilbert live at 3181 Barbour Drive in Virginia Beach 23456 which is in the Courthouse Estates and their phone number is 427-1761. Their email address is Llg524@cox.net. They are originally from Ohio but moved here from Fort Lauderdale in 2002, and were brought to this area because of Kevin's job as a Marine Engineer. Laura is a Preschool Teacher at St. Michael's Daycare which was instrumental in their choosing to join our congregation. Kevin loves auto racing and music; Laura enjoys crafts, reading music and teaching. Kevin and Laura have two adult children: Ryan, 24, who is an AET PO2 in the USCG at Airstation Miami and lives in Ft. Lauderdale; and Kaitlyn, 21, who lives in Virginia Beach and is employed at the Westin Hotel Town Center as Sales & Catering Assistant-Group Coordinator.

Brought to our area through service in the U. S. Navy, Michael and Denise Rang live in the Red Mill area at 1156 Eppington Dr., Virginia Beach 23454. Denise is a hairdresser and Michael is now retired from the Navy and working in the Health & Safety area in the Construction field. Their phone number is 427-7048 and their email is deniserang@hotmail.com. They are originally from Ohio and Pennsylvania. While Denise is interested in reading, cooking and baking, Michael enjoys golf, fishing and all other sports.

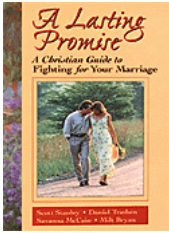
Robert Werth was introduced to our congregation by his wife, Beverly, who is already a member of our church. They were brought to Virginia Beach by the hand of God and Beverly's service in the U. S. Army, and live at 2228 Mill Crossing Dr., Apt. 204, Virginia Beach 23454. Their phone number is 301-7484 and email is boband-bev06@yahoo.com. Originally from Columbus, IN, Bob is a retired Biology Professor at Purdue University. Beverly is still active in the Army and is a Nurse Case Manager. Bob restores player pianos and Beverly likes scrapbooking and stamping. Both of them also enjoy golf, travel and football.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

St. Michael provides a devotional written by its members for Advent and for Lent. We are in need of a new person to collect the names and edit the publication. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Pastor Chris or Ann Walls at 426-2653, hulet.walls@cox.net.



Relationship Ministry Activities



The Couples' Sunday School class will be studying the book, **A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage**. The class will meet Sunday mornings, 9:45 am – 10:45 am, in Classroom 1, beginning September 14th. Married and engaged couples are encouraged

to join us in this Biblically-based approach to marriage enrichment. Share your experiences and learn from other couples. The sessions will cover topics such as practical communications skills, problem solving, the power of commitment, spiritual intimacy and fun, with scriptural references on which the lessons are based, as well as live small group discussions. There is no cost and each week covers a different topic, so join us on Sunday mornings for **A Lasting Promise**. Contact George Wadzita, 689-8322, for more information.

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEK-END

Looking for the perfect anniversary gift for your spouse? A Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend can rekindle the sparks you felt on your wedding day! Give your relationship the priority you both deserve. Marriage Encounter is 44 hours of opportunity to focus on each other, learn and practice important tools needed for any healthy marriage, like communication. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter will take place on November 7-9, 2008 in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Space is limited, but if you register this month, you can be assured a place on the weekend. For more information or to register, call George and Janeen Wadzita at 689-8322, or visit the website at: www.GodLovesMarriage.org.



The Lutheran Course on Marriage

Coming to St. Michael, Wednesday nights, 7 pm – 8 pm. Make a date with your spouse on Wednesday evenings to enrich your marriage relationship and share your own experiences with other couples. The DVD-based sessions feature short presentations by experienced Lutheran pastors and theologians, real-life anecdotes of couples, and live small group discussions. The seven sessions cover Martin Luther's views on marriage, themes of couple communication, managing stressors as a team, marriage as a springboard for ministry, keeping Christ at the center of marriage, maintaining your marriage as you change, and romancing your spouse. The cost is \$15 deposit per couple for *The Lutheran Handbook on Marriage* and two companion workbooks (to be refunded when the books are returned at the end of the course). To sign-up, call George Wadzita at 689-8322 or email: GWadzita@aol.com.

SPENDING PLAN SHORTFALL



As members of God's family at St. Michael, it is important that each of you are aware of the state of our congregation's finances and our ability to carry out God's mission to share the love of Jesus Christ with all people. Income has lagged behind expenses each month this year, resulting in a year-to-date spending plan shortfall of about \$37,816.40 as of July 31, 2008. This shortfall has been covered so far by controlling costs, delaying spending, deferring planned maintenance, and transferring funds from reserves.

While God could miraculously provide all the resources needed to erase this shortfall, He chooses to invite us to act in faith and experience joy in His response! With God's blessing, Jesus fed over 5000 people, multiplying the seemingly meager resources of five loaves and two fish to satisfy all, with 12 baskets of leftovers! Your financial giving is an act of faith to give resources to effectively carry out God's mission at St. Michael. Whether your "five loaves and two fish" are \$50, \$500, or even \$5000, please prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and give generously of the financial resources He has provided. We are blessed to be a blessing to others!

God's Vision for St. Michael

In Christ Jesus, we are disciples sent to share God's good news and love with all people! Our objectives to accomplish God's vision this year look like this:

Invite others to "come and see" Jesus at St. Michael

Welcome those who "come and see" and show them God's love

Connect and integrate new members into the life and mission of our church

Empower Christ's disciples to go out into our community and share God's love



God's Vision for St. Michael

Stewardship Ministry

In Christ Jesus, **we are** disciples **sent** to share God's good news and love with all people!

As evident in the Ministry Fair displays, the love of Christ is poured out in many ways at and through you, the people of St. Michael. Thanks be to God for all of you who have, and continue to give, generously of your time, talents, and treasures (even your blood, sweat, plasma, and platelets!) in carrying out God's mission through St. Michael Lutheran Church this summer! Preaching, baptizing, marrying, burying, youth ministry, Vacation Bible School, lawn mowing and grounds maintenance, ushers, crucifers, acolytes, serving meals to the homeless at JCOC, sharing special music, supporting spouses of deployed military, encouraging one another, praying for one another's needs, healing, and comfort in loss, teaching and studying God's word, technology, sewing, writing devotions, baking bread, collecting cans, food, and stocking the pastor's pantry, caring for little ones, visiting the sick and shut-ins, planning for the long term, coordinating the efforts of many willing volunteers, greeting newcomers and visitors, and in so many more ways too numerous to list! Yeah, God!

Stewardship Bible Verse of the Month

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4 NRSV

Stewardship Video Production

The Stewardship Video Production Team is producing a video on the history, current ministries, and vision for continuing to accomplish God's mission through our congregation. The production is currently in the writing stage. A longer video will be used for orienting new and prospective members to **Welcome** and help **Connect** them to the congregation's various ministries. A short video (less than 2 minutes) will be used for **Inviting** others to Come and See God's Love in



Action here. **We need pictures** (digital photos preferred, but prints can be scanned) **and video clips** of past ministry activities at St. Michael, such as Vacation Bible School, ground breaking for the sanctuary, and various ministry activities. These will be organized, cataloged, and digitally scanned for future editing. **Volunteers of all ages are also needed** with a variety of skills, talents, and gifts to accomplish the many tasks (researching, writing, directing, interviewing, videotaping, photographing, editing, and organizing images to name just a few) required to complete this major effort. Please contact George Wadzita at 689-8322 if you are interested in supporting this effort.



"FireProof"

A powerful Christian movie about marriage opening in several local theaters, Friday, Sept. 26th, 2008. This movie is *an unprecedented opportunity to communicate God's design for relationships*. At work, inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron) lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. At home, in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. After seven years of marriage, Catherine Holt wonders when she stopped being "good enough" for her husband. Neither one understands the pressures the other faces. Regular arguments over jobs, finances, housework, and outside interests have readied them both to move on to something with more sparks. As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment: "The Love Dare." Wondering if it's even worth the effort, Caleb agrees, for his father's sake more than for his marriage. While trying to stay true to his promise, Caleb becomes frustrated time and again. He finally asks his father, "How am I supposed to show love to somebody who constantly rejects me?" When his father explains that this is the love Christ shows to us, Caleb makes a life-changing commitment to love God. And, with God's help, he begins to understand what it means to truly love his wife.

But is it too late to fireproof his marriage? While his job is to rescue others, Caleb must face his toughest job ever ... rescuing his wife's heart. An action-packed love story, FIREPROOF will have audiences laughing, crying, and being pulled toward the edge of their seats as they are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife ... and a marriage worth rescuing!

For a preview or more information, see <http://www.fireproofthemovie.com/>

If you would like to attend **opening night, September 26th**, at a local theater, please call George and Janeen Wadzita at 689-8322 by September 14th. We previewed this movie in July and it is heart wrenching, realistic, but filled with a message of hope! Invite your friends, bring your teens, but Come and See this movie!

A LETTER FROM OUR SEMINARIAN - Aaron DeBenedetto

Dear Members of St. Michael,

You may remember me, and you may not. My name is Aaron DeBenedetto. I am your seminarian from Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, the same seminary Pastor Bowen attended. My wife Meredith and I have visited your congregation the last two summers. In fact, I know you have a giant poster print of me in your fellowship area. St. Michael and I are connected through a partnership program. This program encourages a relationship of prayer and support. You have been gracious with both, including a beautiful quilt which Meredith and I use almost everyday on our couch while we watch television or read. We love this quilt; thank you!

The third year of seminary is usually an internship year. I got assigned to Lutheran Church of the Cross in St. Petersburg, Florida. Recently we moved and I started my internship on July 8th. The following is an update on this transition:

Meredith and I packed up our belongings on June 14th. We had several friends spend the entire day loading the U-Haul. We have been blessed to have such amazing friends in Charleston. God placed the perfect people in our life in that place. I couldn't believe the graciousness they all displayed in shipping us off. It was indeed humbling to know these people would genuinely miss us. One of Meredith's closest friends made two baskets of "road trip" snacks. She packed the baskets FULL, with enough food for an entire army. We would arrive in Florida but she was determined that we would be fat too. This imagery sums up how Meredith and I feel about leaving this near-perfect home of ours with all our friends and memories. It was TOUGH and many tears were shed driving away. But, God has called us to move south to Florida where He would have more challenges and joys waiting for us.

The pastor and many members welcomed us and our huge moving truck. These people, who we just met, lovingly welcomed us and carried our personal possessions. Their hands were not their own, but Jesus'. We needed to be welcomed with the love of Christ and they provided that experience. The church provides housing and we have been blessed. It is quite nice and is in a nice neighborhood where we can run and even let our cat out to play. After a month it is feeling like home.

Lutheran Church of the Cross itself is a very nice church. Many of the people here are from Wisconsin and Minnesota so it feels like I have come home in a way (as I am from Wisconsin). They are very welcoming and considerate. My duties thus far have been worship assistance, leading Bible studies, preaching, sitting in on meetings, and learning about people here. So far God has confirmed my calling as a pastor by how much I love being in a pastoral role. It is challenging and rewarding all at the same time.

Meredith is doing well and is still job searching (hopefully not by the time you folks read this letter). The job market is slow here, including a hiring freeze at the public schools. But we have faith that the perfect job will make itself known. Somehow these things always seem to work out well when we trust in the Lord. We have chosen to trust. Please keep her job search in your prayers.

The most recent news is that Meredith is PREGNANT! Yes, we are expecting a baby in February. We are SO excited and elated. Just the other week we got the ultrasound pictures. What a miracle that there is a little life being knit together by God. Also keep the baby and its health in your prayers.

So, we hope you are doing well in Virginia. Thank you for your support and prayers! Lutheran Church of the Cross is located in St. Petersburg, Florida. You may view the church and their ministries at www.mylcc.com. If you vacation in Florida please stop in to worship and say hello.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Aaron DeBenedetto, Your Seminarian

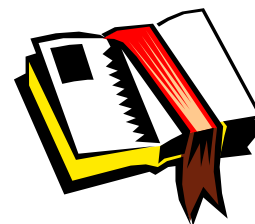
aarondebenedetto@hotmail.com, 1314 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, Unit #4, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANKS.....

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only _____, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

"But Jesus said, Let the _____ alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Answers can be found in your Bible





Happy Birthday to you.....



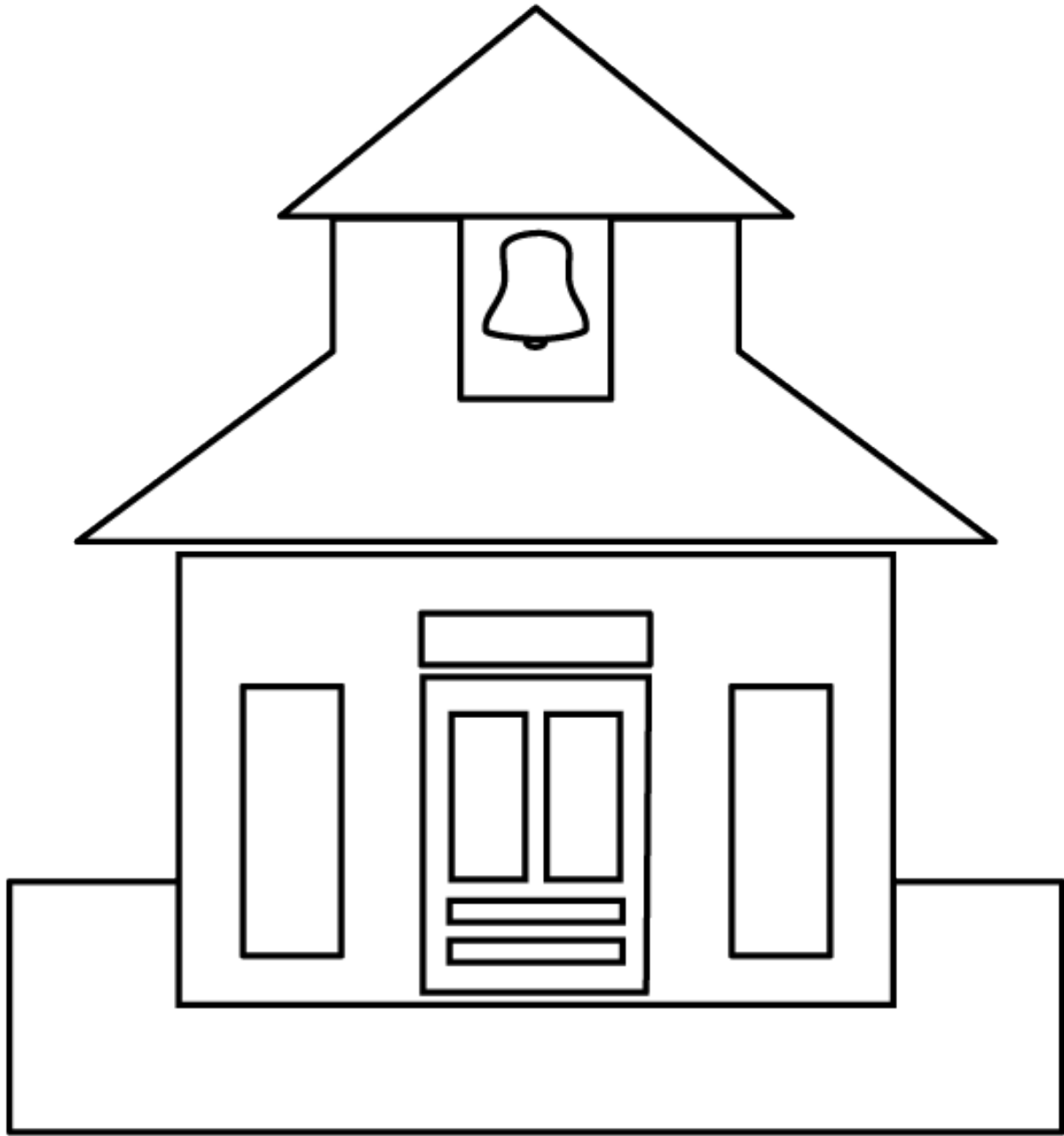
- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Dave Kaufman, Jr. | 17 | Judy Timm |
| 1 | Robert Weldon | 17 | Amanda Young |
| 2 | David Kaufman | 18 | Jimmy Wharton |
| 2 | Megumi Marken | 19 | Heather Fairchild |
| 3 | Connor Martin | 19 | Jade Morrison |
| 4 | Jacob Lopez | 20 | Becky Kaufman |
| 5 | Steve Melville | 22 | Charles Hackett |
| 8 | Carl Rogers | 23 | Tina Allen |
| 10 | Justin Boone | 23 | Beverly Lown |
| 10 | Timothy Cox | 23 | Debra Sroufe |
| 10 | Chris Dement | 23 | Alissa Tamayo |
| 11 | Shawn Jackson | 23 | Angela cox |
| 11 | Cheryl Matyas | 24 | Hollie Albertson |
| 11 | Justin Murgia | 25 | Lissa Philleo |
| 11 | Kristen Brinkman | 25 | Greg Young |
| 11 | Matthew Haugen | 26 | Martin Thomas |
| 12 | Carmen Gomez | 27 | Jack Clark |
| 12 | Douglas Gonzalez | 28 | Ann Walls |
| 12 | Karen Pyle | 28 | Heidi Mundy |
| 12 | Donald Ritter | 29 | LuAnn Hartman |
| 12 | Al Munroe | 30 | Carolina Bowen |
| 13 | Barbara Horvath | 30 | Nicholas Doan |
| 15 | Sandy Fuller | 30 | Robert Holmes |
| 16 | David Harrison | 30 | Amy Hougasian |
| 17 | Ken Jordan | 30 | Eric Washbon |
| | | 30 | Mike Gartman |



Happy Anniversary

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Jimmy and Lori Wharton</i> | 18 | <i>John and Constance Williams</i> |
| 3 | <i>Ken and Tina Allen</i> | 20 | <i>Ed and Audrey Doan</i> |
| 3 | <i>Lee and Anita Gold</i> | 24 | <i>Bryan and Janice Black</i> |
| 3 | <i>Steve and Amy Hougasian</i> | 25 | <i>Jorge and Amy Mendez</i> |
| 11 | <i>Larry & Eunice Litterini</i> | 27 | <i>Steve and Judy Jackson</i> |
| 17 | <i>Ralph and Debra Sroufe</i> | 28 | <i>Richard and Betsy Chmilarski</i> |





Back to School



September 2008



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 Labor Day 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2 1st Day of School	3	4 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	5	6 10:30 am Confirmation Orientation
7 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services Rally Day-Church Picnic	8 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9 Sentara Bingo 6:30- 8:00 pm 7:30 pm Sewing Ministry	10 6-7:30 pm COWS 6:15 pm Chrub, KOK & Jr. Choir 7:00 Social Ministry Planning Meeting 7:30 pm Sr. Choir	11	12	13 9:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Music Planning 11:00 am Worship & Music
14 Holy Cross Day 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services	15 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm AA Meeting	16 10:00 am Sewing Ministry	17 6-7:30 pm COWS 6:15 pm Chrub, KOK & Jr. Choir 7:30 pm Sr. Choir	18 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	19	20
21 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services 1:00 pm Crafters Fellowship	22 7:00 pm Pre-school Board Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23 7:30 pm Sewing Ministry	24 6-7:30 pm COWS 6:15 pm Chrub, KOK & Jr. Choir 7:30 pm Sr. Choir	25	26	27
28 St. Michael Day 8:30 & 11:00 am- Worship Services 3:00 pm Pastor Rob's Installation	29 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm AA Meeting	30 10:00 am Sewing Ministry				

THOSE WHO SERVE SEPTEMBER 2008

8:30:00 a.m.	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 5
Assisting Minister	Steve Jackson	Judy Timm	Beverly Werth	Karen Moyer	Audra Dement
Communion Assistant	Joe Fairchild	Chris Haugen	Joe Fairchild	Joan Harris	Pat Johnson
Communion Assistant	Karen Moyer	Kay Taylor	Chris Fairchild	Ron Banzi	Steve Jackson
Communion Assistant	Judy Timm	Joanne Taylor	Joanna Lauridsen	Phyllis Banzi	Carol Kowalski
Usher	David Crane	Carl Matyas	Joan Harris	Eric Guran	Ken Pladsen
Usher	Nancy Crane	Will Pohlmann	Joe Cowan	Frieda Guran	Willington Warren
Usher	Karen Pyle	Will Davis	Mike Bowen	Joe Fairchild	Joe Cowan
Usher	Joe Cowan	Kathy Lauridsen	Dale Harris	Chris Fairchild	Karen Pyle
Acolyte	Hayley Cannon	Sam Ream	Noah Klemann	Ely Carlson	Roni Cox
Crucifer	Catherien Younce	Brittney Taylor	Lizzy Cox	Abby Carlson	Tori Cox
Greeter	Melissa Ream	Carol Pilgrim	Nancy Crane	Esther Klingler	Russ Ream
Greeter	Russ Ream	Chryle Matyas	David Crane	Phyllis Banzi	Melissa Ream
Hospitality Ministry	Karen Pyle	Renée Pohlmann	Cheryle Matyas	Pat Davis	Mary K./Joanne Taylor
Hospitality Ministry	Becky Roenker	Gina Sitko	Joanna Lauridsen	Barb Horvath	Thelma Sinnen
Nursery	Karen MacLeod	Nicole Moritz	Melissa Ream	Van Fossen Family	Chris Fairchild
Nursery	Ailyson MacLeod	Sarah Cosmas	Hayley Smith		Carolyn Rauch
11:00 a.m.	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 5
Assisting Minister	Ralph Stroufe	Henri Baillargeon	Bette Marroletti	Doug Seymour	Roger Whittaker
Communion Assistant	Norm Venzke	Robin Nicols	Vince Marroletti	Charlene Young	Jackie Whittaker
Communion Assistant	Debbie Stroufe	Susann Olson	Judy Candrilli	Mike Young	Erin Comerford
Communion Assistant	Roger Whittaker	Chuck Olson	Jerry Candrilli	Terri Grimm	Melissa Pringle
Usher	Bette Marroletti	Bill Hartman	Bill Whittaker	Ed Rybat	Bob Olson
Usher	Vince Marroletti	Lu Ann Hartman	Ron Keizer	Nick Jordan	Don Aggas
Usher	Paul Neuman	Bre Hartman	Duncan MacLeod	Connie Williams	Steve Melville
Usher	Ruth Neuman	Robert Hartman	Deane Hennett	John Williams	Dan Sitko
Acolyte	Jonathan Gold	Steven Hartman	Kyle Hennett	Samatha Fuller	Adam Sitko
Crucifer	Brock Allen	Jack MacLeod	Ailyson MacLeod	Sarah Cosmas	Bobby Olson
Greeter	Patrica Tomko	Joyce Hammerstein	Ken Jordan	Ann Walls	Pam Hoisington
Greeter	Audrey Doan	John Hammerstein	Tim Worst	Alison Bridge	Robin Brooks
Hospitality Ministry	Rally Day	Cathy Worst	Deborah Stroufe	Lu Ann Hartman	Cynthia Nelson
Hospitality Ministry	RALLY DAY	Becky Aggas	Tracey Gauthier	Sand Fuller	Michelle Reichenau
Nursery	Ann Walls	Ruth York	Kristen Brinkman	Katrina Oaks	Lu Ann Hartman
Nursery	Kathryn Walls	Missy Pringle	Conrad Brinkman	Cheryl Carey	Bre Hartman
GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE					
September 1-76	September 8-13	September 15-20	September 22-27	Sept. 29 - Oct. 4	
John Hammerstein 563-9080	Carl Matyas 495-2430	Richard Vanderploeg 689-0116		Will Pohlmann 563-9213	
Deane Hennett 427-2824	Tim Worst 647-9354	George Wadzita 689-8322	Paul Neuman 689-2789	Ken Pladsen 729-2071	



St. Michael Lutheran Church

2208 Princess Anne Road,
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-3536
(757) 427-5088

Website: stmichaelvb.org

Email: admin@stmichaelvb.org

Office: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 am

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Thursday Worship & Bible Study at 6:30 pm

Pastor Rob Cosmas, (757) 689-3275

Email: pastorrcosmas@aol.com

Pastor Chris Bowen, (757)689-8128,

(757)652-2431(cell),

Email: pc.smlc@gmail.com

Prayer Ministry

Join us as we lift our petitions
to the Lord

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.”*

I Thess. 5:16:18



PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT-IN: Herb Dugroo, Rachel Leach, Duncan MacLeod, Al Munroe, Paul Lown

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN: The family of Gerard Verboncoeur, The Meberg family & the Waterman Family

FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE ILL: Audrey Wack, Sarah Tolliver, Jack Freeman, Ruth Jewitt, Alberta Reid, Carolyn Keilwert, Cletus Pladsen, Sarah Nowel, Dale Lee, Rosemarie Blais, Charles Vance, Marjorie Boesch, Frank Sours, Susan Jaynes, Michael Jaynes, Roy Kimmel, Al Andrews, Mary Jo Jackson, Sharyn Leach, Morgan Pritchett, Glinda Varner, Tom Glasgo, Kim Sandhoff,

OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS: The Cosmas Family, The Bowen Family, St. Michael leadership and staff, our schools, The deployed and their families, and the upcoming elections.

Join the St. Michael Prayer Ministry Team!

Contact Sharon at the office - 427-5088 or email: alleyoop1@gmail.com to be placed on the Prayer Ministry Team list. You will receive prayer requests via email as the need arises. Be a blessing and receive a blessing! If you have a prayer request, please contact the church office or complete the information card included in each bulletin.

Parish Staff

Rob Cosmas - Lead Pastor

Chris Bowen, Pastor

Michael Burke, Minister of Music

Roger Whittaker, Dir. Church Operations

Sharon Long, Minister of Admn. & Lay Ministry Svc.

Tom Darling, Church Sexton

Fran Sneath, Preschool Director

Congregational Council

Jodi Cox, Congregational Support

Aaron Fuller, Youth

Deane Hennett, Finance

Peter Lauridsen, Treasurer

Cheryl Matyas, Fellowship

Karen Moyer, Pres. and Worship & Music

Carol Pilgrim, Social Ministry

Doug Seymour, Technology

Ralph Sroufe, Long Range Planning

Judy Timm, Spiritual Formation

George Wadzita, Stewardship

Ann Walls, Secretary and Seniors

Trustees

Ken Allen

Jon Tamayo

Roger Whittaker

Other Ministries

Alice Clark, Prayer Ministry & Newsletter

Pat Davis, COOR (Children's Opportunities,
Our Responsibility)

Steve Jackson, Social Ministry Co-chair

Joanna Lauridsen, Fellowship Co-chair

Jackie Whittaker, Preschool

The Messenger
St. Michael Lutheran Church
2208 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-3536

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SEPTEMBER 2008
SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL
EDITION

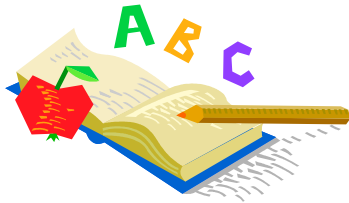


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The Official Newsletter of
St. Michael Lutheran Church

Church office: 757-427-5088

Web site: stmichaelvb.org

Office email:
admin@stmichaelvb.org

Church office is open
weekdays from
9:00 am-4:00 pm

Sunday Worship
8:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday School
9:45 - 10:45