

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

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Blacksburg, VA 24060  
 Permit No. 78

### *September Servants*

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
<i>Accolytes</i>	Isaac Nagle Justin Dolph	Daniel Crowder	Kelsey Trimble Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Solberg and Ludwig Families				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Sandy Birch		Steve Mouras		
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		AAL		Kathy Albert	
<i>Greeters</i>	Jody and Timothy Smiley				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Sandy Birch	Doug Smiley	Steve Mouras	Jody Smiley	Jeff Birch
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Tammy Veil Jada Brown	Jody Smiley Chris Sheppard	Sandy Birch Zach Woods	Richard Robinson Lauren Robinson	Sharon Robinson Matt Woods
<i>Ushers</i>	Ken Dolph Peggy Brown Dickey Shepherd Roscoe Turman	Brian Simmers Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle Steve Mouras	Mickey McGuiggan Josh Mouras Randy Robinson Brian Simmers	Burn Gross Betty Gross Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle	Randy Robinson Hank Schneider Sam Akers Philip Isenhour



The one-year anniversary of September 11, 2001 will be observed in many ways throughout our country. There will be commemorative television programs, special editions of magazines and newspapers, and public memorials. For Christians, perhaps the most appropriate observance is to gather in prayer, asking God for the peace we humans are unable to achieve on our own. We at St. Michael will join in a service of prayer and remembrance on September 11 at 7:30 pm. As we remember the horrific events of last September 11, we lift to God the grief of an entire nation. We also ask God to deliver from fear those throughout the world – in Northern Ireland, the Middle East, numerous nations in Africa, and so many other places – who also know the devastation of terrorism.

In these days of remembrance, may we turn to God in prayer, seeking the strength and wisdom we need to be people of justice and peace. May we be guided by people of faith, past and present, who help us voice our fervent hopes. The following prayer is attributed to Francis Paget (1851-1911), Bishop of Oxford. I pray that Paget's words will be a source of strength and hope for you, as they have been for me.

*Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
Kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace,  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;  
so that in tranquility your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mitchell**

Pastor's Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Church Office Phone Number: (540) 951-8951 Pastor Mitchell's Home Phone Number: (540) 552-2532
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## Welcome, New Members

We are pleased to welcome back former member Richard Price to St. Michael. Richard has transferred his membership from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pearisburg. Welcome, Richard, to all that is ours in Christ!

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### Kitchen Pile-Up

Over the past several months, empty dishes from potlucks, funeral dinners, and other occasions have gone unclaimed in the church kitchen. If you're wondering what happened to your favorite casserole dish or bowl, it just might be at St. Michael! Please stop in the kitchen the next time you're at the church and reconnect with your lost container.

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### On-Line Bible Study

The Virginia Synod has arranged for all its members to make use of a wonderful on-line tool for Bible study. In an easy-to-use, comprehensive form, all seekers can expand their knowledge of Scripture through use of the Bible Tutor.

The Bible Tutor can be accessed at:

<http://online.bible-tutor.com/virgsynod>

Username: virginia

Password: 4wer3bee



### ASK LILY

Dear Members of St. Michael:

No one has asked me a question for months! I asked Linda if all of you already knew everything. She said, "Well, maybe, or maybe they've just forgotten you're here, Lily." So, in case you don't have all your questions answered, send them to me and I'll give them the old obedience-school try!

In the meantime, I'd like to share some Dogs' Letters to God I got from someone who emailed them to Linda. She laughed at them, but I'm not sure what's so funny.

Dear God,  
When we get to Heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Dear God,  
If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God,  
If we come back as humans, is that good or bad?

Dear God,  
We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent IDs, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God,  
Can you undo what the doctor did?

Dear God,  
Are there dogs on other planets or are we

**alone? I have been howling at the moon and stars for a long time, but all I ever hear back is the beagle across the street!**

Lily

### TIME TO STOCK THE SHELVES

**Book shelves** are coming so it's time to stock the shelves. The Education Committee is starting a library and needs your help filling the shelves with story books for the St. Michael community to share with our children.

Beginning in September, Sunday School children will receive a book order form from *God's World Book Club*. Families can order books for home use. We also invite the congregation to take an order form and order a book to be placed in the new library.

God's World Book Club offers a wide variety of Christian based books as well as non-secular reading for children. Please help us as we encourage our children to grasp the world of reading and enjoy the stories that unfold in the books that will fill the shelves.



**Did you miss us?**

**The Choir** enjoyed their time off. The new season will be starting soon. The first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:15 until 7:30pm. Here are a few Choir facts: The St. Michael Choir's combined weight is 1,953 pounds (more during advent, less during lent) We have 164 collective years of experience and we are 579 years old but don't let that discourage you. There are only two or three folks who actually "read music" in the traditional way. The rest of us learn by hearing. That's what the Wednesday rehearsals are for. We go over our parts until we learn them – so reading music isn't really an issue. All you need is to be able

to carry a tune and enjoy laughing and singing. We have a good time and hope to see new faces on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15.



### **DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK**

Don't forget to support the Montgomery County Food Bank. Our Shopping Cart needs to be filled with canned vegetables and packaged dinner meals.

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### **ACTS**

The Virginia Synod is launching a new educational program for laity – Ambassadors Community for Theological Study (ACTS). ACTS is a series of advanced courses that will help you to look more deeply into biblical truths and to study essential elements of the Lutheran faith. Each course includes 20 hours of learning in both large-group sessions taught by recognized authorities and in small-group sessions led by trained pastors at different Virginia locations.

The first course will meet September 21 and November 9 from 9 am to 4 pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro. Lunch and breaks are included in the tuition fee of \$150. For those needing to come the Friday night before the Saturday sessions, Grace Lutheran members have offered hospitality in their homes. Small groups for the course will be held October 3 and 17, November 14 and 21, and December 4.

Dr. Timothy Wengert, the editor of the newest version of The Book of Concord, will teach the first class. The text for the course will be The Book of Concord edited by Dr. Wengert.

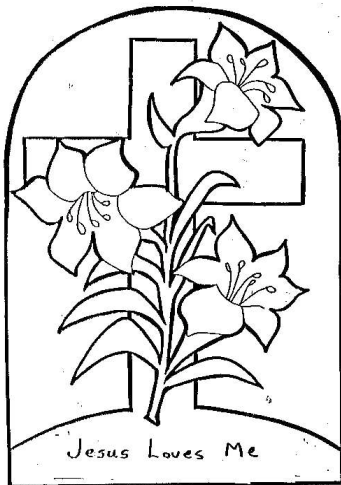
For more information or to register, call Dr. Jean

Bozeman, assistant to the Bishop, at 757-622-9421.

## WELCA NEWS

The women of the E.L.C.A. will have their first meeting of the fall at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19 at the home of Alice Schneider. Join us as we begin another year of Bible Lessons, service, and fellowship.

Our annual birthday dinner will be Sunday November 10 after church. If you haven't signed up to host a table, please check our list on the bulletin board.



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### Service of Prayer and Remembrance

St. Michael will offer a service of prayer and remembrance on September 11 at 7:30 pm. As we observe the one year anniversary of September 11, 2001, we grieve the loss of loved ones, and those whose names we will never know. We pray for the nations of the world and ask God to make us instruments of God's peace. We lift to God those who have been victims of terrorism in this country and those throughout the world who live with the threat of violence on a daily basis. Please join your brothers and sisters in faith for a service of scripture readings, prayers, and hymns.

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### Neighborhood Development

Snyder & Associates, general contractor, is preparing a plan for developing the 133 acre parcel surrounding the St. Michael property and extending to the Heathwood neighborhood. This area is commonly known as Kipps Farm. Earlier in the year, Snyder & Associates asked the Blacksburg Town Council to alter the town's Comprehensive Plan to allow higher density of dwellings on this 133 acres – from one per acre to four per acre. That request was denied by the Planning Commission and Town Council; Snyder & Associates is now working on an alternative proposal for single-family and townhome units. Watch your local newspapers and St. Michael newsletter for more information as together we prepare to welcome our new neighbors to our community and our congregation

## Long Range Planning Update

For the past several months, the long range planning team has been working to gather information about the St. Michael family and the areas surrounding St. Michael. In Blacksburg and Montgomery County, we have looked at the total population based on gender, diversity, age, and income. In our St. Michael family, we have looked at age groups, family make-up, housing locations, and changes in baptized membership. All of this information will be shared with you in an upcoming newsletter.

As we look at the long range planning process, the next step is to take a close look at our mission statement. Our current mission statement, which is included in the newsletter, is rather lengthy and something that we are probably not very aware of. As a congregation, how can we work towards our mission if we do not know what it is? To take a closer look at our mission statement and possibly make changes in it, we need the help of the entire congregation. On Sunday, September --, we will be focusing on our mission statement throughout the service. At the conclusion of the service, we will be asking everyone to contribute their thoughts and ideas about what St. Michael is really about and what our mission should be. During the next few weeks, please take some time to think about St. Michael and jot down any words or ideas that you think are important about our church. Please bring these ideas and comments with you on Sunday, September --. If you are unable to attend that Sunday, please share your ideas with a member of the long range planning team. Without you, this process cannot be successful.

Here are some Scripture passages that speak about God's mission for the church. They may be helpful as you consider the mission of our congregation.

1 Peter 2:4-5,9,10  
Luke 17:20-21  
Matthew 16:15-18  
Psalm 99  
Ephesians 4:15-16  
Luke 10:1

Ephesians 2:11-22  
Romans 3:23-24  
John 15:5-17  
Phillipians 1:3-6  
Mark 6:7

Ephesians 4:4-6  
1 Cor. 12:12,28  
Mark 10:41-45  
1 John 5:6-12  
Acts 2:43-47

### Long Range Committee Members

Jeff Birch   Bob Brown   Judy Clemens   Cindy Dowdy   Betty Gross  
Kevin Krallman   Julia Landes   Pastor Mitchell   Hank Schneider  
Tim Smiley   Amy Woods



Our **congregational picnic** will be held on Sunday, September 8. The Sharing and Caring Committee will be providing hot dogs. Please bring a covered dish and join us for food,

fun, and fellowship.

**Sunday School will begin at 9:50 on September 8.**

## **Current Statement of Mission**

We, the members of St. Michael Lutheran Church, Blacksburg, Virginia, as faithful believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the Lutheran doctrine, seeking to enrich the worship, witness, learning, support and service of our congregation, pledge ourselves to our mission of:

- Providing a friendly place and opportunity to strengthen the faith of all believers through joyful thanksgiving and celebration of God's love in this life by participation in the Holy Sacraments, in prayer, and in regular and special worship;
- Enabling each other to share joyfully with spiritual boldness, charity, and compassion, the reality of the good news of Jesus Christ in the lives of all persons, particularly in families and others in special circumstances;
- Developing personal growth from infancy and throughout life in the true knowledge and understanding of Christian teachings as revealed in the Holy Scriptures in order that we may be faithfully united as active participants in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through the schools of the church and special educational experiences;
- Providing a solid foundation for building up the Body of Christ in this place and throughout the world by freely offering our God-given resources of time, ability, and material wealth through personal commitment to Christ's call to self-giving love;
- To be available to serve God through loving concern, personal care, and active support of all persons in need as we identify those needs in our community and in the world.