

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID Blacksburg, VA 24060 Permit No. 78

### *July Servants*

	<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 27</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Isaac Nagle	Scott McGuigan	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Isaac Nagle
<i>Altar Care</i>	Smileys			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Sandy Birch		Steve Mouras	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>				
<i>Greeters</i>	Karen and Jada Brown			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Sandy Birch	Josh Mouras	Steve Mouras	Becci Nagle
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Jane McGuigan Lauren Robinson	Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle	Lauren Robinson Richard Robinson	Fran Shepherd Kelsey Trimble
<i>Ushers</i>	Roscoe Turman Ray Howell Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd	Betty Gross Burn Gross Gary Worley Brian Simmers	Randy Robinson Sam Akers Jeff Birch Sandy Birch	Roscoe Turman Dave Surface Bob Brown Peggy Brown



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For their Vacation Bible School project this year, two of our confirmands, Dan Crowder and Kelsey Trimble, prepared a program on Papua New Guinea and presented it to the adult class. They spoke about the culture of Papua New Guinea, showed a video of Lutheran churches in that country, including St. Michael's companion congregation, and cooked and served mixed vegetables with coconut cream and banana pancakes, two native PNG dishes.

Here's what Dan and Kelsey found out:

Papua New Guinea is a group of islands located north of Australia. The population is over 4 million people and the main language is pidgin English. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG has a membership of 600,000 to 800,000 members, which is about 20% of the nation's population. There are 2,223 congregations and 671 pastors. The main churchwide functions for the ELC-PNG are evangelism, education, ministerial training, medical services, and the finance/economics of self-support. St. Michael's companion congregation is Soi Lutheran Church in the town of Bialla on the island of New Britain. Bialla is in the western part of New Britain, which is sparsely populated and undeveloped. Soi Lutheran Church recently completed a new church building; they have about 400 members and an average worship attendance of 240 per week.

In the weeks and months to come, we will be sending letters to our brothers and sisters in PNG. My prayer is that we will be able to form a relationship in which we share our oneness in Christ. Last summer, a delegation from the Virginia Synod traveled to PNG and made a video of their trip. In the video, Bishop Mauney speaks of Christ stretching out his arms on the cross. In one hand, Christ holds Virginia and in the other PNG. When Christ brings his hands together, we who are a world apart are brought together. I have a file of information on PNG and Soi Lutheran Church as well as the video of last year's trip. If you would like to borrow them and/or use them for a class or meeting, just let me know.

Long Krai ("In Christ" in pidgin English),  
**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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## In Memoriam

We extend Christian sympathy and prayers to the family of Randolph Price. Randolph died on June 24 and his funeral was held at St. Michael on June 27.

We also extend Christian sympathy and prayers to the family of Dutton Olinger. Dutton died June 26 and his funeral service was held June 29 at St. Michael.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

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

Don't forget to support the Montgomery County Food Bank. Our Shopping Cart needs to be filled with a variety of foods. St. Michael has been an important contributor to this much appreciated and very worthy program.

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## **Pot Luck Luncheon**

Don't forget the potluck luncheon following the 11:00 worship service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Bring a dish suitable for light meal and join us!

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## **Thanks**

We would like to express our gratitude to Pastor Mitchell for the service of Blessing our New Home on June 7. The readings, prayers, and fellowship of all those who helped us on our journey was extremely meaningful. Thanks be to God!

Carol and Leslie Bland

## **WELCA**

### Love Offerings

Boxes have been distributed, and more are available in the back of the sanctuary for Love Offerings. This year the funds will help support the MaaSae women in Tanzania - each \$250.00 given can support a woman for a whole year's scholarship! It will also help support an ELCA missionary and purchase supplies for students. We will collect the boxes by July 20th at church.

### Neighbor to Neighbor

There is a box in the fellowship hall for school supplies for Lutheran Social Services and the Minnick Education Center. Paper, loose leaf binders, pencils, highlighters, pens, school glue and scissors, crayons, construction paper, rulers, double pocket report covers, etc. Please bring in your donations by July 27th.

### Power in the Spirit

Thursday July 10. Meet at the church at 4pm for the trip to Mac & Bob's in Salem for dinner, followed by Power in the Spirit at Roanoke College. Please call Alice Schneider.

VA State Women's Convention - August 1-3 at Roanoke College. The theme is "We are Called to be Disciples". See Jody Smiley for information.

### "Ladies Night Out"

Thursday August 21 - Kabuki Restaurant, Christiansburg.

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## **Our Newest Member**

Jessica Lea Brown was received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, June 29. Jessica was born October 14, 2002 and is the

daughter of Billy and Mary Lou Brown and the granddaughter of Ross and Hallie Brown. We welcome you, Jessica, to all that is ours in Christ!

### **Your Favorite Hymns**

Do you have a favorite hymn that you haven't sung in a while? Here's your chance to share it with the congregation. Sunday, August 17, will be Favorite Hymn Sunday. All the hymns will be chosen from those submitted by our members. Just write down the hymn number and name (from the Lutheran Book of Worship or With One Voice) and give them to Pastor Mitchell or Doug Smiley. If we have a large number of hymns submitted, we'll plan another Favorite Hymn Sunday soon!

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### **Keys**

At it's last meeting, Church Council voted to re-key all of the locks on all of the outside doors. This was last done over 12 years ago. Several keys have been lost over the years and members have left without returning their keys. Key request forms will be available in the workroom and on the shelf in the entrance hall. If you need a key to the church, please fill out the form and give it to Jim Clemens or the Pastor. New keys will be issued in early July,

and then the locks will be changed. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **Vacation Bible School**

This year's Bible School theme was "Rancho Roundup". There were Bible stories each evening about Jesus, Our Good Shepherd. The children had lots of fun learning the stories, making crafts, and singing uplifting music. Thanks to the following people for making the week a great success.

Jody Smiley	Ann Surface
Dave Surface	Carol Crawford
Betty Gross	Burn Gross
Jane McGuigan	Kathy Albert
Fran Shepherd	Jennie Hodge
Renee Brown	Teresa Sebastian
Lorin Crowder	Judy Clemens
Jim Clemens	Cindy Dowdy
Chris Dowdy	Karen Mayer
Jane Lane	Pastor Mitchell
Dan Crowder	Sarah Crowder
Donita Moore	Ross Brown

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# LET'S KNIT OR CROCHET Together!

Come to Church **Saturday, July 12th from 10 to 12.** I'll bring the shawl I'm working on and some extra yarn for practice. If you have some big needles bring them (size 10 or 11) If you crochet, I found a pattern for you, but I don't crochet so can't help much with that!

I found both patterns on the internet. Here are both **knitting AND crocheting** patterns:

"This pattern gives a sample of how to make a knit or crocheted shawl. Your individual choices in yarn and needle/hook size will affect the finished size and thickness of the shawl, but there isn't one "right" way.

Because crochet uses more yarn than knit, a crochet shawl will be a bit smaller than a knit one made with the same number of yarn skeins. To make a larger one, start with a longer chain and use an additional skein

## SIZE

Average size approximately 24" x 60"

## MATERIALS

- LION BRAND Homespun  
3 skeins in color of your choice

### Knit

- Size 10.5 (6.5 mm) through 15 (10 mm) knitting needles

### Crochet

- Size N-13 (9 mm) or P-15 (10 mm) crochet hook

### Knit Version

Cast on 63 stitches or any multiple of three, such as 54, 57, or 60.

First row Knit 3, purl 3 to the end of the row.

Repeated row Turn and knit the purl stitches and purl

the knit stitches.

### Crochet Version

Loosely chain about 43 stitches.

First row Half-double crochet in third chain from hook and in each chain across.

Repeated row Chain 2, turn. Half-double crochet in each half-double crochet across.

### Both Versions

Work about 2 1/2 skeins in this pattern. Use the rest of the yarn for fringe, which can be from 3" to 9" long. Knot the ends of the fringes to keep the yarn from frizzing.

Homespun (Article #790) comes in 6 oz/185 yd skeins

Every effort has been made to have the knitting and crochet instructions accurate and complete. We cannot be responsible for variance of individual knitters and crocheters, human errors, or typographical mistakes.

<http://www.lionbrand.com/graphics/line.gif>

Hope you found this interesting

. . . and **Hope to see you Sat.** June 14th from 10 to 12.

If you have any questions or comments please give me a call (before 9pm!) at 951-0362.

Thanks, Jenny Akers

## **REPORT ON THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD ROANOKE COLLEGE, May 30 – June 1, 2003**

We were privileged to represent St. Michael Lutheran Church as voting delegates to the 2003 annual meeting of the Virginia Synod. **Purpose of the Assembly:** to care for necessary items of business, participate in and experience corporate worship, be inspired by the theme program and speakers and engage in fellowship as *Ambassadors for Christ*. The Rev. **Mark R. Moller-Gunderson**, Executive Director, Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA was the ELCA Representative and keynote speaker.

**Assembly Theme: Ambassadors for Christ, Stewards of the Kingdom.** This Synod includes all churches of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* in The Commonwealth of Virginia (except NOVA) and Bluefield, West Virginia. Business (plenary) sessions were held Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. Additional events included a youth led service, small group discussions, *To the Castle (musical on stewardship)*, worship services and Holy Communion. All activities were held at Roanoke College with one exception that being Saturday evening worship and Holy Communion at St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

For voting purposes, each church represented is entitled to a minimum of two (2) delegates *plus* their minister(s). It was reported from the podium that there was a possibility of 259 ministers and 349 lay delegates for a total of 608 voting members and there were 313 present which met the quorum needed of 304.

**Pastor Mitchell** summarized well in her sermon the following week: “..... *For three days, we pondered the ways in which stewardship is the giving of our lives and hearts to the God who gives us all things. We heard and voted on resolutions that had to do with our life as the church. We elected leaders and met in small groups to share ways in which God is at work in our lives. We considered the Synod's budget for 2004 – a bare bones spending plan, which reflects some tough decisions and even reductions because of decreased giving from our synod's congregations. If the assembly had just been about the budget, it would have been a depressing time. But through all the proposals and reports and voting, we were able to see how the Virginia Synod is carrying out the work of God far and wide. We met representatives of new mission congregations in growing areas of Virginia. We heard stories of how together we are preparing seminary students to be pastors and leaders in the church, how we have reached out to those in poverty, how we have provided help to foster families and children who have found it difficult to thrive in public school and families who wish to grow through adoption. We learned more about our work with Lutheran World Relief – offering help and hope to those throughout the world who need food and shelter and other resources because those things are in short supply where they live. As the sharing of powerful ministries continued throughout the weekend, we became aware two sides of the story – a synod struggling with limited resources on the one hand, and carrying out vibrant ministries on the other.*”

Very brief notes on business items:

**BUDGET** for fiscal year ending 1/31/05 approved at \$2,132,977. This is a slight increase – about \$70,000 over the current approved budget—with serious reductions in some categories. There was long, sometimes emotional discussion over beginning salaries for new ministers.

There was also a long, sometimes emotional discussion concerning retired ministers remaining as members of the congregations they last served. The current policy was sent back to the ELCA for clarification/modification.

A resolution opposing blessings of same gender relationships and reaffirming the ELCA's ordination policy regarding homosexuals was tabled to the 2004 Assembly.

Synod Council has 16 members – includes 3 elected officers and Bishop James F. Mauney. The new Synod Vice President is **Mark Reed**, an attorney and member of St. Mark in Luray. **W. Martin Paulson**, member of **Shiloh Lutheran** continues to serve as a member of Synod Council -- his term expires 2004.

OTHER:

**Exhibit Area:** There were about a dozen manned tables with exhibits representing approved programs and activities of interest. We found this highly educational and helpful.

**“To The Castle”:** First Lutheran of Norfolk presented a stewardship drama/musical lasting approximately 45 minutes. Outstanding!

Songs in the Daily Worship (see booklet), music and program were impressive. Particularly impressive was the group called **Kingdom Stompers** led by three pastors of the Shenandoah Valley area.

**YOUTH ASSEMBLY REPORT:** “Evangelism (recruiting new members) is a serious weakness of the church”.....“mission work is needed throughout the world....when did you last invite someone to your church?”

**ELCA PRIORITIES:** Priorities in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are: 1) growing in numbers and outreach; 2) strengthening our churches and 3) growing spiritually.

**Attendance from nearby churches** included **Archie** and **Mabel Montgomery** from New Mt. Zion; **Martin Paulson** and **Jay Lee Wall** from Shiloh.

For those interested in additional information, we left at the church 32 photographs, two VCR tapes (9 minutes and 45 minutes), a filled three-ring binder, daily worship booklets, several other publications and miscellaneous items.

**THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY! BEN AND CAROL CRAWFORD**

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## **Mission Statement of St. Michael Lutheran Church**

As a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Michael Lutheran Church is to:

**C**are for all God's people in need,  
**H**ear of God's love through Word and Sacrament,  
**R**espond to God's grace with thankful hearts,

**I**nvoke others into Christ's community,  
**S**erve God in our daily lives, and  
**T**ell the story of God's love for all.



### **Your Favorite Hymns**

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