



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

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 Blacksburg, VA 24060
 Permit No. 78

September Servants

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Isaac Nagle	Scott McGuigan	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Isaac Nagle
<i>Altar Care</i>	Marguerite Olinger and Peggy Price			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Becci Nagle		Hank Schneider	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		St. Michael Celebration picnic		Long Range Planning Committee
<i>Greeters</i>	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Becci Nagle	Jennie Hodge	Hank Schneider	Sandy Birch
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Zach Woods Teresa Sebastian	Sandie Worley Sarah Worley	Cindy Lang Lauren Robinson	Kathy Albert Jada Brown
<i>Ushers</i>	Roscoe Turman Dave Surface Bob Brown Peggy Brown	Mickey McGuigan Cindy Lang Ray Howell Richard Robinson	Betty Gross Burn Gross Jeff Birch Sandy Birch	Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd Ray Howell Roscoe Turman



On August 24, we celebrated St. Bartholomew Day in worship. Who was St. Bartholomew? The Bible tells us little about him. We know he was one of Jesus' original 12 disciples because his name appears on lists in Matthew, Mark, and Luke's gospels. Many believe that Nathanael is another name for Bartholomew in the gospel of John. John's Nathanael uttered the familiar words, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" after he was told by Philip that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Jesus' recognition of Nathanael as a good and faithful Israelite transformed Nathanael into one of Jesus' followers. That's about all the Bible has to say about Bartholomew/Nathanael. But perhaps it is enough – just the right amount of information for us to identify with Nathanael as an "ordinary" disciple of Christ.

Most of us are "ordinary" disciples, set down in "ordinary" places with "ordinary" jobs and "ordinary" lives. The beauty of God's plan is that each of us, like Nathanael, has a role to play through the ordinariness of our lives. In *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*, Kent Nerburn writes, "Our lives are lived in the quiet corners of the ordinary. We build tiny hearth fires, sometimes barely strong enough to give up warmth. But to the person lost in the darkness, our tiny flame may be the road to safety, the path to salvation."

What an awesome thought! The light of Christ, which burns in me as a tiny flame, might be bright enough to shine the way for someone overcome by the darkness! It makes being ordinary suddenly seem a privilege – an honor bestowed by God. In the days and weeks ahead, be on the lookout for someone who seems to be lost in the darkness. You won't have to look far; it will be someone you encounter in the ordinariness of your days. Let the shine of Christ shine through you to give hope to the one you meet. And thank God for the privilege of being an "ordinary" disciple of Christ.

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

Mission Statement

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.

Mark your Calendars!!

Plan to attend our St. Michael Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 14, following the 11 a.m. service. It is our 35th Anniversary and we will celebrate with a covered dish luncheon plus a big anniversary cake. This is also the day Sunday Church School begins so there's lots to celebrate.

See you then.

Women of the ELCA

Our meeting on Thursday, September 25, will be at the home of Jennie Hodge (3008 Stradford Lane, Blacksburg) at 7:00 p.m. Alice Schneider will provide the program. All women of St. Michael are invited to share

fellowship and friendship.

Remember the food bank....pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, or any food item you can share. Thank you.

Happy-Go-Lucky

The Happy-Go-Lucky will meet on
Thursday, September 11, at 11:30

a.m. at the church. Lunch will be
potluck

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

From the St. Francis Peace Prayer: "For it is in giving
that we receive"

From the New Testament: "You received without cost; give without charge." Matt 10:8

and from Johnny Carson: "I've always felt that if anyone is lucky enough to accumulate enough funds to live better than you have a right to, then you have a moral obligation to give something back" (from the Roanoke Times, August 20, 2003)

At St. Michael Lutheran Church, we have many opportunities to share our blessings.

35th Anniversary Tributes Welcome

Yes, St. Michael Lutheran Church is celebrating 35 years of continuous service. As an anniversary tribute, please consider a donation in memory of a deceased or loved one OR to honor a deserving person. The money will be put to good use in our area as outreach from our congregation. Checks should be made payable to St. Michael Lutheran Church Outreach. We will donate a minimum of \$35 to each of the following organizations: New River Valley Free Clinic, Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP), Salvation Army, Red Cross, Women's Resource Center, Blacksburg Food Pantry, unless you designate otherwise with your check. **Donations will be received during the month of September and will be recognized in the October newsletter.**

Justice and Mercy Fund

In August, we were able to help several families with their electric bills and one family with a rent payment. Our most recent gift was to a family who recently moved to the New River Valley. The parents requested school clothing for their two daughters. A thank you note from the family stated, "Thank you so much for helping us out. Our girls looked beautiful this morning in their new clothes. We hope one day to return the favor." Your gifts to the J&M fund are always welcome.

"Ordinary" Disciples Needed

Do you hear the call? Please consider joining the Worship or Property Committees. Your participation is very important to the life of our congregation...and may only involve one meeting a month – the 3-D committee night on the second Tuesday of each month. We

also need more Sunday Servants for the nursery. Contact Sandy Birch if you're willing.

Support Our Troubled Youth

The staff of NRV Detention Home in Christiansburg requests and needs your support of youth at their facility. If anyone is interested in visiting with the youth on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., please call Pastor Hodges or Phil Gilley at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Christiansburg (382-2223).

Let's Pave the Parking Lot

A new adventure for our congregation....

Q: Why? It's already paved.

A: Our parking lot is aging poorly; cracked, crumbling and buckling asphalt, weeds growing through the cracks.

Q: Can't we just resurface it – like I did my driveway last year?

A: All the paving experts agree that we would only cover up the problem temporarily and would spend more money in the long term in continuing maintenance.

Q: What's the cost?

A: \$25,000

Q: Yikes!!

A: That's not a question.

Q: O.K. – why so much?

A: Again, all the experts agree we have to start over and redo the entire lot...not just patch it up.

Q: How will the congregation support the project?

A: Pledges will be taken in amounts of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 and \$50 (though any amount is welcome) which will correspond to sections of the lot. We will be able to watch the progress of our pledges as we “fill in” sections of the parking lot.

Q: Do I have to pay my pledge right away?

A: No, you'll have the opportunity to meet your pledge over a period of time – like the air conditioning project.

Q: I'm convinced. Where do I sign up?

A: Pledge cards will be available by Sunday, September 21. Thank you for making St. Michael Lutheran Church an attractive place for worship and fellowship.

In the community In the world.....

More details on all these activities are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

End of Life Decisions

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church invites us to a four-week series of short presentations on a variety of subjects that we may face when considering the end of life. The sessions will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

September 14: Leaving a Legacy	Wills, estate planning, insurance, investments
September 21: Approaching Death	Hospice care, organ donations, patient care
September 28: Ceremonies	Traditional funerals, alternative funerals
October 5: Special Endings	Grieving, helping children cope with death

Virginia High School Students Gear up for Freedom Competition

Topic: Religious Freedom – An Inalienable Right. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to compete for \$1,000 first-place awards and \$500 second-place awards.

The Virginia Synod, ELCA presents

ANOTHER DAY: An Event for Senior Adults and Retirees
October 21-23, 2003
Sheraton Hotel-Richmond West, Richmond VA

In our senior and retirement years God has given us *Another Day*; a time of refreshment, reflection, and renewal as God's children. Through lively song, drama, worship, large and small group sessions, and fellowship, *Another Day* will be a time and place to rejoice in the wisdom and faith seniors share with the Church.

Jim Billingsley Memorial Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will be held Saturday, September 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our

Saviour Lutheran Church in Christiansburg. Auction, yard and bake sales, good food. All proceeds go to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP).

“Mornings”: Internationals Sharing Friendship

The YMCA at Virginia Tech is sponsoring a program to help international spouses in their adjustment to a new country and culture. We are invited to participate, make new friends, and help these friends practice their English in conversation. “Mornings” is held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study Bible Study Bible Study Bible Study

Are you interested in being part of a Bible study this fall? Simple check your preferences below and give or mail the form to Pastor Mitchell: she will soon announce when the Bible study will be held and what we will be studying.

COURSE (choose one):

 The Old Testament

These video lectures by scripture expert Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University introduce you to the history, religion, and literature of ancient Israel as preserved in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. She not only teaches the content of the biblical books, but explains debates over their meaning, the historical and cultural situations which they both reflect and address, and the critical methods by which they have been interpreted. 6 week video series (30 minute video, 30 minute class discussion)

 Great Figures of the Old Testament

Professor Levine guides you through the personalities of great Old Testament figures who remain a fascinating part of religious thought and culture. Improve your biblical knowledge as you learn why she selects figures such as Adam and Eve, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, Elijah, Judith, and even God, as worthy of study. 6 week video series (30 minute video, 30 minute class discussion)

MEETING TIME (check the one(s) that works best for you):

 Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
 Tuesday 11:00 a.m.
 Tuesday 12 noon
 Tuesday 2:00 p.m.
 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.

 Wednesday 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday 12 noon
 Wednesday 2:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 3:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

 Thursday 7:00 p.m.

 Saturday (what time? _____)

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Thank you Lorin

Thank you, Lorin Crowder, for serving as our church secretary for the past two years. Our best wishes for a rewarding school year as you return to full time teaching. Sandy Birch, our new secretary, can be contacted at birch@vt.edu or at 951-3455.

October Yard Sale

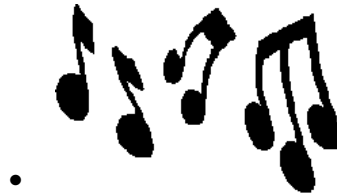
Members of Thrivent (formerly AAL) will be holding a yard sale to raise money to assist JoAnne Galderisi with expenses to continue her religious education (through Liberty University). If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them by the church on Friday, October 3, between 9:00 a.m. and noon. If this is not a convenient time, please call Betty Gross, Jane Lane or Grace Simmers. If you have large items that you cannot deliver, please call one of the above folks to arrange pick up. Thank you.

The yard sale will be on Saturday, October 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church.

St. Michael Picnic - September 14

St. Michael Directory

Need phone numbers?....e-mail addresses of St. Michael members?....pick up your copy of the church directory in the narthex. Our thanks to Lori Sheppard, Carol Crawford and Jennie Hodge for their hard work.



Got a Favorite Hymn?

September 14 and November 16 will be our next Favorite Hymn Sundays. Submit your favorites to Pastor Mitchell.

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October Servants

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble Scott McGuigan	Abby Penner	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Jeff and Sandy Birch			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dianne Krallman		Doug Smiley	Jenny Akers
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Jeff and Sandy Birch		Please sign up
<i>Greeters</i>				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Dianne Krallman	Betty Gross	Doug Smiley	Jenny Akers
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Jody Smiley Chelsea Naughton	Jane McGuigan Kelsey Trimble	Karen Brown Jada Brown	Sandy Birch Lauren Robinson
<i>Ushers</i>	Ray Howell Philip Isenhour Sam Akers Cindy Lang	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Randy Robinson	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd	Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle Jeff Birch Roscoe Turman