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St. Michael Lutheran Church



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to help Kris, Corson, Parker and me to get settled in Blacksburg. From Ben Crawford and the Call Committee, now the Mutual Ministry Committee, to Sandy Birch, who has answered a multitude of questions for me about the office, to Judy Clemens, who helped coordinate things at our new house, to everyone who came out and helped us paint, your help and support has made our transition much easier. Thank You!!!

As I look ahead to our ministry together, I am excited. I spent my whole first Sunday smiling, singing and generally enjoying the opportunity to worship with you. I look forward to getting the chance to meet and get to know you in the weeks to come. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you'd like to come by and meet me at the church. I hope you will sign up. If there is anything I can do for you, please don't hesitate to call me at the office (951-8951) or send me e-mail at stmlc@earthlink.net. If I'm out making a visit, I'll return your call or e-mail as soon as I get your message.

May God's blessings be with us as we begin our ministry together as the people of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church.

Peace and hope,

Seasons of the Church

According to home calendars, there are four seasons. The church has seasons, too, but there are six of them. Three seasons center around Jesus' birth and youth. They are Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The other three center around Jesus' resurrection and ministry. They are Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. When you put those six seasons of the church together, you have the "liturgical year." Just like spring, summer, winter, and fall, each season of the liturgical year has its own colors and things to do.

Pentecost

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning "fiftieth day". Pentecost Day is celebrated exactly 50 days after Passover, or seven weeks after Easter. The Sundays after Pentecost comprise the longest season of the church year, lasting the entire second half of the church year until the first Sunday of Advent.

In the Christian church year, Pentecost celebrates the completion of Christ's earthly mission and the public revelation of the Holy Spirit. On the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired the disciples to continue the mission of Jesus and to boldly preach the good news. As they were strengthened to proclaim the gospel, the Holy Spirit, with a noise like a rushing wind and flames of fire, enabled those who heard the gospel to understand, despite the differences in language. God was with them in a new way. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Christian church.

While the first half of the church year celebrates the life of Jesus in its major festivals, the Season of Pentecost is a season of growing and serving. God's Spirit helps us to learn more about God's Word and gives gifts that we can use to serve others and to share the good news with them. The greatest gift is love itself, and along with it, we are given the insight to recognize that God is the source of all love.

The color for the Day of Pentecost is red for the fire of the Holy Spirit and for the blood of brave Christians who gave their lives because of their faith. The color for the season of Pentecost is green for growth, except on the Festival Sundays of Holy Trinity and Christ the King, when the color is white.

Key symbols for Pentecost are the symbols for the Holy Spirit—flames of fire and the dove. Green leaves and plants and the sun are symbols of the long Pentecost season of growth.



Prayers for People in Need

Each Sunday, the congregation of St. Michael Lutheran Church pray for a multitude of people in need from our prayer list. In order to keep the list accurate and up-to-date, the prayer list in the bulletin will be renewed and updated at the beginning of each church season. If you would like someone to be placed on the prayer list or to remain on the prayer list when it is next updated on May 30, please notify Sandy Birch. You can fill out a “for the bulletin” request form found in the hallway and place it in the secretary’s box in the workroom or send names to Sandy via e-mail (birch@stmhc.us) or by phone at 951-3455. Thank you.

Happy-Go-Lucky



(back row) Sandy, Carol, Peggy, Hallie, Leona
(front row) Margaret, Sarah, Irene and Julie pose at the April Potluck while waiting for Burn and Betty to take us on a “trip” to Israel.

Celebrating over 25 years of meeting (and eating), the Happy-Go-Lucky group invites all retirees and friends to their potluck lunch on May 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Our special guest will be Pastor John – a perfect opportunity to get to know him and share our history of St. Michael Lutheran Church...and our vision for the future. JOIN US!!

Attention Knitters

Let’s get together on Saturday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to noon and work on more prayer shawls. If you don’t know how to knit, there are plenty of people to show you. Jenny Akers will bring extra needles and yarn too. Hope to see you there.

The family of James Paul Surface would like to thank members of St. Michael for giving food and their time and talents in providing a meal and arrangements for their father’s funeral.

Women of the ELCA News

Mother-Daughter Luncheon – May 2

All women, from the youngest baby girl to our oldest “sister”, are invited to the annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon on Sunday, May 2, at noon in the fellowship hall. Bring a salad to share and enjoy fine fellowship and friendship on a beautiful May afternoon. Adopt a mother...or grandmother...or daughter for the day.....bring a friend. All are welcome.

Graduate Reception – May 9

On May 9, during the coffee hour, we will co-host a Graduate Reception for our 2004 graduates: Zachary Nagle from Christiansburg High School, David Burke from Virginia Tech, and Lori Anne Sheppard and Chris Sheppard from New River Community College. Please join us after the 11 a.m. service to congratulate our new graduates. Our thanks to the Smiley family for hosting the fellowship hour with us.

Shower for Kris Wertz – May 13

On May 13, at 7:00 p.m., the Women of the ELCA and the Mutual Ministry Committee are co-hosting a housekeeping shower for Kris Wertz to welcome her to St. Michael and Blacksburg. If your last name begins with

A-G please bring paper products (napkins, tissue, towels, etc.)

H-R please bring cleaning supplies (cleaners, sponges, bucket, etc.)

S-Z please bring a pound of something (flour, butter, sugar, etc.)

(please note that fancy wrapping paper is not required ☺) We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 13, in the church fellowship hall.

Food Bank

For May, we invite the congregation to bring cereal for the Food Bank...though any non-perishable food item is welcome. WELCA also provides two SHARE food boxes each month to the Women’s Resource Center. Donations (\$16/box) for this project can be given to Betty Gross.

Friendship Day – May 7

Friday, May 7, is May Friendship Day 2004 and we are invited to an ecumenical celebration by Church Women United. The event begins with registration at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. (bring a salad or dessert) at Northside Presbyterian Church (1017 Progress Street). The program, entitled “In Faith, Women Shape the Future through Friendship” follows. If you are interested in attending, contact Sandy Birch.

*******Sign up now to host a birthday dinner table in November—and take advantage of after holiday sales. The form is on the hallway bulletin board.*******

In the community In the world.....

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

YMCA “Mornings” meets weekly to bring International people and Americans together for friendship, fun, and support. The meetings are held on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church. A variety of interesting activities are planned for this spring.

From Karen Mayer, for her grandson, Garth Fischer, who is a 7th grader at Glenvar Middle School in Salem.

Garth was selected as a **People to People Ambassador** this summer and is seeking assistance for his tuition and travel. People to People was founded by President Eisenhower in 1956 with the hope that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would countries. As stated in his personal statement, Garth would like to experience new places and cultures and broaden his understanding of the world, believing that such knowledge and experience would help him become the best citizen he can be. If you would like to assist Garth, more information, including stamped, self-addressed envelopes, is available on the bulletin board.

Our St. Michael family “in the news” in April

In an April 17 *Roanoke Times Current* article, it was reported that **Ben Crawford** was recognized at the New River Valley Volunteer Recognition Celebration for his extraordinary volunteer service. Ben has served on more than 100 boards, councils and commissions, including the YMCA at Virginia Tech and the Blue Ridge Mountains Boy Scouts of America Council.

Erin Albert was pictured on the cover of the *Roanoke Times Current* on April 6 as one of the first-graders at Auburn Elementary School who is writing to a soldier stationed with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

Matt Woods was a headliner once again, named in the *News Messenger* as a member of the Mat Talk On-Line All-State wrestling team.

The *News Messenger* reported on the annual volunteer recognition luncheon of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). **Julie Landes** was commended for her 10 plus years of service to the organization; **Ann Surface** for her five plus years of service.

In a *Roanoke Times* article, The Salvation Army thanked St. Michael for its donation of 20 Easter baskets.

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us...our time, our talent and our possessions

Thank you to some more “quiet” servants

To the Hodge family for the donation of a nicer TV for the nursery; Sam Akers for taking care of our sound equipment; all the spring clean-up volunteers on April 3: Ray Howell, Ross Brown, Sam Akers, Jeff Birch, James Pascoe, Fran Shepherd, Brooke and Braden Birch, Doug Smiley; Janet Bryant for helping with the newsletter mailing in April; BIG thank you to the house painters who helped paint the Wertz home: Lori Ann Sheppard, Tom Hodge, Jim and Judy Clemens, Cindy and Chris Dowdy, and Linda Naughton.



Clockwise: Ray Howell in his “bobcat”; Jeff, Ross and Doug take on the shrubs; Sam trims the bushes; Fran washes pews while James takes a break from washing all the inside windows.

Justice and Mercy

In April, our fund was used to a family with their electric bill and a second family with a rent payment. Our thanks to Wal-Mart Foundation for the \$1,000 gift to the Justice and Mercy Fund – and to Dan Bowen, assistant manager of the Christiansburg Wal-Mart, who obtained the gift for us. Girl Scout Troop 695 also donated the profit from their cookie booth to the Justice and Mercy fund and asked that the money be used to help a family with children. Thank you.

Thank you from the Red Cross

The Good Friday Lutheran Churches Red Cross Blood Drive was a huge success. The drive collected 28 pints in a time of critical shortage. Jane Lane sends a “BIG THANK YOU” to all who participated: blood donors and those who gave food and drink for the donors, worked in the canteen, the donor center, at the desk, and in the nursery. A special thanks to Leslie Bland and Daniel Crowder; the youth are learning early to give back to their community. Barb Pond notes there is still a critical need for type O blood; if you were unable to donate Good Friday, she encourages us to stop by the Blacksburg donor center.

Kid’s Night at St. Michael

May 12 and 26 6 – 7:30 p.m.

All children in grades K-6 are invited for
supper, crafts, music and more....
(on May 26, we’re going putt-putt golfing –
yeah!)

Take me out to the ballgame....

Our successful softball team has started its spring season with a win over Belmont Christian last week. The May schedule includes the following games:

Monday, May 3:	Blacksburg First Church of God	8:15 p.m.	Jaycee Park
Monday, May 10:	Merrimac Church	9:15 p.m.	Tom’s Creek
Tuesday, May 18:	First Wesleyan Church	7:15 a.m.	Jaycee
Tuesday, May 25:	Slusser’s Chapel	8:15 p.m.	Jaycee

Fans are welcome and have a good time too – cheering (and a little heckling) from the bleachers. Fun...fellowship....and some fine softball on a spring evening. Join us!



June Servants

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble	Scott McGuigan	Dan Crowder	Sarah Crowder
<i>Altar Care</i>	Judy Clemens and Donna Oliver			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Doug Smiley		Steve Mouras	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		McGuigan family		volunteer needed
<i>Greeters</i>	Leona Criner and Irene Ashley			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Doug Smiley	John Krallman	Steve Mouras	Dave Surface
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Sharon Robinson Lauren Robinson	Sandy Birch Leslie Bland	Dean Trimble Kelsey Trimble	Jane McGuigan Katie McGuigan
<i>Ushers</i>	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	Jeff Birch George Naughton Linda Naughton Jody Smiley	Ann Surface Dave Surface Peggy Brown Bob Brown	Ray Howell Sam Akers James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd



May Servants

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
<i>Acolytes</i>	Kelsey Trimble	Scott McGuigan	Daniel Crowder Sarah Crowder	Isaac Nagle	Daniel Crowder Abbie Penner
<i>Altar Care</i>	the Worley family				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Dave Surface		Mickey McGuigan		Josh Mouras
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Smiley family		Krallman family	
<i>Greeters</i>	Dean and Kelsey Trimble				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Hank Schneider	Sandy Birch	Cindy Dowdy	Dianne Krallman	Josh Mouras
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	David Burke Teresa Sebastian	Grace Simmers Kelsey Trimble	Karen Brown Jada Brown	Becci Nagle Chelsea Naughton	Karen Brown Jada Brown
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff Birch George Naughton Linda Naughton Jody Smiley	Ann Surface Dave Surface Peggy Brown Bob Brown	Ray Howell Sam Akers James Pascoe Dickie Shepherd	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross

Church Office Phone Number: (540) 951-8951

Church e-mail address: stmlc@earthlink.net

