



Volume 27, Number 6

June 1, 2004

St. Michael Lutheran Church

The Spirit at Work

We joked after the thunder and lightening during worship on May 23 that the Spirit's presence that day was unmistakable, but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Spirit's presence in our midst is unmistakable every day. Since I have arrived, I have had the chance to sit down with over 50 people from the congregation. As I have listened to people share their stories, I have become more and more aware of the wonderful ministry that takes place at St. Michael. We have soloists. We have excellent cooks. We have people who are excellent listeners. We have people who teach wonderfully. We have people who share their time generously. We have people who use their gifts and talents to help others. We have people with gifts for organization who make things happen. We have indeed been blessed by the Spirit in many and various ways.

I look forward to discovering even more of our gifts as I continue to meet with people and to learn how you are using your gifts in God's service. The thunderstorm in worship may have been a loud reminder of God's presence in creation, but the way you live your lives, the way you share your gifts and talents is a constant and wonderful reminder of the Spirit's presence at work at St. Michael.

Peace and hope,

Pastor John

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.

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.

The Holy Trinity

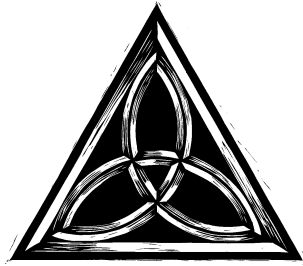
The Holy Trinity is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It was during the Middle Ages that this Sunday was designated in honor of the Holy Trinity by Pope John XXII. Holy Trinity Sunday celebrates God as three in one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This teaching is the church's way of explaining the mystery of:

1. How God could be the Creator of the world,
2. How Jesus could be both God and human, and
3. How God continues to be with us as the Holy Spirit.

The color of Holy Trinity is white. The most familiar Holy Trinity symbol is the equal-sided triangle. The three equal sides and angles represent the three persons of the Trinity, while the single figure of the whole triangle symbolizes their oneness.

A figure known as the refoil has similar meaning. It has three equal rounded sections that look like the three leaves that come together to form the one shamrock (clover) leaf. Legend says that when St. Patrick of Ireland was asked to explain the Trinity, he picked a shamrock and asked whether he was holding one leaf or three. This, he said, was like the mystery of the Trinity.

Other symbols for this day include three equal-sized and interlocking rings and the words, "Holy, holy, holy."



Prayers for People in Need

Each Sunday, the congregation of St. Michael Lutheran Church prays 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, please use the “Welcome to St. Michael” forms in the Sunday bulletin. Periodically, to help with your prayer petitions, you will also have the opportunity to learn about the progress of those on our list. Updates will be posted on the narthex bulletin board.

Happy-Go-Lucky

Celebrating over 25 years of meeting (and eating), the Happy-Go-Lucky group invites all retirees and friends to their potluck lunch on June 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Our program will be a surprise (which means that the “program director” hasn’t gotten it ready yet.....but she’ll be ready by the 10th).

Attention Knitters

Let’s get together on Saturday, June 12 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.

Women of the ELCA News

Food Bank

For June, we invite the congregation to bring lunch snacks, e.g., potato chips, cans of ravioli and soup, 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.

Thank you

Kris and I want to thank the Women of the ELCA and the Mutual Ministry Committee for hosting a moving-in shower for our family. Your overwhelming generosity has been a great help as we settle into our new home. Thank you!

Kris and Pastor John

*******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.

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

In a *Roanoke Times Current* article, volunteer firefighter **Chris Dowdy** was pictured fighting a house fire in downtown Blacksburg.

In the *Corps Review*, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni Magazine (vol. 13, no 2 spring 2004), LTC **Victoria Mouras** was featured in an article entitled, “Corps Alumni in Action.” Vickie was awarded a Bronze Star for her service in Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (RIE), an operation designed to assist Iraq in creating a stable and consistent nationwide electrical grid.



Congratulations are in order.....

To our recent graduates:

Lori Anne Sheppard from New River Community College with a major in Information Systems Technology; specializations in Computer Graphics and Internet Publishing. Lori graduated summa cum laude and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, national honor society.

Christopher Sheppard from New River Community College with a major in Designing and Installing Network Systems – Business Management.

Zachary Nagle from Christiansburg High School. Zach was awarded two of the most prestigious awards given by the high school: the “I Dare You” award for being a good role model, being true to himself and being willing to stand alone for his beliefs as necessary; and the “Extra Miler” award for always being willing to go the extra step for friends, teachers, the school, sports and the community.

Travis Turman from Blacksburg High School. Travis participated in a special internship program at the high school in construction and is already employed full time in the industry.

David Burke from Virginia Tech with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. David has accepted a full time position at Danaher Motion in Radford. We look forward to July 10 when David, Teresa Sebastian and Dominique become an “official” family.

To **Ben Crawford** who was honored as a retiring board member of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley on May 25. Ben was a founding member of the board and served for 10 years. The group promotes charitable giving in our area



Congratulations are in order (continued).....

To **Kathy and Mike Albert (and big sister and brother, Erin and Ryan)** on the birth of their newest family member, Sara Noel. Sara was born on May 15, and weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz.

To our **2004 confirmation class**, confirmed on Sunday, May 23. Thank you to their families and teachers for their love and support.



Pastor John, Daniel Crowder, Jamison Shabanowitz, Lauren Robinson, Kelsey Trimble, Zachary Woods, Jacob Woods

Two additions/changes to the phone directory:

Thelma Hylton
150 Starlight Dr.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
381-1919

John and Kris Wertz (Corson and Parker)
2013 Broken Oak Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
951-1587

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 Bob Brown, assisted by Stan Larsen and Ross Brown, for creating the lovely birch storage cabinets in the fellowship hall; to Cindy Dowdy and Fran Shepherd for painting the cabinets; to Jenny Akers for knitting a prayer shawl for Sammy Robbins (the young lady on our prayer list suffering from a brain tumor); to Philip Isenhour for fixing the church computer (and Sandy’s too); to Dean Trimble for providing the confirmation photos.

Justice and Mercy

In May, our fund was used to help three families with their electric bills and a fourth family with a rent payment. Three \$20 scholarships also enabled three fifth graders at Kipps Elementary to go on a field trip to Lexington, Virginia, with their classmates.

Sunday School Teachers

On Sunday, May 30, the 2003-2004 Sunday School staff was recognized for helping us “Tell the story of God’s love for all”. Thank you to Jody Smiley (opening), Linda Naughton (pre-school to K), Fran Sheppard and Kathy Albert (grades 1-3), Sandy Birch (grades 4-6), Betty Gross (adult), Lorin Crowder and Donita Moore (music) for your faithful ministry. Substitute teachers, Teresa Sebastian, Jennie Hodge and Kris Wertz were also recognized.



Fran, Donita, Sandy, Linda, Jody and Betty

Kitchen Courtesies

Now that the kitchen is organized and “spiffy”, the Caring and Sharing Committee has created a user-friendly list of “kitchen courtesies” that will help maintain that order. If your group uses the kitchen, please check the posted list. Thank you for working together to keep things orderly.



Come and enjoy the food, fun, stories and crafts at Camp Creation.

Camp Creation begins on Sunday, June 20th and continues through Thursday, June 24th. Each night we will begin with a light meal at 6:00 PM and the sessions will end at 8:15 PM.

Everyone from Preschool to Adults is invited to participate.

If you would like to help with VBS please contact Jody Smiley or Linda Naughton.

Take me out to the ballgame....

Our undefeated softball team continues its successful season. The June schedule includes the following games:

Monday, June 7:	BJCC/LDS	6:15 p.m.	Jaycee Park
Monday, June 14:	Harvest Baptist	7:15 p.m.	Tom's Creek
Monday, June 21:	Christ Church	8:15 p.m.	Jaycee
Monday, June 28:	Grace Covenant	9:15 p.m.	Tom's Creek

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 summer evening. Join us!



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

Non-Profit Org.



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>			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

e



July Servants

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
<i>Acolytes</i>	Dan Crowder Sarah Crowder	Scott McGuigan	Isaac Nagle	Kelsey Trimble
<i>Altar Care</i>	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Bob Brown		Jody Smiley	
<i>Coffee Hour</i>		Gross family		volunteer needed
<i>Greeters</i>	Marguerite Olinger and Peggy Price			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Doug Veit	Jeff Birch	Amy Garst	Doug Smiley
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Lorin Crowder Chelsea Naughton	Grace Simmers Leslie Bland	Sandy Birch	Karen Brown Jada Brown
<i>Ushers</i>	Josh Mouras Steve Mouras Don Linkous Gary Worley	Ben Simmers Roscoe Turman Burn Gross Betty Gross	Mickey McGuigan Scott McGuigan Tom Hodge Jay Nagle	Jeff Birch George Naughton Linda Naughton Jody Smiley

Church Office Phone Number: (540) 951-8951
 Church e-mail address: stmlc@earthlink.net