



Volume 27, Number 7

July 1, 2004

## ***St. Michael Lutheran Church***

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### **Merry Christmas!?! and Well Done!**

It's not December. The ground is not covered with snow. There is not one decoration to be found in stores. It must be time to celebrate Christmas.

I know that most people don't think of Christmas in the month of July, but I think July is a perfect time to remember the birth of Jesus. On July 25, St. Michael will celebrate Christmas. We will read the Christmas story. We will sing your favorite Christmas carols and we will celebrate the wonderful gift of Jesus that God has given us. Christmas in July affords us the opportunity to focus on the story of Christmas without the hecticness of the Christmas Season. I hope you will make plans to come and celebrate Christmas in July.

I also want to take a moment to say "thank you" to Jody Smiley and all the teachers and volunteers who made Camp Creation Vacation Bible School such a wonderful success. Your willingness to share your gifts helped make Christ known throughout the week.

Peace and hope,

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.

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## Thank you!

Dear Pastor Wertz and Sisters and Brothers of St. Michael Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the whole Virginia Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I want to thank you for your strong partnership...for the coming year!

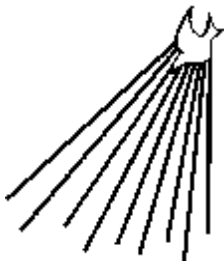


We remain determined as a synod together to continue to pass 50% of your very faithful giving through us on to the ELCA who will use 50% of what they receive for the global church (Lutheran World Federation, Global Missions, etc.), seminaries and the Division for Outreach, areas like new missions and re-starts throughout the country... We are a very active church, together serving locally, statewide, nationwide and globally in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful to you for your leadership and love for the church. I give thanks to God for your proclamation of the gospel, for your welcome and witness to your community on behalf of us all and for our being ambassadors for Christ in all the many places where we serve in the world.

Yours in Christ,  
The Rev. James F. Mauney  
Bishop

## ACT ON ACTS IN JULY



During summer people usually find time to read a good book or two. This summer, St. Michael is inviting you to read the Book of Acts. It's not a contest, but rather an opportunity to learn more about your faith, so **Act on Acts** this summer by reading one chapter of Acts on each day in July.

For those interested in learning more about of the Book of Acts, Pastor Wertz will be leading discussion on Sunday mornings in July at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please speak with Pastor Wertz.

## Prayer Shawl News

We met on Saturday, June 12, and worked on our shawls. We won't be meeting in July and August, but will start up again in September. In the meantime, we'd like to find folks who need prayer shawls. Here are some guidelines: the recipient doesn't have to be a member of our congregation and doesn't have to be critically ill, e.g., could be someone experiencing hard times or mental illness. We believe these prayer shawls have a wonderful effect of wrapping God's love around the recipient. Please let Jenny Akers, Linda Elliott or Jane Lane know of anyone who could use a shawl. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
the St. Michael knitters

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## Women of the ELCA

Remember the food bank. Please bring any non-perishable food items, but especially appreciated are cans of soup (chicken noodle is a favorite) this month.

No meeting is scheduled for July, but watch for announcements of our “Ladies Night Out” on August 26. If anyone is interested in attending evening worship at “Power in the Spirit” at Roanoke College on July 15 or 16, please contact Sandy Birch or Alice Schneider.

## Happy-Go-Lucky

We had a big party in June as thirty folks came to lunch and enjoyed a presentation by Jan and Shirley Levy. Our guests, a surgeon and nurse respectively, have spent the last few years helping and healing people in such places as Afghanistan and the Sudan. We will not meet in July or August.

## Softball Team

Let’s cheer for the team at their last regular season game on July 5 vs BCF at 6:15 p.m. at Jaycee Park as they continue their undefeated season.



(standing) Travis Turman, Doug Smiley, Clifton Walters, Dean Trimble, William Allen, Randy Robinson, Tim Turman, Vic Sheppard  
(kneeling) Jeff Birch, Hank Schneider, Tommy Turman

## Congratulations

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Congratulations to Tammy and James Boturla on the birth of their daughter, Bryleigh Carolina, on May 27. Proud grandparents and great grandmothers are Carol and Don Linkous, Barbara Boturla, Sarah Wall and Christine Linkous. Bryleigh weighed 8 lbs 20 oz and was 21.5” long. Welcome little one.

### Kid’s Stuff Exchange

Have you been reorganizing your kids clothes, toys, books, etc.? Wish to trade, sell, or barter items that they no longer need? Come to the “Kid’s Stuff Exchange” on Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and bring anything you’d like to exchange – except the kids of course ☺. If you have suggestions or questions, contact Donita Moore (381-0444) or Linda Naughton (381-5793).



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## Sharing Our Gifts Time, Talents and Treasure

*We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.*

### Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To Doug Veit who helped paint the new cabinets in the fellowship hall; to Carol Crawford and Ross Kirk for cleaning out the kitchen storage closets; to Fran Shepherd and Sandy Birch for cleaning the workroom.

### Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, Camp Creation Vacation Bible School, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist and custodian, donations to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Lutheran Campus Ministry, the Christian Children’s Fund and our facilities. Thank you for your generous stewardship of God’s gifts to you.

## Justice and Mercy

In June, our fund was used to help three families with rent, a utility payment and car repairs. Thank you for your continuing support of the fund.

## Vacation Bible School



A huge thank you to all the teachers and volunteers who made Vacation Bible School a great “creative” experience. These special folks include our *leader and teacher*, Jody Smiley; *other teachers*: Kris Wertz, Lorin Crowder, Jane McGuigan, and Pastor John; *helpers* – Sandy Birch and Leslie Bland; *kitchen crew* – Betty Gross, Jane Lane, Carol Crawford, Ann Surface and Wanda Pascoe; *crafts leader* – Linda Naughton; *music leaders* – Donita Moore and Lorin Crowder. Thank you also to those who contributed items and money for our craft activities. We had a fun week with Davey and Goliath at Camp Creation.

The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class went shopping on Thursday evening and spent over \$600 for groceries for the Montgomery County Food Bank and the Women’s Resource Center. The funds were provided by a Wal-Mart grant, the free will offering at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Souper Sunday donations, and the offering at Pastor John’s installation. Thank you super shoppers!



## Thank you to our choir and Donita for their beautiful music

We remember the solos, the duets, the Good Friday cantata, the Christmas Eve international carols, and the lovely anthems each Sunday. You made us smile, hum along, tap our feet, and maybe shed a tear or two. You were an important part of our Christian worship experience and the congregation appreciates you very much. We look forward to September when you resume your practices after a much deserved summer break.



Donita Moore, Carol Bland, Inga Solberg, Karen Mayer, Sandy Birch, Jenny Akers, Pastor John, Freddy Oliver, Mack Brown, Renee Brown

### *August Servants*

#### August 1

Acolyte	Isaac Nagle
Altar Care	Jane Lane/Janet Bryant
Comm. Asst	Jane Lane
Lay Reader	Jay Nagle
Nursery	Kris Wertz
Ushers	Ann/Dave Surface Peggy/Bob Brown
Greeters	Bob and Peggy Brown

#### August 8

Acolyte	Abbie Penner
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Lay Reader	Lori Sheppard
Coffee Hour	volunteer needed
Nursery	Jody Smiley
Ushers	Ray Howell/Sam Akers James Pascoe/Dickie Shepherd

#### August 15

Acolyte	Scott McGuigan
Comm. Asst	Jeff Birch
Lay Reader	Mickey McGuigan
Nursery	Sandie/Sarah Worley
Ushers	Josh/Steve Mouras Don Linkous/Gary Worley