

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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HELPING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CONGREGATION

The last week of May saw St. Michael take two significant steps to help people inside and outside the congregation. On Sunday, May 22, the congregation approved the hiring of a Nursery Worker who will provide child care for the 9 AM Service, during Sunday School for those too young for a class and during the 11 AM Service. Having a full-time nursery worker supported by volunteers will both free up parents of young children to participate more fully in worship and Sunday School and will allow St. Michael to reach out to more families in our community. If you know someone who goes to worship at a time other than Sunday morning, who might be interested in the position, please have them contact the church.

On Saturday, May 28, the Lutheran Men in Mission spent the day repairing the building used by the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP). Jeff Birch, Bob Brown, Stan Larson, James Pascoe, Dean Trimble and Pastor John rebuilt the exterior wall of the Food Pantry, repaired a ceiling and closed a number of holes in the attic. MCEAP provides emergency assistance to people in need and runs the food pantry that St. Michael's supports. Donations to MCEAP, including the \$3120 per year given by St. Michael, go to support the ministry being done and very little is left for repairs and facility upgrades. The Lutheran Men in Mission, with funding from Thrivent, were able to provide a safe and secure place for the Food Pantry, thus ensuring that this important ministry will be able to continue to function.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Michael's ministry as we continue to make a difference both inside and outside the congregation.

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

Peggy Brown and Margaret Larsen for helping with the June newsletter mailing, Jody Smiley (assisted by Linda Naughton and Sandy Birch) for teaching our Sunday School lessons on *Open a World of Possibilities: Nicaragua hunger education*, Andrea Sharpe and Jennie Hodge for helping Jody Smiley with Children’s Church, Kris Wertz for hosting the May WELCA meeting and Betty Gross for providing the light supper.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist and custodian, Vacation Bible School materials, Kid’s Night pizzas and craft materials, confirmation camp registrations.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In May, we helped nine families: rent for two families, contributed towards electric bills for five other families, a water bill and a phone bill for two more families. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

JUSTICE AND MERCY FUND partners with the Kroger Cares Program

The number of families that we are serving is increasing each month...up to nine families this past month. We are assisting our neighbors with water and electric bills, rent payments, medical expenses, clothing and other needs. To supplement our offerings to the Justice and Mercy Fund, St. Michael is forming a partnership with Kroger. Members of the congregation can purchase “Kroger Cares Gift Cards” for an initial investment of \$25, redeemable at any Kroger store. Supporters can add value to their cards by recharging or “reloading” the value of the card up to \$500 at any time at any Kroger store.

Five percent (5%) of all card purchases and “reloads” will be credited to our Justice and Mercy account when our account reaches \$5000 or above.

The \$25 gift cards will be available for purchase beginning Sunday, June 5 through June 26. Please join the partnership as we continue to support our neighbors in need.

FUN AND GAMES NIGHT ON JUNE 18 AT 5 p.m.

Looking for something fun to do – make plans to come to St. Michael's **Fun and Games Night** on Saturday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at the Wertz's house (2013 Broken Oak Drive, Blacksburg). Bring a dish to pass, something to put on the grill, your favorite outdoor game and a lawn chair. Everyone from young to old is invited to come enjoy the fun. For more information or directions, talk to Pastor John.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

June 16 potluck supper at Fran Shepherd's home

The Women of the ELCA will meet at Fran's new home on Thursday, June 16, at 6 p.m. to share a potluck supper. For directions to Fran's house, (1667 Blue Grass Trail in Newport) you can call Fran at 544-7462. Come and be a part of the fellowship and friendship. Families are welcome too.

Remember the Food Bank. All kinds of baby foods will be collected this month though any non-perishable food item is always welcome.



Dear sisters of St. Michael,

Thank you so much for the diapers that you provided for my little one on the way. I was so surprised when I walked into the room! They were much needed and appreciated! It was a gesture that meant so much to me. The outpouring of love at St. Michael continues to amaze me everyday. I am really enjoying getting to know everyone and I pray that God continues to bless each and every one of you every day.

Love, Carrie Mayer

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

The Happy-Go-Lucky group will not meet until September. A thank you note was received from two of our college students, Matthew James and Kim Lehman, for the "care packages" the group prepared for the students' exam week. The note read in part, "thanks for all the yummy food-especially the homemade brownies. We've really enjoyed worshipping at St. Michael this past year and look forward to coming back in the fall".

SOFTBALL SEASON CONTINUES

The team invites everyone out to the ballparks (Tom's Creek Field (TC) and Jaycee Park (JC)) on Monday nights for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better. The times and places are listed on the St. Michael June calendar.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On May 29, we welcomed the Yax and Mayer families to St. Michael. Rich Mayer came to Virginia Tech in 1994 from Allentown, PA while Carrie came to Tech in 1996 from Richmond. The two met, were married, and decided to make Blacksburg their new home. Rick is an Industrial Engineer at Hubbell Lighting and Carrie is an English teacher at Blacksburg High School. They are expecting their first child (a little girl) on June 15. In their spare time, Rick enjoys home improvement projects, Carrie likes to read, and both enjoy outdoor activities.

Jennifer and Mike Yax are both from Alden, NY, a small suburb of Buffalo. Mike's job as a Sub-Plant Manager for Danaher Motion in Radford brought them to the area five years ago. Jennifer works as a Freelance Graphic Designer from their home. Their daughter, Charlotte Mary, was born last January and keeps them very busy. Their family feels especially blessed to have found such a welcoming church and thanks the congregation for their generous hospitality.



Mike, Charlotte and Jennifer Yax Carrie and Rick Mayer

BEST WISHES (and goodbye) TO THE HODGE FAMILY

In June, Tom and Jennie Hodge and their children, Abbi, Olivia, and David, will be moving to West Simsbury, Connecticut where Tom will be the Director of Human Resources for Sensor Controls in Danaher Corporation. The Hodges will cherish their memories of Blacksburg and time spent with their St. Michael family.

Congratulations to.....

Vickie Mouras, who was recognized for her outstanding teaching and service in the Department of Civil Engineering with the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award.

Matt Woods who received the “most valuable senior award in wrestling” at Blacksburg High School.

Stuart Worley, Tim Smiley, and Daniel Ehrich, who experienced success in their respective sports of track, baseball and soccer at Blacksburg High School and were mentioned frequently in the local sports pages.

Scott McGuigan who is a member of two successful sports teams: the New River Rapids U-13 Boys traveling soccer team which won several tournaments this spring and the New River Valley Comets Boys 13 and under AAU basketball team which will compete in the AAU National Basketball Tournament in Memphis, TN this summer.

Tammy Veit who was recently appointed to the Church Congregational Council to replace Jennie Hodge. Thank you Jennie for your service on the Council for 3 _ years.

John Travis, Kevin, Jarred and Matt



Our 2005 Graduates

John Travis Krallman, who graduated cum laude from Virginia Tech with degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry, will begin his new career as an environmental engineer at URS in Herndon, VA. Three members of our family will graduate from Blacksburg High School. Kevin Krallman has been accepted at Virginia Commonwealth

University. Matthew Woods will be a walk-on in both football and wrestling at Virginia Tech. Jarred Walters will continue his studies at New River Community College. Paige Walters earned her masters degree in counseling at Radford University and will be a counselor at Auburn Elementary School. Ted Peterson received his degree from the University of Phoenix in Criminal Justice.

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June Servants

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
<i>Acolytes</i>		Scott McGuigan	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Worley family			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>			Carol Crawford	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>		McGuigan family	Carol Crawford	Alice Noonkester
<i>Greeters</i>	Leona Criner and Irene Ashley			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Women of	Cindy Dowdy	Doug Smiley	Sara Bohn
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	the ELCA will	Jada and Karen Brown	Dan and Lorin Crowder	Leslie and Brian Simmers
<i>Ushers</i>	serve this Sunday	Roscoe Turman Philip Isenhour Sam Akers M. McGuigan	Ben and Grace Simmers James Pascoe Jeff Crowder	Dave and Ann Surface Gary Worley Don Linkous

Lawn mowers: Sam Akers (6/4); Jim Clemens (6/11), Jay Nagle (6/18), Doug Smiley (6/25)

Come Be a Part of Davey and Goliath's Circus Spectacular Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School begins on Sunday, June 19 and continues through Thursday, June 23. We begin at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper, followed by music, stories, crafts and more. Classes will be held for pre-schoolers to middle school students and adults. High school students are encouraged to participate as teaching assistants.

VBS will end at 8:15 p.m. each evening.



The craft center for Vacation Bible School is looking for the following items:

- glass mayonnaise jars (or any other large size glass jar) with lids
- sheets of light colored sandpaper
- bricks

All donations can be left in the VBS box in the secretary's corner in the fellowship hall.

Thank you.

Kid's Night and
Confirmation
students enjoy
miniature golf.

Pictured are Pastor,
Kelley, Abbi, Jody,
Chelsea, Linda,
Robert, Will,
Corson, Jaid,
Kylie, Olivia,
Parker and David
(with his golfing
gloves).



MISSION PARTNERSHIP GROWING

This year, St. Michael is serving as a mission partner for Grace Lutheran Church in Spotsylvania, Virginia. Thanks to your generous gifts and because of the support of other congregations in the synod, Grace's ministry continues to grow. Pastor Paul Walters and the members of Grace wanted St. Michael to see the impact our support is making and to know that your generosity is transforming lives and sending disciples through your mission partner congregation, Grace Lutheran Church.



REV. DUANE L. STEELE PERFORMING IN WYTHEVILLE

The Rev. Duane Steele, the pastor at Gladesboro Lutheran Church in Hillsville, will be performing on Sunday, June 26 at 4:15 p.m. at the Chautauqua Festival at Elizabeth Brown Park in Wytheville. There is no admission fee, but bring your lawn chairs. For more information about the festival, you can go to www.wythevillefestival.org and for more information about Pastor Steele's performance, contact Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at (276) 228-2171.

OAK GROVE PAVILION SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Zion Lutheran Church in Floyd is once again offering a summer concert series on Saturday nights at the Oak Grove Pavilion behind the church. The series of outdoor music and drama events includes Classical, Cajun, Gospel, Bluegrass, Blues, Irish-Celtic, Jazz, Folk, Rock and special productions by the Zion Players. The season, which is free to the public, will run from June 4th to August 27th. Details about each event and directions to the church are available at www.swva.net/zionstmk under the heading Oak Grove Pavilion and on the bulletin board in the hallway.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time on Saturday, May 21, at our spring work day: Barbara Corbett, Lynn Hickok, J.D. Robinson, Rick Mayer, Bob Brown, Sam Akers, Ray Howell, Todd Walters, James Pascoe, Pastor John and Fran Shepherd. Special thanks to Jeff Wall for clearing away dirt around an old stump; Bob Brown for compiling the list of areas needing attention; Todd Walters for edging and supplying the mulch; Pastor John for cleaning the outside storage room. Volunteers are still needed during the summer to help maintain the grounds and finish the projects, e.g., cleaning the playground area. Everyone who volunteered their time on the recent Time and Talent Survey will be contacted by Fran Shepherd soon about the remaining projects.

FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING ON JUNE 14

A new Family Ministry Team is forming at St. Michael to look for ways to support families in their lives of faith. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, June 14 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in being a part of this new team, please speak with Pastor John.

SIMPLY GIVING PROVIDES A SIMPLE WAY TO GIVE

As a service to Lutheran congregations, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has set up an automated giving program, called *Simply Giving*, that allows you to share your gifts with St. Michael without having to write a check. The program, which is offered free of charge, allows you to make a gift to St. Michael through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift – weekly, semi-monthly or monthly – the option is yours. To participate in *Simply Giving*, fill out one of the enrollment forms in the front hallway and send it to Thrivent. For more information about *Simply Giving*, please talk to Pastor John.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT 2005 – July 7-9

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders – teachers, choir members, committee members, council members and others – will find *Power in the Spirit* especially nurturing as they consider their mission and ministry. This year's conference features, Rani Abdulmasih, Pastor and Mission developer for Abundant Life Arabic Lutheran Church in Dearborn, MI as the Keynote presenter and Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director for the Division for Global Mission for the ELCA. Workshops topics range from "Faith and Arts" to "The Great COMMISSION Revisited and Reclaimed." The registration cost is \$105 if registering prior to June 15. More information and registration forms are available in the front hallway of the church.