

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church
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WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

The Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA will meet in Orlando, Florida from August 8 through August 14. The purpose of the Assembly is to conduct the business of the national church. The Voting Members of the Assembly, including Pastor Terrie Sternberg from Pulaski and at least 9 others from Virginia, will hear reports on the ministry of the church and consider recommendations on a range of topics from new worship resources to sexuality to an agreement with the United Methodist Church. Undoubtedly, issues of sexuality will receive the most publicity, but my hope is that the issues of sexuality that the Assembly will deal with will not completely overshadow the wonderful ministry that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is doing.

Twice this summer, I have had the opportunity to listen to Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen speak about the ministry of the ELCA that he sees each day in his call as Bishop. He spoke of the millions of people helped by Lutheran Social Services organizations across the country. He spoke of the joy he shared with new mission congregations as they began gathering for worship. He spoke of the witness and faithfulness of Lutheran Men in Mission and the Women of the ELCA and he shared his commitment to the full communion agreements we share with other Christian denominations. While you and I may only see what happens in Blacksburg and in Virginia, Bishop Hansen made it clear that the people of the ELCA are making Christ known in exciting and life changing ways around the country.

I hope you will take a few moments each day during the Assembly to pray for:

- **Presiding Bishop Hansen** that he might have wisdom and faithfulness in leading the Assembly,
- the **voting members** to the Assembly, that they might be guided by the Holy Spirit,
- and for the **ministry of the ELCA**, that we may continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We are the church together and although all of us cannot be in Orlando, your prayers will mean a great deal to those gathered there for the Assembly.

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.

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

Philip Isenhour and Doug Veit for assisting with computer tasks, Jody Smiley for supervising children’s church (assisted by Jane McGuigan), Doug Smiley and Jeff Birch for serving as the softball team captains.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July 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, and sealing the parking lot.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In July, we helped six families: rent for one family, contributed towards electric bills for four other families, and rent and a phone bill for one family. 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. Thank you to the nineteen individuals who purchased the Kroger Gift Cards. Our purchases have passed the \$3,000 mark....only \$2,000 more to go before we receive our first check (5% of purchases) for the Justice and Mercy Fund.

Boy Scout Troop Organizing

A Boy Scout Troop is organizing at St. Michael. The organizational meeting for the troop will be on Wednesday, August 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Ben Crawford at 961-5733.

St. Michael at the Price’s Fork Fair

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price’s Fork Fair on Friday, August 19 and Saturday, August 20. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids and provide an opportunity to share the ministry of St. Michael with the community. If you have the talent of face painting or would be interested in working the game at the booth, please sign up on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the bulletin or talk with Carol Crawford at 961-5733.

New Flooring Update

The new flooring for the sanctuary, hallways and kitchen has been ordered and will be installed beginning on August 23. Volunteers are needed to remove the pews following worship on Sunday, August 21 and to re-install the pews on Saturday, August 27. If you are available to help with the pews, please sign up on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the Sunday bulletin.

Softball Season concludes with team picnic



After several years of dominating the C League, St. Michael moved up to a very competitive B League this year. The team played with lots of spirit and heart, but lost some very close games this season. Team members who played at least one game during the season include the Smiley family (Doug, Jody and Tim), the Turman brothers (Tim, Travis and Tommy), Jeff Birch, Dean Trimble, the Robinson brothers (Randy and Richard), Chris Dowdy, Mike Yax, J.D., Robinson, Brian Simmers, Hank Schneider, Jerry Rigsbee, Ted Peterson, Vic Sheppard, and Clifton Walters. Thank you for representing us so well with your enthusiasm and fine sportsmanship. Thank you also to the support of the loyal fans. We look forward to next season and more great camaraderie and fine play. Thank you to Hank and Alice Schneider for hosting the team picnic on July 25.



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August Servants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Sarah Crowder	Kelsey Trimble	Kelsey Trimble
<i>Altar Care</i>	Peggy Brown and Tammy Veit			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Karen Mayer		Dave Surface	
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>		Mouras family		
<i>Greeters</i>	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Hank Schneider	Fred Spengler	Lori Sheppard	Vickie Mouras
<i>Nursery Assts.</i>	Grace Simmers Leslie Bland	Kelsey and Dean Trimble	Lorin and Dan Crowder	Karen and Jada Brown
<i>Ushers</i>	Jeff Crowder, Roscoe Turman Dave and Ann Surface	Jeff and Sandy Birch Linda and George Naughton	Ben and Grace Simmers Burn Gross Dickie Shepherd	J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider Bob and Peggy Brown

Lawn mowers: Jim Clemens (8/6) – front, Jay Nagle (8/13) – back, Doug/Tim Smiley (8/20) – front, Sam Akers (8/27) - back

Be A Part of a 2 to 1 Choir

Do you enjoy singing, but can't make it to a weekly choir practice? If so, then the **2 to 1 Choir** is for you. A **2 to 1 Choir** will practice for two weeks and then sing on the following Sunday. The participants in the **2 to 1 Choir** will change each month, so one month it will be a Men's Choir, the next month it might be a Teen Choir. Practices will be held on Wednesday Nights either before or after the weekly choir practice. The first group to sing will be the **2 to 1 Men's Choir**. Practice will be on Wednesday, August 17 and 24 and the group will sing on Sunday, August 28 at the 11 AM Service. The **2 to 1 Choir** schedule for the year is listed below. For more information about the **2 to 1 Choirs**, contact Donita Moore at domoore1@vt.edu.

2005 – 2006 2 to 1 Choir Schedule

August	2 to 1 Men's Choir
September	2 to 1 Mixed Quartet
October	2 to 1 Ladies Choir
November	2 to 1 Teen Choir
December	2 to 1 Kids Choir
January	2 to 1 Mixed Quartet
February	2 to 1 Men's Choir
March	2 to 1 Teen Choir
April	2 to 1 Kids Choir
May	2 to 1 Men's Choir
June	2 to 1 Ladies Choir

Service Choir Begins Practice on September 7 at 7 p.m.

The Service Choir, which provides music leadership for our services each week, will begin practice on Wednesday, September 7 at 7 p.m. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to come and share their gifts as a part of the choir. For more information about the Service Choir, please contact Donita Moore at domoore1@vt.edu.



Women of the ELCA

The annual **Ladies Night Out at the Kabuki Restaurant** is scheduled for Thursday, August 18, at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Alice Schneider (552-6995) to make a reservation or use the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the Sunday bulletins. Invite a friend or family member to this fun evening of fine food and fellowship.



Remember the Food Bank: August is “Italian month” – bring pasta and spaghetti sauces though donations of any non-perishable food are very welcome.

We will be continuing to **collect school supplies** through August. Thank you to all who have contributed two big boxes of supplies through July. The supplies will be given to Prices Fork and Lafayette Elementary Schools and to the Salvation Army Backpack Drive. Needed supplies include *backpacks, 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks, pens, #2 pencils, ruled paper, rulers, colored pencils, scissors, glue, crayons, and glue sticks.*

Lutheran Men in Mission National Gathering



The Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) National Gathering was held in Charleston, South Carolina from July 22 to 24. Pastor John, Jeff Birch and Ben Crawford attended from St. Michael along with 650 Lutheran men from around the country. Nationally known speakers from the Rev. Rollie Martinson, a Lutheran professor and researcher, to Presiding Bishop Hansen to former NASCAR driver and announcer, Ned Jarrett, spoke on issues of faith and sharing the good news of Jesus. “Run the Race: Keep the Faith” was the theme for the gathering’s speakers, workshops, worship and fellowship. Together, the Lutheran Men in Mission are hoping to call men, young and old, to come together and to discover a fresh relationship with God and with other men who are on the same journey. If you would like to be a part of Lutheran Men in Mission, St. Michael’s men’s group will be meeting again in September.

Pastor John, Presiding Bishop Hansen, Jeff Birch, Ben Crawford at the Gathering
Backpack Blessing

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 21. All youth and teachers are invited to bring their Backpacks or school bags to church for this time of prayer and blessing for the new school year. Consider inviting your friends or teachers you know to come and have their Backpacks blessed as we ask for God’s blessing for all teachers and students.

Exploring Faith in Sunday School

Get ready for an exciting new year of Sunday School as we begin *Exploring Faith*. The new Sunday School year will begin with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11 at 9:50 am with classes for youth and adults of all ages. Watch for more information about the new classes and material for the fall.

Confirmation Camp

Pastor John, Scott McGuigan and Robert Worley attended Confirmation Camp from July 10 -16 at Camp Lutherock in Newland, NC with other youth from Virginia and South Carolina. During the week, they learned more about the church year, the ways that Jesus is present for us in our lives and participated in hikes, games and a ropes course. It was a wonderful week.

Scott McGuigan and Robert Worley
with their Cabin Group at Lutherock

Thank You

Dear St. Michael Family,

Thank you for sending me to confirmation camp. It was fun this last week with Pastor John, Scott and the other campers. I learned a lot about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The outdoor experiences were pretty cool. This will be a trip I will never forget. I hope to use what I learned to help me grow as a person and follower of Jesus Christ. Thank you again.

Robert Worley