

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church
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Growing Youth Ministry

At St. Michael, we are blessed with a growing number of youth and young children. During Vacation Bible School, we had 8 kids in the 0 to 3 year old class and about 10 kids in the kindergarten and first grade class. I just returned from taking 3 youth to confirmation camp and on Wednesday nights during the school year, Kid's Night for kindergarten through 5th grade averaged 10 to 12 kids.

With all of the youth and young children in the congregation, St. Michael's youth ministry is expanding. Beginning in the fall, Kid's Night will become Youth Night and a new senior high youth group will be added. With the addition of the new senior high group, St. Michael's Youth Night will offer *Kid's Night* for kindergarten to 5th grade, *Confirmation* for 6th through 8th grade and the *Senior High Group*, for 9th through 12th grade. As we expand the number of youth touched by the ministry of St. Michael, we also need to expand the number of youth leaders by adding a *leader(s) for the Senior High Group* and a *Youth Night Meal Coordinator*. If you are interested in helping in either of these two areas, please let me know.

In the fall we will also be using new Sunday School material designed for everyone from the youngest children to adults. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, there will be a planning meeting in late July or early August. In addition, I am actively looking for resources to better equip families for sharing and nurturing faith in their children.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the youth ministry at St. Michael. I hope you will be a part of it.

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

To Linda Elliott for helping with the Sunday bulletins in June; Linda Elliott and Carrie Mayer for helping with the July newsletter; Fran Shepherd for “weed control” duty; Ben and Carol Crawford for hosting the WELCA picnic on the New River; Bob and Peggy Brown for attending the Virginia Synod Assembly.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June provided confirmation T-shirts, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod and mission partner, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organist, custodian, and nursery workers and publicity for our worship services.

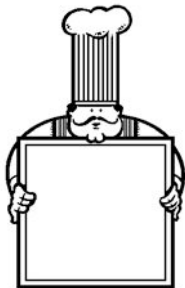
The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In June, we provided assistance with an electric bill for one family, a water bill for a second family, rent for two more families and a car loan payment for a fifth family. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need. Kroger Gift cards are still available for an initial investment of \$25; contact Sandy Birch. Five percent of purchases are deposited to the Fund.

The red paraments dedicated in June were given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frieda Price Clemens and Timothy Ray Clemens by Jim and Judy Clemens and Chris, Cindy and MaKayla Dowdy. Thank you.

Servants needed

We have two openings for **altar care**: August and September. No experience necessary as we offer training ☺. Altar care servants prepare the bread and wine for communion on the first and third Sundays of the month, check on altar linens and paraments during the month, and refill the altar candles. Please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455 or birch@vt.edu if you can help. Thank you.

Recipes needed



We are compiling a St. Michael cookbook and need copies of your favorite recipes. No, they don’t have to be original gourmet creations – just recipes for favorite casseroles, salads, and desserts or other dishes that you like to make for your family and friends. You can leave the recipes in the box in the hallway or give them to Betty Gross, Carol Crawford, Fay Walters or Carla Schwertz, the “Cookbook Committee.” Please share your favorites with the St. Michael family by July 31.

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July Servants

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Steffen Bohn	Scott McGuigan	Katy McGuigan	Steffen Bohn
<i>Altar Care</i>	Judy Clemens and Charlene Harris				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Sandy Birch		Dave Surface		
<i>Fellowship Hour</i>		Gross family			
<i>9 a.m. Greeters</i> <i>11 a.m. Greeters</i>	Carla Schwertz and Charlene Harris		Clifton and Shelane Walters		
	Jeff and Sandy Birch				
<i>Lay Readers</i>	Jenny Akers	Sara Bohn	Vickie Mouras	Fred Spengler	D. Krallman
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Don Linkous Gary Worley Roscoe Turman	Jay Nagle Isaac Nagle James Pascoe Burn Gross	Ben and Grace Simmers Hank Schneider Dickie Shepherd	J.D. Robinson Randy Robinson Dave and Ann Surface	Bob and Peggy Brown Jeff Birch P. Isenhour

Mowing schedule: Sam Akers (7/1 – back); Jim Clemens (7/08 – front); Jay Nagle (7/15 back); Doug Smiley (7/22 – front); Sam Akers (7/29 – back) Amy and Steve Woods



Women of the ELCA

Remember the Food Bank: July continues as cereal month -- though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In July, we'll continue to collect new children's books. The collection basket is in the hallway.

The Birthday Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 19. The sign-up form for table hosts is now posted on the hallway bulletin board.



The Virginia Synodical Womens Organization (VSWO) has provided more opportunities to share with others. From June through mid-July, we will be **collecting new childrens books** for the Womens Resource Center in Radford. We will also be **preparing "Teen's Personal Care Kits" for youth in treatment foster care** who have been removed from their home due to neglect or abuse. Often these young people leave their homes with few or no personal possessions. Personal Care Kits allow them to go to their treatment foster family with something to call their own. Foster care youth already feel different. To help them feel more like their peers, they prefer "young" personal care products. We will deliver the Personal Care Kits at the VSWO conference on July 28-30. St. Michael will be represented by Alice Schneider, Sandy Birch and Jody Smiley (conference coordinator).

For young ladies: 1 weekend size duffel bag containing:

toothpaste	toothbrush	shampoo	conditioner	body lotion	lip gloss
deodorant	bath gel	hand or bath towel	ladies' razors	facial cleanser	
hair accessories	nail polish				

For young men: 1 weekend size duffel bag containing:

shaving cream	razors	hair gel	facial cleanser	shampoo
conditioner	toothpaste	toothbrush	deodorant	bath gel
				towel

Planning ahead: In late July and August, we'll be collecting school supplies for disadvantaged students at Prices Fork and Lafayette Elementary Schools.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Cor. 9:8

Vacation Bible School Report

Thank you to all our VBS volunteers who helped make VBS possible for over 60 youth and adults. We are especially grateful to.....

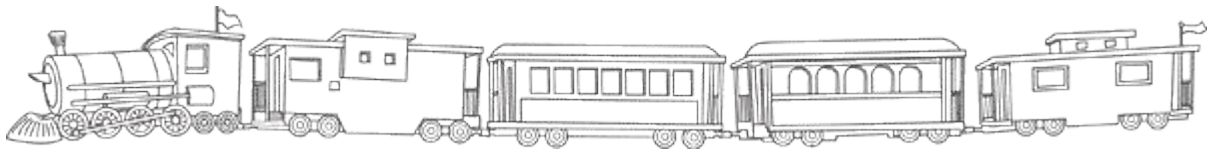
Teachers and helpers: Lorin Crowder, Jane McGuigan, Lorin Robinson, Carol Bland, Kris Wertz, Cindy Dowdy, Judy Clemens, Jody Smiley, Pastor John

Musicians: Jenny Akers and Tacey Apisa

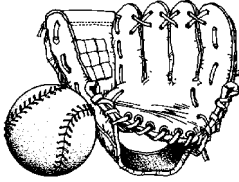
Crafts: Ted and Angela Peterson

Food: Betty Gross, Ann Surface, Fran Gallimore, Wanda Pascoe, Carol Crawford

Special thanks to Dirk and Machaun McComsey for donating all the snacks.



Softball Play-offs Begin



The team invites everyone out to the Tom's Creek softball field for the season's play-off games. The first game is scheduled for Monday, July 3, time TBA. Supportive fans are welcome and appreciated.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame on July 29

St. Michael is going to Salem Avalanche Church Night on Saturday, July 29. In addition to the game against the Frederick Keys, there will be a post-game concert by a Christian band, *Building 429* and an appearance by the Veggie Tales characters. The game begins at 7:07 p.m. Reserved Seat tickets are \$8.50 per person. Sign up on the "Welcome" form in the bulletin. The deadline for signing up is July 16.

Couples Night Out / Dinner With Friends Family Night on July 14

The *Couples Night Out / Dinner with Friends* group for 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings will be having a Family Night at the home of Chris and Cindy Dowdy (3236 Tucker Road) on Friday, July 14 at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share, something to cook on the grill and come enjoy the fun and fellowship.

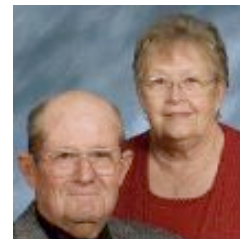
A 60's Party on July 12!!



On Wednesday, July 12, from 6 to 8 p.m., we will celebrate the 60th birthdays of a bunch of our baby boomers: Jenny and Sam Akers, Jeff and Sandy Birch, Jim and Judy Clemens, Carol Howell and Carol Linkous. The congregation is invited to join the celebration at Jeff and Sandy's home (301 Airport Road in Blacksburg), eat pizza, sing the great songs of the 50's, and maybe do a little dancing. If you've still got the poodle skirt, tie-dyed T-shirt or letterman's sweater, consider wearing it. Bring your high school yearbooks and we'll see what we looked like in the "good old days." Join the family and festivities as we celebrate the birthdays of the first baby boomers.

Congratulations

Clifton and Fay Walters celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 3. Congratulations and God bless you and your family.



The Lutheran Course

The Lutheran Course, which uses interviews from leading Lutheran teachers, small group discussion and a new book entitled, “The Lutheran Handbook” to explore the teachings of the Lutheran Church, is meeting each Sunday in July (and the first Sunday in August) from 9:50 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Whether you are new to the Lutheran Church or have been a member your entire life, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about faith and life. Child care will be provided.

Synod Assembly Discusses Global Mission

The theme for this year’s Virginia Synod Assembly was Global Mission. The Assembly heard from our partner church in New Guinea and from the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, the executive director of Global Mission for the ELCA. The Assembly passed two resolutions. One resolution called for mercury-free vaccines and the other focused on supporting Palestinian Christians. More information about the Assembly can be found on a flyer in the front hall at the church or can be found online at www.vasynod.org.



Guests from Papua New Guinea

On June 14, the Rev. Hynna Motec, president (Bishop) of the New Guinea Island District churches and Mr. Dacca Wagai, Youth Director of the Island District visited St. Michael. They were given a number of gifts to take back to their congregations including Virginia Tech T-shirts, American flags, St. Michael T-shirts, and a signed and decorated tablecloth for our sister congregation, Soi Lutheran Church.

A Invitation from New Mount Zion Lutheran Church Good music, food and fellowship

On the first Saturday evening of each month at 6 p.m., a string music and benefit supper is held at the New Mount Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. It is a church and community event. There is no charge; however, donations are accepted. Each month, a different not-for-profit organization or individual is identified to be the recipient of all donations received. The benefit for the month of July is for Ian Herbst, a one-year-old who needs a liver transplant. His story was recently in the Current section of the *Roanoke Times*. The music is mostly a combination of gospel, old time, and bluegrass

vocal and instrumental selections and features local musicians. Contact Judy Ridinger at 953-2703 or Glen Pricee at 449-8104 for more information.

Confirmation Camp

Thank you for your prayers and support during Confirmation Camp at Lutherock. The students focused on worship, prayer, service, sharing our gifts and witnessing. As you can see by the pictures below, they also had a great time. The students who attended from St. Michael were Sarah Crowder, Scott McGuigan and Kelley Robinson.

