



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Building a Toolbox

On Sunday, June 17, the congregation voted to hire Tom Koontz to begin developing specific ideas for expanding our facilities to meet the current and future needs of St. Michael. As I spoke with Tom following the meeting, it occurred to me that what we are asking him to do is design a toolbox to help us equip and support our ministry. Since the congregation is the place where the people of God are being transformed and equipped to be God's hands and feet in the world, then our facility becomes more than a building. Our facility becomes a place where we experience God's grace through worship. Our facility becomes a place where we gather as a community of God's people for fellowship and support. Our facility becomes a place where we learn more about God's Word and what it means to be the people of God. Our facility becomes a place, – a toolbox – that helps us build whole, healthy lives of faith so we can go out to share God's love with the world.

Now if you walk through any home improvement store, you will discover that, in order to meet an individual's needs, toolboxes come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Over the next few months, the Facilities Expansion Task Force and Tom will be working to define our needs more clearly and to discover what type of toolbox will best meet our ministry needs. If you have ideas about how our facilities might better support our ministry or about what our toolbox might look like, please share your thoughts with me or with any member of the Task Force. I look forward to this process and to seeing what type of toolbox for ministry we can build together.

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 and Bill Greer who help with the Sunday bulletins; Shirley Linkous, Margaret Larsen, Bill Greer and Linda Elliott who helped with recent newsletter mailings; John Krallman and other choir members for providing special music at the 11 a.m. service; Doug and Jody Smiley, Jerry Gallimore, Lori Anne Kirk, Jeff and Sandy Birch for serving dinner at the Roanoke Rescue Mission on Father’s Day.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in June provided materials for Vacation Bible School, 30 new folding chairs for the fellowship hall, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organists, custodian and nursery worker.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** contributed to two electric bills in June. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Some thank you notes

*Dear brothers and sisters of St. Michael,
Sincere appreciation for your gifts to Peace Lutheran. We are so blessed with groups coming down to help with the rebuilding. Your caring and kindness means so much. Please continue to pray for our workers, members and our community as we recover. Thank you so much! Peace Lutheran Church, Slidell, LA*

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,
As we gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we found encouragement not only from the growth we’re seeing at Grace Lutheran, but also through the faithful support of congregations such as yours.in June, we look forward to moving into our new facility. We are confident God will bless this move and Grace will grow even more. Thanks be to God for your gifts and prayersPeace and Joy, Rev. Paul Walters and the members of Grace Lutheran Church in Spotsylvania, VA*

*To Ted Peterson and all the members of St. Michael,
Thank you so much for your support and prayers. The clothing, shoes, shampoo, soap, etc. that you donated were greatly appreciated by our patients and the “local Afghans”. The locals have so little that it does not take much to make them happy. The things we take for granted are priceless to them. You all have made a dramatic impact on the lives of each patient that we cared for. Sincerely, Major Terry Vida, USAF*

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July Servants

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Katherine Berg	Matthew Pasier	Olivia Hodge	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	Doug and Jody Smiley				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Lorin Crowder		Bob Brown		
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Sandy Birch	Elizabeth and Michele Berg	Kris Wertz	Jody Smiley	Tacey Apisa
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Corson and Parker Wertz	Elizabeth Berg	Michele Pasier	Andrew Bales	Will and Matt Sharpe
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Sandy Birch	Shannon Rigsbee	Ted Peterson	Margaret Larsen	Lori Anne Kirk
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Ben and Carol Crawford		Tschettters (and 29 th)	Hodge family	
	Brian, Alexis and Carlie Simmers				
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Cindy Dowdy	Doug Smiley	Fred Spengler	Lori Anne Kirk	Andrea Sharpe
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Jeff Birch Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd	Ray Howell Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle	Ben and Grace Simmers Roscoe Turman Philip Isenhour	Dave and Ann Surface J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Scott and Micky McGuigan Burn and Betty

Women of the ELCA

The women of the congregation are cordially invited to the 20th annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA. The theme of the convention is "Serve Boldly" and will be held at Roanoke College in Salem on July 27-29. The program will include an opportunity for service at the Roanoke Rescue Mission or Brandon Oaks Retirement Community. Registration information is posted on the bulletin board. Jody Smiley and Alice Schneider will be attending and can provide additional information also.



BOOKS...BOOKS....and more BOOKS. We are collecting new and gently used books for the children at the Roanoke Rescue Mission and for the school libraries in Papua New Guinea. Collections boxes are in the hallway.

Remember the Food Bank: July is canned fruits and vegetables month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women's Resource Center: In July, we will continue our donations of baby items: baby food and diapers.



**Happy Go Lucky
on the Go!**

Happy Go Lucky

Let's go traveling....

Five more super bus trips have been planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this year. In June, several members visited the P. Buckley Moss Museum with trips to Hungry Mother State Park Arts & Crafts Festival, Barter Theater, Swinging Bridge Restaurant, Hotel Roanoke Christmas luncheon (and Farmers Market), and the Wohlfhart Haus Christmas Show still on the schedule. All members of St. Michael (not just Happy-Go-Lucky members) and our friends and family are welcome to participate. A minimum of 8 travelers is required with a maximum of 20 for each trip.

Our next adventure is to the Arts and Crafts Festival at Hungry Mother State Park on Friday, July 20. The festival will feature over 100 booths with traditional and unique handcrafted items. Food vendors will offer a variety of treats and country music and Civil War re-enactors will entertain the festival-goers. Participants may also enjoy activities in the state park by taking a walk on the wooded nature trails or renting a paddleboat. The cost is \$14 and **the registration deadline is July 12**. Please consider registering early for the trip to the Barter Theater so we can get better seats for the show.

Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for the five remaining trips are available in the narthex and on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

Christmas In July

On Sunday, July 22, St. Michael will celebrate Christmas in July. Come and sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols and hear the story of Christ's birth unfold again. There are no gifts to buy, no tree to put up, no lights to hang, just the celebration of Christ's Birth and the joy of Christmas!

School Supplies for Children in Need

In July and August, St. Michael will be collecting school supplies for children in need at Price's Fork and Lafayette-Elliston Elementary Schools.



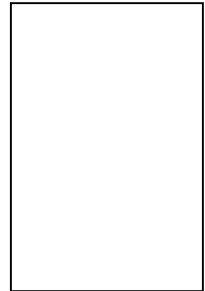
Needed Items

Backpacks	Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Pencils	School Scissors
Glue Sticks	Pocket Folders with Prongs
Crayons	Colored Pencils
Anti-Bacterial Soap	Tissue
Black and White Composition Notebooks	
3-ring Binders	

All supplies will be welcome. The collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

The Ronald McDonald House Ministry

For several years, one of our Sunday School classes has sponsored the "Pop Tab Program" for the Ronald McDonald House in Roanoke. Randy Robinson and other St. Michael members have collected bags of the pop tabs at their work place. Employees at Angle Florist even collect the tabs for us and leave their contributions when they deliver our Sunday flowers. The Ronald McDonald House receives a higher rate per pound for pop tabs than per pound of cans because the aluminum alloy is purer in the tabs and they are smaller and cleaner to store. We encourage the St. Michael family to continue this collection.



The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for the families of pediatric patients who must travel to the Roanoke area from their own communities to seek medical treatment. They are seeking more volunteers to help ensure the house is a welcoming home. Duties of volunteers may include providing house tours, orienting new families, helping with housekeeping and kitchen chores, and yard maintenance. If you are interested in becoming a part of their volunteer program, you can contact the Ronald McDonald House at 540-857-0770 or at www.roanokeronaldmcdonald.com. More information is also posted on the hallway bulletin board. In the meantime, keep saving those tabs!

Great Bible Reef Vacation Bible School Great Success!!!

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: Jane McGuigan, Kris Wertz, Cindy Dowdy, Jody Smiley, Pastor John, Sandy Birch, Carrie Draper, Chris Dowdy, Judy Clemens, Joanne Pascoe, Dianne Krallman

Musician Leader: Carol Bland

Games: Jennie Hodge

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



Family Toolbox

Virginia Synod Unveils New Family Resources

The Virginia Synod has unveiled a new online resource for families called *Roots and Wings*. *Roots and Wings* provides resources for families as they seek to help their children grow in their relationship with God. A link to the Roots and Wings website can be found on St. Michael's homepage (www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org). On the Roots and Wings site you will find everything from simple questions and answers to ideas for marking milestones in a child's life of faith.

Youth and Family Lending Library

St. Michel is developing a Youth and Family Lending Library in memory of Courtney Schwertz. The Library will be located in the hallway next to the kitchen and will contain books ranging from story books to books on developing faith in families. The first order of books has arrived and is currently being prepared for shelving. Watch the bulletin for more information about when these books will be available and how you can check them out.

First Communion Instruction

First Communion instruction is open to children of any age. When a child begins to express interest in communion and the parent thinks it is an appropriate time for instruction, then First Communion instruction will begin. Pastor John will meet with the family on three different occasions. The first meeting will introduce concepts about Communion and provide the parents and child with a set of questions and activities for them to do together. The second meeting will occur when the questions and activities are finished so that Pastor John can expand on the concepts discussed and answer any questions that may have come up. The third meeting will take place at the church to walk the family through what happens during Communion. The family and Pastor John will then schedule a Sunday for the child's First Communion. If you are interested in beginning First Communion instruction with your child, please contact Pastor John.

Free Toolbox Resources in Fellowship Hall

Free resources are available in the Fellowship Hall (look for the yellow toolbox). The books range in topics from storybooks to questions and answers about faith to books about grief. The next time you are in the Fellowship Hall, take a look at the Toolbox Resources and please feel free to take whatever you need.

Daily Devotions Available Online

St. Michael has daily devotions available on our homepage. Click on the *Daily Toolbox* Link in the calendar on the right side of the page for scripture readings and prayer thoughts.

Filling Your Toolbox: A New Definition for Church

In her book, *Reclaiming the “C” Word: Daring to be Church Again*, Pastor Kelly Fryer offers a new definition for the church. Pastor Fryer believes that in today’s world, “It has become increasingly clear to all of us that God’s dream for the church will mean overcoming our tendency to think of it as a noun. To be ‘one holy catholic and apostolic’ church – in the words of the Nicene Creed – is to be a church at work in the world bringing people together (one); helping people experience the forgiving, saving presence of God (holy); building a bridge between God and God’s creation (catholic) and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all the world (apostolic).’ It is, in other words, to be a verb – to be in action – for the sake of God’s mission in the world” (RTCW, p. 16). Often, we think of the church as a building, when in reality “the church is the people of God, who are being transformed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. That means the church is wherever the people are: out on the streets, at work every single day, trying to be the very best church we can be, letting God use us to bring reconciliation and wholeness to this world that God loves so much” (RTCW, p. 46).

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.



Summer Choir Practice Each Sunday Morning at 10:20 AM in the Sanctuary. Everyone is Welcome!