



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Growing With Faith Update

I want to thank everyone who is working on the Facilities Expansion Task Force and everyone who has given ideas and support to this project. Even though it may be hard to see, the Task Force has made significant progress over the last several months and I am excited about the possibilities that are before us in the near future.

Based on the Congregation's decisions at our December 2007 Congregational meeting, the Facilities Expansion Task Force has moved ahead in a number of areas. Our Special Use Permit request has been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. The Blacksburg Town Council is scheduled to take up our request at their May 13th meeting. A septic designer has surveyed our site, designed the needed expansion of our septic system and that design has been submitted to the County Health Department for approval. Our architect, Tom Koontz, has begun working on construction documents for the possible addition and the Task Force has begun to discuss specific elements of the design.

In April, the Task Force interviewed several contractors and selected Lionberger Construction to join our building team. In a Team-Build process, the contractor is selected while the plans are being developed and their expertise is used to help develop the plans in a way that streamlines construction and reduces costs. Lionberger is currently working with Tom Koontz on a detailed cost estimate for our addition.

Once we have a decision on the Special Use Permit from the Town and detailed cost information from Lionberger, the Task Force will make a recommendation to the Council about proceeding with the project. The council will then schedule a congregational meeting to present that information and discuss the congregation's options. I look forward to the next steps in this process as we continue to grow in faith and ministry at St. Michael.

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 Joanne Pascoe, Becca Perez, Jeff Birch, Jeanette Pasier, Ray Howell, Tommy Howell, Ben Templeton, Fran Shepherd and Pastor John for participating in the spring clean-up at church; Amy Woods for her program for the April WELCA meeting and Betty Gross for hosting the meeting; Shirley Linkous and Linda Elliott for helping with newsletter mailings and folding bulletins.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in April supported our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministry staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In April, we provided assistance with electric bills for six families, a water bill for one family, and a gas card for an eighth 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.

Partnerships with Kroger and Food Lion

Kroger Cares gift cards are still available for purchase for \$25. Five percent (5%) of all purchases using the gift card are deposited to the Justice and Mercy Fund. We have also partnered with Food Lion to have a portion of our grocery purchases returned to the Justice and Mercy Fund each quarter. All we have to do is register our 12-digit Food Lion MVP card numbers. Forty members have already registered for the program. Members can also register their MVP card with the LionShop & Share program at www.foodlion.com. See Sandy Birch to participate in either of these partnerships.

Congratulations to ...

Olivia Hodge who was the first female “over the line” at the Hokies for Hope Race on April 19 and David Hodge who won the 6 and under boys age group. The race raised funds for the American Cancer Society.

Some thank you notes

Thank you St. Michael Lutheran Church for helping to make the International Street Fair on April 5 a wonderful event! By allowing the Albanian Student Association and ASHA for Education group to cook in your kitchen, you helped make the street fair possible. We appreciate your support. Sincerely, the Cranwell International Center and the Council of International Student Organizations

Thank you for providing lovely flowers for our hospice patients. It makes them “extra special” that they have come from Sunday’s altar. Sincerely, Good Samaritan Hospice

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May Servants

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Acolytes	Sarah Crowder	Olivia Hodge	Matthew Pasier	Elizabeth Berg
Altar Care	Hank and Alice Schneider			
Comm. Assts.	Randy Robinson	Karen Mayer	Alice Schneider	
Christ's Kids	Tacey Apisa	Jody Smiley	Andrea Robinson	Michelle Berg
Youth Servants	MaKayla Dowdy	Lexi and Carlie Simmers	Matt and Will Sharpe	Cam Nagle
9 a.m. Greeters 11 a.m. Greeters	William Allen and Henderson Linkous		Petersons	Shirley Linkous
	Randy, Sharon and Lauren Robinson			
Lay Readers	Leslie Bland	Sunday School	Nancy Franz	Becca Perez
9 a.m. Worship Asst.	Lori Anne Kirk	Margaret Larsen Katie Garst	Ted Peterson	Fred Spengler
Ushers	Ray Howell Jeff Birch David Hillis Joanne Pascoe	Sunday School Roscoe Turman	Philip Isenhour Jeff and Kelley Robinson Mickey McGuigan	Jay Nagle Burn and Betty Gross Dickie Shepherd

Weed Patrol: Week ending 5/10: Matt Belue; 5/24: Jeff Birch

Women of the ELCA

The annual **Sisters in Christ luncheon** will be held on Sunday, May 4, in the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. service. We are all sisters in Christ and all are welcome. Invite a neighbor, daughter, sister-in-law, friend to share in the food, fun and fellowship. Beverages and dessert will be provided for this salad potluck luncheon. A love offering in honor of Betty Gross, Thelma Hylton and Jane Lane, our WELCA “founding mothers” will be collected for a special Roanoke College Scholarship.



Remember the Food Bank: May is “Italian month” -- bring spaghetti sauce, and pasta, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Women’s Resource Center: In May, we’ll collect baby supplies.

Happy Go Lucky Luncheon

We will gather together on Thursday, May 8, at 11:30 a.m. to share a meal, enjoy friendship and discuss “filling in the dash”. Come on Thursday to find out what that means. ☺

Let’s go traveling....



**OKs
on the Go!**

Our first adventure this spring will be a trip to the WDBJ television station on May 15. The one hour walking tour will go behind the scenes and take in the production of “Your Hometown Station” news. Lunch will be on our own at the Roanoke Restaurant featuring southern style foods. We will have time to visit the downtown Farmers Market too. **The registration deadline is May 8.** The cost of transportation is \$9. We will depart from the Gables shopping mall at 8:30 a.m. and return by 2:30 p.m. Invite friends and family members to come along for the ride. We need a minimum of 8 travelers for the trip; a maximum of 20.

Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for all six trips planned for this year are available on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

On March 30, twenty-four **OKs (Older Kids)** met for dinner at the Southern Oven in Blacksburg. After sharing fine food and lively conversations, the over 50 bunch is looking forward to our next gathering this summer. Watch for details in future newsletters and bulletins and on the bulletin board (at the OK Corral).



Youth Night on May 21

All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesday, May 21 for our annual adventure to the miniature golf course.

Vacation Bible School for Youth and Adults

The fun begins on Sunday, June 8 and continues through Thursday, June 12. Each night will begin with a light supper at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:15 p.m.

**Come and be a part of
POWER LAB Vacation Bible
School
June 8 through 12**



Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on May 4

Everyone interested in helping with Vacation Bible School is invited to a planning meeting and training session on Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m. Come learn more about Power Lab and prepare for Vacation Bible School. For more information, please talk with Jody Smiley.

Christian Questions, Lutheran Answers - Adult Sunday School Class

The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday morning. Each week will focus on a different question. In May, the questions discussed will be:

- May 4 What Do Lutherans Believe about the 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'?
- May 11 What Do Lutherans Believe about the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit'?
- May 18 What is the Trinity?
- May 25 What is the Kingdom of God?

Learn about Zaccheus on May 18

Come and learn about Zaccheus and what Christ's compassion for Zaccheus means for us today. This discussion on Luke 19:1-10 will be on Sunday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. For more information, please talk to Pastor John.

**Come aboard the Friend Ship
on Sunday, May 4 at noon for
the annual Sisters in Christ luncheon.**

Bring a salad to share...and a friend, mother, sister, aunt, daughter....

Dinner with Friends Gatherings on May 17

The Dinner with Friends group for 20, 30 and 40 somethings will gather at the home of Jeff and Andrea Robinson on May 17 at 6 p.m. Child care will be provided at the church. Check the bulletin for more information.

Take me out to the ballgame....



The team invites everyone out to the Tom's Creek softball field on Monday nights for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better.

May 5 vs. Blacksburg United Methodist at 9:15 p.m.

May 12 vs. Dwelling Place at 7:15 p.m.

May 19 vs. Good Shepherd Baptist at 6:15 p.m.

May 26 vs. Slusser's Chapel at 8:15 p.m.

Relay for Life

When: Friday, May 16th 7:00 pm through Saturday, May 17th 9:00 am

Where: Christiansburg High School Track

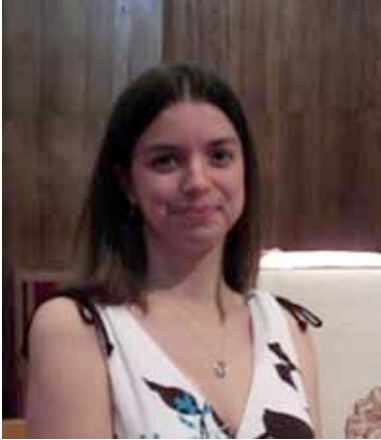
Ways to support the event to fight cancer: 1) donate money (checks can be made out to the American Cancer Society; 2) donate \$10 for a luminaria to honor or remember those with cancer (checks made out to ACS and the name of the cancer person and the donor/message; 3) join our relay team; 4) attend the event. Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz (951-1393) will be happy to accept your donation and/or to sign you up to participate.

Ministry Team Meetings in May

VBS Planning Team	May 4	2 p.m.
Worship Committee	May 4	5 p.m.
Caring and Sharing Team	May 4	6 p.m.
Facilities Expansion Task Force	May 11	6 p.m.
Congregational Council	May 11	7 p.m.

Welcome to the Family!

On Sunday, April 27, we welcomed new members to the St. Michael family during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.



Becca Perez came to Blacksburg from Richmond in Fall 2000 to attend Virginia Tech where she received her degree in Psychology. She now works full time in Annual Giving at Virginia Tech. She is married to Matt Perez who is studying for his Mechanical Engineering degree at Tech while working full time for the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). Becca enjoys playing with their two dogs, playing her flute, bicycle riding, reading and completing logic puzzles.

Ben Templeton grew up in rural southwestern Virginia before moving to Blacksburg about five years ago. He is currently finishing up a Master's degree in Forestry at Virginia Tech and plans to continue his education with a PhD in plant or forest ecology. He enjoys doing just about anything that takes him outdoors – especially hiking, mountain biking, and garden or yard work – reading, playing piano, and cooking. He devotes much of his free time, however, to raising his 5 year old son, Sean.



The Gay family has been attending St. Michael since the summer of 2006 after moving from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Suzanne began her duties as St. Michael's administrative assistant in January. Keith is in the Air Force and teaches Air Force ROTC at Virginia Tech. Their daughter, Leah, is a sophomore at Blacksburg High School and son, John, is a sophomore at the College of William and Mary. As Virginia Tech graduates, Suzanne and Keith enjoy attending Hokie sporting events.



Sandy Williams was born and raised in Easton, Pennsylvania but lived in the City of Fairfax for 22 years prior to moving to Blacksburg in November 2007. She and her husband Howard have two daughters, Alicia and Krista, both Virginia Tech students. Sandy was a registered nurse for 33 years and is currently working for Montgomery County Schools as a substitute nurse. Her hobbies include having a warped sense of humor (which gets you through life's dark moments), cooking, baking, and furniture refinishing.

J.C. and Amelia Martin were married at Mountain Lake in August 2007. J.C. is from Christiansburg and owns his own excavating company, Haynes Backhoe. He loves to hunt and be outdoors. Amelia is originally from Wytheville and has taught at Christiansburg Middle School for the past three years. She also likes to be outdoors and being with friends and family.



Jennie and Ben Kelly moved to Blacksburg three years ago from Radford. Ben is originally from Roanoke and Jennie is from Goodview. She is an academic advisor for the University Studies department at Virginia Tech. Ben and Jennie enjoy watching TV, spending time with friends and family, and attending concerts and live wrestling events. They are excited about joining St. Michael's softball team and participating in the variety of activities offered at the church.



Congratulations Graduates



Ten members of our St. Michael family will be graduating this spring and will be recognized before the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 18 and at a reception sponsored by the Women of the ELCA following the service.

Our graduates from Christiansburg High School are Daniel Crowder, Justin Dolph, Beth Ann Harris and Isaac Nagle. Our Blacksburg High School graduates are Lauren Robinson and Kelsey Trimble. University graduates include Angie Dolph who will graduate with a masters degree in Forensic Science from Marshall University, Sarah Worley who will receive her B.S. degree in Psychology from Virginia Tech, Paul Harris who will graduate from Radford University, and Katie Wright who will graduate from Radford University with an M.S. in Communications Sciences and Disorders.