



# St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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## Facilities Expansion Recommendations on July 20

Over the last year, St. Michael has undergone a careful process to assess our current facilities, to determine what additional facilities are needed to support our growing ministry and to investigate the cost of adding the needed space. With the help of our architect, Tom Koontz, and input from the congregation, a Classroom Addition has been designed. The Classroom Addition will have seven new classrooms and new restrooms. The new classrooms will provide enough space for existing ministries, like Sunday School, and allow for future ministry growth. In addition to the classrooms, we plan to add a new playground and a new free standing storage building. If you would like to see the latest floor plan, go to: <http://www.st-michael-lutheran-church.org/facilities-expansion/> and click on the link for the “June 8<sup>th</sup> Update”.

The construction documents for the proposed addition are now in the hands of our contractor, Lionberger Construction, and they are beginning to estimate the cost for construction. After getting feedback from Lionberger, the Council will make a recommendation to the congregation about how to proceed. The recommendation will be considered at the Congregational Meeting on July 20 at 10 a.m. The congregation will receive an update on the progress of the project and any recommendations from the Council on Sunday, July 13 during the “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch. If you have any questions about the Facilities Expansion project or the next steps in the process, please talk to me or to anyone on the Congregational Council or Facilities Expansion Task Force.

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 Carol Crawford who cleaned the kitchen; Lori Anne Kirk who shared God’s Word at our two worship services on June 29; Shirley Linkous, Margaret Larsen, and Linda Elliott for helping with newsletter mailings; Jody Smiley and Bryan Katz for representing St. Michael at the Virginia Synod Assembly.

### **Because of your gifts**

Your generous gifts in June provided materials for Vacation Bible School, four college scholarships, a new stove and microwave for the kitchen, professional landscaping work, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, and salaries for our ministerial staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** contributed to electric bills for five families and food for a sixth family. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need. We recently received a check for our donated ink cartridges. Please note that the company does not reimburse us for “refilled” cartridges.

### **Some thank you notes**

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Thank you for honoring me with one of the St. Michael Scholarships. Your award will help me complete an internship with the Infant and Toddler Connection of the New River Valley during June and July. In this work, I will learn about planning, instruction, case management, and transition for infants and toddlers with special needs in our community. This perspective will help me understand the continuum of services my young learners with special needs in first grade may have received since birth. Again, many thanks for helping me enrich my knowledge and experiences in Early Childhood Special Education.*

*Peace and prayers to you all, Carol Bland*

*Dear St. Michael,*

*Thank you for the scholarship towards my college education. I will try my hardest to put it to good use. Once again, many thanks, and may peace be with you.*

*Sincerely, Daniel M. Crowder*

*To the St. Michael Community,*

*Thank you so much for your support of the Montgomery County Relay for Life! Our team, with your help, raised \$7,300 and the event raised over \$128,000! Together we will continue to fight cancer.*

*Thank you, Nancy Franz, Bill Gahnz and Becky Halvorson*

*Dear St. Michael Family,  
Thank you for considering and awarding me a St. Michael Scholarship. It is truly appreciated and will be a great help in the fall when I start my next level of learning at Radford University. Thanks for all of your support over my childhood and being the wonderful church I call home. I am so lucky to have you all in my life. Thanks again and God Bless!*

*Love, Lauren G. Robinson*

*Dear Pastor Wertz,  
We at the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry wish to acknowledge receipt of and express gratitude for your church's gift to the Pantry. It is supporters such as yourselves that enable this Pantry to provide assistance to those families in need in Blacksburg. Thank you.  
Sincerely, Vern Simpson*

*To the People of God at St. Michael Lutheran Church,  
We give thanks to God for the steadfast generosity of congregations like yours. Your most recent support enabled us to invite the community to an excellent presentation on Grief Services.... This was well received by the community and has helped us reach out to more people. May God continue to bless your congregation. (Note: St. Michael is one of Grace's Mission Partners. We contribute \$100 per month to help support this mission congregation.)*

*Peace. Rev. Paul Walters, Grace Lutheran Church*

*Dear St. Michael Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your recent gift of \$472.59 to the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. (note: this was our Lenten Offering for Tornado Relief). Through your gift, you provide emergency hardship assistance, help restore homes and livelihoods, and offer spiritual and emotional care to survivors. You make it possible for volunteers to connect with the communities where they are most needed.....As we work together to respond to the needs of our neighbors, we answer Jesus' call to "go and do likewise." (Luke 10:37)  
In Christ's service, Kathryn Sime, Director*

### **Congratulations to....**

**Lauren Robinson**, a recent graduate of Blacksburg High School, who received the Distinguished Athlete Award from the U.S. Marine Corps and an Academic Excellence Award for maintaining a grade point average of at least 3.5 for all four years.

**Ann and Dave Surface** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 14 at a gathering of family and friends.

**Angie Dolph and Jarod Spessard** who were married on June 21.

**Jody Smiley** who was elected to represent the Virginia Synod as a Voting Member of the 2009 ELCA Assembly.

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2308 Merrimac Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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## *July Servants*

	<b>July 6</b>	<b>July 13</b>	<b>July 20</b>	<b>July 27</b>
<i>Acolytes</i>	Olivia Hodge	Will Sharpe	Sarah Crowder	Andrew Bales
<i>Altar Care</i>	Burn and Betty Gross			
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Lorin Crowder		Randy Robinson	
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Kris Wertz	Andrea Robinson	Tacey Apisa	Katie Wright
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Corson and Parker Wertz	Matt Sharpe	Carlie Simmers	
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Fred Spengler	Sandy Birch	Keith Gay	Margaret Larsen
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Steve & Amy Woods Dianne & Judy	Judith Wolfe & Sandy Williams Dianne & John Krallman		Shirley & Angie
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Hank Schneider	Becca Perez	Nancy Franz	Doug Veit
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Ray Howell Don Linkous Dickie Shepherd	Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle Burn Gross	Ben and Grace Simmers David Hillis Philip Isenhour	Dave and Ann Surface Jeff Birch Hank Schneider

Weed control: Week ending July 5 – Jennie Hodge; July 19 – Jay Nagle  
Mowing schedule: Doug Smiley – front on 7/5; Sam Akers – back on 7/12; Jim Clemens – front on 7/19; Jay Nagle – back on 7/26  
Rear lot: David Hills – 7/7; Jeff Crowder – 7/14; Dave Surface – 7/21; Tom Hodge – 7/28

## Women of the ELCA

The women of the congregation are cordially invited to the 21<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA. The theme of the convention is "Rivers of the Living Waters through Baptism" and will be held at the Sheraton Park South Hotel in Richmond, VA. Registration information is posted on the VSWO website at [www.vsw.org](http://www.vsw.org). Jody Smiley (VSWO President), Alice Schneider, Karen Mayer and Jennie Hodge will be attending and can provide additional information also.



**Meet Rose Kidabing from Papua New Guinea** on Wednesday evening, July 23 at the church. Karen Mayer will be hosting Rose during her visit to Blacksburg and the VSWO convention. We'll share a meal, worship together and get to know our sister from the Virginia Synod's Companion Synod. Additional information will be forthcoming in the Sunday church bulletins.

**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.

## O.K.s (Older Kids) on the Go



On Saturday, July 19, we can bring out lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon of bluegrass and southern gospel music at Dominion Valley Park in Stuart. Easter Brothers, Chuck Wagon Gang, and the Primitive Quartet will perform some favorite gospel tunes. Participants will pay the \$15 admission fee. The registration deadline is July 14 and the cost for transportation is \$10. Registration forms and a "travel brochure" for the remaining trips are available on the hallway bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or [birch@vt.edu](mailto:birch@vt.edu)) for more information about this Montgomery Parks and Recreation trip.

On Thursday, August 7, we will travel to Abington for the Virginia Highlands Festival and enjoy more than 100 exhibitors of antiques, arts & crafts, and gardening. The registration deadline is August 1 and the cost of transportation is \$12. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board.

## Mission Trip Planning Meeting on July 6

St. Michael is considering a mission trip to New Orleans. The first planning meeting will be held on Sunday, July 6 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

## **“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on July 13 at 10:00 a.m**

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, July 13 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch at St. Michael. In addition to the food and fellowship, the Facilities Expansion Task Force will be providing an update on the proposed *Phase 1 – Classroom Addition*.



### **Welcome to the St. Michael family**

On Sunday, July 22, we welcomed Maggie and Chris Maloney and Anna Rossomando to our St. Michael family.

### **Christmas in July**

On Sunday, July 27, 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 is no tree to put up and no lights to hang..... just the celebration of Christ’s birth and the joy of Christmas!

**Christmas in July Mission Project:  
5500 Minutes of Prepaid Phone Cards  
for American Service Members Overseas**



We’d like to give the gift of phone calls home to help American service members overseas. Our goal is to raise money to purchase prepaid calling cards designed specifically for getting the best rate to call home from overseas. If we collect \$1,045 during our celebration of Christmas in July, we will be able to purchase 5500 minutes of phone card time. We will have a collection after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on July 27 and will accept donations earmarked “Phone Cards” during the month of July. If you have any questions please see Jennie Hodge.

St. Michael will also sponsor a **trip to the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater on Sunday, November 30, for the annual Christmas show**. The cost will be \$36 for the show and four-course lunch and we’ve already reserved the best seats in the house. Let’s just hope we won’t be snowed/iced out this year as we were last year – twice!

Please make your reservation on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form in the church bulletin. We only have 22 tickets and will be carpooling to the event. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Birch. Payment will not be due until October.

## Vacation Bible School a Great Success



Thank you to all the teachers and helpers at Vacation Bible School. Over 40 youth and adults enjoyed learning about God's power for our lives.



## 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, Kipps 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.

## Summer Sunday School Schedule

During the summer, St. Michael's regular Sunday School takes a break. Three short courses for adults will be taught by Pastor John over the course of the summer beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided.

July 27	Nurturing Faith
August 17 and 24	Sharing Faith

## Bible Study on the Apostle Peter

Come learn more about the ministry and witness of the Apostle Peter on Sunday, July 20 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. The Bible study will focus on Peter in Luke 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-33; Matthew 16:13-20; Luke 22:54-62; and Acts 9:32-43. Directions to the Wertz home can be found on the shelf in the front hallway.

## Take me out to the ballgame....

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

July 7 at 6:15 p.m. vs. Blacksburg Baptist

July 8 at 7:15 p.m. vs. Dwelling Place

July 14 at 8:15 p.m. vs. Centennial Christian



The Tournament begins on Monday, July 21.



## Sing, sing, sing.....on Sunday, July 20

On Sunday, July 20, everyone who loves to sing "Praise and Worship" songs will gather after the 11 a.m. worship service. We will share a lunch together and just sing, sing, sing.....

## Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Michael!

This September, the St. Michael family will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To enrich the celebration, we are collecting pictures and other memories from our past. This includes video recording stories from members of the two Lutheran churches, St. Mark's and New St. Peter's, who joined together to form St. Michael in 1968. **If you have pictures to share, please contact Sandy Birch.** All photos will be returned after the celebration.

If you are celebrating a "40<sup>th</sup>" event this year such as a birthday or anniversary, please also contact Sandy.

## Power in the Spirit on July 10-12 at Roanoke College

God Gives! We Care! We Share! The emphasis this year is answering God's call to share and care for all the bounties He bestows upon us so abundantly and freely. The keynote speaker is Rev. Charles Lane, Director for Stewardship Key Leader, ELCA, and author of the book *Ask, Thank, Tell*. The first 275 registrants will receive a free copy of Rev. Lane's book. Registration information is available on the hallway bulletin board and on our web site. The Synod has waved the late registration fee.