



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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Volume 31, Number 8

August 1, 2008

Value Engineering and Changing Rates

I recently learned the phrase, “Value Engineering.” Value Engineering is the process of working through the design of a building to remove a few things and change a few things in order to build the facility you need, for a price you can afford. Once we discovered that our proposed facility expansion was going to cost more than we anticipated, the Facilities Expansion Task Force and the Congregational Council quickly met with our architect and contractor to begin the value engineering process. After a great deal of hard work by everyone involved, we have come up with a plan that preserves the basic floor plan of the building, removes a few unnecessary items and delays non-critical elements that can be added later. For example, we removed the collapsible walls from two of the rooms. We will leave the structural supports in place, so that the collapsible walls can be installed at a later date, but by making that one change we will save nearly \$20,000. Now that the modifications have been agreed upon, our builder is releasing that information to the subcontractors and hopefully we will have a clear idea of the cost of the building to discuss at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 17 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

The Council decided to go ahead and call a Congregational Meeting on August 17 because we discovered that loan rates are increasing by 0.25% on loans closed after August 20. If we are not able to obtain reliable pricing information by August 17, we will reschedule the Congregational Meeting for another date, but since August 17 is the last day we can take action and still secure a loan at the lower rate, the Council decided to call the meeting so we can act if we are ready. As soon as additional information is available, we will share it with the congregation. If you have any questions about the process, please talk to me or to one of the Task Force or Council members.

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 God has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To Alice Schneider, Sandie Worley and Sandy Birch for transforming our altar flowers into vases of flowers for hospice patients; Jennie Hodge and Alice Schneider for representing our WELCA unit at the annual convention in Richmond; Katie Katz, Becca Perez and Donita Moore for providing beautiful flute music for our worship service; the Moehling/Belue family for donating dozens of Veggie Tales videos to our library; the Caring and Sharing team for setting up our "Second Sunday" summer brunches.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in July provided 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 three families and purchased gas for another family. 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 Friends at St. Michael Lutheran Church,
The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) thanks you for your generous monthly contribution of \$260 and your one time gift of \$1,500 in May. Contributions such as yours enable MCEAP to have a significant impact in the lives of many of our friends and neighbors at a time when they are unable to help themselves.
Sincerely, Margaret C. Zelinski, Treasurer, MCEAP*

*Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Michael Lutheran Congregation!
We have received your most generous commitment and support for the work of the Virginia Synod and the wider Church through the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation. . . . We thank you so much for your obvious partnership and your making every effort possible to extend the mission and ministry of the Church so that the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ might be known in word and deed.
We pledge to you our prayers for you and your congregation in its mission and ministry, and give thanks to God that you are our letter of recommendation as ambassadors of Christ in your parish setting.
You are a leader in our synod, in our journey together. Your giving lifts our spirit and makes a difference for the sake of the world.
Yours in Christ,
The Rev. James F. Mauney, Bishop; Charles Poston, Vice-President;
and Adolph Moller, Treasurer*

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August Servants

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
<i>Acolytes</i>	Katy McGuigan	Sarah Crowder	Matthew Pasier	Will Sharpe	Corson Wertz
<i>Altar Care</i>	Bob and Peggy Brown				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>			Hank Schneider		
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Jane McGuigan	Michelle Berg	Jody Smiley	Andrea Robinson	Kris Wertz
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Carlie Simmers	Katherine Berg	Lexi Simmers	Matt Sharpe	Andrew Bales
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Keith Gay	Sandy Birch	Lori Anne Kirk	Jen Daskal	Margaret Larsen
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Shirley/Angie Linkous Clifton/Fay Walters		Ben/Carol Crawford		
	Hank and Alice Schneider		Joanne Pascoe and Grace Simmers		
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Mickey McGuigan	Loren Crowder	Katie Katz	Carrie Mayer	Fred Spengler
<i>Ushers</i>	David Hillis Ray Howell Sam Akers Burn Gross	Dickie Shepherd Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle	Ben and Grace Simmers Roscoe Turman Jeff Birch	Bob and Peggy Brown J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Isenhour Linkous Pascoe Birch

Weed control: Week ending Aug. 2 – Ben Templeton; Aug. 16 – Sam Akers; Aug. 30 – Matt Belue

Mowing schedule: Doug Smiley – front on 8/2; Sam Akers – back on 8/9; Jim Clemens – front on 8/16; Jay Nagle – back on 8/23; Doug Smiley – front on 8/30

Rear lot: David Hills – 8/4; Jeff Crowder – 8/11; Dave Surface – 8/18; Tom Hodge – 8/25

Women of the ELCA

Ladies Night Out will be Thursday, August 14, at the Kabuki restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Alice Schneider (552-6995) or check the box on the “Welcome to St. Michael” form if you will be attending. This is always a fun fellowship event; bring a friend, neighbor, or family member.



Remember the Food Bank: August is “boxes of macaroni and cheese” month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

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

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



On Thursday, August 7, we’re going on a trip to the Virginia Highlands Festival in Abington to enjoy more than 100 exhibitors of antiques, arts & crafts, and gardening. Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for the remaining trips are available on the hallway bulletin board. **Spaces are still available on the Chrismon trip to Ascension Lutheran Church in Martinsville. Please note the new date for this trip is Monday, December 15.** Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information about our Montgomery Parks and Recreation trips.

All O.K.s are invited to a **potluck dinner on Saturday, August 9, at 6 p.m. at the home of Hank and Alice Schneider.** Bring a favorite dish and enjoy some fine fellowship on Hank and Alice’s patio. Directions to the Schneider home are on the shelf in the hallway. Call Sandy Birch if you need a ride.

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! We only have 22 tickets (at publication, there were a few tickets remaining) and will be carpooling to the event. If you want to reserve a place, contact Sandy Birch. Payment will not be due until October.

“Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on August 10 at 10:00 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of St. Michael’s “Second Sunday” Summer Brunch on Sunday, August 10 at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share and come enjoy brunch and fine family fellowship at St. Michael.

Summer Sunday School Schedule

During the summer, St. Michael's regular Sunday School takes a break. Pastor John will be teaching a one week course on Sharing Faith on August 24 beginning at 9:50 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Child care will be provided.

Backpack Blessing on August 17

With the school year preparing to start, St. Michael will have a Backpack Blessing as a part of worship on Sunday, August 17. 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.

Back to School Breakfast for the Teachers at Price's Fork Elementary



St. Michael will be providing a back to school breakfast for the teachers at Price's Fork on August 13. If you would be interested in helping, you can sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form in the bulletin.

St. Michael at the Price's Fork Fair

St. Michael will have a booth at the Price's Fork Fair on Friday, August 15 and Saturday, August 16. The booth will offer free games and face painting for kids, free Bibles for families 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.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame on August 22

St. Michael is going to a Salem Avalanche Game on Friday, August 22. The game begins at 7:07 p.m. Reserved Seat tickets are \$7 per person. Sign up on the "Welcome" form in the bulletin. The deadline for signing up is August 10.

New Library Books

New books on church history and spiritual development are being added to our library in August. If you haven't checked out the church library recently, come take a look.



Welcome to the St. Michael family

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

Chris and Maggie have spent a lot of time in Blacksburg (both are graduates of BHS) and are excited to be living here again since they got married in May 2006. Chris works for MOOG Inc., and Maggie is an elementary art teacher at Harding Avenue Elementary. They love to spend

time with friends, family, and their pets. In their spare time they really enjoy the outdoors and try to hike or camp whenever possible.

Anna moved to Blacksburg in 2003 and bought her house in Christiansburg last year. She works in the testing laboratory at Wolverine Advanced Materials at the Cedar Run plant. She likes to read, cook (we've already enjoyed her casseroles at the Happy-Go-Lucky luncheons), sew, do crafts, travel and hike (like Chris and Maggie). Add Anna's contact information to your directory: 1556 Firetower Rd, Christiansburg 24073; 639-3444; anna24062@hotmail.com.



Dinner with Friends Gatherings on May 17

The Dinner with Friends group for 20, 30 and 40 somethings will gather at the home of Rick and Carrie Mayer on Saturday, August 23 at 6 p.m. Child care will be provided at the church. Check the bulletin for more information.

Bible Study on John the Baptist

Come learn more about John the Baptist on Sunday, August 24 at 7 p.m. at the Wertz home. The Bible study will focus on Matthew 3:1-12, Luke 3:1-20 and Matthew 14:1-12. Directions to the Wertz home can be found on the shelf in the front hallway.

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.

Happy 40th Anniversary St. Michael!

This September, the St. Michael family will celebrate our 40th anniversary. To enrich the celebration, we are collecting pictures and other memories from our past. If you would like to work on some displays and scrapbooks, we will meet at St. Michael on Wednesday, August 13 beginning at 1 p.m. We could use some volunteers who might be able to recognize names and faces from our older photographs too. If you have any questions, or pictures to share, please contact Sandy Birch at 951-3455.

Softball team completes another fellowship-filled season



Back row: Ben Kelly, Doug Smiley, Jennie Kelly, Tim Turman, Rick Mayer, Tom Hodge, Travis Turman, Jeff Birch, Randy Robinson, Jim Weseloh
Front row: Jody Smiley, William Allen, Pastor John, Corson Wertz
Not pictured: Hank Schneider, Gary Fetter, Ben Templeton, Matt Belue

Christmas in July Mission Project Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas in July: Phone Cards for Soldiers mission project. With your help we were able to raise enough money to purchase thousands of minutes for soldiers overseas to be able to call home. We are still accepting donations to make our goal of 5500 minutes.

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 basket is in the narthex. Thank you.

“Youth Night” On the Move In September

St. Michael's Youth Night for youth from Kindergarten through 12th Grade will be moving to a new night and time beginning on Sunday, September 14 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pastor John will be leading the K through 5th grade group and Carrie Mayer will be leading a group for 6th through 12th grade. Make plans to be a part of the fun and learning.



Sunday School Returns September 7

Sunday School will return on Sunday, September 7 at 9:50 a.m. If enjoy working with youth and would like to be a part of a teaching team for the fall, please sign up on the “Welcome” sheet in the bulletin, or talk to Pastor John.

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.