

Volume 9, Issue 2

February 2018

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Send to:
smlcspublications@gmail.com



Pastor Jon Zehnder

Inside This Issue:

Top Events for the Month	2
Caring Ministries	3
Note from the Principal	4
Ministry Coordinator	5
DCE	6
Volunteer Schedules	7

Weekend Regular Worship

Sat: 5:30 pm	Informal
Sun: 8:00 am	Traditional
10:45 am	Blended
Sun: 9:15 am	Education Hour: <i>Kids Sunday School & Bible Classes.</i>



The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

In February our thoughts turn very naturally to LOVE! And what an incredible “God-incident” it is that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day this year! 1 John 3:16 says, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.” And John goes on to say in 4:9-10, “This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His One and Only Son into the world that we might live through Him, This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Now, it’s no surprise that everyone needs love; I mean, we all need love, but what we may not realize is that we all need to also **give** love as well. There is a famine in our world today that has left everyone starving for love. And beyond that, people have a need to feel forgiven, to experience security, and to have hope for the future; all of our other needs flow from these four.

And one of the things almost everyone comes to realize sooner or later is – **no one person can satisfy these needs.** Nobody can love you as much as you need to be loved; nobody can give you forgiveness like you need to feel forgiven; security doesn’t come from people, circumstances, or things; and hope has to be more than just another person saying that everything is going to work out all right, so don’t worry.

This great famine all around us, and maybe even in some of us, can only be quenched at one place – **the foot of the cross!** That’s the place where God said, “You are loved!” And it is only in the light of that love that you can begin to love yourself and start to reach out to others around you in love. People all around you are looking for love, forgiveness, security, and hope. Won’t you be the link in the chain that connects them to Jesus?

Lent Services Begin February 14th. Service Times: Noon and 7:00 p.m.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday	March 14 – Lenten Midweek 5
February 21 – Lenten midweek 2	March 21 – Lenten Midweek 6
February 28 – Lenten midweek 3	March 29 – Maundy Thursday
March 7 – Lenten Midweek 4	March 30 – Good Friday

March 25 – Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. in Gym, Barbecue to follow (Saturday March 24, 5:30 pm)

April 1 – Easter: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. (Saturday March 31, 5:30 pm)

Top Events for

February

- 2/5 — Council Meeting, 5:30pm
 2/6 — Middle School Youth Night, 6pm
 2/7 — Mission Board Meeting, 6:00pm
 2/10 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am
 2/11 — Edison Children's Parade, 2:30pm
 2/12 — Adult Pickup Basketball, 7-9pm
 2/13 — PTL Meeting, 6pm
 2/14 — Ash Wednesday Service, 12pm & 7pm
 2/15 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
 2/15 — Board of Christian Education Meeting, 12pm
 2/16 — Grandparents Day at SMLS, 9am-Noon
 2/17 — Edison Pageant of Light Grand Parade, 7pm
 2/18 — Blood Drive, 8:30am-1pm
 2/19 — Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm
 2/21 & 28 — Midweek Lent Services, 12pm & 7pm
 2/25 — **Voters Meeting, 9:15am (between services)**
 2/26 — Adult Pickup Basketball, 7-9pm
 2/26 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
 *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm DivorceCare Ministry Meetings
 *Saturdays, 10am-Noon, Griefshare Ministry Meetings

Voter's Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 25 will be a voter's meeting during the Sunday School hour for our adult members from 9:15-10:30 in the Anderson/Eichler Building. We will still have Sunday School for kids but adults classes will attend the voter's meeting.

Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, you can give \$250 or \$500 without spending any of your own money. Contact me to see how you can partner with a fundraiser, service project, or an educational Thrivent Action Team. Those who have Choice Dollars can also direct them for the 2017 tax year up until Mar. 31, 2018.

Hurricane Irma

Interior Painting Project

On Sat. Feb. 3 starting at 9 AM we will be painting the inside of Anita Dennis' house, which was hit hard during Hurricane Irma. Please contact me if you want to join this Action Team. 939-1218 x237 or Lori.Schwan@smlcs.org

Diaper Drive 2018

Healthy Start is a not-for-profit government grant, funded by the state of Florida. The program was established to address infant death rates, the rising numbers of low birth babies, and to improve health & developmental outcomes for young children. There is no cost for this program.

St. Michael will be collecting diapers for Healthy Start in the narthex during the month of **FEBRUARY**.

Any size diapers are appreciated, sizes 1-3 are needed the most.

Also accepting wipes, powders, lotions, etc.

Collection boxes will be available in February. Thank you for supporting Healthy Start!



Women's Bible Study: Anxious for Nothing

Do you feel weighed down with worry? You can still join Lori Schwan and about 15 women for Max Lucado's Bible Study: Anxious for Nothing. We explore God's treatment plan found in Philippians 4:4-8. They meet on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Art Room. After they wrap up on Feb. 8, they will be studying women of the Bible.

The Board of Christian Education meets on the following Thursdays at noon:

February 15
 March 15
 April 19
 May 17
 June 14



From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold*****Family**

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27”

I believe there is nothing more powerful on Earth than family. It is the single most influential force for good (or for evil) in all human existence. From birth, it marks you. Your family crafts your conscience and shapes your soul. At home you learn life's lessons and begin the art of practicing them. At home you learn to love and to do what's right. More than merely giving you a street address, your home and family imprint you with a spiritual and sexual identity shaped by the two people who gave you life. Truly, nothing compares to the strength of being tightly wrapped in the protective fiber of family. It's who you are. It's where you belong.

And if all goes well—as it should—it is your family that surrounds you when you start life's journey, when you face life's hardest trials, when you go through the valleys and when you die. More than anyone else, the members of your family are the ones who are there for you, caring for you and mourning the loss of you when you're gone.

This should come as no surprise, because God created the family. At the very dawn of time, "God created man in His own image,... male and female He created them." Of all the ways He could have chosen to inaugurate His creation, He chose to start with family. In fact, the Bible begins with a marriage in Genesis and ends with a marriage in Revelation. Marriage and family have always been central to what God is doing on planet Earth.

I believe family is still of utmost importance to our heavenly Father. It holds the key to our health, our success as a society, and our future. And I believe it is worth whatever effort is required to nurture, encourage and support it. In what ways past and present has God blessed your life through your family? Thank God for the gift of your family, regardless of its inadequacies and failures.

Source: Dennis Rainey, MOMENTS with YOU, www.familylifetoday.com

***Lutheran Church Extension Fund******Joni Zehnder***

What is LCEF? LCEF is Lutheran Church Extension Fund, a financial organization for investments, loans, and ministry support. January 27-28th was LCEF weekend at St. Michael, when Daniel Reichard and his teammates visited our campus, worshipped with us, and shared the vision and opportunities LCEF has to offer out church, school, families, and individuals. I now serve as St. Michael's Congregational Advocate, which means I'm here to help provide information and direction for ways LCEF can serve St. Michael and its people. In the months to come, watch LCEF in the newsletter where you'll learn more about the Lutheran Church Extension Funds, the ways it has helped our ministry in the past, and opportunities for the future.

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

> florida-georgia district

From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal***Kati Miser***

As the season of Lent quickly approaches, we as Christians are drawn to the cross and its significance in our lives. How important is it for your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children to know about Jesus and His saving love? At Saint Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ. We provide parents with a strong Christian support network in a school-home partnership that assists them in fulfilling their responsibilities.



Let's create a BUZZ around town about our wonderful school! Post SMLS reviews on Facebook, Google, and other websites to help prospective families learn about Saint Michael. Please share your stories about the impact Saint Michael has had on your family. Thank you, also, for all the personal referrals to families, friends, and acquaintances. We are accepting new online applications for 2018-19 on our website.



To maintain the quality of our school, every five years we must go through a self-study and evaluation process that culminates with a visit from an outside team of educators. We are accredited by two nationally recognized agencies: the NLSA (National Lutheran School Association) and AdvancED. For the next year and a half, the staff will be working with seven different school quality factors. An accreditation team of SMLS staff, parents, board and church council members has been created to complete required surveys and accumulate examples of how Saint Michael fulfills all criteria for renewing our accreditation. Thanks in advance for your willingness to submit your input.

From the Board of Missions***Pat Ryan***

Thank you for all your prayers and donations of money and toys to our dear children in the DR. With the money sent, gifts and other necessities that the children needed were purchased in the DR. A big thank you to our Prayer Shawl ministry for the dolls and blankets that they made. Those items not needed by the school were given to police and firemen to give to children in crisis. Also, thank you to those who donated much needed suitcases. All of the large ones were filled and with toys, dolls and items needed by their police department.

We also attended the graduation of 250+ students from the New York Language School. These graduates are now fluent in English. Pastor Jon was the keynote speaker. There was also a little girl about 8 years old that spoke to us. She has been invited to speak at our Taste of the Dominican Luncheon on **March 18th**. This will be a fundraiser but no tickets will be sold. Donations will be accepted before and after the event. Those planning to attend must sign up ahead of time at the church so that there will be ample food.

Larry and I were Santa and Mrs. Claus in Moca, one of our newer sites. These children were selected by the principal to attend the party where they received gifts donated by HABA. Each had a picture taken with us. It was a wonderful day. We also met the mayor and later that day were Santa and Mrs. Claus at the park in front of the City Hall. There is a tiny permanently constructed building where we sat for 2 hours and saw about 200+ children. It was not planned that we saw so many children, but when they heard about Santa, parents who were in line called their friends. The children were all so cute. On the last evening we met Congressman Martinez and his wife. This was a real honor as he was one of the original supporters 20 years ago.

Have a happy, healthy and blessed new year.

~Pat Ryan, Board of Missions

From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

Jesus loving everyone is the sweetest news we will ever share. Since sweets are a HUGE part of this month, we decided the perfect theme for February would be SWEET SHOP!! We will hear the stories of how Jesus showed love to the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the unloved woman, and Peter. We want our preschoolers to grow up knowing that Jesus loves us all, no matter what, and He will never stop loving us.



Elementary Sunday School

God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Even when we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. Because of God's great love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Jesus personified kindness in the way He lived and interacted with the people He met. By treating others the way we want to be treated, we live out the way Jesus taught us to live.



Sunday School Nursery Reopening

We are excited to announce that after a few months of transition, we are once again staffing our church nursery during Sunday School for 0-2 year olds. We would like to have teams of 2 volunteers per week. Do you enjoy loving on little ones? Contact me to discuss volunteering once a month to help us complete our team! We have two weeks per month filled with volunteers and could use 1-2 more teams. 939-1218 x238 or Lori.schwan@smlcs.org

Acolyte and Crucifer Training

If you did not get to have your 3rd-12th Grader trained as an acolyte or crucifer, please contact me so we can make arrangements. For those already trained, please be sure to sign up via the Sign-up Genius that Eileen O'Hara sends out each month.

Faith Stepping Stones:

- **Father-Son Retreat for 5th-7th Grade:** God's Plan for a Man Feb. 9-10 at Riverside Retreat. Please pray for our Dads and their Sons.
- **Mother-Daughter Retreat for 5th-6th Grade:** God's Design for His Daughters – May 11-12. Watch your mailbox for invitation.



From the Director of Christian Education***Jack Proctor*****Saint Michael Youth Ministries**

★ **The Edison Parade is on February 17th. Purchase your parade seats today! Look for the Parade Seat sign outside all services** ★

Faith Stepping Stones

These Stepping Stone seminars are specifically designed for Parents and Teens with intentional topics for important points of life. These seminars support families to bring Christ to the center of their lives and to set up students for a lifelong faith. Questions? Want to sign up? Email

Jack.Proctor@gsmllcs.org

10th grade - "Enjoy the Ride." Parents and teens will learn to communicate with accountability and trust, to clarify expectations, to make responsible choices. **March 4th, 12-3 PM**

Summer Mission Trips!

★ **Fantastic opportunities to connect to God and serve His people!** ★

Middle School: Camp Luther Springs. - June 24th-29th

High School: Dominican Republic - June 9th-16th

FL-GA District Mission Trip to Fort Myers Beach - June 17th-22nd

Confirmation

We are taking St. Paul's advice to be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). We are starting out the year by learning about God's love through the 10 Commandments! Bring your Small Catechism and Bible (electronic or paper) with you each week in Room 48 from 9:15-10:30 AM.

High School Sunday School

Sunday Mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 with the wonderful Mrs. Sue and other high school students as they dive into God's Word to strengthen and grow them for the week ahead!

Middle School Breakaway

We play games, enjoy snacks, build community, and learn more about God together! We meet on select Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM in the Joy/Youth Room! Date's we'll meet. Feb.6, March 6, April 10, 24, May 8, 22.

High School Revive

Revive is a community of high school students coming together to support, encourage, learn, and laugh together centered on the truth of Christ. Join us on Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm in the youth room!


Adult Pickup Basketball

Lace up your sneakers for some fun and friendly exercise. We play a series of pickup basketball games on select Mondays, 7PM until everyone is tired (usually around 8:30-9). February 8 & 29.


Usher Schedule	
8:00 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
<p><i>Please contact the head usher if you are unable to serve as scheduled, or secure your own replacement. If YOU would like to serve as an usher, please contact the church office at 939-1218, and let us know which service you prefer.</i></p>	
February 4	
Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett
February 11	
Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Hannah Zinn Neil Meador
February 18	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston David Engstrom	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Marge Bennett Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry
February 25	
Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Ken Fritsch 997-2596 DD Schleicher Judy Ward Neil Meador
March 4	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson David Engstrom	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn

Church Greeters for February Sunday Services	
Feb 4	8:00 a.m. Bill & Elaine Armour 10:45 a.m. Marlene King
Feb 11	8:00 a.m. George & Linda Walker 10:45 a.m. Ron & Liz Ghormley
Feb 18	8:00 a.m. Bill & Polly Bryden 10:45 a.m. Ken & Darlene Fritsch
Feb 25	8:00 a.m. Keith & Donna Goulait 10:45 a.m. Woody & Nancy Jackemeyer

Coffee/Snack Volunteers for February ~ Sunday Services	
Feb 4	8:00 a.m. Yvonne Ritchie 10:45 a.m. Lisa Miller
Feb 11	8:00 a.m. John & Donna Carlson 10:45 a.m. <i>Need a Volunteer</i>
Feb 18	8:00 a.m. Kathie Truax 10:45 a.m. <i>Need a Volunteer</i>
Feb 25	8:00 a.m. Roger & Ruth Reppert 10:45 a.m. Ron & Chris Silc



We have openings in our February 2018 **Acolyte and Crucifer** schedule. Sign up today using **SignUp Genius!**





St. Michael Lutheran Church
3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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Return Service Requested

Sunday School & Bible Study Opportunities
9:15-10:30 AM

Sunday School

9:00 – 9:15am “Excite” (games)
9:15 – 9:30am “Engage” (opening)
9:30 – 10:30am

Individual Grade level Activities

Toddlers- 2 year olds
Preschool
Elementary
6th-8th Grade
9th-12th Grade

Adult Bible Studies

Bible Focused Friends
Parents of High School Students
Marriage Enrichment
Family Enrichment
Moms In Prayer
Pastor Zehnder’s Adult Bible Study

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

7:30 am Tuesday Men’s Bible Study,
.....6835 Porto Fino Cir, Suite #2, Mike Roach, 275-9233

10:00 am Thursday Women’s Bible Study,
..... led by Lori Schwan, in the Art Room

8:30 am Friday Men’s Bible Breakfast,
.....Pastor’s Conference Room

9:00 am Saturday.....Men’s Ministry/Bible Study
..... Education Bldg., Art Room. Call Lee Berchtold,
872-8999

4:15 pm SaturdayBible Study with Pastor Hubbard,
.....Education Bldg., north end, Classroom #48

9:15 am Sunday Pastor’s Bible Class,
..... Cafeteria

