

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

Send to:
smlcpublications@gmail.com



Pastor Jon Zehnder

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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>



Happy
Mother's
Day

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

You know, there's just something about Moms! My Mom left her "fingerprint" on the hearts, lives and memories of my siblings, on me, my Dad (and many others by the way). She was, and still is, a gift to us from God!

Maybe you've seen this list before, it's about *Signs of an Experienced Mom* and it goes like this:

- You count the sprinkles on each child's cupcake to make sure they're equal;
- You hide in the bathroom just to get some time alone;
- Your child spits up and you catch it;
- Someone else's child spits up nearby and you keep right on eating;
- You've mastered the art of placing large amounts of scrambled eggs and pancakes on the same plate without anything "touching"
- You're fearless in accepting your child's invitation to drink from their cup even though there are visible "floaters";
- You hope ketchup counts as a vegetable because it is the only one your child eats;
- You con your child into thinking that "Toys-R-Us" is a toy museum and not really a store;
- You hear your parents' voice when it's you who screams, "Not in THOSE clothes you don't!"
- You hire a sitter because you and your husband haven't been out in ages and then you spend half the night calling home to check on the kids;
- You start cutting up your husband's food!

I'm sure you can think of other things to add to this list, but here's the main one – when God wanted to convince the people of Israel of His undying, unending love for them the example He used was a Mother's love (Isaiah 49:15). A Mom's love is self-sacrificing and other-centered, it is unconditional and unrelenting. **So Mom, thanks for giving us a picture of God's love by the way you love us! Happy Mother's Day!**

Top Events for



- 5/6 — *Blood Drive at SMLC, 8:30am-12:30pm*
 5/7 — *Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm*
 5/7 — *Properties Board Meeting, 6:30pm*
 5/7 — *Adult Pickup Basketball, 7-9pm*
 5/8 — *Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm*
 5/10 — *St. Michael Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, 5-7pm*
 5/12 — *LWML Meeting, 10:30am*
 5/13 — **MOTHER'S DAY**
 5/14 — *Adult Pickup Basketball, 7-9pm*
 5/15 — *PTL Meeting, 6:00pm*
 5/17 — *Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9:00am*
 5/17 — *Board of Christian Education Meeting, 12pm*
 5/19 — *SMLS Fishin' with a Mission Tournament*
 5/21 — *Stephen Ministry Meeting, 6:30pm*
 5/21 — *Adult Pickup Basketball, 7-9pm*
 5/22 — *Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm*
 5/24 — *SMLS Spring Band/Choir Concert, 1pm*
 5/28 — **MEMORIAL DAY**
 5/31 — *Saints Scholar Society Dinner*

Give the Gift of Life! The Lee Health Bloodmobile will be on our campus on Sunday, May 6th from 8:30am-12:30pm. All donations stay within our local community. Free health screening included. Please be sure to eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of fluids!

Calling all readers and book worms! Please join us at Barnes & Noble Bookstore on May 10th, 5-7pm, for the St. Michael School Book Fair. Identify yourself as a "Saint" at the register and a portion of each purchase comes back to the school. We will also have some of our staff there reading stories and students performing on various instruments. Barnes & Noble is located at 13751 S Tamiami Trail, near the intersection of Daniels Pkwy.

Are you Fishin'? You still have time to register! The 5th Annual SMLS Fishin' With a Mission and Rock the Dock Tournaments are May 19th at South Seas Island Resort. Prizes for winners and goodies for each angler. Call church office for info.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first quarter of 2018 has been very productive in upgrading the systems used in live streaming and projecting during the church services. In an effort to increase the output quality of our livestream, components that are 4k compatible were installed. This includes the camera, the television switch, and the computer used to facilitate the streaming process. We are currently running an output of 1080x60p and should have an output of true 4k by mid-summer. The increased quality is helping to increase viewership as the stream is much more stable and much higher quality. We continue to only use LiveStream to facilitate our streaming, which may be easily accessed by visiting: www.livestream.com/smlcs

If you are accustomed to finding the link in our website, that is fine! The above link is simply the direct link to the hosting service used to facilitate the stream. I continue to look for more ways to stream our services on other platforms and the logistics that entails.

The computer that runs the MediaShout program also began to fail in the last few months, causing lots of crashes and much frustration for the folks who create the presentations. The computer was replaced, but the new version of MediaShout is very problematic and the frustration involved quickly outweighed its usefulness. After much technical support and frustration, I decided to give a new company a try. The program I landed on is called Faithlife Proclaim. Rather than being just presentation software, it is presentation software designed specifically for church use. It functions much better for us and because of our particular mission is completely free for us to use! *I am also looking for volunteers who may be interested in learning how to use the equipment in the production booth, so if you have any interest in that, please feel free to get in contact with me.*

~ Colton LaMay

From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold*****Women and Anger**

By Lysa TerKeurst



I don't wake up angry. It's not like my eyes open and I think to myself, I want to get mad at somebody today. I don't. But I can go from happy to grumpy to yelling within minutes. Why? Because I'm surrounded by people who push my buttons: my family.

Just this morning the soundtrack of my life included an argument between my two daughters. My younger daughter was upset that her sister wasn't in the mood to loan her boots — a big problem in the world of teen girls. Tears ensued. I demanded they go upstairs to work it out. When my husband awoke to the boot debacle, he commented, "Every morning there's some kind of drama. Can't you all just be nice to each other?"

That was it. I had been lumped into the "you all" category when I was simply responding to the drama that *our* kids brought to *our* morning!

My emotions had been ratcheted up to the point where the slightest additional stress could cause me to come completely unglued. However, this morning I didn't. And that's amazing since I literally felt like I had firecrackers in my blood. But, over the past couple of years I've been making imperfect progress by learning how to attack the issues without attacking the people I love. If you've ever struggled with getting angry, here are a few insights that might help you, too.

Feelings are indicators, not dictators.

My feelings can indicate there is a problem to address but shouldn't dictate how I react to a situation. I need to see the chaotic feelings as a call to action, working to put systems in place to better handle problems. With anger issues, I used to yell until everyone else got quiet. Now I control what I can (my emotions and my reactions) instead of getting frustrated with the things I can't control (arguing daughters).

She who holds the tongue, holds the power.

When I yell, I communicate to my family that they have the power to make me act crazy. And I don't want my kids, my husband, the family dog or anyone else to have that kind of power over me. So, in that split second before I yell, I try to insert a pause. Pausing reminds me that God gave me emotions to experience life — not destroy it. Pausing helps me look for a little perspective. And best of all, pausing allows for the Holy Spirit to intervene in my response.

Consequences yell, so I don't have to.

When I see a police officer sitting on the side of the road with a radar gun, I slow down because I know there will be consequences if I don't. If he just stood on the street and yelled and waved his arms without ever dishing out consequences, I wouldn't feel nearly as motivated to pay attention to him. The same is true for dealing with others.

Consequences are powerful and effective tools, but they have to be realistic and consistent. So, the time to think about these isn't in the heat of the moment. Instead, I think about logical consequences for reoccurring issues before they trigger angry feelings. This means that the next time my kids speed toward doing things they shouldn't, I'll have the equivalent of a ticket ready to serve.

Trust me, I still don't do this perfectly. But I am getting better. Less frustrated, less angry. And that's so much better than waking up dreading what the day will bring.

For more on how to manage your anger and tendency to explode, check out Lysa TerKeurst's book, [Unglued](http://www.focusonthefamily.com).

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Prov. 15:1.

From the Parish Nurse***Ann Sluiter*****May is Water Safety Month**

Do you know how to swim? Do your children know how to swim? Knowing how to swim increases your safety and those of your family, friends and those around you. Drowning is silent and quick! Living in Florida increases your odds of drowning. So, here are some safety tips and ways to educate you and your family to increase your enjoyment around the water.

Water safety at home starts with bathing your baby. Be sure to have everything ready before you start, so that you never have to leave the baby to get something. After bathing, empty the water right away. A small child or baby can drown in as little as one inch of water. Bathrooms can be dangerous to young children. Keep toilet lids closed and use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning.

Many people have pools and hot tubs. NEVER swim alone. Water should always be clear so you can see the bottom. Never leave a child unattended. Children should always be in arms length of an adult. Have a designated responsible adult and another adult to be watchful when multiple children are in the pool. That means that that person is not on their phone or reading a book or talking to other adults. Fences with a lock are a must and pool alarms are important, too.

Don't rely on swimming aids such as water wings and noodles. Children should wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket. Pool toys can trap children and adults upside down and create life-threatening situations. NEVER swim alone.

Cover your pool drain. Pool covers should be motorized and able to support the weight of a child. Covers should be tight to prevent children from crawling under them and getting into the pool.

Clean all toys out of the pool when swimming is finished. Keep chemicals out of the reach of children.

What to do if your child falls in the pool? If you are with someone, have them call 911 immediately. If you are alone, start CPR and take the child with you to the phone. You can teach children to call 911. Start CPR immediately!!!! Continue until EMS arrives!

In my life, I have saved 3 people from drowning. At age 16, I assisted my friend while swimming in the Atlantic Ocean and sent another friend to tell the life guards to come with a boat.

In my 40's, while my children were swimming in a lake, a small child was left unattended and fell forehead in about 6-8 inches of water and could not right herself. I picked her up before any harm was done and returned her to her mother, with a warning.

In my 50's, while doing laps in a pool, I saw a lady lose her balance, in the shallow end and not be able to stand up. I was able to get her to the side of the pool, but she had gone under 3 times. EMS was called by an emergency phone and she was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

The church office has a list of places where you can learn to swim and we will put a copy on our website. Please stay safe this summer enjoy the water with SAFETY YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.

Ann Sluiter RN Parish Nurse

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

“Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” What a proclamation ... an Easter proclamation that has been exclaimed through the ages! Does that proclamation make a difference in YOUR life ... in the life of YOUR FAMILY? **At Saint Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of our RISEN Lord Jesus Christ!** As another school year comes to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children to love and follow Jesus. But wait! That mission continues with our summer camp which begins in June. What an opportunity to keep on proclaiming Jesus! Even if your children do not currently attend Saint Michael Lutheran School, they (and any other children you know) are invited to participate in Summer Camp, Vacation Bible School and Summer Sunday School. Summer Camp brochures are available in the school office, and camp director Sue Hampel is ready to answer your questions. (239) 939-1218, ext. 229



Check out the SMLS reviews on our Facebook page that are creating a buzz of excitement as Saint Michael families share their stories about the impact Saint Michael Lutheran School has had on their family. Give me a call if you want to see our school first-hand. New online applications for 2018-19 are being accepted on our website.

It's on to the next major PTL-sponsored event that children of all ages, parents, extended families and our friends in the community enjoy ... **FISHIN' WITH A MISSION ...** on Friday-Saturday, May 18-19. The tournament is guaranteed to provide fun for everyone whether you want to fish in a boat, participate in the Rock the Dock children's tournament, or enjoy some rest and relaxation by the pool or the beach. Contact Ashley Underhill (239-243-1533) for more information.



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

People are God's works of art. Imagine how much better the lives of our preschoolers and, well, all of us could be if we lived like God has a plan for us, and that God's plan is always best. We would be the complete Works of Art that God created us to be.



Elementary Sunday School

God has called us His children, and given us great things. Because we know that God is good, WE CAN BE HONEST. Lying and cheating are a response to fear. They are what people do if they think no one else will take care of them. But when you trust in God, when you know His love, you have a different response. You can be truthful.

Sunday School Nursery Reopening

Enjoy loving on little ones? Contact Lori Schwan if interested in volunteering with 0–2-years-olds once a month!

Summer Sunday School Help Needed

Do you want to help during the summer with our preschool, elementary or middle school students? It is fun and easy and the time commitment is for as many weeks as you would like. Please contact Lori if you are interested. Classes start June 3.

Family Ministry

FAMILY VBS from 5:30-8:00 PM will be Monday – Thursday, June 4-7.

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids are rescued by Jesus! Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They'll learn to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel powerless. This FREE adventure is for the whole family with dinner, service projects and raffle prizes! Registration is underway. Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering on our team; there is a place for everyone (behind the scenes or with families) 939-1218, ext. 237 lori.schwan@smlcs.org.



Faith Stepping Stones:

- **Mother-Daughter Retreat for 5th-6th Grade:** *God's Design for His Daughters* is May 5-6. Cost is \$100 per person. Watch your mailbox for your invitation. Friends are welcome.
- **Graduation Blessing** Each year we recognize our graduates of the congregation. If you are a high school or college graduate since June of 2017, please send in a little information about accomplishments (clubs, sports, honors) as well as future plans (education/jobs/career, etc.) to Jack Proctor by May 2. We will be having a special **graduate blessing** on Sunday, May 6 at the 10:45 worship service for our 12th grade seniors and their parents as part of our Faith Stepping Stone Program followed by a cake reception in the narthex.

Women's Bible Study

We meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Art Room and study Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs' Respectfully Yours. Together we will unpack the secret of respect as we:

- Distinguish Biblical respect from being a doormat
- Discover how to stop negative thought patterns
- Enjoy a life-changing truth: not wrong, just different
- Learn practical yet powerful ways to apply respect

We will run through the summer. Join any time.

From the Director of Christian Education

Jack Proctor

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Please consider financially supporting the youth going on mission trips this summer! It is faith forming for them as well as bringing the light of Christ to different communities!

Summer Mission Trips!

High School: Dominican Republic

June 9th-16th

FL-GA District Mission Trip to Fort Myers Beach

June 17th-22nd

Middle School: Camp Luther Springs

June 24th-29th



Please be praying for our mission teams and for the people that we will be serving!

Confirmation

This is the last month for confirmation before we break for the summer. Bring your Small Catechism and Bible with you each week in Room 48 from 9:15-10:30

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: 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, 7-9PM. May 7, 14, and 21.

The Youth Ministry is always looking for adults who are passionate about investing in the lives of the youth. There are many different ways to get involved! Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this way!

Jack.Proctor@gsmllcs.org

239-939-1218 ext. 224

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>	
May 6	
<p>Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Ken Fritsch 997-2596 DD Schleicher Judy Ward Neil Meador</p>
May 13	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson David Engstrom Nila Little</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn</p>
May 20	
<p>Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast</p>	<p>Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett</p>
May 27	
<p>Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Hannah Zinn Neil Meador</p>
June 3	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston David Engstrom Nila Little</p>	<p>Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Marge Bennett Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry</p>

Church Greeters for May Sunday Services

May 6 8:00 a.m. Lynn Van Cavage
10:45 a.m. Marlene King

May 13 8:00 a.m. Nila Little
10:45 a.m. Lisa Miller

May 20 8:00 a.m. Polly & Bill Bryden
10:45 a.m. Diane & Tom Robertson

May 27 8:00 a.m. Bob DeMott
10:45 a.m. Janet Ferriell



Be a Greeter

Interested in serving as a Greeter? Please contact Jan Nieman to sign up today!
jannieman@comcast.net

We have openings
in our
May 2018
Acolyte and Crucifer
schedule.

Sign up today using SignUp Genius!
www.signupgenius.com






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

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

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

