

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

Send to:
smlcspublications@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>

2009 but was not able to pursue that opportunity back then, so we thank God for encouraging Colton to renew his interest and for his willingness to prepare and serve in this way - to become an Associate Pastor, serving along with Pastor Steve Hess (our Visitation Pastor), and Pastor Roger Hubbard (our Winter Associate Pastor). We have also recently been blessed to have several other retired clergy who call Saint Michael their home congregation (some year round, some only during "season").

Obviously there is a cost to education, and the SMP program is no different. Here at Saint Michael we assist members who are attending a Concordia University or Seminary in preparation for full time ministry (whether as a teacher, pastor, DCE, deaconess, or parish musician, etc.) If you would like to support this important work, there is a restricted account that we use to cover expenses. Your gifts, designated to that fund, would be most appreciated. And of course, as we go on this adventure together, your prayers, support, and involvement in this ministry that we share will be treasured most of all.

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

Welcome Vicar(?) Colton LaMay

On August 20-24, Colton and I will be heading up to Saint Louis and Concordia Seminary as we start this adventure called the **Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program**, a four-year, state of the art distance education program that prepares men for specific pastoral ministries in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Using online classes, readings, meetings with fellow students (called a "cohort"), and mentoring by me, Colton will receive the majority of his training and preparation here at Saint Michael even as he continues to serve as our Director of Music Ministries. (There are 16 courses taught in an online learning community, including a one week on-campus intensive course each year).

Now, just so you know, Colton has already been hard at work preparing for our trip to Saint Louis. He has received approval and been given an agreement of support by our Board of Elders, the Church Council, and me (as his mentor); he has been interviewed and approved by our District Committee and recommended by our District President Rev. Dr. Greg Walton; and he has prepared for and passed the three entrance exams on Old Testament, New Testament, and Lutheran Theology and has been accepted into the SMP program by Saint Louis Seminary.

But the question some of you may be thinking is, why this move and why now? Well friends, having been blessed to serve here for 27 years, one of the responsibilities that I, and the Board of Elders, have is to think about and prepare for the future. So, an annual topic that we have been discussing over the past 5 years is succession planning. You see, in a long-term pastorate, we all (including myself) can get lulled to sleep with the passing of time; we can start to subconsciously think, 'Tomorrow will be like today, only more so'. But the reality is, every pastor is an "interim" pastor, which means every pastor only serves for a specific period of time (not for forever). And so we need to prepare for that inevitable moment because we want that transition to feel more like the passing of a baton in a relay race rather than an abrupt change.

What the Elders, our Administrative Staff, and I have been learning together is that the culture of a church, its DNA, its unique way of doing ministry and being together (like worship, leadership, relationships, and ministry to our community), takes years to build. And one of the greatest threats to the culture of a church is a senior pastor change. So we want to be wise as we approach this in the years to come. We will continue to study and prepare for the "inevitable" whenever that may happen, which is years away but not a decade away.

The Elders currently have two Task Forces working to gather more information to assist the Administrative Staff, the Church Council, and congregation, but all felt that having an additional ordained clergy on staff now would be a wise move at this time.

Some of you may not know that Colton was actually accepted at Fort Wayne Seminary in

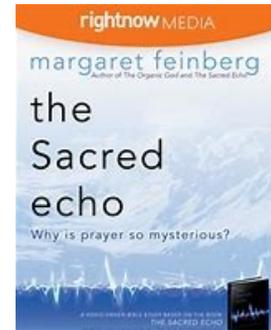
Pastor Jon

Top Events for August

- 8/5 — *Staff Commissioning at 10:45am Service*
 8/6 — *Council Meeting, 5:30pm*
 8/6 — *Adult Basketball, 7:00pm*
 8/12 — *Backpack Blessing at each worship service*
 8/13 — *PTL Open House/Parent Orientation for SMLS*
 8/14 — *Student Orientation for SMLS*
 8/15 — ***First Day of School for SMLS!***
 8/20 — *Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm*
 8/20 — *Adult Basketball, 7:00pm*
 8/27 — *Elders Meeting, 7:00pm*

Women's Bible Study: The Sacred Echo

Join us Thursdays from 10:00-11:30am, in the Pastor's Conference room as we study *The Sacred Echo: Why is prayer so mysterious?* Women of any age can join us any Thursday. Our study is also viewable on Right Now Media.



Saint Michael would like to bless you with unlimited access to the **RightNow Media** library! RightNow Media is a streaming platform with thousands of Bible studies, kids content, conference sessions, family devotionals, personal testimonies, and more! It can be accessed through your computer, smart phone, tablet, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV Stick, and almost any platform with an internet connection. Instantly stream life giving Biblical teaching whenever/wherever. All for FREE!



Create an account using this link: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/StMichaelLutheranChurch>



If you have any issues or questions see our "Ways to use RightNow Media" sheet in the narthex or email Jack.Proctor@gsmllcs.org



To all of our church family and friends,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for all your warm thoughts, prayers, phone calls, visits, and cards that we have received at the passing of our mom, Rose Lowery and grandmother, "Noni". She worshiped at St. Michael several times over the years during the holidays and always felt the loving welcome you gave to her. We will miss her greatly, but are also rejoicing that she is in heaven with her and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We have the peace and assurance that we will see her again when we are reunited in heaven. Again, so many thanks for your past and continued thoughts and prayers ~ it means so very much to us!

Sincerely,

Donna, Mike, Paul and Sarah Roach

*From the Director of Caring Ministries**Julie Berchtold***The Root Cause of Worry, Anxiety and Fear**

by Jimmy Evans



Worry, anxiety, and fear are the same thing. They're the same emotion, just experienced on different levels, like stair steps. Fear is a negative emotion caused by a real or perceived threat to our well-being. Anxiety means being uneasy and nervous about something we can't control—an event, person, or problem. Worry is to mentally dwell on difficulty or trouble. This chronic concern is the lowest level of the emotional staircase.

The first step is worry. Worry turns to anxiety. Anxiety becomes fear. Scripture commands us not to do any of those things. Don't worry. Don't be anxious. Do not fear. God would never command us to do something if we didn't have the ability not to do it.

As a kid, I was always worried. My life was filled with fear and anxiety. You wouldn't have known it, because I carried myself with confidence. But deep down, I had emotional problems. Those problems turned into fear when I entered the ministry: Fear of men, fear of failure, fear of rejection, anxiety about everything. Even though my church was thriving, my life was filled with fear.

The root of all fear, anxiety, and worry is an orphan spirit. God was my Father, but I didn't know it. I didn't know He was taking care of me. I didn't understand how much He loved me—and how much He loves being our Father. Like an orphan, I had no idea who my Father was. Today, I'm both a father and a grandfather. My grandkids call me Pappy, and I love being their Pappy. They are never a bother to me. One of the greatest joys of my life is when they ask me to do something.

God wants our lives to be free from worry, anxiety, and fear because these emotions distract us from God. They rob us of our families and joy. And yet we are in complete control of them. Worry and anxiety exist only because we allow them to. How do we overcome them? First, we have to consider these thoughts to be agents of the enemy. They have been planted in our lives by the devil. Every morning, when you wake up, treat worry, anxiety, and fear like your enemies.

Second, turn every anxious and worrisome thought into a prayer until you find victory. Tell God, "This is what's bothering me today." Transform your worry list into a prayer list. ***"Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" Phil. 4:6.***

Third, confess that God is your loving Father and He cares for you. Let go of your orphan spirit. Orphans are on their own and have to take care of their own problems. But we are not orphans! Start rejoicing that you have the best Father in the universe.

Well-fathered children are fearless children. That's why God tells us not to fear, not to be anxious, and not to worry. He is the answer to every problem, and like a loving, gracious Father, He has promised to take care of us.

source: www.marriagetoday.com

A Letter from Amigos en Cristo & Pastor Robert Selle

Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Mission Needs Help

In 1997, Donna and I returned from 14 years of missionary service in Venezuela. At that time we were called by the LCMS churches of Southwest Florida to serve as missionaries of the Gospel to the growing number of Hispanic immigrants living in our communities. So far we have ordained six new church workers, established three ethnic churches, annually provide emergency food to thousands of low income Immokalee farmworkers and provide legal immigration services to 1,400 families each year. These are life changing encounters and are the first exposure these immigrants have to the Lutheran Church.

We need your financial and prayer support if we are to continue. During this summer, we have experienced a shortfall of \$15,000 per month. This is not sustainable. If this continues we will have a year-end shortfall of \$80,000.

We need your help.

- ◆ Pray for us as we contemplate major changes to our ministry footprint in Southwest Florida.
- ◆ If you have considered supporting us financially, this is the time to do so.
 - ◇ Channel your gift through your congregation as a restricted gift to Amigos en Cristo, they will send it on to us
 - ◇ Send a check to payable to “Amigos en Cristo”, 7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919
 - ◇ Pay by credit card on our website: www.amigoscenter.org
 - ◇ Call Pastor Selle at (239) 281-1664

Thank you for whatever partnership you may be able to offer.

~ Rev. Robert Selle

From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal

Kati Miser



Exciting times lie just ahead ... the new school year at Saint Michael opens with a special chapel service on Wednesday, August 15 at 8:15am in the Sanctuary. The theme for this year is “Anchored in Christ” based on Hebrews 6:19a, “*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*” You are all invited to attend this celebration. But another opportunity for celebration comes before that day... on Sunday, Aug. 5, the staff of our school will be acknowledged and dedicated during our 10:45am worship service. You can get involved that Sunday by personally greeting them and promising your prayers on behalf of their ministry to children and families during the 2018-2019 school year.



At Saint Michael Lutheran School, **our mission is to educate children and touch families’ lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ!** Check out the SMLS reviews on our Facebook page where 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. Online applications for 2018-19 are being accepted on our website. www.smlcs.org



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Backpack Blessing

We will kick off our season of "Anchored in Christ" on August 12. We want students of all ages to bring their backpacks to worship with them. The congregation will have a special prayer for students. Then any student will receive a memento for their backpacks.

Preschool Sunday School

Our church and school theme this year fits perfect with our preschool Sunday School theme as we set sail to teach preschoolers that God's way is perfect. GOD'S way is the ONLY way that is 100% the RIGHT way every, single time! Not my way. Not your way. God's way!



Elementary Sunday School

Elementary students are going on "The Hunt" finding that wisdom is worth searching for. When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom, too. We want them to be equipped to face whatever choices they may need to make in the future.



Sunday School Nursery

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

Sunday School Help Needed

Do you want to help during the school year for Sunday School? There are so many ways:

- Small group leader (work with kids to share faith on their level)
- Helping hands in a room (no prep)
- Operations person gathering supplies (behind the scenes)
- Snack donator for a Sunday
- Tech assistance
- Game leader (9:00-9:15)
- Safety Team (opening and locking doors)

Family Ministry

Faith Stepping Stones:

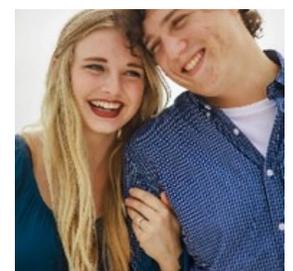
If you are interested in a Faith Stepping Stones class, contact me. We are scheduling for the next 9 months all the classes for families with children who are infants – twelfth grade and hope to add a grandparent one too.

Women's Bible Study

Joins us Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Pastor's Conference room as we study The Sacred Echo: Why is prayer so mysterious? Women of any age can join us any Thursday. Our study is also viewable on Right Now Media.

Fellowship Breakfast to Celebrate Jack and Jazzy Proctor

Jack and Jazzy are getting married on August 11 and we will have a Sunday Fellowship Breakfast on **August 26, 9:15-10:30** to celebrate with them, welcome Jazzy, and get to know them better as a couple. Please join us!



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

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!

**LCMS National Youth Gathering (NYG)**

Yes, the National Youth Gathering will be happening next summer! July 10-16, 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Expect to hear a lot more about NYG! It's a trip that only happens once every 3 years and is for students who are in 8th-12th grade during the 18-19 school year.

NYG Interest Meeting - August 19th at Noon in the Band Room

All parents of high school students and high school students should be here! Our first meeting outlining what NYG is, fundraising plans, pre-gathering schedule, and how to sign up. There is no experience like NYG!
Sunday, August 19th, 12pm, Band Room!

Rock The Universe!

A unique and impactful worship experience!

Join us **Saturday, September 8th** for a night of rides, fun, and friends at Universal resort in Orlando! We will be traveling by bus to experience not only the rides and attractions that the park has to offer, but performances by artists including Casting Crowns, TobyMac, Jesus Culture, and For King & Country. Cost \$130 includes ticket, transportation, and group T-shirt. First come first serve. **Last day to sign up is August 31st.**

Confirmation (Kicks off August 12th!)

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 (on **August 12**) by diving into the Apostles Creed! 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. Join other high school students as they look to God's Word for strength and guidance for the week ahead!

Middle School Youth Night

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! The first meeting for the year is **August 28th!**

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). **August 6th and 20th.**

Usher Schedule	
8:00 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
<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>	
August 5	
Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Hannah Zinn Neil Meador
August 12	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston David Engstrom Nila Little	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Marge Bennett Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry
August 19	
Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Ken Fritsch 997-2596 DD Schleicher Judy Ward Neil Meador
August 26	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson David Engstrom Nila Little	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn
September 2	
Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett

Church Greeters for August Sunday Services

Aug 5 8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller
10:45 a.m. Aaron Bonenberger

Aug 12 8:00 a.m. Betty Franceschini
10:45 a.m. Jennifer & Kelsey Campbell

Aug 19 8:00 a.m. Bob DeMott
10:45 a.m. Bill, Meg, Molly, Reilly & Brynna Minor

Aug 26 8:00 a.m. Rose & Don Davis
10:45 a.m. Tyler, Sam & Liam King



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

We have openings
in our
August 2018
**Acolyte and
Crucifer** schedule.
Sign up today using 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

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

