

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>

as His children SO THAT you can lavish that goodness on others! We stand at the threshold of the third month in a new fiscal year of ministry – can I challenge you to find a place to serve (whether here or elsewhere) as we seek to unleash God's power through ALL OF US!

ADULT INFORMATION CLASS – September 22 & 23

Our new member class is held as a 2 day, 6-hour weekend seminar where we will share with you the major Biblical teachings of the Christian faith. This informal class is led by Pastor Jon... you can ask questions, but you will not be required to read or answer any questions. So, if you want to find out more about what the Bible teaches, or where Saint Michael stands on faith issues, or you are interested in taking the first step toward becoming a member of Saint Michael, then **this Class is for YOU!**

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

I recently received a plaque that had a quote from a Pastor Bruggemann that reads, “The Church meets to imagine what our lives would be like if the Gospel were true.” It brought to mind the words of a song (“I Want to Live Like That”) by the Christian band “Sidewalk Prophets” that goes, “Was I love, when no one else would show up, was I Jesus to the least of those; was my worship more than just a song. I want to live like that, and give it all I have, so that everything I say and do points to You... Am I proof, that You are who you say You are, that grace can really change a heart, do I live like Your love is true... is there evidence that I've been changed, when they see me, do they see You. I want to live like that.”

Imagine what would happen if we took up serving towels, draped them over our arms and willingly, and even joyfully, served other people in our. That could be used by God to change the world! One of the things we have committed ourselves to is “loving people to Jesus” and nothing impacts people who are far from God more than that love of Jesus revealed through us.

We have been created, redeemed and restored, we have been equipped and empowered so that we might engage our world and be about mission and ministry. We are to be God’s ambassadors, as though He were making His appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:20). God IS at work in our world, our country, our community – and He does that by filling us with His grace, His mercy, and the power we need to call this broken world to Jesus. And that power of the church is the power of all of us, offering our gifts to work out God’s plan.

YOU have gifts, abilities, and talents that you were blessed with by God, skills you’ve honed over time, life experiences that have matured you and given you wisdom to share, and a love for others that spills from God’s heart into and through yours! These are powerful tools for good that God has lavished on you

Top Events for September

- 9/1 — *Griefshare Ministry Begins. Saturdays 10am-Noon*
- 9/3 — *LABOR DAY*
- 9/4 — *Bell Choir (5:45pm) & Adult Choir (7pm) Resumes*
- 9/6 — *DivorceCare Ministry Begins. Thursdays 7-8:30pm*
- 9/8 — *Rock the Universe (Youth Ministry Event)*
- 9/10 — *Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm*
- 9/10 — *Board of Properties Meeting, 6:30pm*
- 9/10 — *Adult Basketball, 7pm*
- 9/15 — *Mother/Son Glow Party, a PTL sponsored event*
- 9/17 — *Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm*
- 9/18 — *PTL Meeting, 6pm in cafeteria*
- 9/20 — *Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am*
- 9/22 — *SMLS Soccer/Volleyball Tournament*
(volunteer opportunities! Call the school office)
- 9/22 — *Adult Information Class, Part I, 9am-Noon*
- 9/23 — *Adult Information Class, Part II, 2-5pm*
- 9/24 — *Elders Meeting, 7pm*
- 9/24 — *Adult Basketball, 7pm*



Thank you to the members of St. Michael who helped me by donating uniform shorts. It will really make a difference for Colonial Elementary. Dr. Burr, the principal, was very thankful for the donations and said her school can use really use them!

Sincerely,
Riley Hackworth

In case you missed it on page 1..... Pastor Jon will be holding a 2-part **Adult Information Class** on September 22nd & 23rd. This class is open to all adults who would like to learn more about what the Bible teaches, where Saint Michael stands on faith issues, or are interested in taking the first step toward becoming a member of Saint Michael. Meet Pastor Jon at the office center on Saturday, September 22, 9:00am to Noon, and Sunday, September 23, 2:00 to 5:00pm.

Gifted To Care

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following — faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing — consider **Stephen Ministry**, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you've been looking for! A new training class will be offered in **spring, 2019**. If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders: Janet Marderness, Pam Kollmann, Lee or Julie Berchtold.

To my church family and friends,

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the entire St. Michael family for the love and support given to me and my family as we faced the loss of Jeanie. A special thanks to Pastor Jon and all those who made Jeanie's memorial service so meaningful. I have truly felt a part of God's wonderful family during this time. Thank you!

~ Linda Franks & Family

From the Director of Caring Ministries

Julie Berchtold

Mental Imprints

"These days were to be remembered and celebrated throughout every generation"
Esther 9:28

Memories are what make each family unique. They give your marriage and family a mental imprint of shared laughter and reflections. As someone has said, "God gave us memories so that we could enjoy roses in January." But there is an art to memory-making. Here are a few perspectives Barbara and I have gleaned over the years:



Memories are best made with loved ones. Sure, memories can be made with coworkers and church friends, but don't let others get all your best times. Your marriage and family is a ready-made unit for the rich production and harvest of memories. Plant your fields wide and deep with them.

Memories take time. Our best memories have usually been born out of extended time together. Don't expect them to be created in three-minute sound bites. *Memories are made of varied adventures.* Be creative. Do something different. If you can, travel together—especially on short-term mission trips.

Memories are both planned and unplanned. Memories are made through family traditions, such as summer vacations or an annual family Christmas tree cutting. But watch for the serendipitous memory. One special memory for us is the midwinter night when the power went off and we cooked supper in the fireplace. Don't lose your ability to be spontaneous and impulsive.

Memories should be celebrated. A memory isn't a memory if you don't revisit it and talk about it, look at pictures of it, laugh or cry about it. "Do you remember the time . . ." can be a joyful introduction to a family conversation. One of our favorite questions to revisit as a couple or as a family is, "If you could keep only one memory of all our years together, what would it be?" So go ahead: Get out there and leave the unique imprint of memories in your family's life.

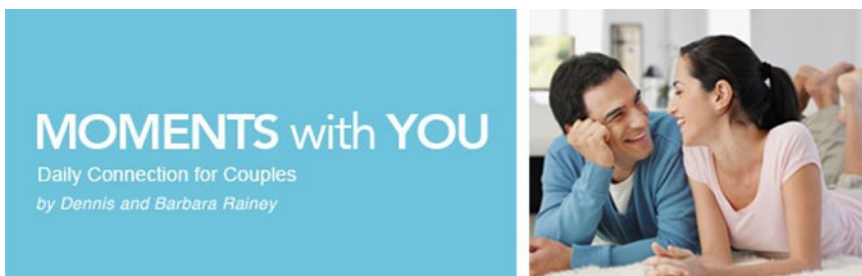
Discuss

What's your favorite ongoing family tradition? If you could keep only one memory of all your years together, what would it be?

Pray

Ask the Lord God, the Creator of the heavens, to help you create and celebrate the unique mental imprints of memories for your family.

Source: Excerpts from Moments With You
 by Dennis and Barbara Rainey, FamilyLife



From Director of Music Ministries***Vicar Colton LaMay***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

I am so excited to have the humbling privilege of writing you this month as your Vicar while continuing to serve as your Director of Music Ministries! In this article I would like to talk about preparing hearts and minds for worship. In our day (but not unlike those who have come before us), people tend to be pretty self-centered - and that is putting it mildly! It is so easy to get lost in our little bubbles with all of the important things we have to accomplish. The hustle and bustle of balancing work and family commitments, shopping, and healthcare appointments tend to make us lose sight of what God wants us to focus on in our lives. He calls us to love Him and to love others.

With that, we must take our time in worship not as a time of passive activity, but as a time to draw near to Jesus through hearing His word, receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, and singing His praises through the music we share in hopes that we could be so filled with love that it permeates everything we do each and every day. Which brings me to my point: We sing together in worship of Him. So many places in church culture like to put the emphasis on the band or the musicians playing. But, it is certainly not about that. I personally, as a life-long LCMS Lutheran, think the music should be heard and not seen.

You may have noticed that over the last three years, the band has gradually been turning from facing the congregation to facing the altar. As the congregation is facing the cross and focusing on Jesus, the musicians should, as well. The goal of the church musician is to offer praises to God while leading others in that worship, no matter what the instrumental arrangement, as they are all to be tuned for praise. Never for a moment should you think your voice is unimportant, because it is important! He tells us to make a joyful noise – that means we don't all have to be perfect vocalists. God is present with us and He loves the sound of His people. It's supposed to be like one big choir no matter if we are singing liturgy, hymns or praise songs. God gives us these musical gifts to help support our life in faith with Him. So, brothers and sisters, sing out! Be an active participant in worship with your voice, as we are singing the song of the church here in this place, shining the light of Jesus to those in our midst. I thank God each and every day for such a wonderful congregation and pray you all the best this September!

Blessings in Jesus,
Vicar Colton



Colton LaMay
Director of Music

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

Saint Michael Lutheran School and the Early Learning Center are on a journey to continuously improve the quality of our school: its staff, our educational facility, the curriculum, classroom instruction and atmosphere and its impact on the community.

The process is called **accreditation**: with a review by **AdvancEd** and the **National Lutheran School Association** every five years. This is one of those years, and it culminates with a visit by a review team April 1-3, 2019. So, we need your help to give these organizations a clear picture of our school. Please say "yes" when you are asked to take a brief survey by one of our accreditation team members in the upcoming months.

The Accreditation Team Members are:

- School Accreditation Facilitator: Judy Scharpenberg
- School Board/Administration: Stephanie Webb, Pastor Jon Zehnder, Kati Miser
- Church Council: Robin Beck, Pastor Hubbard (winter)
- Church members: Julie Berchtold, Eileen O'Hara, Janet Elliott, Lee Berchtold
- School parents: Jennifer Pohlman
- Technology and the Arts: Colton LaMay, Joni Zehnder
- Special groups (e.g. camp, extended care): Sue Hansen, Sue Hampel, Beth Cameron
- Early Learning: Stacie Thompson, Julie Zehnder
- School – lower (PreK-1): Priscilla Flynn, Maggie Eckenrode
- School – middle (Gr. 2-5): Karen Atkinson, Elizabeth Reynolds
- School – upper (Gr. 6-8): Kayla Swetz, Claire Maser, Stephanie Letourneau

Our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ. Let's let everyone know how that happens at Saint Michael Lutheran School!



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

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 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.



Thrivent Financial Gives

We have been so blessed by our members who since September 2015 have sponsored over 200 Action Teams leveraging over \$50,000 from Thrivent to combine with the generosity of our team members giving their time, talents, and treasures. We have completed education events, fundraisers and service projects. If you are interested in being involved, contact Lori Schwan. **Thrivent Members individual sponsorships make a difference!**

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

This month's **Colorific** theme is going to help us teach preschoolers that God always keeps His promises. No matter how long we have to wait, God will come through as he did with Moses and the GREEN burning bush, Israelites as they crossed the BLUE sea, Abraham and Sarah's YELLOW happy face as they greeted Isaac, the RED love God showed saving Noah, and a RAINBOW for the promise to Noah and the world!



Elementary Sunday School

When you take **Initiative**, you notice lots of "dirty jobs" that need to be done. This month our kids will learn more about Nehemiah and the initiative God empowered him to take to get the dirty job done for God!



Sunday School Nursery

Enjoy loving on little ones? Contact Lori Schwan if interested in volunteering 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)

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.

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 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: **Tuesday, September 4th**

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). **September 10 & 24.**



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Joni Zehnder

Having an LCEF Family Emergency StewardAccount® can be a powerful safety net for unexpected expenses. Here are six reasons why:

Car troubles — We try to take care of our vehicles but it's still a machine that will wear down. Having an emergency fund to get your car serviced when it breaks down is essential.

Medical Emergencies — A healthy lifestyle will help avoid medical emergencies, but sometimes you still end up in the hospital. Or an unexpected trip to the dentist might not be covered.

Loss of Employment — Sometimes people get laid off or decide to leave a position for personal reasons. Your emergency fund can be a blessing when you need help between jobs.

Forgotten Bills — Life is busy and sometimes we forget to pay a bill that may have slipped through the cracks like property taxes, insurance. With your emergency fund, you can pay it and make a note not to forget next time.

Family Emergencies — When a loved one ends up in the hospital or dies, or there is a time of celebration for the birth or baptism of a new family member, having an emergency fund to cover the costs of travel can allow you to worry about one less thing.




Relocation — Sudden moving expenses can be a burden when an opportunity for career growth presents itself. Your emergency fund can help cover these expenses.

When you invest with LCEF, your investment goes to help support the Christ-exalting work of LCMS church workers, congregations, schools and organizations. [Excerpts from LCEF News, July 2018].

To learn about LCEF's Family Emergency StewardAccount visit lcef.org/stewardaccount, call 800-843-5233, or contact Joni Zehnder for more information.



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>	
September 2	
<p>Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast</p>	<p>Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett</p>
September 9	
<p>Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Hannah Zinn Neil Meador</p>
September 16	
<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>
September 23	
<p>Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Ken Fritsch 997-2596 DD Schleicher Judy Ward Neil Meador</p>
September 30	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson David Engstrom</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn</p>

Church Greeters for September Sunday Services	
Sept 2	8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller 10:45 a.m. Anna LeSueur
Sept 9	8:00 a.m. Ken & Darlene Fritsch 10:45 a.m. Ursula Jean Baptiste
Sept 16	8:00 a.m. Kevin Baptiste 10:45 a.m. Bruce & Mary Johnson
Sept 23	8:00 a.m. Mel & Linda Lang 10:45 a.m. Jennifer & Kelsey Campbell
Sept 30	8:00 a.m. Polly & Bill Bryden 10:45 a.m. Kurtis Hasselbring
<p>Interested in serving as a Greeter? Please contact Jan Nieman to sign up today! jannieman@comcast.net</p>	
	

We have openings
in our
September 2018
**Acolyte and
Crucifer** schedule.
Sign up today using
[SignUpGenius.com!](http://SignUpGenius.com)







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

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Permit #97

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

8:00 am ThursdayMoms In Prayer,
.....Little Chapel

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

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

9:00 am SaturdayMen’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

