

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>

drawn to know Jesus as their Savior and we want people inside to grow up in Him – to know Him better & love Him more & live for Him.

And by the way, the Apostle Paul knew that the best way for Jesus to be spread to other people who don't know Him as Savior is when those people see Jesus in us and hear about Him from us. And again, we seek to do that, to proclaim Jesus, to everyone. And so my dear friends, the most important thing is for us to be in Jesus and for Jesus to be in us.

Part of what our Biblical heritage is from the Reformation is that we all have been gifted by our God to be involved in this great mission of bringing the world to Jesus and Jesus to the world! And each and every one of us is involved in this great adventure! So, thanks for being a part of our Saint Michael family as together we seek to make an eternal difference!

Mark your calendars... *On October 28th we will celebrate Reformation and also the Rite of Confirmation for 9th graders with ONE special service at 10:00am followed by a Fall Festival in the gym building*

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

I don't know how many of you remember the movie "City Slickers", but there's a great scene where Billy Crystal's character, Mitch, is alone with Curly, played by Jack Palance, and Curly is giving Mitch some advice about life and he says, "Do you know what the secret of life is?" And he holds up one finger and says, "This." To which Mitch responds, "The secret of life is your finger?" And Curly says, "No – it's one thing; just one thing..." And Mitch asks, "But, what is the 'one thing'?" And Curly answers, "That's what you have to find out."

At the end of this month we will celebrate the **Reformation** again and we want to get to that one thing, the main thing, because it is the purpose of our congregation, it is what we've been called to proclaim and if we miss this one thing, if we don't get this right, no matter what else we do, no matter how good any program or ministry effort might look – we've failed. And by the way, we don't get to choose or decide what this main thing is – it is that one central truth that God has revealed to us.

The apostle Paul talks about this in Colossians 1:28-29, where he writes, "We proclaim Him, we proclaim Jesus, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me." Do you see it? We proclaim Jesus – that God has saved us in Jesus by His grace alone through faith alone - we proclaim Jesus.

And that means that we don't proclaim human insights; we don't proclaim self-improvement or stress-management or life balance or career enhancement; we don't proclaim a political agenda; we don't proclaim a set of traditions – we proclaim Jesus! Because He is the light of the world; He is the creator and sustainer of all that exists; He is the Head of the Church, the Kingdom bringer and sin bearer and death defeater and life giver. And when you have received Him by God's grace through faith – He touches a place in your soul that nothing else can touch.

And when we say that we proclaim Jesus we're saying as Paul did in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, that God was in Jesus reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people's sins against them but laying those sins on the One who knew no sin so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God. That's the one thing; that's the thing that we're betting the farm on, that's what we're staking our lives on – we are devoting ourselves fully to the crucified carpenter of Nazareth – we proclaim Jesus! And we proclaim Him to everyone.

So if someone should ask what the focus of our congregation is – are we focused mostly on people outside of the church or those inside of the church? The answer is "yes"! God loves everybody whether they're inside or out! We want people outside to be

Top Events for October

- 10/1 — Council Meeting, 5:30pm
 10/2 & 23 — Middle School Youth Night, 6pm
 10/6 — Volunteer Work Day, 8am-Noon
 10/6 — New Member Dinner
 10/6 & 7 — Breast Cancer Awareness Weekend
 10/8 & 22 — Adult Basketball, 7pm
 10/11 — Men's Ministry "Act Like Men" series begins
 10/13 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am in small chapel
 10/13 — Little Saints Pasta Dinner, 5pm
 10/14 — Seniors on the Go, 12pm
 10/15 — Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm
 10/16 — PTL Meeting, 6pm
 10/18 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
 10/19 — SMLS "Fall into Fun" Festival, 5:30pm
 10/22 — Elders Meetings, 7pm
 10/28 — Reformation Sunday, ONE service at 10am, Fall Festival after service

Fall Festival

Undies for Everyone



Collecting Socks/Underwear in Oct. St. Michael is partnering with Fort Myers Middle Academy on Central Ave. in various ways over the next year. One way is through our Board of Human Care sponsoring a "Sock & Underwear Drive" for students in need at their school. Bring in *new* socks & underwear for girls or boys to the Narthex during the month of OCTOBER:

- Underwear ranging in sizes from Girls 7/8 to Women's size 20, and Boys size Med. – Men's size 2XL.
- Socks should range from Youth L (9-11) and Women's Med - Large, and Men's Med - XL.

You're invited to join **Seniors on the Go** for their meeting Sunday, October 14 following late service in the cafeteria. Their guest speaker is **Pastor Bob Scudieri** from Peace Lutheran Church in Naples. Pastor Bob's presentation, "**Apostles, Then and Now,**" will examine the less well-known New Testament apostles as well as modern-day Christian immigrants to the United States who spread God's word in their communities. If you plan on attending, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the sound booth in the back of the church. You are invited to bring a dessert to share if you would like. Pastor Scudieri will have copies of his book on this subject available for purchase.

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month!** There will be a display in the narthex October 6 & 7 sharing information from the American Cancer Society's web site (www.cancer.org). **Please wear pink to show your support** and visit the web site if you'd like to learn more detailed information.

Early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer increase one's likelihood of survival. There is no sure way to prevent it, but there are things you can do that might lower your risk such as changing risk factors that are under your control including alcohol consumption (risk increases with amount consumed), obesity, physical activity (especially after menopause), not having children, not breast feeding, birth control, hormone therapy after menopause and breast implants.

Once again, please check the website for more information: www.cancer.org

Blessings,
Ann Sluiter RN Parish Nurse



From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold*****Inside Baseball*****“Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being” Psalm 51:6.***

Sometimes in the midst of correcting your kids, you can easily lose sight of the main reason you discipline them in the first place. It's not just to get their clothes picked up or to eat the meal you've prepared or to stop hitting a sibling. The reason for discipline is to develop inner character, the kind that knows and is learning how to respond to life's challenges.

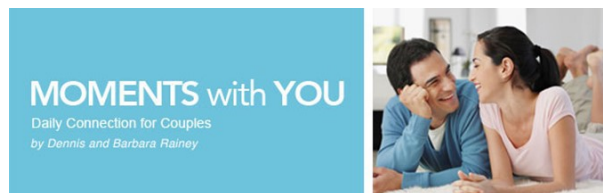
The core of a baseball is made of hard rubber. But imagine if the core were marshmallow. What would happen as the string wrapped around it or when a bat smacked it hard several times? It would smush into a mess. It's the inside that counts—the character you're growing in your children. As life begins to happen, as circumstances and decisions begin to wrap around them, it's their character that will hold them together.

Barbara and I define character as "response-ability"—the ability to make the right choices in response to authority and to life's circumstances. From the time your children leave the cradle, your work as a parent is to turn life situations into teaching situations, growing their "response-ability" one day at a time, teaching them how to respond to you, to others, to life, and to God.

In the next few days, you'll have plenty of opportunities either to overreact to your children's behavior or to address the roots of their development—to deal with externals or to train their hearts. Remember, you're growing character here. It's only the ones who grow strong at the center—especially as character is strengthened by commitment to God's Word—who are able to hold up to the challenges they will face in life.

Pray for God to give you the discernment to know what issues need to be addressed and what issues you need to let go.

Source: www.familylife.com, Dennis Rainey

***From Director of Music Ministries******Vicar Colton LaMay*****The Lutheran Service Book - An Amazing Resource**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Part of my seminary training includes an intentional increase in daily prayer and devotions. With that, I wanted to take a minute to talk about the incredible gift we have in our LSB, the hymnal that we use in the sanctuary. If you have ever taken some time to check it out, you will likely agree that it contains not only the information for worship, but a wealth of devotional material as well. The hymns themselves are great texts for devotions. The indexes can be used to focus on particular topics you may be thinking (trust, hope and comfort, sanctification, etc) and the lyrics composed are so rich and deep that each hymn may be used as a devotion in itself. What I have found particularly helpful in my personal devotions are the Psalms in the front of the hymnal. Luther loved the Psalms as part of his daily devotion, and the original melodies are even printed in the front for singing them (which is my preferred method). I personally love the Psalter, as it simply has the Psalms, their melodies, and prayers interspersed that connect them to Jesus. I received it as a gift from a dear friend and it is one of those books that is always in my brief case. In any case, I encourage you to pick up a hymnal from Concordia Publishing House for your use at home. They also offer it digitally on the various e-reading services. I have it on my phone, and it is a blessing all the time. I hope and pray this can be a resource for you in your daily devotions, as well! God's richest blessings on your month!



Blessings in Jesus,
Vicar Colton

Habitat for Humanity's Disaster Recovery Critical Home Repair Program

There are still many people in Lee and Hendry Counties whose homes were impacted by Hurricane Irma and who do not have the means to repair their homes. In addition to its home ownership program, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties now has a Disaster Recovery Program to help low-income homeowners.



The Disaster Recovery Program is funded from many generous donors and grantors. Disaster affected homeowners are asked to participate as they are able but are not required to physically volunteer, and only have to make a small financial contribution to the repair based on their means. The program can help seniors on fixed incomes as well as families, as long as they own their single family home, are current on their mortgage if they have one, and earn less than 80% of the area median income (100% if they are a veteran or disabled.) In addition to home repair assistance, Habitat for Humanity has a case worker who can help disaster affected people with other issues they may face as well, thanks to a grant from FEMA and Lee County.

To begin the application process, please go to www.habitat4humanity.org to print and complete the Home Repair Intake Form. Forms may be returned to Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, 1288 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers, FL 33903 or emailed to DisasterRecovery@habitat4humanity.org. Once they review your Intake Form, a Disaster Recovery Case Manager will contact you. If you are eligible for Habitat's repair program, you will be invited to complete the Disaster Recovery Critical Home Repair Application.

From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal

Kati Miser



Unbelievable! Our students have already been in school for six weeks. With 28 classrooms—infants through eighth grade youth—plus weekly chapels, you can imagine how many times the name “Jesus” has been spoken and His love shared! There is no doubt that **our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ.**

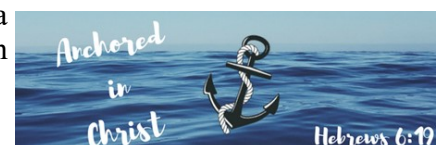


Are you interested in promoting your business with a soccer field banner? Pick up an order form at the front office. Doing so not only gives your business exposure but also helps students grades 4-8 who need assistance paying for class trips along with special projects around the campus.

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



The next family event at Saint Michael takes place on Friday, October 19: **FALL INTO FUN!** Activities include a costume parade, carnival-style games, obstacle course and inflatables plus a variety of vendors. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

We don't have all the answers, energy, wisdom, patience, solution, or way out of a situation, but we do know the One who does. Thus there's no need to worry. God's got it. That's what we're talking about with our preschoolers this month. No need to worry, be afraid or feel alone. God's got it!



Elementary Sunday School

Everything we have comes from God. He is faithful to provide what we need. The Explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed show us this as well as our response. We can complain or become jealous of what others have, or we can choose to respond with contentment, knowing that God has a plan for our lives.

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:

- Helping hands in a room (no prep)
- Operations person gathering supplies (behind the scenes)
- Snack donator for a Sunday
- Tech assistance
- Game leader (9:00-9:15am)
- 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 a grandparent one too.

Women's Bible Study

Joins us Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Youth 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.

Special Reformation Celebrations

- ♦ We are celebrating Reformation and our 9th grade Rite of Confirmation on **Sunday, October 28** at a combined service at 10 AM in the sanctuary.
- ♦ The board of fellowship is providing hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats for the Fall Festival after worship in the gym. Please bring a favorite side dish to share. If you want to help with this event, contact Chuck Oliver Charliet1333@gmail.com or (239) 292-6058.

Thrivent Financial Gives

We usually do more than half of our Action Teams during the Holiday Season (over 50!). with the hurricane relief and holiday service projects we are in need now of people who want to sponsor teams. Please contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in sponsoring a Thrivent Action Teams education event, fundraiser or service project.

From the Director of Christian Education***Jack Proctor*****Saint Michael Youth Ministries****National Youth Gathering ~ July 10-16, 2019**

The 2019 national youth gathering will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota! 25,000 high school youth will be gathering together to connect with our “Real. Present. God.”



They will also be building relationships, making memories, and having different life impacting experiences! Please be praying for our NYG team. If you know a high school student, make sure they know about the youth gathering! www.LCMSgathering.com

**Confirmation****7th/8th grade students & parents**

We are preparing to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). We are beginning with the Apostles Creed. Bring your Small Catechism and Bible with you each week in Room 48 from 9:15-10:30 AM.

High School Sunday School

Sunday Mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 in the youth room 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!

6th grade Sunday School

6th grade students gather together from 9:15 to 10:30 in room 47 with Mrs. Tiffany and explore Word in new ways as they are encouraged to live out their faith.

Adult Pickup Basketball

Lace up your sneakers for some fun and friendly exercise. We play a series of pickup basketball games on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. 7PM-9 PM October 8th and 22nd


Middle School Youth Nights

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! **October Meetings: 2nd & 23rd**

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!

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>	
October 7	
Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett
October 14	
Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Neil Meador
October 21	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston Nila Little	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry
October 28	
Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Ken Fritsch 997-2596 Judy Ward Neil Meador Marge Bennett
November 4	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson Nila Little	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook

Church Greeters for October Sunday Services	
Oct 7	8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller 10:45 a.m. Marlene King
Oct 14	8:00 a.m. Alexandra DiNicola 10:45 a.m. Woody & Nancy Jackemeyer
Oct 21	8:00 a.m. John & Janis Pohlman 10:45 a.m. Brian & Allison Hoffmann
Oct 28	8:00 a.m. Gwen Schaaf and Harry Pietras 10:45 a.m. Aaron Bonenberger
<p>Interested in serving as a Greeter? Please contact Jan Nieman to sign up today! jannieman@comcast.net</p> 	

We have openings
in our
October 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

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

