

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>

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

“Dear children, let us stop just saying that we love each other, let us really show it by our actions” (1 John 3:18). You know, the best friendships and relationships are created by layers of kind actions. Here’s a quick list that I once saw in an article:

1. **Rituals** (traditions) – it may be a weekly lunch date, annual shopping trip, or dinner and a movie once a month, but the best relationships are rich with memories accumulated over time.
2. **Gifts** – gifts are a symbol of time and energy invested in a friend or loved one. It’s not the cost or size, it’s the thought behind the gift that says, “He or she thought of me”. So notes, cards, a favorite snack, phone call, text, or a tweet for no reason are all tiny statements of love.
3. **Words** – we’re talking about words that are filled with acceptance and approval, so be cautious with criticism and generous with genuine praise. The Apostle Paul wrote, “So encourage each other and build each other up.” It’s been said that people become what we encourage them to be.
4. **Listen** – by definition, “listening” means “attention with the intention to understand”. James, the brother of Jesus, wrote “Be quick to listen and slow to speak” (James 1:19). It’s been said that “talking is sharing but listening is caring”. As the old saying goes, “Ears aren’t made to shut but the mouth is.”

In this month of “love”, let’s try to see how many of these kind actions we can put into practice. Remember the words of our Savior, “I am giving you a new commandment – love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples.”

Pastor Jon



What is the Red Letter Challenge? And are YOU up for it??

See bottom of page 3 for details!

Top Events for



- 2/1-2 — *Father/Son Retreat*
- 2/3 — *Celebration of Life Service for Elaine Everhart, 3pm*
- 2/4 — *Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm*
- 2/5 — *Middle School Youth Night, 6pm*
- 2/9 — *LWML Meeting, 10:30am*
- 2/9 — *Daddy/Daughter Dance, 5-7pm in the gym*
- 2/10 — *CARWASH to benefit the Mission team*
- 2/10 — *Lunch & Learn, 12pm*
- 2/11 — *SMLS Spirit Night at Tijuana Flats, 5-9pm*
- 2/11 & 25 — *Adult Basketball, 7pm*
- 2/12 — *Middle School Youth Night, 6pm*
- 2/15 — *SMLS Grandparents Day, with Art Fair & Book Fair*
- 2/16 — *Edison Grand Parade*
- 2/18 — *Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm*
- 2/21 — *Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am*
- 2/21 — *School Board Meeting, 12pm*
- 2/23-24 — *Adult Information Class (see below for info)*
- 2/24 — *Voters Meeting & Kickoff Breakfast, 9:15am*
- 2/25 — *Elders Meeting, 7pm*
- 2/26 — *PTL Meeting for SMLS, 6pm in cafeteria*



February is **Diaper Drive** month! Please join us in supporting the SWFL Healthy Start program by donating diapers, wipes and powders. There will be a collection bin in the narthex for these much needed items.



Lunch and Learn (formerly Seniors on the Go) will meet on **Sunday, Feb. 10th** after the late service (about noon) in the cafeteria. This month's speaker will be from the SW Florida Healthy Start program.

All are welcome! Come and join us for lunch and fellowship and see what you can learn! *Please sign up in advance at the sound booth.*



Adult Information Class: February 23-24

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 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!**

Saturday, February 23rd from 9am - Noon

Sunday, February 24th from 2 - 5pm

A **Voters Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 24th at 9:15am in the cafeteria. This will be in place of the Adult bible class. There will also be a breakfast to kick off the *Red Letter Challenge*. See page 3 for more details!



Fellowship Breakfast

Car Wash on Sunday, February 10th!

Support the St. Michael Lutheran School 7th & 8th Grade Mission Team trip to Guatemala to serve at a malnutrition center by letting us wash your car while you worship! Donations accepted.



GriefShare Support Group meets Saturdays from 10:00am to 12pm, now through March 30th, in the ELC boardroom. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences, the loss of someone close. **You may join any session.** For more information, please call Bob Betancourt at 274-8188



*From the Director of Caring Ministries**Julie Berchtold***Strange Rest*****“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”******Matt. 11:28.***

Do you think Paul thought it restful to be a tireless wanderer for Christ? Did any of the other apostles, for that matter? Peter could have kept on fishing, and Matthew could have been secure in his tax office, if they had not come to Christ. But they all had found rest for their souls and joys that could not be taken away.

There are things that come to rest when Christ takes over. Old guilts that festered no longer hurt. Fears that exhausted one's strength lose their power. Inner storms find calm. Life on the outside may be ever so turbulent, but there is a new peace within.

Two artists were asked to draw their concept of peace. One threw on his canvas a mountain lake, sheltered on all sides by boulders, the surface of its waters like a mirror. The other drew a thundering waterfall, at its base a birch tree, and in its branches a nest with a mother bird sweetly singing to her young. This is called peace.

*In the storms of life, O Lord, give us a place to sing. Amen*Source: Alvin Rogness, Day 1, *Christ in our Home, Devotions for Every Day of the Year*, Augsburg Fortress***New Campus-Wide Study*****Campus-Wide Study**

We are excited about once again taking the Lenten Season to unite as church and school, with all ages (children, youth, and adults) to study and take the *Red Letter Challenge* together. Author and LCMS Pastor Zach Zehnder has created a 40-day discipleship challenge to introduce, through the words of Jesus, the five main principles of being a disciple: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going.

Join us as we take the Red Letter Challenge!

- February 1-March 1: Prayer Preparation
- February 9-10: Book Distribution Begins
- February 16-17: Small Group Sign-up Begins
- February 24: **Kick off Fellowship Breakfast and Voter's Meeting, 9:15-10:30am**
- March 2-April 13: Campus-Wide Study
- March 5: Daily Reading Begins

Kick off Fellowship Breakfast on Sun., Feb. 24 from 9:15-10:30am in the Anderson/Eichler Building for everyone. Kids will then head to their Sunday School classes while the adults will stay and have their annual Voter's Meeting to approve the budget.



From the Director of Little Saints

Stacie Thompson

In mid-January, we held a parent information night, sponsored by the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Penny talked about some precautions to take in safeguarding our children. He also brought along a member of V.O.I.C.E. (Volunteer Observers Impacting Community Effort) to issue ID cards for our kids, which will allow the authorities to locate a missing child faster. Later in the month, we held our annual Winter Day—a celebration of all things winter! We try to bring the fun of winter to Southwest Florida with activities ranging from playing in fake snow and ice to “snow” shoveling relay races. Look for pictures and videos of the event to be displayed on the screen at church just prior to the worship service.



Looking ahead to February, we have our Daddy-Daughter Dance on the 9th. This is a sweet event open to SMLS girls and their dads, Infants-8th grade.

A BIG thank you to Pastor Roger Hubbard for donating 26 copies of "The Story for Little Ones" to our school, which will be given to our 2-year-old classes. In the 2-year-old rooms, this book is known as "God's Book," as it tells the Bible to them in pictures and simple words. This book is very special to them and will be a cherished keepsake for years to come.

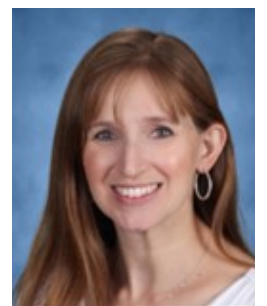


From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal

Kati Miser



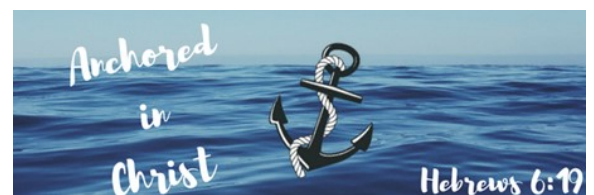
Love! Love! Love! That's what it's all about in the month of February! At Saint Michael, **our mission to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ!** Here they learn a powerful, life-giving message and the encouragement to share it with all with whom they come into contact ... especially sharing the love of Jesus in word and actions.



There are several ways for you to get involved at Saint Michael during the month of February:

- February 1-2 5th-6th grade Father-Son Retreat
- February 9 Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by our Little Saints Early Learning Center
- **FEBRUARY 11-15** **NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**
- February 15 Grandparents Day with an Art Fair and Scholastic Book Fair

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. By the way, Saint Michael families, when was the last time YOU shared a story or comment about your experience at our school? Give me a call if you want to see our school firsthand. **We have begun enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year.**



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

We can't think of a better time to teach preschoolers about how much Jesus loves them than February - the month of love! This month, our goal is for preschoolers to know Jesus loves them, and that nothing will ever change that. To do that, we've planned some super fun, hands-on-activities and are ready to tell amazing Bible stories in ways that will engage young minds. We also have some colorful, little friends joining us... LOVE BUGS!



Elementary Sunday School

Jesus demonstrated what serving really means by washing His disciples' feet and even laying down His life for the sins of the world. We reflect His character to the people around us when we lend a hand and serve.



Faith Stepping Stones:

- **Father-Son Retreat for 5th -6th Grade:** God's Plan for a Man Feb. 1-2 at Riverside Retreat. Please pray for our Dads and their Sons who are attending.
- **Mother-Daughter Retreat for 5th -6th Grade:** God's Design for His Daughters – Apr. 26-27. Watch your mailbox for an invitation.

Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, you can give \$250 or \$500 without giving 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 2018 tax year up until Mar. 31, 2019.

Women's Bible Study: Join us Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Youth Room as we begin a short study before Lent called "This is the Day" from Tim Tebow. Women of any age can join us any Thursday. Our study is viewable on Right Now Media.



CHURCH VOTERS' MEETING



Voter's Meeting

Sunday, February 24 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 to vote on our annual budget. We will still have Sunday School for kids, but adult classes will go to the voter's meeting.

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

I am grateful to be serving such a supportive and empowering congregation. In January had the privilege to participate in part 1 of 3 of the *Emergent Leaders* program. It is a program supported by the FL-GA district that was created to raise up leaders within the district to connect more people to Christ. These lessons learned will be used to raise up leaders within the youth ministry, both adults and youth themselves!

Another exciting opportunity was to take two high school youth to the FL-GA district office for a special youth ministry summit where our youth and a select few other got to share their insights into youth ministry with the district. This information will influence how the district youth ministry council focuses its events and efforts as they support churches with youth ministry in the district.

Father Son Retreat

The retreat is on February 1st-2nd at Riverside Retreat. This retreat is for boys in 5th and 6th grade along with their father's. This retreat is all about fathers teaching their sons about manhood and how to be a real man of God. A man of God is courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end.

Edison Parade Seats

The youth ministry is selling street seats for the Edison festival of lights grand parade! The parade is on 2/16 downtown Fort Myers.

National Youth Gathering

The 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. Please be praying for our NYG team.

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

Bring your Small Catechism and Bible with you each week in Room 48 from 9:15-10:30 AM.

Sunday School - 9:15 to 10:30am

High school - in the youth room

6th grade - in room 47

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!

Middle School Youth Nights

We play games, enjoy snacks, build community, and learn more about God together! We meet on select Tuesdays (February 5 & 12) from 6-7:30 PM in the Joy/Youth Room!

Usher Schedule

8:00 A.M.

10:45 A.M.

Please contact Marge Bennett if you are unable to serve as scheduled, or secure your own replacement. If YOU would like to serve as an usher, please contact Marge Bennett at 560-4159, and indicate which service you prefer.

February 3

John Hoffmann	Tom Kosteno
Nila Little	Marge Bennett
Bob Richardson	Christian Bottorff
Bill Truax	Ken Fritsch
	Neil Meador
	Eric Zinn

February 10

Tom Schlotterbeck	Leroy Waldren
Kathy Royston	Roy Hendry
Bill Truax	Diane Hendry
Bob Richardson	Jacob Haycook
	Brian Bottorff
	Marge Bennett

February 17

John Hoffmann	Ken Fritsch
Nila Little	Marge Bennett
Kathy Royston	Eric Zinn
Bob Richardson	Christian Bottorff
	Leroy Waldren

February 24

Tom Schlotterbeck	Tom Kosteno
Roger Rapport	Neil Meador
Bill Truax	Ken Fritsch
John Hoffmann	Aaron Bonenberger
	Jacob Haycook
	Brian Bottorff

Church Greeters for February Sunday Services

- Feb 3** 8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller
10:45 a.m. Marlene King
- Feb 10** 8:00 a.m. Pat Cody
10:45 a.m. Ken & Karen Zinn
- Feb 17** 8:00 a.m. John & Donna Carlson
10:45 a.m. Mark & Susan Gaertner
- Feb 24** 8:00 a.m. Bill & Kathie Truax
10:45 a.m. Kurtis Hasselbring

If you are moved to serve the congregation of St. Michael Lutheran Church either as a *Greeter* or an *Usher*, please contact the church office at 239-939-1218 Ext. 241.

We have many other volunteer opportunities as well, including helping in the office on Fridays, assisting with our newsletter assembly, and preparing the sanctuary for worship.

We have openings
in our
February 2019
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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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

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

