

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>

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

During the month of July, we remember the struggles that our nation went through in its early years – fighting against taxation without representation, long-distance rule by uniformed leaders, forced military service, and the mandatory provision of housing for “foreign” (English) troops.

Of course, when we celebrate our Independence Day on July 4, we usually don't stop to consider the fact that in 1776, 1777, 1778, etc. there were no fireworks, picnics, parades, or holiday vacations. The freedoms we enjoy today involved our forefathers (if not our own ancestors) in suffering, self-denial, pain, and even death – but you and I reap the benefits of their sacrifices even now.

We are free to vote, free to own personal land and property, we are free to worship, free to travel, we have the freedom to speak our thoughts and opinions in the marketplace of ideas, we are free to live in any town, county, or state that we may choose. But all of this was not our own doing! It is in fact all part of the great blessing that God has given to us. We can in no way claim them as rights as human beings, even though politically we may accept them as rights – because you see, “Every good and perfect gift comes from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

This is the same source for all the blessings within the church as well. No one has earned or deserved more of God's grace, love, or blessing than anyone else. The Word of God makes it plain that none of us can please God by our own actions. Even what we think of as good can only be good to God when viewed through the blood of our Savior. And Jesus is the true source of every grace and blessing. He is the One who has set us free to live in true freedom!

A New Fiscal Year of Ministry

It happens every July 1, we start a new year of mission and ministry opportunities. What doors will God open before us, what doors will He close? It is an exciting time for us as followers of Jesus in this place at this time. A recent Barna poll of The Most Post-Christian Cities in America places Fort Myers/Naples at #14 out of 100, with a ranking of 52%. This fiscal year, we are going to be looking at ways we can live out our faith in the midst of a society that often thinks we are irrelevant or extreme. In a book by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons entitled “Good Faith” we will explore the ingredients they suggest: How well we love + What we believe + How we live = Good Faith.

Top Events for



- 7/1 — Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 7/1 — DivorceCare Ministry, 9am each Monday in July
- 7/6 — Griefshare Ministry, 10am each Saturday in July
- 7/18 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
- 7/20 — Memorial Service for Beth Gehringer, 2pm
- 7/22 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
- 7/28 — Voters Meeting, 9:30am

VOTERS MEETING

**Sunday, July 28th, 9:30am
in the cafeteria.**

Children will have Sunday School, but there will be no Adult Bible Classes on this day.

After School Program is Hiring

St. Michael School's Extended Care program is looking to hire staff for the upcoming school year. Hours are 2:45-5:45pm, Mon -Fri. Occasionally when school is not in session the program is open for full and half days, which would be an opportunity for extra hours (and fun!) if desired. The program is closed on major holidays and weekends. This position is perfect for retired individuals (especially teachers) and college students who are looking to work just a few hours each week. Pay is between \$10-13 per hour.

If interested, please contact Beth Cameron, Director of Extended Care:

beth.cameron@gsmcls.org
or (239) 939-1218 x240

A Word from SMLC Gift Planning Counselor

Jim Pennington

Jesus' resurrection indeed glows with rays of love and hope. Pentecost's Promise inspires every believer with confidence that God is with us, today and forever.

Our Creator's consistency is remarkable. He formed the universe and planet for all people. His design's unmatched grandeur and beauty is evident everywhere, as is His infinite kindness. For sure, breathing life's breath in all living things proves a most compelling promise.

Perfection fashioned humans as the Crown of Creation, caretakers living in freedom. One limitation was communicated. "Don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." The warning's intent was to keep us from the effects of disharmony, loneliness, inequity, immorality and wickedness. Human adherence to this command with every pass of the tree honored the God who had made it. Yet disobedience entered the world and with disobedience came death.

Sadly, we eat the forbidden fruit like our first parents did. Willfully disregarding the promises God gave, we fail to recognize the utter depravity in our nature. Rescue could not come from within us. Our deliverance had to be in our Savior, Jesus, given to us.

A promise of deliverance was given just as humans were banished from that temporal Paradise. Perfect Love couldn't allow His Crown (humans) to live forever in horrible conditions of death. The history of God's plan to rescue the world in Jesus is the purpose for which the universe was made.

No other God among gods entered human form to live among us, suffer the sacrifice of death to pay the price demanded of perfection gone wrong, fulfilling all prophesies and promises. Easter is documented proof that Jesus is God in flesh. His power over sin, death and the devil opened the way for us to live in the knowledge and doing of His will. That power comes to us by the Spirit.

Pentecost's Promise gives comfort that God is with us always. Pentecost's Promise gives us power from the Spirit of our Living God and the **gift of faith to believe**. We can now reflect His image, so others will know too. Does your life, and end of life planning, reflect Pentecost's Promise?

Contact Jim Pennington, SMLC Gift Planning Counselor, at 863-370-0305 or james.pennington@lfnd.org to learn how a trusted guide can encourage you to plan and direct your passion to give to loved ones and cherished ministries so others might know that the Promise of Pentecost is real.

From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold*****Killing Me Softly**

"I have become mute, I do not open my mouth." Psalm 39:9

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. The husband realized he needed to be awakened early one morning to catch a business flight, but he didn't want to be the first to break the silence. So he left a note on his wife's side of the bed that read, "Please wake me at 5 A.M."



By the time bright sunshine roused him the next morning, it was 9 A.M. Furious, he threw back the covers and shouted to his wife (who was nowhere to be found,) "Why didn't you wake me up like I asked you to?" That's when he saw, stuck to the lamp on his bedside table, a note in her handwriting that read, "It is 5 A.M. Time to wake up."

It doesn't take much to make us angry and create emotional distance from each other. But it does take great, courageous effort to fight through the silence to a place of forgiveness and oneness. Isolation seems to offer us protection, a certain kind of self-preservation. There is a type of peace found in avoidance that appears much more appealing than the pain of dealing with reality.

Silence feels like a security blanket. But in fact, it is one of Satan's most deadly disguises. The silent treatment is perilously deceptive and ultimately destructive.

When you find yourself tempted to square off against each other, retreating to your corners and refusing to give in, remember that Jesus could have given us the cold shoulder. He could have taken one look at our many, many sins and shortcomings and never sought to draw us out. May His reaching, redemptive love be our model and motivator.

We serve a God who both seeks and speaks. Be sure you're a spouse who does the same.

Discuss

What, if anything, drives you into silence? Discuss what your spouse should do when you are silent.

Pray

Pray that God will show you both what you should do if one or both of you becomes silent .

Source: Dennis & Barbara Rainey, www.familylife.com

From the Director of Little Saints

Stacie Thompson

Our school year has come to an end and we had to say goodbye to another graduating class of 2's as they moved from Little Saints and on to "the big school." It was a bittersweet time for the teachers and parents, as so many of our little ones have been with us since they were infants. They have grown so fast and we hated to see them leave our building, but what an exciting time for our 2-year olds as they are finally "big kids now, 'cause we are going to the big school!"



Summer has begun and so has the summer fun. We started our first week of summer enjoying the pools and sprinklers as our 1's enjoyed their first water day out on the lawn. The squeals of laughter could be heard all over campus, nothing like an old-fashioned sprinkler to beat the summer heat.

Summer is also a time for renovations and repairs, and it's no different at Little Saints. We have begun the summer painting projects- every classroom will receive a fresh coat of paint. And thanks to the generous donations from Wayne Wiles Carpet and Tile, we will also receive new carpet and hard surfaces in all classrooms and one hallway this summer, too. We are so excited to reveal our fresh new look in August!

From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal

Kati Miser



At Saint Michael Lutheran School, **our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ!** Check out our SMLS Facebook page for photos and posts about recent events and stories shared by Saint Michael families about the impact of our school on their lives. Give me a call if you want to see our school first-hand. Online applications for 2019-20 are being accepted on our website.



SUMMER PROGRAMS AT SML: Since summer camp began on June 3rd, we have had close to 100 campers daily! The children have had fun participating in several different camps including basketball, soccer, Lego building, camp discovery and around the world with friends.



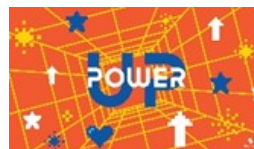
From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

We are continuing to Power Up through the summer with fun and engaging experiences for preschoolers to learn about the fruit of the spirit—what happens when we are connected to Jesus, the real power source .



Elementary Sunday School

Jesus knew we need help to respond to his grace with living for Him; that's why He sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce fruit that points others to Jesus .



Summer Sunday School Help Needed

Do you want to help during the summer with our nursery, preschool, or elementary 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.

Family Ministry

FAMILY VBS

Thanks to the 86 people who helped in small or large ways to bring the message of God's goodness no matter what the circumstances to our 117 participants of all ages! With the help of our volunteers, Thrivent members sponsoring six different action teams, Ft. Myers Cyclery and Mast Family Culligan support, we supported six local and global groups. Here are some of the results:

- Water to Thrive = Bike Raffle won by Brett Hornbuckle, raising \$543.20
- Liberian Orphanage = Bike Raffle won by Julia Lee, raising \$322.52
- Community Cooperative = 598 sack lunches for soup kitchen and VA
- Dominican Republic = Bed sheets for hospitals (about 10 from participants and a pallet of gently used coming from Bay Linen)
- ECHO = Education Event with kids planting their own cucumber/sponge plant and supporting missionaries around the world with seeds.
- Youth Summer Trips = iWatch Raffle won by Warren Smith, raising \$318.28

Thrivent Financial Members

If you are a Thrivent member then don't miss the chance to partner with a fundraiser, service project, or an educational Thrivent Action Team where \$250 of Thrivent money is available for seed money. Contact me to find ways to use them.

Women's Bible Study

During the summer we will continue to meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the youth room. We are studying Biblical friendship called Not Alone. Join any time.

Opportunities for Serving

- **Welcome Center/Greeter Coordination**

We are thankful for God providing new volunteers for our welcome center and greeter coordination: Kurdis Hasselbring (8:00 AM); Aaron Bonenberger and Jessica Radecki (10:45 AM); and Nancy Jackemeyer (welcome gifts). There is also a new process for deciding who will greet when. Your team leaders will be contacting those who have served and recruiting new volunteers.

- **Preparing the Sanctuary for Worship**

Our new team that has volunteered has changed to cleaning time to Thursdays, 9-10 AM. Want to check it out? Come by or contact Sue Parker: (330) 635-8033 sparkbonita@aol.com

From the Director of Christian Education

Jack Proctor

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

It's finally here!

National Youth Gathering

This trip has been 3 years in the making. The national youth gathering will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota where 25,000 high school youth will be gathering together to connect with our Real. Present. God. Please be praying for our NYG team as we go through this experience together.



Youth Participants

Adult Leaders

Jack Proctor
Bryon Haycook
Kati Miser
Jennifer Pohlman
Tiffany Roszell
Sue Clark

Shay Burress	Sophia Manietta
Sydney Cook	Laci Roszell
Dakota Dalton	Kylee Young
Alison Schleicher	Maegan Young
Jalyn Fisher	Eric Zinn
Kelton Fisher	Hailey Miser
Brianna Risley	Matthew Pohlman
Hallie Risley	Christina Pohlman
Jacob Haycook	Spencer Shovlin
Skylar Manietta	Michael Radecki

Middle School Mission Trip to Luther Springs

June 23rd-28th a group of 14 middle school students from Saint Michael went to Camp Luther Springs in Hawthorne, Florida. Not only did we have fun a camp, it was a week of purpose! We served with local agencies in Gainesville and we had the opportunity to live out the calling that God has given each and every one of us to love our neighbors.



Sunday School - 9:15 to 10:30am

High school - in the youth room with Mrs. Sue! (Includes rising 9th graders)

Middle school - in room 47 (upstairs school building) with Mrs. Tiffany! Includes rising 6th graders

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! We continue to meet over the summer however we may have a variation in location from time to time. Contact Jack.proctor@gsmcls.org before coming to learn the details and location.

Jack Proctor
Director of Youth Ministries
Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org
239.939.1218 ext. 224

Usher Schedule	
8:00 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
<p><i>Please contact Marge Bennett if you are unable to serve as scheduled, or secure your own replacement.</i></p> <p><i>If YOU would like to serve as an usher, please contact Marge Bennett at 560-4159, and indicate which service you prefer.</i></p>	
July 7	
Bill Truax Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Kathy Royston	Tom Kosteno Aaron Bonenberger Christian Bottorff Hannah Zinn Jacob Haycook Marge Bennett
July 14	
John Hoffmann Nila Little Kathy Royston Roger Reppert	Leroy Waldren Woody Jackemeyer Jacob Haycook Neil Meador Christian Bottorff Eric Zinn
July 21	
Bill Truax Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Rodney Rimes	Tom Kosteno Aaron Bonenberger Christian Bottorff Hannah Zinn Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn
July 28	
John Hoffmann Nila Little Roger Reppert Bill Truax	Ken Fritsch Marge Bennett Roy Hendry Diane Hendry Tom Kosteno Woody Jackemeyer

Church Greeters for JULY	
Sunday Services	
Jul 7	8:00 am Tom & Jo Zeller 10:45 am Ellen Feige
Jul 14	8:00 am Rich & Vicky Manietta 10:45 am Jan Grube
Jul 21	8:00 am Jennifer & Kelsey Campbell 10:45 am Ron Silc
Jul 28	8:00 am John & Janis Pohlman 10:45 am Chas & Amy Summerlot

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 to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week.

We have openings in our *July 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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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

Preschool
Elementary
6th-8th Grade
9th-12th Grade

Adult Bible Studies

Women’s Study (Pastor’s Conf. Rm.)
Marriage Enrichment (Art Room)
Family Enrichment (Boat Table/Office Center)
Pastor Zehnder’s Adult Bible Study (Cafeteria)

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 Youth 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

