

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

Hard to imagine, but... SUMMER IS OVER! Some of you are old enough to remember when school didn't start until AFTER Labor Day, summers back then were long and luxurious; probably not for our folks who had to put up with us being under foot all that time. I'm sure they counted down the days until school was back in session and I'm pretty sure my folks went out for a champagne breakfast when I and my four siblings went trundling back to school!

August is the time when everything in our ministry starts to gear back up; there are new opportunities for us to grow in our faith, new opportunities to reach in as well as go out to bless our Saint family and our community. You may have already noticed the new banner hanging in church, "Made to Love, Called to Serve" - it's the new theme for Saint Michael School and really a continuation of what we were reminding ourselves as we shared in the 40-day Red Letter Challenge.

As we kick off this new ministry year, those two words are incredibly important: "Love" and "Serve". I hope you will join me in praying, as it says in Hebrews 10:24, that we will think of ways together to "motivate one another toward love and good works!" Together I believe God can help us discover new ways for us to love and serve.

We know that the Gospel, that "good news" of God's own love, grace, and forgiveness to us in our Savior Jesus changes everything! By the power of the Holy Spirit it starts with our hearts, then bursts into our homes, our neighborhoods, our businesses, our school, and into the entire fabric of our complicated everyday lives. It is so that we, as followers of Jesus, can be the most loving, kind, respectful, teachable folks, always going the extra mile to understand, to listen, and to give grace far beyond what is expected.

I am looking forward to the start of this 2019-2020 year of ministry! And I invite you to join me in praying our theme – that we were "made by God to love and called by God to serve." Obviously, the reason for prayer is that we know that we have no ability to be or generate anything "good" on our own, it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us. With that said, let's get to work!



Pastor Jon

Top Events for

AUGUST

8/11 — SMLS Staff Commissioning @10:45am service

8/12 — SMLS Parent Orientation, 5:30pm

8/13 — SMLS Student Orientation, 8-11am

8/13 — Lunch with the Principal (for new school families), 11am

8/14 — First Day of School!

8/15 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am

8/15 — Board of Christian Education Meeting, 12pm

8/19 — Stephen Ministry Meeting, 6:30pm

8/25 — Blood Drive, 8:30am—12:30pm

Note: There will be no Elders Meeting in August*Campus Construction**

Our maintenance team has been very busy this summer making improvements to our campus. In particular, the brick courtyard between the school and church buildings is getting a major remodel. They removed two large trees whose roots were lifting the bricks and creating trip hazards and removed the large rock structure (that was once a water feature.) They are putting in ramps from both sides of the courtyard and a ramp leading to the south door of the office center, making our school building more accessible. Thank you to **Joel Zehnder** and **Steve Eggen** for your hard work and for making these much needed improvements!



Do you enjoy the convenience of online shopping? Now all of your eligible purchases made through Amazon can benefit St. Michael! AmazonSmile is a program that donates a portion of your purchase price to the charity of your choice. **We received \$34.19** from

Amazon for purchases made from January to March of this year. Please help us increase that amount by using Amazon Smile for every order! Every little bit helps. You can choose St. Michael by using this link when shopping: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0791044>

Director of Music Ministry**Vicar Colton LaMay**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support throughout the SMP program! This summer was extremely formational as we finished the Master Narrative course in late May, which led into a continuation of what we believe, teach, and confess in a course entitled Creedal Themes. It was an excellent week of intensive course work with Dr. Okamoto, who has been teaching systematics at the Seminary for twenty-one years. He helped shape our thinking about the words we say in our creeds and what those statements say about what we believe and about what we do not believe. We focused on the early church's need for unified statements of faith that addressed the twisting of Scripture that was prevalent in the early church and that continue today, though continually re-packaged for the generations. It was an incredible experience of studying God's Word and worship, as I was able to participate in some worship music during the daily chapel services and to serve musically with other musicians in the program. The Seminary is excellent at truly making the distance education students part of the seminary community. I look forward to the start of the next course, Lutheran Distinctions, within the next few weeks.

Musically speaking, please mark your calendars that Bell and Choir rehearsals begin September 3rd, with Bells meeting from 5:30-6:30pm and Choir meeting from 7:00-8:00pm both in the sanctuary. The main three octaves of the handbells were sent to PA for refurbishment this summer, so their improved sound will certainly be a blessing in worship! Also, I would really like to get back to doing more four-part music in a more traditional choral setting, so if you are a tenor or a bass, please consider joining us this year! It would be optimal to recruit about 8 regular gentlemen to have a balanced choir. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a great year with our musical groups! God's richest blessings this month!

Vicar Colton LaMay

From the Director of Caring Ministries

Julie Berchtold

Fight Right

*“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”
James 1:19-20.*

If you've been married longer than 24 hours, you know that conflict is real. All couples argue and disagree. Be encouraged to know that conflict itself is not a threat to your marriage, but unresolved conflict is. Therefore, the ability to settle your conflicts in a biblical way will prove to be one of your most valuable assets. Treasure the peace of your love by avoiding conflict when possible; when it's not, fight together for your marriage rather than against each other.

Many conflicts can be avoided, or at least minimized, by slowing down, listening, and really trying to understand what the other person is saying. At the very least, this approach keeps you on track, moving toward resolution rather than adding to the size of the disagreement. More importantly, showing this level of respect proves that you value your relationship more than winning an argument.

Praying together for our marriage:

He Prays: Ask God for the wisdom and grace to deal with every conflict in a way that strengthens your marriage and builds your love and trust.

She prays: Ask God to help you both to be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" when you'd rather give in to anger and hurt.

Source: Oneness Prayer Challenge, www.familylife.com

“A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver” Prov. 25:11



Stephen Minister Commissioning

On July 14th, six newly trained Stephen Ministers (**Polly Bryden, Allison Hoffmann, Sue Kolesar, Nila Little, Sharon Paul and Viviana Verwest**) were commissioned; along with two active Stephen Ministers (**Anita Dennis and Lisa Miller**) who chose to be refreshed by taking the 50 hour training course a second time. Please show appreciation to these Stephen Ministers for their hard work and willingness to use their gifts in this vital ministry. We thank God for all that they bring to our congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

From left: Pam Kollmann, Allison Hoffmann, Sue Kolesar, Viviana Verwest, Anita Dennis, Polly Bryden, Janet Marderness, Nila Little and Lisa Miller
(Not pictured: Sharon Paul)



*From the Director of Little Saints**Stacie Thompson*

Enrollment is full for the 2019/2020 school year, and we are fully staffed! Our new flooring project is almost done and our classrooms have a fresh new coat of paint. We are gearing up and getting ready to welcome all the new families to Little Saints and Saint Michael this year.



We have made some changes to our teaching staff for the new year:: Mrs. Lee Ailant and Mrs. Nikki Howley have been promoted to lead teachers at Little Saints.

Our team: Stacie Thompson and Paula Robbins co-teaching - Older Twos

Lisa Morimanno - Older Twos

Nikki Howley - Younger Twos

Carol Flores - Ones

Lee Ailant - Transitional Ones

Colleen Brown - Infants



“Made to Love, Called to Serve” is our new theme this school year. This group of amazing ladies, along with all of our support staff, are ready to teach the children about the love of Jesus as we serve our God and families this year.

*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 14 at 8:15am in the Sanctuary. The theme for this year is “Made to Love, Called to Serve” based on Galatians 5:13b, “Serve one another in love.” You are all invited to attend this celebration. But another opportunity for celebration comes before that day ... On Sunday, August 11 at the 10:45am

service, the staff of our school and early learning center will be acknowledged and dedicated. You can get involved that Sunday by attending the late service and/or promising your prayers on behalf of their ministry to children and families during the 2019-2020 school year.



At Saint Michael Lutheran School, **our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ!** Check out the SMLS reviews on our [Facebook](#) page where families share their stories about the impact Saint Michael Lutheran School has had on their family. Give me a call (239-939-1218) if you want to see our school first-hand. Online applications for 2019-2020 are still being accepted on our website (www.smlcs.org)

From the Ministry Coordinator***Lori Schwan*****Children's Ministry**

On August 11, we will kick off a new year under the theme "Made to Love. Called to Serve." We want students of all ages to bring their backpacks to worship with them. The congregation will have a special prayer for students. Then all will receive a pin they can put on backpacks or wear that will remind them of the theme for the year.

**Preschool Sunday School**

Our 2s – PK4 will be going on a treasure hunt, discovering the Bible is worth more than gold or silver. They will see that God's word teaches us God loves us all the time, gave us Jesus to be our friend forever, how to live, and that I can share my stuff with others.

**Elementary Sunday School**

K-5th Grade students will see how following God's "flight plan" is really the best. As we learn more about God, the easier it is to follow Him because we see that he is trustworthy. We can learn to trust and obey even when we think our way is better, when others don't, and even when we don't know how it will work out.

**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

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 Joy/Youth room as we study the book of Acts. Women of any age can join us any Thursday. Our study is also viewable on [Right Now Media](#).



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

Shay Burress - *“NYG was such a wonderful experience. It strengthened my faith in God. I got to deepen relationships as well as start new ones. Seeing 20,000 Lutherans in the same room praising the Lord was amazing and you know God was there with us. NYG was a n experience I can’t describe, it was absolutely incredible.”*

Matt Pohlman - *“My experience at NYG was great. It connects people within the group, and also friends that you may have seen during district events. In my case I got to see a friend that moved away to California. If I had to rate this trip I would give it a 99/100 because the flight was 3 hours long.”*

Kati Miser - *Surreal! To worship wildy with over 20,000 believers...there are no words. I wish every single person in our church could experience this kind of gathering. My prayer is that this experience will be the catalyst these youth need to carry Jesus' light with them into their daily lives.*

Hailey Miser - *This gathering was such an incredible experience and I hope that everyone one day will get to experience. This was an experience that I will never forget. It changed me knowing how many other Christians there are like me!*

Eric Zinn - *“This NYG brought our youth group together immensely. We all bonded over the message in finding our identity in God, our identity isn’t in the activities we participate in or the jobs we work, our identity is in our creator, God.”*



Christina Pohlman - *“At NYG I expanded my mindset by listening to convention speakers and deep conversations with other attendees. I bonded with other kids in our youth group I’ve known for years, and through that I feel closer to the church and God.”*

Sue Clark - *“What an amazing opportunity to spend a week with our high school youth as they grow in their faith and see first hand their real present God and to build relationships with them. I am truly blessed to have this opportunity.”*

Bryon Haycook - *“It was awesome seeing youth from all over the world at NYG. My favorite part was family group time. I really enjoyed hearing the kids perspective of the day’s events. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to go on this trip as an adult leader.”*

Tiffany Roszell - *“Thank you for making it possible for the youth and adult leaders to be given a chance to worship and praise a Real Present God with 21,000 plus other Lutherans. From the break out sessions, service projects and mass events it’s an experience that leaves you feeling like you’re on top of the world!”*

Jen Pohlman - *“What an amazing experience it was to attend my first NYG! To see so many youth & adults celebrating our Lord in one place, together, and so enthusiastically, is beyond words. Watching our youth connect with one another and grow in their faith was the icing on the cake. There is no other experience like this. It was truly a week of God sightings everywhere! Real. Present. God!”*

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. If YOU would like to serve as an usher, please contact Marge Bennett at 560-4159, and indicate which service you prefer.</i></p>	
August 4	
John Hoffmann Nila Little Roger Reppert Kathy Royston	Ken Fritsch Marge Bennett Eric Zinn Woody Jackemeyer Roy Hendry Diane Hendry
August 11	
Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Rodney Rimes Nila Little	Leroy Waldren Brian Bottorff Aaron Bonenberger Roy Hendry
August 18	
John Hoffmann Roger Reppert Bob Richardson Rodney Rimes	Tom Kosteno Marge Bennett Hannah Zinn Christian Bottorff Woody Jackemeyer
August 25	
John Hoffmann Nila Little Bob Richardson Roger Reppert	Ken Fritsch Leroy Waldren Eric Zinn Aaron Bonenberger

Church Greeters for AUGUST Sunday Services	
Aug 4	8:00 am Tom & Jo Zeller 10:45 am Tom & Diane Robertson
Aug 11	8:00 am Jace Habben & Drea Slayton 10:45 am Barbara Henry
Aug 18	8:00 am Gwen Schaaf & Harry Pietras 10:45 am Nathan & Deanna Fisher
Aug 25	8:00 am Bill & Meg Minor 10:45 am Brian & Allison Hoffmann

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 *August 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

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

