

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” troops.

Of course, when we celebrate our Independence Day on July 4, we usually don't stop to consider the fact that on July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to just the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.

That custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, speeches, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870 and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a paid holiday for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, firework displays, picnics and performances of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.

Well, that's the history of the day and how we celebrate it – but the independence and freedoms that we enjoy today came at a cost to our forefathers (if not some of our own ancestors) of suffering, self-denial, pain, loss of property and even loss of life. Their sacrifice provides us with benefits we now have: we are free to speak, free to vote, free to own our own property, free to worship, free to travel, free to live in any city, town, county or state we may chose.

But all of that was not our doing! It is in fact all part of the great blessings that God has given to us. We can in no way claim them as “rights” we've somehow earned or deserved. We know that, “Every good and perfect gift comes from God.” So God is the ultimate source for all of the blessings we receive. And, spiritually speaking, Jesus is the true source of every grace and blessing – He brings us true freedom! May God bless us and may He continue to bless our United States.

Top Events for



- 7/2 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 7/9 — Adult Pickup Basketball, 7pm
- 7/23 — Adult Pickup Basketball, 7pm
- 7/29 — Voters Meeting, 9:30am

VOTERS MEETING

Sunday, July 29th, 9:30am
in the cafeteria.

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

See below for a list of ongoing events in our community. Summer is a great time to get out and participate in these activities when the crowds are lighter and the parking is plentiful. And you never know, you just may get an opportunity to meet new people and invite them to worship with you at St. Michael. 😊

River District History Tour This 90-minute walking tour will educate and entertain you with narratives of local history and acquaint you with the colorful personalities of the founders of our city. Saturdays, 10:30am-12pm, begins at The Franklin Shops located at 2200 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.

Guided Kayak Tours Visit the lovely Imperial River where it gently pours into Estero Bay through winding mangrove mazes. This is a very productive estuarine environment with up to 300 species of birds and a wide variety of aquatic species. Learn how important the estuaries of the world are to life on this planet. Cost is \$60 + tax per person, and is offered every fourth Friday from 10am-2pm. Make reservations online at www.GAEAGuides.com or call 239-694-5513.

Kids Cruise Free Pure Florida in Naples is offering children 12 and younger a free ride on their sightseeing cruise every Saturday at 10:00am., when accompanied by a paying adult. The 1.5 hour children's cruise provides an entertaining environment for children to learn about Southwest Florida wildlife. Adult tickets are \$39 per person. Reservations are required. Call 239-693-4949 or visit www.PureFL.com.

Music Walk The River District of Fort Myers comes alive on the Third Friday of every month as local and regional musicians line the streets. From jazz and blues to rock & roll, many different genres can be heard each month. Free to attend. Summer dates: July 20th, August 17th. Time: 6-10pm

Art Walk First Friday of every month in the River District of downtown Fort Myers. Visit the many galleries, exhibitions and performances. Free to attend. Summer dates: July 6th, August 3rd. Time: 6-10pm.

Mystery Walk Scavenger Hunt in downtown Fort Myers, every second Friday, 6-8pm. Cash prizes! They meet at the intersection of First and Hendry Streets to begin. Free to attend. Summer dates: July 13, August 10th. Time: 6-8pm.

Fort Myers Drum Circle Drum and Dance Circle meets every Sunday, 7-9pm, at Centennial Park in downtown Fort Myers. Drummers, dancers, jugglers, hula hoopers, everyone is welcome. Bring your own chair and instrument, or just come to listen.

From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold******Developing Spiritual Intimacy in Marriage******Many marriage partners today feel close to their spouses in every way except spiritually***

The young woman in my office was animated, though not upset. “I never dreamed what has happened in our marriage during the past year was possible,” she said. “We’ve gone along for years just sort of ho-hum. Nothing bad, nothing spectacular—just steady. I guess we were in a rut. It was comfortable, and I guess we felt, or I did, that this was the way it would always be. But Jim came home from that men’s conference and made all kinds of changes. Even though they were mostly positive, it took me awhile to adjust.

“The first thing he did was come up to me and apologize for not telling me that he prayed for me every day, and had for years. How would I have ever known? In fact, that’s what I started to say, but I caught myself and thanked him for telling me. A week later he asked me how I would feel about praying together and reading from the Bible occasionally. I have to laugh now because it’s like he wanted me to but wasn’t sure how I would respond. So we did.

“I can’t explain why or what happened, but there is this incredible sense of bonding or closeness now that we never had before. We pray, we read, we share. Sometimes I call him and pray a sentence prayer for him over the phone. He does the same. And our sex life is a whole different story. Others have seen our relationship change. And when they ask, we tell them. I guess we’re finally experiencing what the Bible says about cleaving in the full sense of the word.”

Spiritual bonding. Spiritual intimacy. Spiritual closeness. Desired, yet avoided. Available, yet elusive for so many.

To relate together spiritually means creatively meshing two people’s schedules. You have to be flexible, committed, and have realistic expectations for what you want to happen in the relationship.”

Many marriage partners today feel close to their spouses in every way except spiritually. In that area they feel isolated. Often this isolation cannot be kept in check, and it may creep into other areas of a couples’ life and impact those areas, too. And the more one person wants to be close spiritually and the other resists, the more resentment will build.

Intimacy suggests a very strong personal relationship, a special emotional closeness that includes understanding and being understood by someone who is very special. Intimacy means taking the risk to be close to someone and allowing that someone to step inside your personal boundaries.

Then we come to *spiritual intimacy*. In his book, *The Spiritually Intimate Marriage*, Don Harvey has the most complete definition that I’ve found. He says spiritual intimacy is: Being able to share your spiritual self, find this reciprocated, and have a sense of union with your mate.

I know couples who worship regularly together, but there is no spiritual intimacy. I know couples who read the Scripture regularly together, but have no spiritual intimacy. I know couples who pray and share together sporadically, but are lacking in spiritual intimacy. I know some couples who don’t pray and share, yet have spiritual intimacy.

What’s the difference? It seems to be in their attitudes. Spiritual intimacy is a heart’s desire to be close to God and submit to His direction for your lives. It is the willingness to seek His guidance together, to allow the teaching of His Word in your everyday life. It’s a willingness to allow God to help you overcome your sense of discomfort over sharing spiritually and learn to see your marriage together as a spiritual adventure. It’s a willingness to enthrone Jesus Christ as Lord of your lives and to look to Him for direction in your decisions, such as which house to buy, where to go on vacations, or which school is best for the children. It means He will direct both of you, and change your hearts to be in agreement rather than speak just through one of you.

www.familylife.com

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

*From the LCMS Foundation**Jim Pennington**Freedom in knowing. . .*

Adam first learned of a knowledge limitation in the Garden. He and his companion Eve were created perfectly and eternally able to know good. Knowing 'evil' was a limitation given in love.

God's creation account chronicles this limitation. God prohibited eating the "fruit of the tree of the knowledge of 'good' and 'evil.'" Knowing that evil would overcome life with death, God protected His people to live forever with Him. However, deceived into thinking they could be 'like God', people rebelliously desired equality with God.

Many Christians fail to relate this freedom in knowing to life's purpose or consequence. The God of perfect wisdom desires eternal peace for people. God didn't make a creature with limited decision making. People are given knowledge of God and 'good' as a gift.

Humankind also has a freewill to choose the knowledge of 'evil' and does. The disobedient choice of Adam and Eve, (and us), brings death. Disharmony replaces harmony, resulting in people murdering God's only Son.

Some Christians know that freedom of knowing good, is a gift of God, who fulfilled His promise to rescue and redeem the future from knowing 'evil.' Jesus lived perfectly and rescued all people from a defiant and wayward nature. Easter's glow shines the full knowledge and freedom of 'good' on us.

God gave people freedom to know. Knowledge opens daily doors of thought and action. Faith translates knowledge into a loving call to serve others. The human will's defiance, caused by the deception of knowing evil, translates into self-interest, despair and destruction.

When earthly life is over, value symbols left behind will transfer to another. Transferring life's treasures can benefit or injure. Those with faith's gift of knowing good, will plan to bless, not curse. How can your lifetime plan for giving be a 'testament for good'?

For more information, contact Jim Pennington, SMLC Gift Planning Counselor, at 863-370-0305 or james.pennington@lfn.org

*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 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.



Find us on:
facebook®

From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Preschool Sunday School

This month, we're going to teach our preschoolers that God's Word is with us wherever we ride our bikes or trikes and any where we go.



Elementary Sunday School

In July we will continue to be Amped – confident because God is stronger than anyone. He can do things that would be impossible for us, especially His death and resurrection. We can be fully alive because of Him!

Sunday School Nursery Reopening

Enjoy loving on little ones? Contact Lori Schwan if interested in volunteering with 0–2-years-olds once a month!

Summer Sunday School Help Needed

Do you want to help during the summer with our preschool, elementary or middle school 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

Thank you for all those who prayed that our Vacation Bible School would be a blessing. These stats don't tell the real stories. Ask a family or volunteer where Jesus rescued them from being lonely, worried, struggling, doing wrong, and feeling powerless. Then you will hear where the Holy Spirit has worked.

118 Participants (of which 62 were kids)

67 Volunteers (not including those who also participated)

185 People hearing how Jesus rescues us!



500 PBJ Sack Lunches made for Community Cooperative's clients

- VBS Servants Determination
- Donations by Our Congregation
- Mast Family Culligan Water
- Anita Dennis' Thrivent Financial Action Team

Women's Bible Study

We meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Art Room and study Emerson and In July we meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Pastor's Conference room. We are wrapping up our study of Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs' Respectfully Yours and then begin a new study. Join us at any time.

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

The youth had a very busy June! They helped with Vacation Bible School, Dominican Republic mission trip, Fort Myers Beach mission trip, and Camp Luther Springs mission trip! In back to back to back to back weeks no less. Thank you for all of your prayers!

**Dominican Republic mission team.**

The picture was taken at the Lutheran Church and Preschool in Licey. The Saint Michael intergenerational team of Ann Sluiter, Lou Conzelmann, Alex Howley, Chuck Oliver, Hannah Zinn, Jack Proctor, and Jacob Haycook worked alongside the Pastor, Vicar, and others from the Licey area. The team worked to expand the playground as well as make the ground suitable for a garden for the church and school. Thank you for your prayers! God did amazing things. Hear more about the trip and the other mission trips at the voters meeting July 29th.

**Confirmation**

Confirmation Class is on break for the summer. We will pick it back up with the start of school! Over the summer middle school students can join in on the combined Sunday school in the youth room. 9:30-10:30am.

Combined Sunday School

Sunday Mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 with the wonderful Mrs. Sue! Middle and high school students will be together. Take a deeper look into God's Word.

Adult Pickup Basketball

Lace up your sneakers for some fun and friendly exercise. We play a series of pickup basketball games on select Mondays 7-9 PM. **July 9 & 23.**

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!

Uniform Gathering at Colonial Elementary


Riley Hackworth is asking for our help. He is collecting new or used children's navy blue and khaki shorts to donate to Colonial Elementary School where his mother teaches. He has noticed that several students come to school with shorts that don't fit properly, are missing buttons, or are ripped or torn. Please consider helping Riley with this special project. Look for the collection bin in the narthex.

Ever want to be involved with youth coming to know Jesus Christ in a powerful and real way? You can! Contact Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org to talk about different ways to be involved.

Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org

239-939-1218 ext. 224

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>	
July 1	
Dale Mast John Hoffmann Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Hannah Zinn Neil Meador
July 8	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston David Engstrom Nila Little	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Marge Bennett Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry
July 15	
Dale Mast Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck	Ken Fritsch 997-2596 DD Schleicher Judy Ward Neil Meador
July 22	
John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson David Engstrom Nila Little	Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn
July 29	
Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast	Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett

Church Greeters for July Sunday Services	
Jul 1	8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller 10:45 a.m. Anna LeSueur
Jul 8	8:00 a.m. Bill & Polly Bryden 10:45 a.m. Darlene & Ken Fritsch
Jul 15	8:00 a.m. Pat Cody 10:45 a.m. Jan Grube
Jul 22	8:00 a.m. John & Janis Pohlman 10:45 a.m. Amanda & Joel Zehnder, Mason, Brody and Grace
Jul 29	8:00 a.m. Bradford Little 10:45 a.m. Brian & Allison Hoffmann, Abigail and Madeline
 <p>Interested in serving as a Greeter? Please contact Jan Nieman to sign up today! jannieman@comcast.net</p>	

We still have openings
in our
July 2018
Acolyte and Crucifer
schedule.

Sign up today using SignUp Genius!
www.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

Toddlers- 2 year olds
Preschool
Elementary
6th-8th Grade
9th-12th Grade

Adult Bible Studies

Marriage Enrichment
Family Enrichment
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
10:00 am Thursday Women’s Bible Study,
..... led by Lori Schwan, in the Art 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

