

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: Kids Sunday School & Bible Classes.

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

"Blessed to be a Blessing"

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." (Psalm 106:1) Who would have thought in 1998, when we began our work in the Dominican Republic that God would do such amazing, great things from such humble beginnings? At a recent leadership meeting it was reported that many new opportunities are starting to take shape. With the seminary students able to assist in ministry in new locations, more and more people are being touched by the Holy Spirit with the good news of God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus.

The school, seminary, seminary housing, and the Good Shepherd Home (for children with developmental disabilities) in Palmar continue to grow. Our church in Santa Domingo, and our newly built and dedicated Church and School in Licey are reaching out in their communities. New opportunities continue to be presented. In Ozama, Pastor Sergio Maita and Vicar Isaac Machado (both Venezuelans), are reaching an ever growing Venezuelan refugee community outside of the capital.

Saint Michael continues its strong support of current ministries as well as venturing into new opportunities that we pray will pave the way for our missionaries and seminarians to follow where we are building new relationships. Here are some of the most recent highlights and opportunities:

- \$8,250 is wired every quarter for our support of our school in Palmar (in a building we funded on land we bought and donated). So far this year, \$24,750 has been sent.
- We sent an additional \$2,500 in April to help put a roof, windows, and doors on the newly ordained Dominican Lutheran Pastor Idjon's house in Palmar (he needs to live in the community rather than traveling every day from Santiago)
- Our most recent mission team's summer trip served in Palmar, Licey, and Moca
- We continue working with Mayor Martinez of Santiago in sponsoring 20 children learning English (going into their third year of a four year program). The English language school has invited our missionaries to be their school "chaplain".
- We sponsor 20 adults from the Mayor's office, Police, and Firefighters (going into their second year). We work with the Fort Myers Fire Department and Lee County Sheriff's Department for practical training and donation of materials. This has led to numerous opportunities to witness to our faith and provide an open "door" for our missionaries in the Dominican Republic.
- We will again be doing a Christmas run, bringing gifts and the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Savior - to our schools in Palmar and Licey, plus outreach opportunities in Moca and up to 300 children at City Hall in Santiago!

As you can see, there is a lot going on! And we can only do that with your help and support. For those of you with a love for children – you can designate your support to that particular aspect of our work in the Dominican. It is our hope, that with enough support, we can alternate sponsoring children and then adults at the English language school every other year, as well as continuing our strong support of our established schools, churches, and outreach opportunities.

Our next sponsored class will be children. We are working with the Mayor's office to have a contest in 10 schools where students will be challenged to find a way to serve in their community – to "Do Good". Each school will then choose one of their own who has served in that way to be our scholarship recipient. What an exciting way to spread the idea of serving!

Thanksgiving Worship:

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday 11/21, 7:00 pm ~ Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 11/22, 10:00 am

Top Events for



- 11/2 — SMLS Fall Dance (hosted by NJHS)
 11/2-4 — Middle School District Youth Gathering
 11/3 — Celebration of Life Service for Howard Palen, 11am
 11/5 — Council Meeting, 5:30pm
 11/5 — Board of Properties Meeting, 6:30pm
 11/5-9 — SMLS Scholastic Book Fair (You can order online!)
 11/6 — Middle School Youth Night, 6pm
 11/10 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am
 11/10 — Celebration of Life for Susan Gresham, Time TBD
 11/11 — Seniors on the Go (Free for Veterans!)
 11/12 — Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm
 11/12 — Adult Basketball, 7pm
 11/13 — SMLS PTL Meeting, 6pm
 11/15 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
 11/15 — School Board Meeting, 12pm
 11/15 — SMLS Science Fair
 11/20 — SMLS Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser
 11/21 — **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, 7pm**
 11/22 — **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service, 10am**
 11/25 — Advent Wreath Making Event & Breakfast, 9:15am
 11/26 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
 11/26 — Adult Basketball, 7pm
 11/27 — Middle School Youth Night, 6pm
 11/28 — Advent Mid-week Worship, 7pm



Do you know someone who is recovering from an injury or illness, or would simply appreciate a gift of comfort? Our Prayer Shawl

Ministry has blessed us with many beautiful items that are available for sharing, and they want to make sure you know how to get one. There are now prayer shawls located in the Usher Closet in the small chapel, there are some available from the church office, and you can also get them from our Prayer Shawl Ministry directly by emailing Janice Waldren at:

JaniceWaldren70@gmail.com.

Please help us be a blessing to others by sharing these gifts of prayers & comfort.

Thanksgiving Baskets Board of Human Care is requesting cash donations to assist them in preparing Thanksgiving food baskets. They will collect the funds and shop for the necessary items just before assembling the baskets since storage space is hard to find on our busy campus. A Thrivent Action Team has also been established to help purchase the turkeys.

Seniors on the Go - All are welcome! Join us on **Sunday, November 11** at noon in the cafeteria for a special Veterans Day event! Guest Speaker is **Rey Arroliga** who is a representative from Lee County ROTC program, retired Navy firefighter/paramedic, and veteran who served in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. He also happens to be a parent of a St. Michael School student. Kerry Spencer, our Saturday Service pianist, will also be there performing patriotic tunes for you to enjoy. Please sign up in advance at the Sound Booth. Lunch will be served, Cost is only \$7. ***This event is FREE for all veterans***



Coffee Sale! The Women of St. Michael LWML will conduct a Lutheran World Relief Farmer's Market *coffee sale* at services on **November 10th and 11th**. Proceeds go toward LWML charities - and when you buy LWR Farmers Market Coffee, 80 cents is donated back to LWR to support farming communities worldwide.

Get your ovens ready! LWML will be having another fantastic **Cookie Extravaganza** in December. We'll be looking for bakers to help bake some wonderful cookies and goodies. This event will be held **Dec. 8th and 9th**. Look for more information in the bulletins in November. If you have questions you may call Paulette Mueller at (239) 677-6688 or Nancy Jackemeyer (239) 851-8476.

From the Director of Caring Ministries***Julie Berchtold*****Lessons From a Basketball Coach: The Value of Selflessness**

How the high school coach of NBA star LeBron James teaches his players about the value of serving others.

By Dru Joyce II

From the instant we leave our mothers' wombs, our needs are somehow magically met. If we cry, we get a bottle; if we soil our diapers, someone changes them; even if we have to burp, someone is miraculously there to make sure we get every last drop of air out of our little tummies. These are nature's guidelines, of course, because newborn babies certainly can't take care of themselves.

The problem is that as we grow up, we cling to these guidelines. We get used to other people doing things for us, used to wanting someone else to do the dirty work, and (metaphorically) crying when something doesn't go our way.

**Heart of a servant**

When people step away from the habit of "taking" and enter the space of "giving," I believe they become not only more fulfilled but healthier spiritually. Giving back is like a statement to the heavenly Father that says, *Thank you for what you've given me.* It's like a nod of gratitude combined with a battery pack that energizes possibility for someone else.

As a coach, it was always crucial to me that my players understood the value of having the heart of a servant. I needed them to see the merits of self-sacrifice, not just because it would help them become better players, but more so because it would compel them to become great individuals.

During the holiday season, a local church created food baskets for needy families. It may not sound like a major feast, but the labor that went into making these baskets and getting them to the right places was beyond tedious and took a lot of time and energy. *Time and energy* — these are building blocks of servanthood.

The boys and I helped unload tractor-trailers full of fifty-pound bags of potatoes and cases of canned goods. Do you think a bunch of teenage boys wanted to do this type of labor? We all know the answer. Sure, I'd hear the occasional grumble or wisecrack, but I knew at the end of the day, they were glad they had helped out.

These moments injected them with a sense of empathy for the needy families that would benefit from their diligence, and it also gave them quality time to bond as a group off the court, when they could tap into other aspects of life that were just as important, if not more so, than their own basketball-related desires and goals.

Teaching selfless basketball

I firmly believe it's about the team and not just an individual player. I remember driving LeBron James home from practice one evening, and I told him if he shared the basketball, teammates would always enjoy playing with him. I never had to have that conversation with him again. He got it. When your best player creates opportunities for other players, it becomes contagious. This selfless style of play has been emphasized with every team I've ever coached.

One of my favorite John Wooden expressions is this: "It's amazing how much can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit." This idea, too, belongs in the discussion of what it means to have a heart of a servant, because when someone is overly concerned with getting the credit or receiving the glory, it's usually a strong indication that they're only really there to serve *themselves*.




Players do this for all kinds of reasons—recognition, popularity, and competitiveness, to name just a few. A lot of seniors will play hard just to get scholarships. But the truth is that if you win a state championship *as a team*, you'll ultimately get everything you want as an individual and more. This is why it's crucial to always put the team first. Everyone, from coach to player, needs to operate with the common understanding that we are bound by commitment and fueled by our collective goal.

Source: www.familylife.com

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" Phil. 2:3.

From St. Michael Lutheran School

Here are a few items we wanted to share from our School Newsletter:

- **SOCCER FIELD BANNERS FOR SALE** - Interested in promoting your business with a soccer field banner? Pick up an order form at the front office. Doing so helps students in grades 4-8 who need assistance paying for class trips, and also with special projects around the campus.
- **BOOK FAIR** - November 5-9, 2018! You can purchase online through Nov. 13. Visit www.smlcs.org and click the scrolling banner that advertises the [Scholastic Book Fair](#). You can sign up to volunteer or purchase your Scholastic books online. A portion of all book sales is donated back to our school. 
- **JOB OPENINGS** - Our extended care program has job openings available. This program provides after school child care and also provides child care on non-school weekdays and noon dismissal days. Email Beth.Cameron@gsmlcs.org if you are interested. 
- **WINE CORKS NEEDED** - Our PTL is asking for wine cork donations. They are using them to craft something special for Teacher Appreciation week. Please drop them by the church office if you have any to share.
- **PET FOOD DRIVE** - Our Little Saints program is collecting Pet Supplies in support of ARC (Animal Refuge Center in N. Ft. Myers.) Items needed: *dog food, cat food, treats, pet toys, bleach, old towels, cat beds, and leashes*. Please bring your donations to the narthex or church office between **Nov. 3-11**. 

From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal

Kati Miser



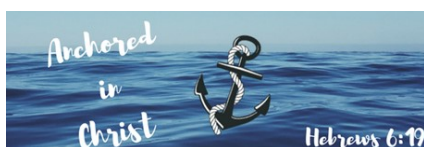
Recently I came across a thought to ponder: “What would you do if you woke up tomorrow morning and all you had is what you thanked God for yesterday?” Have you thanked God lately for Saint Michael’s faculty, staff, students and families? This is a gentle reminder that we need your daily prayers - not just during this season of Thanksgiving. Prayer power is needed to continue **our mission to educate children and touch families’ lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ!** By the way that includes Little Saints – its Director Stacie Thompson, her staff and families.



This month you the opportunity to support SMLS through the following events:

- ◆ November 5 – 9 The Scholastic Book Fair
- ◆ November 15 The school Science Fair
- ◆ November 20 The Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser

Contact the school office if you would like more information: 239-939-1218.



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. 239-939-1218

From the Ministry Coordinator***Lori Schwan*****Children's Ministry****Preschool Sunday School**

During the Happy Helpers Club, we will be thankful for the many people God has given to help us. We're asking, who helps me, and how can I show them I am thankful for them? We want our toddlers and preschoolers to grow up with eyes that see the helpers and a heart that is thankful to God.

**Elementary Sunday School**

God created us to work together in community.

Throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish something big for Him. When cooperate, we reflect what Jesus envisioned for His followers. Our love for one another can point people to Him. We hope to do that Nov. 11 and 18 through our annual Operation Christmas Child where

we bring in small gifts and shoe boxes to pack and ship to kids around the world with a message about Jesus.

**Sunday School Nursery**

Enjoy loving on little ones? Contact Lori Schwan if interested in volunteering with infants and one-years-old's once a month!

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 wrap up our study of 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

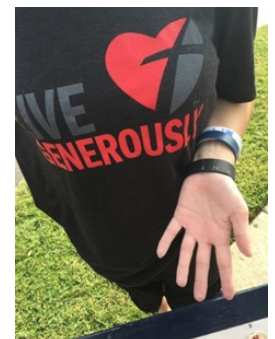
Thank you to all who helped with the Reformation Combined Worship and the Fall Festival. It was a blessing to so many and a great way to connect with the St. Michael family.

Advent Event for Families of All Ages

Join us in the gym on Sun. Nov. 25 from 9:15-10:30 as we make Advent Wreaths to prepare for Jesus' birth. We will have breakfast and make an Advent wreath for your family, friends, or our homebound church members. The Parish Education Board will have supplies and Advent devotions. If you can bring additional clippers from home, that is helpful. (Allergen note: live greens will be used.)

Thrivent Financial Sponsors Needed NOW!

We usually do more than half of our Action Teams during the Holiday Season (over 50!). With the hurricane relief flood bucket challenge 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 continuing 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.

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! **November Meetings: 6th & 27th.**

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!

A look at our new Confirmands! First row left to right: Liam King, Shay Burress, Kylee Young, Jalyn Fisher, Jasmine Carver. Second Row: Laci Roszell, Brandon Fenton, Sydney Hatcher.



Usher Schedule	
8:00 A.M.	10:45 A.M.
<p><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></p>	
November 4	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Bob Richardson Nila Little</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Brian Bottorff Jacob Haycook Eric Zinn</p>
November 11	
<p>Bill Truax 482-8418 Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Dale Mast</p>	<p>Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Judy Ward Christian Bottorff Marge Bennett</p>
November 18	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Leroy Waldren 989-1048 Ken Fritsch Eric Zinn Neil Meador</p>
November 25	
<p>John Hoffmann 936-8362 Bill Truax Kathy Royston Nila Little</p>	<p>Tom Kosteno 489-4398 Jacob Haycook Roy Hendry Diane Hendry</p>
December 2	
<p>Bob Richardson Kathy Royston Tom Schlotterbeck</p>	<p>Ken Fritsch 997-2596 Judy Ward Neil Meador Marge Bennett</p>

Church Greeters for November Sunday Services


Nov 4 8:00 a.m. Tom & Jo Zeller
10:45 a.m. Marlene King

Nov 11 8:00 a.m. Kevin Baptiste
10:45 a.m. Linda Franks

Nov 18 8:00 a.m. Pat Cody
10:45 a.m. Linda Wittenauer and Carol Williams

Nov 25 8:00 a.m. Robert DeMott
10:45 a.m. Jennifer & Kelsey Campbell

Interested in serving as a Greeter? Please contact Jan Nieman to sign up today!
jannieman@comcast.net



We have openings in our November 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

