

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**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sat: 5:30 pm</b> | Informal  |
| <b>Sun: 8:00 am</b> | Traditional   |
| <b>10:45 am</b>     | Blended   |
| <b>Sun: 9:15 am</b> | Education Hour:<br>Kids Sunday School<br>& Bible Classes. |



# The Messenger

**From the Pastor**

**Rev. Jon Zehnder**

As we approach **Father's Day** on June 16, I am humbled in my attempts to imitate or even reflect the love, compassion, kindness and forgiveness that our Heavenly Father shows to me (and also to you).

In Jesus' parable of "The Prodigal Son" (which is also called "The Prodigal Sons" since both boys were disconnected from their Dad but only the youngest one of them chose to leave home, and it is also called "The Waiting Father" since the Dad is really the hero in the story) (Luke 15:11-32) we find some principles which help us act redemptively when we're faced with a wayward child and helps us reflect how our Heavenly Father deals with us:

- The father did not disown his sons. There is no trace of anger or retaliation. The father simply kept on loving them and reaching out to them.
- The father did not allow himself to be overcome with despair – he went on living. He didn't blame himself for his sons' actions or choices, nor did he allow those things to destroy his life.
- The father did not chase his wayward son; he did not pursue and "hound" him. He allowed his younger son to choose his path and also deal with the consequences of his decisions (he didn't rescue him).
- The father never gave up hope. In Luke 15:20 we see the father looking for the return of his youngest son. Through it all he kept on believing (and I'm sure praying) that his son would someday come to his senses and return home.
- There is no evidence that the father ever said, "I told you so". He didn't throw his son's mistakes back in his face. Rather, he freely forgave his son and welcomed him back.
- The father involved others in celebrating his son's return. Parents need the support of others when suffering the hurts of a wayward child.

Well friends, there is a Father who loves like that – our Heavenly Father! This parable is a true picture of the love that God has toward us, His children, who so often also stray and disappoint. And this continued love and forgiveness is ours for the sake of the Father's only begotten Son, our Savior Jesus!

Do you know what the letters in the word "FAMILY" stand for?

Father  
And  
Mother  
I  
Love  
You

*Pastor Jon*

## Top Events for



- 6/1 — Celebration of Life for Edna Shilling, 1:30pm
- 6/1&2 — Graduation Blessing during all services
- 6/3 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 6/3 — Elders Meeting (May), 7pm
- 6/10-13 — Family VBS! 5:30-8pm
- 6/20 — Board of Christian Education Meeting, 12pm
- 6/23-28 — Middle School Mission Trip to Luther Springs
- 6/30 — Blood Drive, 8:30am-12:30pm

### A note from Pastor Roger Hubbard:

*How time flies!*

*This year marked my tenth year at St. Michael serving part-time as Winter Associate Pastor. It has been a privilege to work with you these past years and to get to know so many of you as dear friends. I hope in some small way I have been able to further the ministry and mission here at Saint Michael. But all good things must come to an end, so this past season was my last to serve as your Winter Associate Pastor. In the future I will be pursuing other areas in which to serve God and His Kingdom. May His blessings continue to all of you, and thank you again for letting me be a part of your work for our Lord and Savior here at Saint Michael.*

*Pastor Roger*

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 prayer shawls located in the narthex and you can also get them from our Prayer Shawl Ministry directly by emailing Janice Waldren at: [JaniceWaldren70@gmail.com](mailto:JaniceWaldren70@gmail.com)

When you take one, please sign the clipboard and identify who it goes to and what you feel their need is for prayer. We are asking this in order to evaluate where our ministry is going, and who has received one.

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



### Two Opportunities for Serving:

#### Welcome Center/Greeter Coordinator

We are thankful to Jan Nieman's 5 years of developing and coordinating our Greeting and Welcome Center Program. As she steps into new areas of service, we are dividing the tasks into several roles depending on which service one attends and individual giftedness. If you are passionate for visitors and would like to help, there is a role for you depending on your preferences (relating to others through recruiting weekly volunteers or organizing with computer work behind the scenes). Contact Lori Schwan for more information. (239) 939-1218 x237

[lori.schwan@smlcs.org](mailto:lori.schwan@smlcs.org)

#### Preparing the Sanctuary for Worship

As Chris Silc moves into other areas of service, we need others to join her husband Ron and winter associate member Sharon Paul (in winter months) on Fridays from 9:15-11:00 AM in preparing the church sanctuary for the weekend worship services. If you like keeping things in order (filling pew pockets, attendance sheets, sharpening pencils, restocking narthex pamphlets and Portals of Prayers, sweeping communion kneelers, dusting and cleaning windows, etc.) this might be a way for you to serve. Chris said this experience has been a joy and spiritually uplifting beyond what she expected. Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in learning more. (239) 939-1218 x237

[lori.schwan@smlcs.org](mailto:lori.schwan@smlcs.org)

### DivorceCare Ministry ~ new session!

Separated? Divorced? You don't have to go through it alone. Most people will tell you that separation and divorce are the most painful and stressful experiences they've ever faced. It's a confusing time when you feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues you've never faced before.

A new session of DivorceCare will be offered on Monday mornings, 8-9:30 am, beginning April 29th and running through July 29th, meeting in the ELC Boardroom. For more information, please contact Julie Berchtold, 939-1218, ext. 227 Join anytime.

***From the Director of Caring Ministries******Julie Berchtold***

Everyone has hit that wall.

**Why bother with other people?**

- A husband or wife decides it's not worth opening up to their spouse anymore after years of criticism, bickering and hurtful words.
- An employee goes to work, shuts his door, and only comes out when it's time to go home, hoping to avoid any interaction with co-workers.
- A teenager comes home from school and goes to her room until she is coaxed (or threatened) to join the family for dinner.
- Family gatherings are reduced to relatives sharing the same geographical space, devoid of any meaningful interaction.
- Neighbors live side by side for years, but no one has taken the time to initiate a personal relationship.
- Someone probably dropped out of a small group this week because they didn't think it was worth the hassle.



What about you? Have you reached a point in one of your relationships where you're wondering if it's worth the struggle?

It's tempting to think that if God truly cared for us, He would make our relationships easier. In reality, a hard relationship is a mark of His love and care. The very thing we would naturally seek to avoid is what God chooses to make us more like Him.

We would prefer for the Lord to miraculously change a relationship, but He won't be content until the relationship changes us. This is how God created relationships to function.

What happens in the messiness of relationships is that our hearts are revealed, our weaknesses are exposed, and we start coming to the end of ourselves. Only when this happens do we reach out for the help that God alone can provide.

Weak and needy people finding their hope in Christ's grace is what marks a mature relationship. The most dangerous aspect of your relationships is not your weakness, but your delusions of strength. Self-reliance is almost always a component of a bad relationship.

Likewise, one of the biggest impediments that we face in relationships is our spiritual blindness. We frequently do not see our sin, nor do we see the many ways in which God protects us and others from it. God constantly protects us from ourselves by restraining our sin.

Isn't it amazing that people get along at all? Each night the evening news begins with a litany of divorces, robberies, rapes, and murders which suggest that all people are dangerous, all the time. Yet it often fails to cite the millions of good things people do for each other to make our world a liveable place.

Our view of relationships can be just as slanted. We tend to only see sins, weaknesses, and failures, rather than the good things God is accomplishing.

How are you viewing your potential for healthy, God-honoring relationships? Do you measure the size of the problems or the magnitude of God's presence and the power of his transforming grace?

If you look for God in your relationships, you will always find things for which to be thankful.

2019 Paul Tripp Ministries, Inc.

***"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped" Ps. 28:7.***

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

The school year is winding down for the older 2's rooms, and soon we will close out the year with a party at Lakes Park to celebrate and say goodbye. We will miss having these friends in our building, but we will still see each other around campus, as many will move on to Pre-K 3 in the SMLS main building. Our school has worked hard to partner with the "big school" to reduce confusion in the transition to the PreK-8 building. We held two information sessions this school year to introduce our families to the team that will be working with them from this point on and to answer any questions they may have.



The picnic tables are in place on the playground and things are really shaping up out there. The art center has been in high rotation as we get those little minds thinking creatively outdoors. Some classes have finger painted and others discovered how we make purple by mixing blue and red watercolors together in shaving cream. We could still use some help creating more shade out there. If you know someone with a connection to a nursery or trees, please let us know. The playground will be shut down over the summer months, so this would be an ideal time to get new trees established and allow the natural elements to recuperate from the constant use during the school year. Wishing you a safe and fun summer!

*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 our Lord Jesus Christ!** As another school year comes to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children to love and follow Jesus. But wait! That mission continues with our summer camp which begins in June. What an opportunity to keep on proclaiming Jesus! Even if your children do not currently attend Saint Michael Lutheran School, they (and any other children you know) are invited to participate in Summer Camp, Vacation Bible School and Summer Sunday School. Summer Camp brochures are available in the school office, and camp director Sue Hampel (239-939-1218, ext. 229) is ready to answer your questions. Contact Lori Schwan (239-939-1218, ext. 237) about VBS or Summer Sunday School.



There is still time to give me a call if you want to see our school first-hand or want to show it to a friend, neighbor, or family member. Online applications for 2019-20 are also being accepted on our website.



We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support throughout the school year ... your encouraging words and prayers, your helpful hands and your monetary donations. Thank you in advance for continuing that support even during the summer as we prepare our campus, our budget and our calendar for the next school year.



## From the Ministry Coordinator

**Lori Schwan**

### Children's Ministry

#### **Preschool Sunday School**

We are going to Power Up through the next two months 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. Classes start June 2.

### Family Ministry

**FAMILY VBS will be Monday – Thursday, June 10-13, from 5:30-8:00 PM.** This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At *Roar*, kids and families explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. They'll learn how, like the Israelites saw when they escaped slavery, God is good when life is unfair, scary, changing, sad, and even good! He never changes. This FREE adventure is for the whole family with dinner, service projects and raffle prizes! Register now! Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering on our team; there is a place for everyone (behind the scenes or with families) 939-1218, ext. 237 [lori.schwan@smlcs.org](mailto:lori.schwan@smlcs.org).



#### **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.

#### **Red Letter Challenge Match**

During the Red Letter Challenge, an anonymous family issued a three-week matching challenge for all to give above and beyond their tithe. Our congregation united with the donor's match to collect all together \$33,410! Thank you for your incredible generosity for God's work! These dollars will not only bolster our Offerings Income; but will also cover other costs including those of the RLC itself. May we continue to focus on Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going like Jesus.

#### **Women's Bible Study**

During the summer we will continue to meet Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in pastor's conference room. We are wrapping up a Right Now Media study called Clutter Free and will begin one on friendship called Not Alone. We will run through the summer. Join any time

Lori Schwan  
Ministry Coordinator  
[Lori.Schwan@gsmlcs.org](mailto:Lori.Schwan@gsmlcs.org)  
239.939.1218 ext 237

***From the Director of Christian Education***

***Jack Proctor***

## **Saint Michael Youth Ministries**

### **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.

Hear from some of our youth going on why they are so excited:

Eric Zinn: *"This youth group has made me comfortable with sharing my faith. Going on youth trips (like NYG) allow me to interact with even more youth and praise God on an intensified scale!"*

Maegan Young: *"I'm looking forward to going to the National Youth Gathering because I'm excited about meeting new people my age that share the same faith and values that I do. I'm also looking forward to the new experiences and adventures with St. Michael."*



### **Sponsor the Youth attending NYG and receive the special gifts below:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$0-\$24      Invitation to post-gathering celebration during the Sunday School hour (Date TBD)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25-\$99    Above plus a 2019 Gathering Button
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100-\$199   Above plus a mailed Minnesota postcard with personal note from a Youth (after their first mass event experience!)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$200+      Above plus Signed and Framed Group Photo

### **Middle School Mission Trip to Luther Springs**

June 23rd-28th our middle school youth will be serving people in need in the Gainesville community. In addition to serving we will be enjoying camp life at camp Luther Springs!

**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](mailto:Jack.proctor@gsmcls.org) before coming to make sure.

Jack Proctor  
Director of Youth Ministries  
[Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org](mailto:Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org)  
239.939.1218 ext. 224

### 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.*

#### June 2

John Hoffmann  
Nila Little  
Kathy Royston  
Roger Reppert

Leroy Waldren  
Marge Bennett  
Jacob Haycook  
Neil Meador  
Christian Bottorff  
Aaron Bonenberger

#### June 9

Bill Truax  
Bob Richardson  
John Hoffmann  
Kathy Royston

Tom Kosteno  
Aaron Bonenberger  
Christian Bottorff  
Hannah Zinn  
Jacob Haycook  
Eric Zinn

#### June 16

John Hoffmann  
Nila Little  
Kathy Royston  
Roger Reppert

Ken Fritsch  
Marge Bennett  
Roy Hendry  
Diane Hendry  
Tom Kosteno  
Woody Jackemeyer

#### June 23

Bill Truax  
Bob Richardson  
John Hoffmann  
Kathy Royston

Tom Kosteno  
Aaron Bonenberger  
Christian Bottorff  
Hannah Zinn  
Jacob Haycook

#### June 30

John Hoffmann  
Nila Little  
Kathy Royston  
Roger Reppert

Tom Kosteno  
Marge Bennett  
Woody Jackemeyer  
Eric Zinn  
Roy Hendry  
Diane Hendry

### Church Greeters for JUNE Sunday Services

**Jun 2** 8:00 am Tom & Jo Zeller  
10:45 am Woody & Nancy Jackemeyer

**Jun 9** 8:00 am Alexandra DiNicola  
10:45 am Carol Williams

**Jun 16** 8:00 am Bill & Kathie Truax  
10:45 am Chas & Amy Summerlot

**Jun 23** 8:00 am Jim & Janet Elliott  
10:45 am Jo Ellyn Avedisian  
& Carla Burnell

**Jun 30** 8:00 am Pat Cody  
10:45 am Ursula Jean Baptiste

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  
*June 2019*  
**Acolyte and**  
**Crucifer** schedule.  
Sign up today using  
[SignUpGenius.com!](http://SignUpGenius.com)





**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US. Postage Paid**  
**Ft. Myers, Florida**  
**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

