

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Send to:
smlcspublications@gmail.com



Pastor Jon Zehnder

Inside This Issue:

Top Events for the Month	2
Caring Ministries	3
Little Saints	4
Note from the Principal	
Ministry Coordinator	5
DCE	6
Volunteer Schedules	7

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

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

It's that time of the year – school is back in session, Sunday School, confirmation instruction, Bible Classes are all being re-energized for a season of growing in our faith and in our relationship with our Savior Jesus. It really is all about our life with Jesus, following Jesus each day, and becoming involved in God's redemptive and restoring mission.

And as you can see in the passage above, our life in Jesus and with Jesus started with Him. Out of His love and grace for us, He comes to us, calls us, chooses us, and makes us His own. He does that for a purpose, as Paul reminds us in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Again, our school's theme is “Made to Love, Called to Serve” – our “calling”, sometimes referred to as our “vocation”, is to serve. Each and every one of us as followers of Jesus are called by God to be particular people, in particular places, with particular opportunities to love and serve. In other words, God gives us specific people to love and influence, specific places to dwell in as His witnesses.

It's about “becoming like Jesus”, or as we have been sharing over these summer weekends, it's about having “Christ formed in us.” And what that looks like is our having an increasing capacity to love others as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in John 13:35, “By this will all people know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

So, the evidence of being a follower of Jesus is not our knowledge of theology, or our attention to keeping rules, or our time spent in church, the evidence is our increasing capacity for loving others. Becoming like Jesus looks like serving others with love. And not some sappy kind of love given only to the loveable, but a gritty kind of love that is redemptive and restoring and that does its best work in the midst of anger, hatred, ruin and opposition – in a word, it's grace.

Grace is loving the unlovable; treating people better than they deserve – in the same way that God treats us. So, becoming like Jesus looks like grace, which is beyond our own ability – that's why we need

Jesus ourselves, because the love we want to share is the love that has come to us from God in our Savior. Here's our chance this month to do THE most important thing in our life in Jesus, as Paul says in Galatians 5:6, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”



Pastor Jon

Top Events for

- 9/2 — LABOR DAY! School and office are closed.
- 9/3 — Bell Choir (5:30) and Adult Choir (7:00) resume meeting on Tuesdays
- 9/3 — Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm
- 9/7 — Mission Board Meeting, 6pm
- 9/6-7 — High School Lock-In
- 9/7 — Adult Information Class, Part 1, 9am-12pm
- 9/8 — Adult Information Class, Part 2, 2-5pm
- 9/9 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 9/9 — Board of Properties Meeting, 6:30pm
- 9/16 — Stephen Ministry Meeting, 6:30pm
- 9/16 — Adult Pick-up Basketball, 7pm
- 9/17 — PTL Meeting, 6pm in the Cafeteria
- 9/19 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
- 9/19 — School Board Meeting, 12pm
- 9/21 — SMLS Invitational Soccer/Volleyball Tournament
- 9/23 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
- 9/24 — Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm

Thank You to Larry and Pat Ryan for their leadership and for serving on our Mission Board, especially with our work in the Dominican Republic. We thank God for their caring and generous hearts.

Adult Information Class: September 7-8

Our new member class is held as a 2 day, 6-hour weekend seminar where we will share with you the major Biblical teachings of the Christian faith. This informal class is led by Pastor Jon... you can ask questions, but you will not be required to answer any questions.

So, if you want to find out more about what the Bible teaches, or where Saint Michael stands on faith issues, or you are interested in taking the first step toward becoming a member of Saint Michael, then **this Class is for YOU!**

Saturday, September 7th from 9am - Noon
Sunday, September 8th from 2 - 5pm

From the Parish Nurse

Ann Sluiter, RN

Taking Care of your Mental Health

In March and April of this year I worked together with the Neuropsychiatric Research Center and screened people for cognitive and memory concerns. The screening did not constitute a diagnosis, but for those who had scores lower than the norm, referrals were made and resources given. If you would like to be screened, please call the church office and ask them to put you in touch with me so I can set up an appointment for you.

So, how do you rate your mental health? NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. There are offices in our local counties where you can seek assistance.

Some warning signs that you may need to seek help or help someone else include but are not limited to:

excessive worry or fear, confused thinking or problems concentrating and learning, extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable 'highs' or feelings of euphoria, prolonged or strong feelings of irritability or anger, avoiding friends or social activities, difficulties understanding or relating to other people, difficulty perceiving reality, multiple physical ailments without obvious cause, thinking about suicide, abuse of substances like alcohol or drugs.

Once you find the right specialist, prior to your first appointment be sure to write down your issues and be ready to talk about your health history and what you are experiencing. Ask about treatment options so that you understand the plan and what you need to do. Be sure to ask all your questions. Stay involved with friends and family and your church. Keep a wellness log to monitor your progress. Stay positive and surround yourself with positive messages, people and activities. This will help you feel better.

Did you know that the Bible has 365 "Fear Not's," one for each day of the year?

Philippians 4:6 *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'*

There is a hymn that says, 'I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future'. We should remember this and pray often asking God to help us.

Blessings,

Ann Sluiter, RN Parish Nurse

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

**This letter was provided by Luke Geraty, founding and managing editor of ThinkTheology.org.*

**This letter was posted anonymously due to the nature of the topic.*

An Open Letter to My Porn Watching Dad

Dear Dad,

I want to let you know first of all that I love you and forgive you for what this has done in my life. I also wanted to let you know exactly what your porn use has done to my life. You may think that this effects only you, or even your and mom's relationships. But it has had a profound impact on me and all of my siblings as well.

I found your porn on the computer somewhere around the age of 12 or so, just when I was starting to become a young woman. First of all, it seemed very hypocritical to me that you were trying to teach me the value of what to let into my mind in terms of movies, yet here you were entertaining your mind with this junk on a regular basis. Your talks to me about being careful with what I watched meant virtually nothing.

Because of pornography, I was aware that mom was not the only woman you were looking at. I became acutely aware of your wandering eye when we were out and about. This taught me that all men have a wandering eye and can't be trusted. I learned to distrust and even dislike men for the way they perceived women in this way.

As far as modesty goes, you tried to talk with me about how my dress affects those around me and how I should value myself for what I am on the inside. Your actions however told me that I would only ever truly be beautiful and accepted if I looked like the women on magazine covers or in porn. Your talks with me meant nothing and in fact, just made me angry.

As I grew older, I only had this message reinforced by the culture we live in. That beauty is something that can only be achieved if you look like "them". I also learned to trust you less and less as what you told me didn't line up with what you did. I wondered more and more if I would ever find a man who would accept me and love me for me and not just a pretty face.

When I had friends over, I wondered how you perceived them. Did you see them as my friends, or did you see them as a pretty face in one of your fantasies? No girl should ever have to wonder that about the man who is supposed to be protecting her and other women in her life.

I did meet a man. One of the first things I asked him about was his struggle with pornography. I'm thankful to God that it is something that hasn't had a grip on his life. We still have had struggles because of the deep-rooted distrust in my heart for men. Yes, your porn watching has affected my relationship with my husband years later.

If I could tell you one thing, it would be this: Porn didn't just affect your life; it affected everyone around you in ways I don't think you can ever realize. It still affects me to this day as I realize the hold that it has on our society. I dread the day when I have to talk with my sweet little boy about pornography and its far-reaching greedy hands. When I tell him about how pornography, like most sins, affects far more than just us.

Like, I said, I have forgiven you. I am so thankful for the work that God has done in my life in this area. It is an area that I still struggle with from time to time, but I am thankful for God's grace and also my husband's. I do pray that you are past this and that the many men who struggle with this will have their eyes opened.

Love, Your Daughter

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry" Col. 3:5.



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

School is back in and Little Saints has welcomed 15 new families to our school in August! All of our teachers would like to thank the Saint Michael congregation for your support and all of the kind gifts to help get our classrooms stocked and ready for a new year. We really appreciate you!

Now that we are settling in and are on track for another busy year, the lead teachers have set our sights on the upcoming Florida Education of Young Children conference in Orlando, September 5-8th. This will be our first year attending the statewide conference and we are eager to catch up on all of the latest in early childhood education.

Once we get back from the conference, we will jump right into our big fundraiser for the year. We welcome all of our infant-PK-3 families to our annual pirate pasta dinner Saturday, October 5th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the gym. This year we are raising money for an AED machine in our Little Saints building (\$1,700.00), and two new quad strollers for our littlest ones (\$800.00).

It's shaping up to be a busy fall at Little Saints!

***From the Saint Michael Lutheran School Principal******Kati Miser***

The ministries of Saint Michael Lutheran School and Little Saints Early Learning Center are on a continuous journey to improve the quality of our school and infant program through the staff, educational facility, curriculum, communication, classroom instruction and atmosphere and their impact on the community and our congregation.

The process called **accreditation** takes place with a review by AdvancED and the National Lutheran School Association (NLSA) every five years. Just a year ago we involved you in this process by asking you to participate in some surveys. **Good news!** Both SMLS and Little Saints have been awarded accreditation! Thank you to all who contributed towards this success! Now we will work together to put all of their suggestions for improvement into effect over the NEXT five years.



Our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ.

***Director of Music Ministry******Vicar Colton LaMay***

Hymn Analysis: *Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service (LSB 848) vs. 1 & 4*

For the sake of space, I am only including two verses. If you would like the rest, please let me know and I will gladly email or send you a copy. In the opening verse of the hymn, the lyrics call to mind the sacrifice of Jesus and how He Himself bore the weight of our sin and shame on the cross selflessly for the whole world. He did it alone and scorned by those who He came to save "offered mercy's perfect deed." Now, out of response to that great love, we as servants bring the worship – but this is not worship of mere words. This is worship that comes from the heart. This is worship out of response for that great love, so mere words could never suffice. This love is coupled with action to use the good gifts that He imparts in our lives for His service. This is not done to earn His favor or blessing, but in response to this great love that we are unable to fully fathom. His love is greater than we could possibly imagine, and He can do more with these cracked and flakey vessels than we could possibly understand with our own reason or intellect.

The fourth verse puts the Divine Narrative into action. "Called by worship to Your service." Through worship, we hear from Jesus the ways we can go into the world and serve His kingdom. The song reminds us that it is in God's name that we go forward to server people of all walks of life from the youngest to the oldest, showing the good deeds of loving kindness born out of response to our great Savior's love for us. We are called to bring hope, health, goodwill, comfort, counsel, aid and peace so that all God's people may know and live in His mercy. We are empowered by Him to do these things for those around us so that they may know that God's mercy is at work, letting people know through our testimony about what God has done and what He wants to accomplish through us in response to that great love. To God be all the glory!



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

Our 2s – PK4 will spend September learning about how God made everything. It is a worldview that ultimately shapes how we value the world around us and, most importantly, the people around us. Being able to see our world—including every person in it—as God's goodness gives everything purpose and worth.

**Elementary Sunday School**

K-5th Grade students will trek through an amazing adventure in trust. Throughout history, God has proven His faithfulness to us. He kept His promise to send Jesus to save us. When we remember that God will continue to be dependable, we can choose to trust Him no matter what we might face in life.

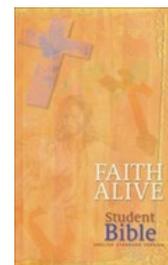
Sunday School Help Needed

Do you want to help during the school year for Sunday School? There are so many ways:

- Volunteering with 0-2 year olds
- 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
- Safety Team (opening and locking the doors)

Family Family Ministry

“Bible Smuggling” Escape Game – Families with 3rd – 12th Graders join us Sunday, Oct. 13 as we start in the band room and then break off into multiple groups to learn how to use your Bible which will enable you to escape the room. As a twist on our Bible Faith Stepping Stone students will receive a Faith Alive Bible at the end if they don't have one. We will have 3 rounds (high school will do it during Sunday School, and then families should RSVP to Lori for either 10:45 or Noon. Lunch will be included. A blessing will follow on Sunday, Oct. 20. A free will offering will be taken for lunch.

**Financial Peace University (FPU) Beginning September 17th!**

A new class being offered to manage finances in a Biblical way. Will meet Tuesday nights 7:00-8:30 PM at the boat table in the office center. Begins Sept. 17th and will run for 9 weeks. Cost is \$109 per family (partial scholarships may be available. Contact Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org.) You can sign up for the class here: <https://www.fpu.com/1098576>

**Women's Bible Study**

Joins us Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM, in the Joy/Youth room as we continue our study on the book of Acts: How to Start a Riot. Women of any age can join us any Thursday. Our study is also viewable on [Right Now Media](#).

rightnow MEDIA



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

*** The Youth Ministry is always looking for adults who are passionate about investing in the lives of the youth. There are many different ways to get involved! Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this way! ***

**Middle School Youth Gathering**

November 1-3rd we will be going to Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center for an amazing weekend Gathering of hundreds of middle school students! Leah Abel and Kattie Otto both DCE's are our main speakers! And Bread of Stone will be back and leading us in worship!! They are always a highlight of the weekend. Simply put this trip is the best. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS TRIP!**

High School Leadership Training

November 1-3rd at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center (same place separate event as the Middle School Youth Gathering) This is the first time this leadership training has been offered in the district! These practical leadership skills will help you in all areas of life and will guide you to more fully live out your faith wherever you are.

HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN *8PM - 8AM, September 6-7th *

Friends from area churches like Zion Lutheran in Ft. Myers and Grace Lutheran in Naples will be coming together for a high school lock-in at Saint Michael. There will be many different and fun activities! You'll get to spend time with your friends and make some cool new ones! Sign up by emailing Jack.Proctor@gsmles.org or text.

Confirmation

We are taking St. Paul's advice to be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). Bring your Small Catechism and Bible (electronic or paper) with you each week in Room 48 from 9:30-10:30 AM. This is for 7th and 8th grade students and their parents.

High School Sunday School

9:30 to 10:30 with the wonderful Mrs. Sue, join other high school students as they look to God's Word for strength and guidance for the week ahead!

Middle School Youth Night

We play games, eat food, build community, and learn more about God together! We meet on select Tuesdays from 6-7:30 PM in the Joy/Youth Room! **Sept. 3rd and 24th**

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 Wed. nights from 6-8 pm in the youth room!

Adult Pickup Basketball

Lace up your sneakers for some fun and friendly exercise. We play a series of pickup basketball games on select Mondays 7PM until everyone is tired (usually around 8:30-9). Check your Sunday Bulletin for updates on which Mondays.

Rock the Universe

RTU dates have moved from the fall to early in the new year. This year we will be going to Rock the Universe on **January 25, 2020!** Be on the lookout for sign-ups around Nov.-Dec.

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.

September 1

John Hoffmann Nila Little Rodney Rimes Kathy Royston	Tom Kosteno Marge Bennett Aaron Bonenberger Jacob Haycock
---	--

September 8

Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Rodney Rimes Nila Little	Leroy Waldren Roy Hendry Diane Hendry Eric Zinn
--	--

September 15

John Hoffmann Nila Little Rodney Rimes Bob Richardson	Ken Fritsch Marge Bennett Hannah Zinn Brian Bottorff
--	---

September 22

Bob Richardson John Hoffmann Nila Little Rodney Rimes	Tom Kosteno Eric Zinn Woody Jackemeyer Aaron Bonenberger
--	---

September 29

John Hoffmann Nila Little Bob Richardson Rodney Rimes	Leroy Waldren Jacob Haycock Brian Bottorff Marge Bennett
--	---

**Church Greeters for SEPTEMBER
Sunday Services**

Sept 1	8:00 am 10:45 am	Bill & Polly Bryden Bob & Linda Brueck
Sept 8	8:00 am 10:45 am	Jeff & Eileen Cleveland Brad & Kelli Jessen
Sept 15	8:00 am 10:45 am	Darryl & Joyce Bell David, Michael and Joseph Radecki
Sept 22	8:00 am 10:45 am	Tom & Katie Schlotterbeck Doug & Jane Kositzke
Sept 29	8:00 am 10:45 am	Drea Slayton & Jace Habben Leonardo Garcia & Christina Leddin

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 openings
in our
September 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

