

Volume 11, Issue 1
January 2020

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

Send to:
smcspublications@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



Happy New Year! 2020! Let the adventure begin! Our Church Council, Board of Elders, and Ministry Staff will be planning a path of discovery for our ministry. It is all about “Helping People see Jesus”! It is our hope and prayer in this year-long process to be able to reaffirm who we are as a community of faith, to honestly name our challenges, to begin to identify our hopes and dreams for the future of our ministry as we prepare to celebrate the Church’s 80th Birthday and the School’s 65th in 2021!

At the end of this process we hope to be able to share and discuss historical trends both in our ministry and in the community that we serve; what members have said about our strengths and our greatest challenges as well as what they would like to see happening in our ministries; to identify any underlying contradictions (that block us from moving toward our goals); and then ultimately, to be able to develop a strategic plan to the congregation, narrow our scope to 4 goals, and establish from them quarterly goals for the new year (2021).

So, this will be a year of discovery as we review of our history (our DNA), our core values, as we do a comprehensive overview of current ministries to different age levels (infant, children, youth, young adults, adults, seniors); our Congregational care; Listing of active groups; Music ministries; Missions; Congregational Leaders and staff; Demographics; Membership and attendance; budgets; and Community Demographics. There’s a lot to be done in a year!

This is our ministry together, our history, our vision for the future – current thinking is that there will be surveys, listening sessions, time to consider and reflect on any data collected before a formal summary is prepared to present to the entire congregation.

So, buckle up and plan on joining us as we seek God’s direction for 2021 and beyond!

Pastor Jon

Top Events for

JANUARY

- 1/5 — Lee Health Blood Drive, 8:30am-12:30pm
- 1/6 — DivorceCare Ministry begins 13-wk session, 8:15am
- 1/6 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 1/6 — Board of Properties Meeting, 6:45pm
- 1/8 — Mission Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 1/9 — DivorceCare Ministry begins 13-wk session, 7pm
- 1/11 — GriefShare Ministry begins 13-wk session, 10am
- 1/11 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am
- 1/14 & 28 — Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm
- 1/14 — Saints Spirit Night at PDQ, 5-7pm, Dine-in Only
- 1/16 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
- 1/16 — School Board Meeting, 12pm
- 1/21 — PTL Meeting, 6pm
- 1/22 — **St. Michael School Open House, 6-8pm**
- 1/25 — Rock the Universe in Orlando
- 1/27 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
- 1/31 & 2/1 — Father/Son Retreat

LWML would like to thank everyone who donated cookies to our Cookie Extravaganza! We had a wonderful variety of cookies and we are very thankful for all your work. We'd also like to thank all of you who purchased our cookies! We had another successful sale and hope you enjoyed them.



Father/Son Retreat for 5th-7th grade boys January 31-February 1, 2020

Growing up in today's world is difficult and it is essential that boys have a father/mentor to love them, ask questions and guide them along the way. On January 31 and overnight to February 1, St. Michael is sponsoring a Father/Son Retreat event meant to provide them an opportunity to bond at this most critical time of life; this bond will be essential throughout your boys life to help him grow into a Christian man. This event is held at Riverside Retreat Center in Labelle and starts after work/school on Friday night and ends Saturday afternoon around 3pm.

Please prayerfully consider this blessed opportunity to nurture your father/son relationship.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries at (239) 939-1218 ext. 224



Lutheran Federal Credit Union is designed with you in mind, with the added benefit of support for the LCMS community *nationwide* including church and school family members and employees. Call (844)430-1563 or operations@lutheranfcu.org

From the SML Board of Human Care

Give the gift of warmth this January! We will be collecting gently used (or new) adult sized sweatshirts for the Fort Myers Salvation Army Homeless Shelter. Thank you!



Invite your friends and neighbors to check out our school on Wed., Jan. 22 from 6-8pm. Guests will be able to visit classrooms & speak to our awesome teachers!



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

What is wellness, anyway? At first blush most of us would answer in terms of our physical health. But is physical health all there is to wellness? If wellness requires us to complete a marathon at one hundred, most of us won't make it.

Thankfully, wellness is much more than physical health and freedom from distressing symptoms. Wellness involves the whole of our being, which includes six distinct areas: physical, mental, social, financial, spiritual, and emotional. These areas of wellness are not independent but are all interrelated. Each area contributes to the well-being of each of the others. At the same time, struggles in one area may detract from wellness in each of the others.

Wellness defined: I define wellness *as that blessed state of experiencing all spheres of life functioning in harmony with God's ordained purpose.* Let us unpack that statement:

- ***blessed*** ... is a word frequently used in both Old and New Testaments. It speaks of a state of good fortune, being well off and happy. True blessing is a gift from God, not something we earn. We have some responsibility to create an environment where He can work, but fundamentally it is God who graciously blesses us. Even the things we do to pursue wellness are possible because He give us the wisdom, motivation, and ability.
- ***state of experiencing*** ... emphasizes that wellness is not just an objective fact but a subjective experience. It allows us to say not only, "I am well," but also, "I feel well."
- ***all spheres of life*** ... indicates that wellness involves the whole person. It includes all six areas we are considering.
- ***functioning*** ... implies that wellness is not only a state of being but is also what we do.
- ***in harmony with*** ... suggests the deep, satisfying peace that comes from sharing together and being united with something that is much bigger than ourselves.
- ***God's ordained purpose.*** To be well we need a purpose that gives meaning and significance to our lives today and will continue to do so until the day we die. What better purpose could we have than being part of God's eternal purpose and allowing Him to dictate how every part of our lives will contribute to His overall plan? Right from the start we need to appreciate that being in harmony with God's ordained purpose does not mean everything will be sunshine and roses, since His plan will include difficulties. When I struggle in life I often quote from one of my favorite psalms: ***"One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving" (Ps. 62:11-12).*** If I affirm that God is able to do what He wants (He is strong) and that He is loving, I can joyfully conclude that everything that happens is under His control and will result in what He knows is best. This is the gist of what Paul writes: ***"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).*** Once I am in harmony with God's purpose, I can be well, regardless of my circumstances. I can know I am in the right spot, and I can rest comfortably.

If we are to aim for the unity in our lives that allows for true wellness, we need to consider each part of our lives and examine how it fits into this big picture. We need to consider our physical, mental, social, financial, spiritual, and emotional states and determine how they could better allow us to live to the glory of God.



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

Happy New Year! Little Saints is gearing up for another great year, as we recently have welcomed six new families to our Saint Michael family. We will continue to be blessed with full enrollment in 2020.



In January we will be learning all about winter at Little Saints, as all of the children spend the month building up to our annual winter day celebrations. Winter day will be held on January 24th, and the entire early learning center will enjoy a day of games and activities focused on winter fun Florida style, complete with snowball fights and yes, ice skating!

Little Saints will be hosting the Father Daughter Dance on February 8th, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm in the Saint Michael gymnasium for infants-8th grade. This year's theme will be "country nights", where we'll turn the gym into a country hoedown. This is sure to be an event enjoyed by all! Thank you to Lynn Zehnder for sponsoring a Thrivent card to help us fund this event.

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

It's January - a time of year that potentially could be dreary and anticlimactic with the Christmas tree and decorations packed away, the children tired of their "new" toys, and at least one New Year's resolution broken. BUT, January 6, the celebration of EPIPHANY which traditionally marks the coming of the Wise Men, reminds us to celebrate the grace, mercy and love of God in Jesus that we see in the everyday stuff. The word "epiphany" could be expressed as "Eureka - we've found Jesus, the promised Savior, our Savior! Here at Saint Michael, **our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of Jesus Christ!** Here they learn a powerful, life-giving message and the encouragement to share it with all with whom they come into contact. We pray for many "eureka" moments among our staff, students and parents. "Eureka - we've found the love of Jesus through the love of the children and people at Saint Michael." "Eureka - we've found the reason for being excited about life with Jesus as our focus in all things."

A big day is coming up at SMLS ... **Open House on January 22.** It's an opportunity for you to share the good things you know about our school and invite your friends and neighbors to see it firsthand. Check out the SMLS reviews on our Facebook page where our families share their stories about the impact Saint Michael Lutheran School has had on their family. Give me a call if you would like a personal tour. We have student applications for the 2020-2021 school year available on our website.

Open House

From the Ministry Coordinator***Lori Schwan*****Children's Ministry****Thank You for Serving!**

Thank you to Vicar Colton LaMay, our Sunday School staff and all the children and their families for making Christmas Eve a great worship celebration. If you missed the service, you can watch it on our website.

Nursery in the Sanctuary

You may have noticed our nursery in the sanctuary is getting a sprucing up. We also got our first volunteer who are interested in volunteering with infants and one-year-olds once a month during Sunday School! Now we just need 3 more for a monthly rotation. Contact me to sign up!

**Sunday School**

This month we move completely into the New Testament with the visit of the wisemen and Jesus' baptism. Do you know when your baptism birthday is? It's a fun way to celebrate God's goodness with the whole family.

Kids Serving

In December our Sunday School bought and delivered **47 Jammies for Jesus** to the families being served by Lutheran Services of Florida. Thank you for partnering on this Thrivent Action Team with LSF and these parents as together they strive to keep families intact. Along with the PJ's we also got to include an age appropriate Christmas devotion or book and a homemade card.

**Family Ministry****Faith Stepping Stones:**

- **5th - 7th Grade Father/Son Retreat Jan. 31-Feb. 1** — See Jack Proctor now to register
- **5th - 7th Grade Mother/Daughter Retreat Apr. 24-25** — Save the date!

Thank you for Advent Event

Thanks to all who helped make and deliver Advent Wreathes for the homebound. We received word back each time as to how God blesses through those acts of love for our church members who can't join us anymore on campus.

Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, with the start of the new year you can give \$250 two times without giving any of your own money. Contact Lori Schwan to see how you can partner with a fundraiser, service project, or an educational Thrivent Action Team. Those who have Choice Dollars can also direct them for 2019 up until Mar. 31, 2020. .

Women's Bible Study

Join our group as we meet on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30am in the Joy/Youth Room.

Financial Peace University

Our second FPU class is over and attendees collectively paid down over \$41,000 in nonmortgage debt and saved over \$59,700 in just 10 weeks. If you are interested in a class this winter, Nate Miser is going to be leading the next class on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:30am (note the early start each week as this special class needs 90 minutes). We will start **Sun. January 12th**, and the location will be determined based on the size of the class. Price is \$95/family or \$50/family if a partial scholarship is needed. Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested: lori.schwan@gsmlcs.org or 239-939-1218 x237

From the Director of Christian Education***Jack Proctor*****Saint Michael Youth Ministries****Rock The Universe!**

Rock - Ride - Rejoice! Join us Saturday, January 25th for a night of rides, fun, and friends at Universal resort in Orlando! We will be traveling by bus to experience not only the rides and attractions that the park has to offer, but also performances by artists including TobyMac, Chris Tomlin, and Bethel Music! Cost is \$140. Includes your ticket, T-shirt, snacks, and bus transportation.

**Father/Son Retreat**

The retreat is on Jan 31st - Feb 1st at Riverside Retreat and is open to boys in 5th-7th grade along with their fathers. This retreat is all about fathers teaching their sons about manhood and how to be a real man of God. A man of God is courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end.

Confirmation

7th/8th grade students & parents Bring your Small Catechism and Bible with you each week in Room 48 from 9:15-10:30 AM.

Sunday School - 9:15 to 10:30am

High school - in the youth room

6th grade - in room 47

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!

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! **Future Meeting Dates:** Jan. 14 & 28.

Progressive Dinner Servant Event

Our progressive dinner servant event was a success! On Dec. 15th, middle and high school youth learned about the ministry of Oasis Youth Shelter. Then, thanks to your generous donations, they were able to shop for specific Christmas gifts for the 19 Oasis resident teens.

Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries

Jack.Proctor@gsmlcs.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.

January 5

John Hoffmann
Nila Little
Bob Richardson
Roger Reppert

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

January 12

Bob Richardson
John Hoffmann
Nila Little
Roger Reppert
Rodney Rimes

Leroy Waldren
Brian Bottorff
Ken Fritsch
Aaron Bonenberger
DD Schleicher
Jacob Haycook

January 19

John Hoffmann
Kathy Royston
Bob Richardson
Nila Little

Ken Fritsch
Marge Bennett
Christian Bottorff
Eric Zinn
Woody Jackemeyer
Leroy Waldren

January 26

Bob Richardson
Kathy Hultgren
Nila Little
John Hoffmann
Rodney Rimes

Tom Kosteno
Aaron Bonenberger
DD Schleicher
Jacob Haycook
Brian Bottorff
Leroy Waldren



Church Greeters for JANUARY Sunday Services

Jan 5 8:00 am Ron & Dee Engel
10:45 am Ruth Hallerberg

Jan 12 8:00 am Mark & Susan Gaertner
10:45 am Jan Grube

Jan 19 8:00 am Donna Goulait
10:45 am Aaron Bonenberger

Jan 26 8:00 am Jim & Janet Elliott
10:45 am Lenny & Janice Kurth



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
January 2019
**Acolyte and
Crucifer** schedule.
Sign up today using
SignUpGenius.com



If you are not receiving your church communications electronically it may be that we have an incomplete email address for you, or we don't have one at all! Please contact the church office at smlcspublications@gmail.com with the information. We want to stay in touch!
Thanks in advance for your help.



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

