

Volume 11, Issue 2  
February 2020

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

Send to:  
smcscpublications@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***



We are taking this year to look at our ministry past, present, and what it might look like in the future. And although things are constantly changing, there are some things that remain the same – and one of those is the mission of the Church! Specifically, Jesus calls us to **make disciples**, as we like to

say, “To draw people to God’s love for them in Jesus and empower them to become fully devoted followers of Christ.”

So, what does that look like? Well, here is how we might describe and define people who are becoming those “fully devoted followers of Jesus” by using these 5 “G” words:

- **Grace** – A follower of Jesus begin their adventure with the touch of God’s grace and forgiveness that they receive through faith. What a gift from God to do what we cannot do for ourselves – to be declared righteous in His sight because we have been redeemed by Jesus. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **Growth** - The Holy Spirit in a believer changes their life and priorities and empowers, enables, and equips them to live their life for Jesus and to follow His example (2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
- **Group** – Participation in the Body of Christ (the congregation) in regular worship and Bible Study and fellowship where significant relationships can develop with other followers of Jesus. (Acts 2:46)
- **Gifts** – Every believer in Jesus has been given a gift of grace (a passion, experience, talent, ability) for the good of others, to serve and love our Savior as we serve and love those around us, in order to build up the Church (Romans 12:6-8).
- **Good Stewardship** – We honor God with our material resources and support the mission and ministry of our family of faith by managing and stewarding God’s blessings so we can give a percentage gift to our common ministry work together, but also share in offerings (support of other ministry opportunities) as well as alms (gifts given to meet specific caring needs of those around us). (Philippians 4:11-19)

I think these statements capture the essential marks of someone devoted to Jesus and to His Church. These characteristics are Biblical – they haven’t been invented or made up. And so it is my fervent prayer that we will use these 5 “G”s as a guide to making 2020 a spiritually significant year at Saint Michael as we all grow in becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus so others may see Jesus in us!

*Pastor Jon*

# Top Events for February

- 2/3 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 2/4 — Middle School Youth Night, 6-7:30pm
- 2/5 — Mission Board Meeting, 6pm
- 2/8 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am
- 2/8 — Daddy/Daughter Dance, 5-7pm
- 2/9 — Luncheon and Mastersingers Concert, 12pm & 2pm
- 2/10-14 — National Lutheran Schools Week
- 2/14 — Grandparents Day at SMLS
- 2/15 — Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade, 7pm
- 2/20 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
- 2/20 — School Board Meeting, 12pm
- 2/23 — Voters Meeting, 9:15am
- 2/24 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
- 2/25 — PTL Meeting, 6pm
- 2/26 — **\*Ash Wednesday, Services at 12pm & 7pm**
- 2/27 — Field Day at SMLS
- 2/28 — Lutheran Schools Music Festival in Oviedo, FL

*\*Mid-Week Lenten Services, Wednesdays, 12pm & 7pm, Feb. 26th - Apr. 1st. Soup/Sandwiches served each week before the 7pm services in the cafeteria at 6pm.*

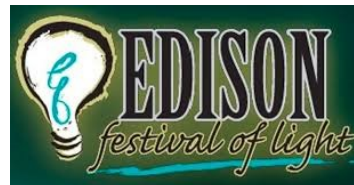
## Altar Flower Calendar

The 2020 Altar Flower calendar is available on the inside door of the small chapel. Sign up today to sponsor altar flowers on the date(s) of your choice. Cost is \$30 and payment may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed in to the church office.

**Free Concert** On February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers will be performing a free concert in our sanctuary as part of the Edison Festival of Light festivities. This free concert will feature the Ft. Myers Mastersingers taking a trip through time exploring some of the major inventions in history while singing pieces of music written at the time those inventions. This travel through the centuries will allow the audience to experience the advancements and changes in music that paralleled the technological and mechanical advancements of man's progress. The program will open with winners of the Mastersingers' DeMaster Scholarship for solo singers from 6th through 12th grades. Lunch will be offered at noon in our cafeteria, prior to the concert.



**Edison Parade Street Seats** The youth are now selling street seats for the Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 per seat. Look for the sign in the Narthex or email [Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org](mailto:Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org) for tickets.



**Healthy Start Coalition of SWFL** is a non-profit organization providing support to mothers and babies in our community. Usually during the month of February we are collecting diaper donations, *but this year* the Coalition has received grant money with which to purchase diapers, which is awesome! They DO, however, still need the following items:

- \* **Baby Wipes**
- \* **Creams & Lotions**
- \* **Baby Wash & Shampoo**

Again, **we are NOT collecting diapers this year** but if you can contribute any of the other items, there will be a collection bin in the narthex during February. Thank you!

*Every mother deserves a healthy baby  
and every baby deserves a healthy start.*



## Voters Meeting

Sunday, Feb 23, 9:15am  
In the cafeteria



***From the Director of Caring Ministries******Julie Berchtold*****Thoughts from Jimmy Evans, Founder & CEO of MarriageToday**

**Priorities.** We talk about them a lot, but do we really understand them? More importantly, does the way we live our lives reflect the things we say are our priorities? Our priorities are our values. The person who gives priority to God values God. The person who gives something priority above God values that thing more highly than God. It is that simple.

The Bible is crystal clear about our priorities: **Put God first.**

Matthew 6:33 spells it out for us. Jesus says, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* Jesus made this promise while chastising His disciples for their unbelief toward God and their anxiety about life’s provision. Jesus promised faithful and complete blessings for the person who gives God priority over everything else.

But what does this mean for our marriages and families?

Establishing priorities in our lives and homes is a high-stakes issue. It’s the difference between being blessed or battered, intimate or enemies, a success, or a statistic. And it doesn’t happen by accident. Successful marriages are purposeful about their priorities, and they structure it into their lives. They arrange their decisions, practices, and lifestyles to reflect it. Honor God first. Then honor your spouse and family.

You may have heard something like the old adage that says, “The road to ruin is paved with good intentions.” The intent is fine, but it has to unite with the willingness to make difficult choices. It must be accompanied by a readiness to say no to competing demands. Until we follow up on intent with action, we won’t find the blessing and harmony we’re looking for.

Husbands, how does your life reflect your priorities? When your wife looks at the way you live, does she conclude that you are living for God or living for something else? Does she feel like you pay more attention to your work, your colleagues, your email or your phone than you do to her?

Wives, what does your life say about your priorities? Does your husband look at you and see someone distracted by friends and activities and Facebook? Someone whose mind is pulled toward work or selfish pursuits rather than home? Someone who seems to be negative more than positive?

Are you ready to put God first in your life and make your marriage a real priority? Where are you giving your best? If you are investing in the wrong place, repent before God and your family. I pray that in 2020 your commitment to God and your family would be at a consistent, all-time high. Make a change. Re-prioritize, because the rewards far outweigh the cost.

Source: [www.marriagetoday.com](http://www.marriagetoday.com)



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

Winter Day was such a blast this year, as our 1 and 2-year-olds enjoyed snowball fights, ice skating, snow shovel relays, playing in the snow and ice, and a warm sweet treat of hot chocolate. Watch for the pictures of our special day at Sunday services in February.

Little Saints will be hosting the Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 8th, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. 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 Lin Zehnder for sponsoring a Thrivent card to help us fund this event.



In February, the two-year-old rooms will study community helpers, which includes in-class visits from a dentist and our own school resource officer, Deputy Penny. The kids really respond well to Deputy Penny and love interacting with him; he has been such a blessing to our school!

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

Love! Love! Love! That's what it's all about in the month of February! At Saint Michael, it's **our mission 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 everyone ... especially sharing the love of Jesus in both word AND actions. Special Wednesday night worship services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26 to help us focus on this saving love. Check out this newsletter to see the details.



There are several ways for you to get involved at Saint Michael during the month of February:

- ◆ February 8: Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by our Little Saints Early Learning Center
- ◆ February 9: Edison Festival of Lights Children's Parade sponsored by our PTL
- ◆ **FEBRUARY 10-14 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**
- ◆ February 14: Grandparents Day with Art Fair and Scholastic Book Fair

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. By the way, Saint Michael families, when was the last time YOU shared a story or comment about your experience at our school? Give me a call if you want to see our school first-hand.

**We have begun enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year.**



***From the Ministry Coordinator******Lori Schwan*****Children's Ministry****Nursery in the Sanctuary**

You may have noticed our nursery in the sanctuary is getting a sprucing up. We are excited God has provided volunteers for infants and toddlers during Sunday School.

**Sunday School**

In February we will be looking at the start of Jesus' Ministry. We will check out some of his amazing miracles He did to show how He was 100% God!

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

- **5th - 7th Grade Father/Son Retreat Jan. 31-Feb. 1** — Thanks for joining me in praying as these guys bless each other to be courageous, honorable, and faithful to the end.
- **5th - 7th Grade Mother/Daughter Retreat Apr. 24-25** — Registration stuff will come out at the end of this month. Want to be a part of the team that helps put this on? Contact me!

**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 10:00-11:30 AM in the Joy/Youth Room. We will continue our study of World Religions during this season of Epiphany.

**Financial Peace University**

Our third FPU class led by Nate Miser on Sunday mornings has 12 people in it. If you were interested in the class but haven't been able to participate yet, please contact Lori so we know how best to plan for FPU class 4!

**Lenten Soup and Sandwich**

Join us for a time of fellowship each Wednesday night in the cafeteria at 6:00 PM Feb. 26 – April 1 for soup and sandwiches before the Lenten Worship service at 7:00 PM. A free will donation will be collected.

**2020 Vision Luncheon and Concert ~ Sunday, February 9 at Noon In the Cafeteria**

One of the many components for setting a 2020 Vision for the next chapter of ministry is listening to our congregation as to the needs and opportunities St. Michael can provide. Whether you are here all year long or just for the winter, join us for a luncheon so we can hear from you and enjoy a time of fellowship, as well. Sunday, February 9 at Noon In the Cafeteria. We will wrap-up in time so anyone can enjoy the Ft. Myers Symphonic Mastersingers Edison of Light Concert being held in the Sanctuary at St. Michael at 2:00 PM.

To help us be sure there is adequate food, RSVP to Lori Schwan 239-939-1218, ext. 237 or [lori.schwan@smlcs.org](mailto:lori.schwan@smlcs.org). Can't make it that day but have insights to share? Feel free to contact us directly so we can add your perspective.

**Voters Meeting**

Join us in the cafeteria on Sunday, February 23 between services for the Voters Meeting (9:15-10:30am).



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

Jesus is at work in the lives of our Saint Michael Youth! It's a joy in my life to be able to be a part. Ever wanted to be a part of discipling young Christians? Let's talk! We also know that there are plenty of youth in our community that need to experience God's love through a community rooted in Jesus. Know any youth outside of the church? Please pass along the invitation that they are wanted to join in on anything we are doing!

**Edison Parade Seats**

The youth ministry is selling street seats for the Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade! The parade is on 2/15 downtown Fort Myers at 7pm. \$10 a seat.

**Father/Son Retreat**

The retreat was on January 31st - February 1st at Riverside Retreat. Multiple sets of Fathers and Sons got to experience this retreat. 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.

**Rock the Universe**

Over 40 middle and high school students enjoyed worshipping at Universal Studios listening to big name Christian artists! Thank you for the support and prayers to make that possible.

**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:** Feb. 4 & 11.

Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries

[Jack.Proctor@gsmc.org](mailto:Jack.Proctor@gsmc.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.*

### February 2

John Hoffmann  
Kathy Hultgren  
Bob Richardson  
Roger Reppert

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

### February 9

Bob Richardson  
John Hoffmann  
Nila Little  
Roger Reppert

Leroy Waldren  
Brian Bottorff  
Ken Fritsch  
Aaron Bonenberger  
Jacob Haycock  
James D'Amour

### February 16

John Hoffmann  
Kathy Hultgren  
Bob Richardson  
Rodney Rimes

Tom Kosteno  
Marge Bennett  
Christian Bottorff  
Eric Zinn  
Jacob Haycock  
Eric Halesworth

### February 23

Bob Richardson  
Nila Little  
John Hoffmann  
Rodney Rimes

Tom Kosteno  
Aaron Bonenberger  
Eric Zinn  
Jacob Haycock  
Woody Jackemeyer  
James D'Amour



## Church Greeters for FEBRUARY Sunday Services

**Feb 2**    8:00 am    Kevin Baptiste  
             10:45 am    Marlene King

**Feb 9**    8:00 am    Ken & Karen Zinn  
             10:45 am    Lisa Miller

**Feb 16**    8:00 am    Edwin & Beverly Jahn  
             10:45 am    Ursula Jean Baptiste

**Feb 23**    8:00 am    Mark & Susan Gaertner  
             10:45 am    Bob & Linda Brueck



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  
*February 2019*  
**Acolyte and  
Crucifer** schedule.

Sign up today using  
[SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com)



Would you prefer to receive your newsletter via email instead of a paper copy in your mailbox? Just let us know! Send an email to [eileen.ohara@gsmllcs.org](mailto:eileen.ohara@gsmllcs.org) and just say "Email Newsletter, please"





**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

