

Deadline for submissions
is the 15th of each month for the
following month's newsletter.
Send to:
smcspublications@gmail.com



Pastor Jon Zehnder

Inside This Issue:

Calendar of Events	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.

But it's not just feeding hungry people or putting back together broken lives – it's not enough to just meet physical needs, we have to meet the spiritual needs of others, we have to offer then the hope of the only Forgiver and Leader that can save their souls and give them life in all its fullness now and forever – and that is Jesus! Together, let us pursue where God is leading – because, we truly are better together!



The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder



In our 2020 Vision process this year, we are taking a look at our history, our core values, the ministries that we offer as we prayerfully consider where God is leading us so that we might be used by Him to help people see Jesus. Obviously, a congregation's vision for the future has to be the

congregation's! To prayerfully discern and decide our purpose and how God can use us to be a blessing.

I love this passage from Acts 13:36 where it says, "David served God's purposes in his generation". I would hope that has been our prayer and purpose since those early missionaries came to Fort Myers at the turn of the century, as well as that it has been our focus after the church was chartered in 1941 – that led and empowered by the Holy Spirit we would share God's eternal and timeless truths to our generation.

One of those truths, that we shared years ago, was this – "We exist as a congregation for those who are still outside our gates. We invest in ministries and facilities that are trying to pull families together in a world that is trying to tear them apart, where hope is restored for hurting people and where our children can find purpose for their lives."

I would hope that we could all agree that that is something we would all say is "worth it" – worth investing our one and only lives in. Every time we invest ourselves in a person, we invest in something that matters to God and lasts for eternity – because people are the only things that last for forever. So, every meal, every gift, every note we write, every cup of cold water given to someone who is in need – we are building treasures in heaven and God is pleased.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays: Noon and 7:00 pm
Soup & Sandwich Dinner at 6:00 pm
March 4,11,18,25, April 1

Pastor Jon

Top Events for

MARCH

- 3/1 — Blood Drive, 8:30am-12:30pm
- 3/2 — Church Council Meeting, 5:30pm
- 3/2 — Board of Properties, 6:45pm
- 3/3 & 24 — Middle School Youth Nights, 6-7:30pm
- 3/4 — Mission Board, 6:00pm
- 3/7 — Safety Meeting, 9:00am
- 3/8 — *SPRING FORWARD!* Daylight Saving Time begins
- 3/9 — SLMS Spirit Night at Tijuana Flats, 5-8pm
- 3/10 — PTL Meeting, 6pm
- 3/14 — LWML Meeting, 10:30am
- 3/16 — Stephen Ministry, 6:30pm
- 3/19 — Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9am
- 3/19 — School Board Meeting, 12pm
- 3/21 — Bid for Kids AUCTION, 6pm
- 3/23 — Elders Meeting, 7pm
- 3/28 — Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm
- 3/29 — DR Luncheon

**Mid-Week Lenten Services, Wednesdays, 12pm & 7pm,
Mar. 4 — 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.

**St. Michael Board of Missions presents the
5th Annual**
***Taste of the Dominican Republic
Luncheon***
Sunday, March 29th, 12:00-2:00pm

Special Guests from the Dominican Republic, including a Christian band that will be providing the music entertainment.

It's free to attend, but donations will be accepted which will be used to support the Mission Board and their work in the DR.

Come and enjoy delicious Dominican food and support our mission in the DR!


**The 33rd Annual
BID FOR KIDS
Dinner Auction
Saturday, March 21
6:00pm**

The Bid for Kids Dinner Auction is one of the most successful fundraising events held at St. Michael. It's also one of the most enjoyable social events of the year! Last year 250 guests helped raised over \$100,000 for our school. This year promises to be even bigger and better... and our theme is "Havana Nights." The evening consists of three different events: Chance Drawing, Silent Auction, and Live Auction. We also have Class theme baskets up for grabs - and those are always *amazing!* Cost to attend is \$75 per person which includes a delicious dinner, beautiful desserts, beer and wine, and your own bidding number. Liquor drinks are available at an additional charge. Please RSVP in advance! To learn more or to purchase tickets, contact the school office at (239) 939-1218. We hope to see you there!

Join us on **Saturday, March 28th** from 8am - Noon for a Volunteer Work Day here on campus! All ages are welcome, there is something for everyone to do. We will be working together making improvements to our campus both inside and around our buildings. Please join us if you can, for any amount of time you have available!


Palm Sunday Help Needed

Would you like to be a part of the celebration on Sunday, April 5th? We host a Family BBQ with an Easter Egg Hunt and Games after our 10am Palm Sunday service, and there are many things to do in preparation of this event. See page 5 to find out how to get involved!

From the Director of Caring Ministries

Julie Berchtold

Parents Between a Rock and a Hard Place

Biological parents who find themselves caught between their spouse and their child should step out of the conflict as often as possible.

By Ron Deal

Healthy leadership coalitions bolster the influence of the leaders in businesses and in families. When parents align to support each other, they lead from a position of unity. In blended families, sometimes unhealthy coalitions form when a parent and child align against the stepparent.

This often occurs when the stepparent becomes jealous of the close relationship a child has with the biological parent and blames the child for infiltrating the marriage. This causes tension between the stepparent and stepchild, which unintentionally bolsters the alliance that child has with his natural parent. Then the twosome begin to justify their actions against the “common enemy” stepparent who is fighting to be part of the parenting coalition.

It actually isn’t a parent’s closeness to the child that makes this dynamic dangerous. Parents are meant to have strong, supportive relationships with their children. But when this relationship excludes the stepparent from authority and leadership within the home, things begin to fall apart.

For example, Carter felt that his wife’s relationship with her son left no room for him. “Please tell parents to put their spouse first in parenting,” he said. “It’s too late for us, but others need to know how destructive it is to side with their child all the time.”

Carter constantly felt undercut by his wife’s relationship with her son. After years of hoping it would change, he found himself looking for a way out of the marriage. An unhealthy coalition had won to the detriment of the marriage and family.

Between a rock and a hard place

But what are parents to do? On the surface it sounds as if they are supposed to just “side with the stepparent” in all circumstances. But what if they have a legitimate concern for their child that keeps pushing them to defend the child? What if they agree with the stepparent, but see defeat in the eyes of their child in the process?

Essentially the biological parent’s options are to:

- Stay out of the conflict completely.
- Take protective or supportive action in regard to the child.
- Support their spouse in all situations.
- Mediate the relationship between the other two, hoping to find the magic bullet solution that will make everyone happy. (This rarely works and usually leaves a parent emotionally exhausted and feeling like a failure.)

The best answer is “all the above.”

Biological parents who find themselves caught between their spouse and their child should step out of the conflict as often as possible. Getting triangled in someone else’s conflict usually keeps the two other parties at war, rather than finding peace. Although there will be times to step in, generally trust the warring parties to resolve their conflict themselves.

TAKING ACTION

- Stay out of the conflict unless you have to step in. Extreme behaviors (e.g., intimidation or violence) or prolonged hostility call for you to step in. Short of that, don’t play therapist.
- If you feel the need to support your child to the stepparent (your spouse), talk to your spouse in private. Correcting your spouse in front of your child only bolsters his/her disrespect and the stepparent’s sense of betrayal.
- If you want to side with your spouse, stand beside her when talking to your child. At the same time you are aligning yourself physically with your spouse, communicate your love to your child and your compassion for his frustration. Your child may be offended that you aren’t defending him, but that doesn’t mean you are doing the wrong thing.
- Don’t keep secrets from your spouse. Secrets form covert coalitions that undermine the marriage.
- In all things, communicate frequently and often with your spouse. Strive for unity of spirit as you deal with stressful circumstances.



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

In February Little Saints hosted the entire school, infants-8th grade, with our 4th annual Father-Daughter Dance. This year we had a country theme, changing the school gymnasium into a barn dance. This sweet event is a beloved event for so many of our daddies and their daughters and this year was no exception. A memorable event was had by all.



Also in February, our two-year-olds learned all about our community helpers and the important jobs of those that serve us every day. This study was concluded with a visit from Deputy Penny who spent a little time talking with the kids about the job of a sheriff deputy and how they keep us safe. The children love Deputy Penny and look forward to his visit every year.

In March we look forward to a study on our family heritage and the diversity of our friends. More information to follow on the special events we will have during family heritage week.

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

In the church season that we call Lent, we focus on the death of Jesus on the cross for our salvation. This somber season is followed by the joyous celebration of Easter when Jesus rose from the dead to complete God's plan of salvation for us. At Saint Michael, **our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with that awesome love of God in Christ Jesus!** Here they learn a powerful, life-giving message and the encouragement to share it with all with whom they come into contact ... especially sharing the love of Jesus in their words and actions.



Our February was so busy with National Lutheran Schools Week which included Grandparents' Day, basketball tournaments, a music festival, teacher professional development workshops and the ever-popular Field Day. Now it's time for one of our school's biggest fund-raisers of the year: The **"Bid for Kids" Auction on Saturday, March 21**. This year's theme: "Havana Nights". Call the school office for more information about how you can be a part of this awesome evening.



By the way, enrollment for the 2020-21 school year has begun. Spread the word about our school to your friends and neighbors. Give me a call to set up a tour to see our school first-hand.

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

During the season of Lent we'll learn about some of Jesus' teaching, especially how Jesus taught us to pray. We will also start to learn about the events of Holy Week.

Family Ministry

Faith Stepping Stones:

- **5th - 7th Grade Mother/Daughter Retreat Apr. 24-25** — Registration information is now available. This 24-hour retreat is worth investing in our daughters.

Want to be a part of the team that helps organize and run this event? Contact me! 939-1218 x237 or Lori.Schwan@smlcs.org We could use a Thrivent Action Team Sponsor!

FAMILY VBS from 5:30-8:00 PM will be Monday – Thursday, June 15-18. Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. This FREE adventure is for the whole family with dinner and service projects! Registration will begin in April. 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.



Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, 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. Our new study from Right Now Media by Max Lucado called *Traveling Light* breaks down the components of Psalm 23.

Financial Peace University

Our third FPU class on Sundays is doing great. If you were interested in the class but didn't get to be a part yet, 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 through April 1 for soup and sandwiches before the Lenten Worship service at 7:00 PM. A free will donation will be collected.

Palm Sunday Help Needed Want to assist with the BBQ on Palm Sunday, April 5? Contact Chuck Oliver if you want to help with set-up/take-down, bring a dessert to share, or assist in the kitchen in some way. (239) 292-6058 Charliet1333@gmail.com

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

Join me in praying for our youth going out to serve this summer!

Summer Mission Trips!

Fantastic opportunities to connect to God and serve His people!

Middle School: Camp Luther Springs — June 28-July 3

High School: Austin, Texas — June 12-18

**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). Learning about prayer from the prayer Jesus taught us to pray! Bring your Small Catechism and Bible (electronic or paper) with you each week in room 48 from 9:15-10:30am .

High School Sunday School

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30am 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

Sunday mornings with Mrs. Amanda! Grow spiritually by engaging with each other and God's word. 9:30-10:30am in room 47.

Adult Pickup Basketball

Lace up your sneakers for some fun and friendly exercise. We play a series of pickup basketball games on Mondays @ 7PM

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! **Meeting Dates:** March 3 and 24.

Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries

Jack.Proctor@gsmllcs.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.

March 1

John Hoffmann
John Carlson
Roger Reppert
Nina Little

Tom Kosteno
Aaron Bonenberger
Marge Bennett
Roy Hendry
Diane Hendry
Jacob Haycock

March 8

John Hoffmann
Kathy Hultgren
Rodney Rimes
Bob Richardson

Leroy Waldren
DD Schleicher
Eric Zinn
Christian Bottorff
James D'Amour
Roy Hendry

March 15

Bob Richardson
Roger Reppert
John Carlson
Nila Little

Tom Kosteno
Marge Bennett
Woody Jackemeyer
Jacob Haycock
Roy Hendry
Brian Bottorff

March 22

John Hoffmann
Kathy Hultgren
Rodney Rimes
Bob Richardson

Leroy Waldren
Christian Bottorff
DD Schleicher
Aaron Bonenberger
Jacob Haycock
Eric Zinn

March 29

Bob Richardson
John Hoffmann
John Carlson
Kathy Hultgren

Tom Kosteno
Marge Bennett
Ken Fritsch
Woody Jackemeyer
Leroy Waldren
Brian Bottorff

Church Greeters for March Sunday Services

Mar 1 8:00 am Ron & Dee Engel
10:45 am Marlene King

Mar 8 8:00 am Bill & Elaine Armour
10:45 am Jane & Doug Kositzke

Mar 15 8:00 am Susan & Mark Gaertner
10:45 am Jo Ellyn Avedisian

Mar 22 8:00 am Gwen Schaaf & Harry Pietras
10:45 am Karen & Lee Kraemer

Mar 29 8:00 am *Volunteer Needed*
10:45 am Karen & Lee Kraemer

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
March 2020
**Acolyte and
Crucifer** schedule.

Sign up today using
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 and just say "Email Newsletter, please"





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

