

Volume 11, Issue 8
August 2020

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

Send to:
smlcspublications@gmail.com



Pastor Jon Zehnder



Saint Michael Lutheran
CHURCH • DAY SCHOOL • FOUNDATION

Weekend Regular Worship

Sat: 5:30 pm Informal

Sun: 8:00 am Traditional

10:45 am Blended

The Messenger

A Thank You from the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

Pastor Jon and Joni would like to thank everyone for all the cards, prayers, meals, and thoughtful gifts they have received during their illness. We praise God for Joni's recovery, and we know God hears our continued prayers for Pastor Jon. Pastor Jon and Joni would also like to thank the amazing medical personnel who have provided and continue to provide care for Pastor Jon during this time. God is truly working through them! Our medical professionals are true heroes, and they need our prayers as they are on the front lines battling this virus. Please keep our medical professionals covered in prayer as they serve our community.

Would you prefer to receive an electronic version of The Messenger? Let us know. Email stephanie.bellino@gsmlcs.org to receive an electronic version.

Do you have any specific prayer needs or requests?

Please email them to stephanie.bellino@gsmlcs.org

or you can call the church office at (239) 939-1218 Ext. 241 and leave a voicemail message.



Useful links:

You can view our worship services online here: <https://www.livestream.com/smlcs>

You can download newsletters and bulletins here: [Publications](#)

You can support our ministry through online contributions here: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving

(You may also mail your offerings to our church office:

3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901)

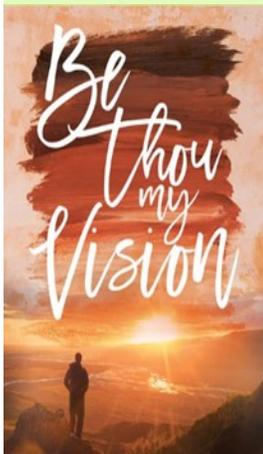
*From the Director of Little Saints**Stacie Thompson*

We are gearing up with all of our new safety measures in place as we get ready to welcome all the new families to Little Saints and Saint Michael this year.

Our team: Stacie Thompson and Paula Robbins co-teaching- Older Twos
 Nikki Howley - Older Twos
 Christine Gallardo- Younger Twos
 Carol Flores- Ones
 Lee Ailant- Transitional Ones
 Tiffany Coyne- Infants



“Be Thou My Vision” is our new theme this school year. This group of amazing ladies, along with all of our support staff, will look to the Lord and His strength as we teach the children, while keeping everyone safe during this very unusual school year.

*From our Principal**Kati Miser*

“Standing on the Promises” is an old well-known hymn. That hymn could be the theme for the past five months as our staff, parents and students dealt with the challenges of e-learning and campus life amidst the COVID pandemic. During these challenging times, Saint Michael Lutheran School experienced God’s grace and the support of His people. Thank you! Now another challenging, exciting time lies just ahead. In line with the extensive state guidelines, the new school year opens on Wednesday, August 12 with this year’s theme “Be Thou My Vision” which is based on I Chronicles 16:11, “Seek the Lord and His strength. Seek His presence continually.” You are all invited to “attend” the live stream opening chapel celebration. Your continued prayers are requested on behalf of our ministry to children and families during the 2020-2021 school year.



At Saint Michael Lutheran School, **our mission is to educate children and touch families’ lives with the love of Jesus Christ!** Check out the SMLS reviews on our Facebook page where families share their stories about the impact Saint Michael Lutheran School has had on their family. Give me a call (239-939-1218, ext. 223) if you are interested in checking us out. Online applications for 2020-2021 are still being accepted on our website (www.smlc.org).



Please join us in
 praying for our
 students, teachers, and
 staff this school year.

*From the Director of Caring Ministries**Julie Berchtold***3 Steps to Offering a Good Apology**

By Lisa Lakey

Saying “I’m sorry” is one of the most important phrases you can say in any relationship. But it’s also one of the hardest.

Offering a good apology wasn’t something that came easy to me in my 20s. In my 30s, I thought I had it down. And here I was again, wishing I could take back the words I just said to my husband. Words of anger and a hefty amount of snark. The way I saw it, I had about three options.

1. Laugh and say, “Just kidding. Gotcha!”
2. Pretend I didn’t say what he *thought* he heard. “What? You must have misunderstood me.”
3. Say, “I’m sorry.”

A good apology isn’t admitting defeat (so calm down already)

Saying “I’m sorry” isn’t an admission that the entire argument or situation was your fault. It’s owning the part you played. That night, I was exhausted from staying up late the night before. Follow that with a day of work, baseball practice, dinner, and fighting two equally exhausted children to get to bed? Well, I was probably close to what you get if you wake a grizzly from hibernation. So, when I walked out of our youngest’s room to find my husband all snuggled in the recliner, I snapped. I said things I shouldn’t have. And I knew that the moment they escaped my snarky lips. Then I took my grizzly-bear self and stormed out of the room as dramatically as possible.

My husband deserved a good apology. Instead, he got an angry wife for the remainder of the evening. But the next morning, I woke up with a heavy feeling. I didn’t want to start the day like the night had ended. So I knew I had to eat some humble pie before making breakfast.

I confess, there have been plenty of times where I shook my finger at his faults while justifying my own. It feels pretty natural, huh? But we’re all responsible for our own actions. (I think I just heard my mother’s voice.) Someone can treat me unfairly, but I don’t have to return that in kind.

Proverbs 15: *I reminds me, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”* I’ve found apologizing works best when I keep to three simple steps.

Step 1: Say “I’m sorry,” and mean it.

Mumbling an apology in anger or like a petulant child doesn’t count. If you can’t honestly say “I’m sorry,” don’t say it. The person receiving it will pick up on that in a flash. And it only deepens the hurt. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).** That morning, when my husband had settled with a cup of coffee, I sat down across from him. I looked him in the eye and said, “I’m sorry.”

Step 2: State the “why” and ask forgiveness.

No, this isn’t your moment to let them know why you were angry in the first place (tempting, I know). Instead of bringing that up again, tell them why you are apologizing. It simply lets them know you see what you did wrong. “I’m sorry I said what I did last night,” I told my husband. “It was mean and disrespectful. I was tired and frustrated, and I took that out on you. Please forgive me.”

Step 3: Offer to fix it.

This goes a little beyond a simple apology. This extra step tells the person you want to fix what was broken between you so it doesn’t happen again (hopefully). Or it shows you want to start rebuilding their trust. I told my husband next time I was feeling overwhelmed, I would ask for his help instead of expecting him to read my mind. I don’t want him anxiously awaiting the sleeping grizzly to wake.

After the “I’m sorry”

If I were to add a fourth step, it’d be this: [Accept forgiveness](#). Whether you’ve apologized for a minor flub or a catastrophic breach of trust in your marriage, when your spouse offers their forgiveness, it’s a gift. Gladly accept it with both hands. **“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15).**



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Be Thou My Vision

BE THOU MY VISION



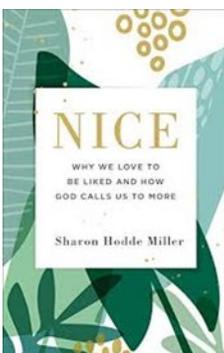
I didn't envision the year 2020 looking this way. 2020 Vision is supposed to be perfect. I'm glad God has that perfect vision! Our theme for the year: Be Though My Vision, we are praying that we will have HIS perspective and we will leave ours behind. I want to be cross-eyed: having Jesus' death and resurrection as my focus, ready to ask for

forgiveness and being ready to extend it so that others might see God's grace lived out through me. May we all have "Our Father's Eyes" this year!



Sunday School during the Pandemic

God alone knows the future, but He does walk with us each day. As we make changes during the pandemic, we will make adjustments to Sunday School and communicate those changes. Until then, our adult leaders will continue to Zoom with our new PK3-5th graders each Sunday morning starting at 9:15 am. In August, we will start with Genesis and work our way through the Bible. We email parents each week things that can be helpful to the main Bible story and point. Depending on size and age, we will break to smaller groups to apply it to our lives and have discussions. Contact me if you aren't getting emails with ID and password.



Women's Bible Study

We might be separated, but we are still "meeting." Any lady is welcome. We have had people from other states stay connected and others invite friends. God is using this format to bless over 30 women. We also started breaking into smaller groups for some discussion questions. Email me if you would like our Zoom meeting ID and password. We will use Right Now Media's *Nice: How we love to be liked and how God calls us to more*. We meet from 10-11:30 am on Thursdays.

Online Church Directory

Miss some of your St. Michael family and want to send a note, call or email? Having access to our password protected church directory can help. <https://smlcs.360unite.com> lets you do just that. Contact Lori Schwan if you didn't receive your emailed invitation to 360unite.



From the Director of Christian Education

Jack Proctor

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

In early August, the Youth Ministries will be hosting a Zoom meeting discussing what to expect in the fall. We'll discuss confirmation, youth groups, and youth events. If you are a parent of a youth and do not already receive regular emails from Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org, please send a message to be included in the Zoom call.



Contact Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org for specifics on how we will be connecting virtually for various youth group events. College group - Mondays 7-8:30 pm. The Fellowship - young adult group is meeting every Tuesday night 7-8:30 pm, and high school Revive is still meeting every Wednesday 6-8 pm through zoom! Sunday School Zoom and Middle School Youth Group!

Resources to Share

RightNow Media - If you don't already know what RightNow media is, you are missing out! This is a perfect resource for where we find ourselves today. It is a streaming media library filled with Biblical content! You can access RightNow media on any device, and it works just like Netflix or Disney Plus. Follow this link [RightNow Media](#) to get started with your FREE account. Everyone in the whole family can have their own account if they desire and you can share the link with your neighbor! Also, on RightNow Media you will find great kid shows, family devotions, and conference sessions from top Christian conferences on a variety of different topics.

The Fundamentals Podcast - "The Fundamentals" is a former radio show I hosted with my best friend Jeff, who is now a Vicar at Christ Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. In "The Fundamentals", we break down different topics to the roots. Currently we are taking a look at the Book of Hebrews! You can find the podcast on apple podcasts by searching for "the Fundamentals Jack Proctor" or check us out on Youtube. We pray it may be a blessing to you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbFuHtXVmW0&t=5s>

Spiritual Growth Questions

How have I seen Jesus at work these past few months?

What has Jesus been teaching me through His Word?

What kinds of conversations am I having with people who do not yet know Jesus?

What good can I do around here?

What can I be praying for?

Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries

Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org

239.939.1218 ext. 224

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

I pray that you and your family are well as we enter into the month of August. The month of July was unlike any I can remember, but I have to tell you: For me, this has been a time of growth with our Lord Jesus and growth in the community of faith that God has placed us within and continues to empower us by His Holy Spirit.



What I believe has been one of the most beneficial area of growth for many of us at Saint Michael during this pandemic is the recognition and sharing in one another's gifts and abilities. Paul talks about employing all the spiritual gifts given by God for the well-being of His kingdom. And it's times like these that Jesus uses the gifts of the church to serve communities that He has placed us within to accomplish His will. These days, it is a little tough to know how that looks or what we can do to serve God's kingdom safely.

A whole lot of people are very lonely at this time. Giving someone a phone call can change their whole day. Just picking up the phone and checking in with the people you are closest with may be just the thing they need to get through the day. If you are familiar with technology, video calling applications are an extremely helpful tool during this time and is a great way to combat loneliness. If you need help with this, please just give us a call. People with the gift of technology will help walk you through it! Writing letters and cards has gained more popularity again, and everyone loves getting a letter in the mail. People are also in need of food right now, so if you have extra canned goods or other goods to donate, the local food pantries and food banks are gladly accepting donations, and this can be done safely.

The world has not experienced less need during the pandemic, rather God has provided us with unique opportunities to be a good neighbor for the people He places in our midst. And demonstrating God's love in action is a very meaningful way to be a witness for Jesus to people who may not otherwise know Him. We know the comfort of Jesus during this time, but there are many people in our neighborhoods who do not know Him or have fallen away. We have the opportunity to witness to them through our love for Jesus and the way that is reflected in our everyday lives.

It is a great time for the church, and God has blessed the congregation at Saint Michael to proclaim His Word to the community. He is the light in the darkness, and He puts that light into us by the power of the Holy Spirit to reflect the love that He has given to us on the cross and in His resurrection. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead and make this world right again, but until that time He has given us the ability to love and serve one another. Though we may not be able to serve in the same ways we were able prior to the pandemic, we are provided with unique and different opportunities each and every day. Though we are separate, we have the opportunity to be closer than ever before. God continues to bless and guide our church and gives us the chance to make an eternal difference for the people in our lives. May our Lord and Savior guide and bless you during the coming month, and as always, if you need anything or want to serve, give us a call and we will be happy to help.



BLOOD DRIVE AUGUST 16TH

The Lee Health Bloodmobile will be on campus Sunday, 08/16/2020 from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Ann Sluiter and team have socially distanced waiting protocols in place. Please consider coming out to help reach our goal of 10 units.