

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

Fathers' Day – June 20

Someone once said, "I think what makes a 'father' a 'dad' is the act of demonstrating love in tangible ways to his children." There are 3 great gifts that Dads give: (1) They help lay a strong spiritual foundation for their children to build their lives on, helping them to grow, helping them to know, love, and serve Jesus, as well as how to pattern their life after the wisdom in God's Book, the Bible. (2) They help their children develop a healthy self-esteem. (Spiritually, a "God-esteem" – the value God has placed on them, that they are worth the very life of Jesus!) That image is reinforced by affirmation, positive reinforcement, and encouragement. (3) They give their children a proper understanding of the concept of love – that there is one person who is absolutely, irrationally committed to them. They need to know if they were in a line-up of a million other kids, and you could pick only one, you'd pick them every time!

So, Dads, don't give your children left overs; don't give them a worn-out, exhausted father that doesn't want to hear it, play with it, or be bothered by it. Commit yourself to being irrationally involved in your children's lives! **Happy Father's Day!**

What Are These Things Called "Calls"?

I thought it might be helpful to share just a few thoughts about the **call process** in our church body (The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod). When a congregation or school has a vacancy (they need a teacher, pastor, principal, worship leader, or DCE) or they determine that their ministry requires additional staff, they may or often enter into this "call process". Members of that congregation are invited to submit names of individuals they know who have the gifts, abilities, and experience to fill that congregation's ministry needs. And every pastor, principal, teacher, worship leader, and DCE throughout our church body is essentially available to be considered. A list is also requested from, and given by, the District executive who has a wider knowledge of different workers' gifts, abilities, and experiences, as well as knowing the calling congregation's ministry needs.

The calling congregation or school then considers these names. Sometimes the individual being considered is interviewed on the phone or in person in order to get more information directly from them concerning their God-given gifts, abilities, and experiences, their vision and practice of ministry, etc. And then after a great deal of discussion and prayer by the calling committee and the church or school, one person is extended a call.

As you can see, often a church worker is unaware that their name is on a call list or that they are being considered for a ministry position at another church or school. But once

they receive the call, in essence they really have to choose between the call to stay and the call to go, wrestling where they can best serve God in His Kingdom.

A second area of interest to you might be your role in this process. With the called person, you share in the deliberation/decision process with your own soul searching and prayer that the Holy Spirit may guide us all to know and do His will. It is helpful to share your thoughts and concerns about the ministry of Saint Michael, the challenges and the dreams. Your counsel, prayers, and observations are important.

The decision to accept or decline a call is one that is made after a great deal of prayer, counsel, deliberation, and personal wrestling with the will of God. It is not based on whether it's a step up/down, higher salary, closer to "home", better weather, nicer house, etc. It is based on where a person can best serve God in His Kingdom with the gifts, abilities, and experiences God has given them for ministry.

Please keep Jack Proctor in your prayers as he has received a call to Concordia Lutheran Church and School in San Antonio, Texas.

Pastor Jon

From our Principal***Kati Miser***

At Saint Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of our Lord Jesus Christ! As another school year – and one to remember – comes to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children during the summer to love and follow Jesus. And that mission continues with summer events at Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School.

Director Sue Hampel (239-939-1218, ext. 229) is ready to answer your questions about summer camp. Contact Lori Schwan (239-939-1218, ext. 237) about Summer Sunday School and an exciting change-of-pace summer program that will replace Vacation Bible School this year.



“Fishin’ with a Mission” took place in May. It was a great experience as well as raising needed funds for the school. Thank you to all who participated and especially all our business sponsors.

There is still time to give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to experience Saint Michael Lutheran School in the next school year. Online applications for 2021-22 are also being accepted on our website. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support throughout the school year ... your encouraging words and prayers, your helpful hands, and your monetary donations. Thank you in advance for continuing that support even during the summer as we prepare our campus, budget, and calendar for the next school year.

The Equality Act - A Word from our Synod and District Presidents

Synod President Harrison, District President Walton, as well as our Lutheran Legal Counsel Rusty Huseman have shared information regarding this proposed legislation and our need to add our voices in the marketplace of opinions and to share our opinions with our elected representatives. There are several links on the Front Page of the District website – www.flgadistrict.org – including a sample letter which can be used to address our representatives in the Senate.

Here is an excerpt from Synod President Harrison’s article: “The church’s task is not political; it is the proclamation of the Gospel of free salvation in the cross and resurrection of Jesus for all. God rules His church by His infallible Word, the Holy Scriptures. God rules the state by His eternal law, reason and reasonable laws for the common welfare. The church should not meddle in government affairs, especially matters upon which the Word of God is silent. It is also wrong when governments act against God’s eternal law, reason and the basic civil rights of all people. The Equality Act is before Congress. It sounds innocent. All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals. We encourage all LCMS people to: (1) Treat all people with kindness and respect, while holding firmly to the ‘faith once delivered to the saints.’ (2) Become informed about the Equality Act and the issues of gender dysphoria. (3) Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials, particularly in the U.S. Senate. (4) Pray for our officials, government and the church in these challenging days. ‘Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil for evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9)’”

How Can I Break a Porn Addiction?

By Carlos Santiago

My first exposure to pornography was in sixth grade. And I still remember it 35 years later. Can you remember your first exposure? As a conference speaker and pastoral counselor, I've asked that question hundreds of times. Everyone has an answer. Many confess they've struggled to break the habit for years. If you or someone you know is struggling with pornography, here are some ways to begin breaking the addiction.



Admit your problem

Even if you felt remorse over your past use of porn, you've also likely struggled with a slew of internal justifications: "I'm not hurting anyone." Or "I'm not really cheating." In Jesus' eyes there is no distinction between lust and adultery (See Matt. 5:27-28). You are hurting someone—your spouse and yourself. And yes, you are cheating. Confess your problem to God and another trusted believer.

Understand your longings

Porn provides more than sexual stimulation. It can be used as stress management or to help you feel wanted, desirable, or in control. To beat a porn addiction, you must understand the "benefit" porn provides you beyond the sexual fix. *Deep down, there is a need that must be understood and brought to Christ.*

Install barriers

Cancel your online-streaming services. Install blockers on your phone and computer. Give a trusted friend the password to your phone and the right to check it at random times. Or go old school and buy a flip phone. Take whatever steps necessary to give yourself the best chance of success in the future.

Find support

Shame often keeps us from receiving the help we need. But it shouldn't. Talk to a pastor, counselor, or another believer who can give you the support you need when you are at your weakest. If you find yourself struggling to break free from addiction, take heart. God's love for you is not dependent upon your ability. He understands your struggle. And He will help you. Victory is possible.

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Source: www.familylifetoday.com

TMN Network News and Events

Check out these exciting events from Thrivent! For more information, go to the Thrivent Southeast Event page. (<https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/southeast/events/>)

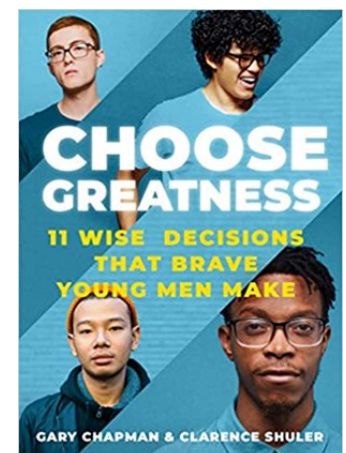
- June 4 - 6: Michael McDowell, NASCAR Driver
- June 9: The Power of Membership
- June 16: Choose Greatness with Dr. Gary Chapman
- June 23: Savvy Tax Strategies
- July 14: Ron Blue - Simplify Money Management, God's Way
- July 21: Retirement and Taxes with Ed Slott
- July 28: Bethany Hamilton

STAY CONNECTED:

Facebook: [@southeasttmn](https://www.facebook.com/southeasttmn)

Web: [Thrivent.com/southeast](https://www.thrivent.com/southeast)

Email: SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Summer Sunday School

Kids, join us throughout the summer for a little refreshing fun with Summer Sunday School. Join us in person in the music room or on Zoom. Contact Lori Schwan for Zoom info.

Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, you can give \$250 two times without giving any of your own money. We have several opportunities to partner with service projects like prayer shawl ministry, making a difference for community in-gatherings of supplies, etc. Contact Lori Schwan to see how you can partner with a fundraiser, service project, or an educational Thrivent Action Team.

Women's Bible Study

Like many other small groups, we are moving back on campus but also having a hybrid class with Zoom as well. Join Lori Schwan on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM on Zoom and in the youth room starting June 10th for ladies Bible study. We will be starting a new study TBA.

Faith and Film This Summer

"Vacation Movie School? Talking Pictures? Jesus Christ Moviestar? In All Things God has hope for any situation." Join us Monday nights throughout the summer for Faith and Film! We know that God can speak through anything: a burning bush, a donkey, and even the movies of today! With that in mind, the goal is to process secular movies through God's redemptive lens and develop the skill of how to have spiritual conversations with different ages over popular culture. It's perfect for families and people of all ages! Doors to the gym open at 5 PM, and the movie will begin at 5:45 PM. Bring your favorite lawn chairs or rent chairs or even couches to support the youth ministry! Dinner and movie snacks will also be available for a free will donation. The SMLC youth are raising money for the 2022 National Youth Gathering! We will have service projects on various weeks to support our local community agencies in theme with the movie. Watch for the listing of the weekly movies. Co-sponsored by the Youth and Parish Education Boards. Questions? Email Lori.Schwan@gsmcls.org or Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org.



Welcoming New Members

The new format for the Adult Information Class was successfully held in person and online. It is [recorded on the Livestream](#) and the [outline is available](#) under the tab for bulletins if someone missed a class or others just want an overview of the Christian faith. We look forward to receiving all the new members who have come to our church over the last year the weekend of June 12-13. We will have a special catered dinner for those new members and their sponsors on Saturday, June 12 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria.

The Board of Outreach would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Oma's Heart toy drive and the Pick Up the Ball pantry drive last month. As usual, our congregation went above and beyond. Your generosity is truly amazing, and we thank you!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Happy Father's Day to all our amazing Dads, Uncles, and Grandfathers! Thank you for all you do!



Saint Michael Youth Ministries

National Youth Gathering 2022

We've begun our sign ups for the National Youth Gathering July 8 - 14, 2022 in Houston, TX. If you know a student that will be in 8th - 12th grade in the upcoming school year, they are eligible to join us on the trip!

Summer Schedule

High School Revive - Wednesday nights 6-8 PM in the youth room.

Youth Sunday School (6-12) - Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 AM in the youth room.



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 use it 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. We are taking a look at the Book of 1st Corinthians! 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. Click here for the YouTube [link](#).



Some of our very own high school students took the time to assist with the clean up and landscaping of our Memorial Garden!

To be in the know with specifics for each week in youth ministry, contact Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org to be included in the weekly emails.

Jack Proctor, Director of Youth Ministries

Jack.Proctor@gsmcls.org

239.939.1218 ext. 224