

Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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*

It's hard to imagine that school will be starting back early this month. In light of that, I thought I'd share some of those precious moments that educators get to enjoy with our children. Teacher: "George, go over to the map and find North America." George: "Here it is!" Teacher: "Correct. Now class, who discovered America?" Class: "George!"

Teacher: "Didn't you promise to behave?" Student: "Yes, sir." Teacher: "And didn't I promise that there would be a consequence if you didn't behave?" Student: "Yes, sir, but since I broke my promise, you don't have to keep yours." Teacher: "How can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects?" Student: "Don't bite any." Teacher: "Max, use 'defeat,' 'defense,' and 'detail' in a sentence." Max: "The rabbit cut across the field and defeat went over the defense before detail."

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Saint Michael Lutheran School will begin its 66<sup>th</sup> year of ministry to our community. So please keep our faculty, staff, and administration in your prayers, along with the students who will be attending and their families. And remember our congregational members who teach in public schools where they, as "salt and light," can be a powerful witness to God's love.

Saint Michael has that unique opportunity through our school to fill young minds with wonderful knowledge, help them develop their character, and instill in them values that will prepare them well for life here. But we also have that extra opportunity to touch their hearts with God's love for them in Jesus in order to prepare them for eternal life.

There are always economic challenges and realities that confront families as they wrestle with the decision to enroll their child or children in a parochial (Christian) school. We pray that those economic concerns don't prevent families who desire a Christian educational experience for their children here at our Church's School. In light of that, Saint Michael Foundation has Long Term, Short Term, and Endowment opportunities to contribute that can then be used to assist families in need. Your gift, whether directly to the Church for tuition assistance, or to the Foundation, would be a blessing.

Thank you for your prayers!

*Pastor Jon*

***From our Principal******Kati Miser***

During the challenging times of the past year, Saint Michael Lutheran School experienced God's grace and the support of His people. Thank you! Now another challenging, exciting time lies just ahead as the new school year opens on Wednesday, August 11. This year's theme is "In All Things" which is based on Romans 8:28, "We know that *in all things* God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." "All things" certainly includes what we have experienced over the past year and what may come our way in this school year. And, the words of the old familiar hymn "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL" add to that promise: "Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.'" Your continued prayers are requested on behalf of our ministry to children and families during the 2021-2022 school year.



**At Saint Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of our Lord Jesus Christ!** 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 upcoming school year. Online applications for 2021-2022 are being accepted on our website.

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

We are gearing up for another great year. Little Saints is welcoming 22 new families to our school this year. The excitement is infectious as we prepare to go back to a "normal" school year. It's been a long year of separation for all of us. The staff and families alike are more than ready to join back together for a year of fellowship that makes our school so special.



Our team: Megan Oharriz - Older Twos  
 Nikki Howley - Older Twos  
 Carol Flores - Younger Twos  
 Ashley Negron - Ones  
 Lee Ailant - Transitional Ones  
 Tiffany Coyne - Infants

"In All Things" is our new theme this school year. With God's help, this group of amazing ladies and our support staff are going to make this a great school year.



***From the Ministry Coordinator******Lori Schwan*****Sunday School**

August 15<sup>th</sup> will be when we transition to our new format for Sunday School for the school year with in-person only Sunday School and breaking into various age groups. We are developing our team now; if you have a passion for kids and want to help in some way (teaching, assisting with crafts, technology, etc.), contact Lori Schwan.

**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, or sponsoring Faith and Film, 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**

We've moved back on campus in the youth room but also have Zoom as well. Join Lori Schwan on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM on Zoom or in the youth room for ladies Bible study.

**DivorceCare – New Edition 4.0**

A new session of DivorceCare, for separated or divorced, will begin soon! We meet Friday mornings from 8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. 08/27/2021-12/17/2021. Join any session. This group will be online and in person. Register at: [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org). Have questions? Call Lori Schwan 239-939-1218, ext. 237.

**Pastor Jon's Sunday Bible Class Back**

Join us Sunday morning in the cafeteria to study the book of Hebrews. If you cannot be there in person, you can Zoom using the church volunteer account.

**[Join Zoom Meeting](#)**

Meeting ID: 305 113 7001

Passcode: church

**THANK YOU!**

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who helped at Julie's retirement breakfast. We could not pull off these special events without our amazing team of volunteers! You are appreciated! Thank you for your help!

Do you enjoy the convenience of online shopping? Now all of your eligible purchases made through Amazon can benefit St. Michael! **AmazonSmile** is a program that donates a portion of your purchase price to the charity of your choice. You can choose St. Michael by using this link when shopping: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0791044>

## *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

# *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

### Parent and Student Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Kick Off

We want all parents of 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to join us Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> in the gym from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. to hear about the youth program for this year!

- 2021-22 Youth Calendar
- Plans for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School, 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation, and High School Sunday School
- New Wednesday Night Youth for Middle School and High School
- Middle School District Youth Gathering
- National Youth Gathering 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Fundraisers throughout the year
- Point system explanation to fund activities and trips
- Service projects for the year
- Ways for families to be involved directly or behind the scenes

### Wednesday Youth Nights

Starting Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, we will weekly be having both Middle School youth activities and High School Revive from 6-8 PM. Join us as we have dinner hosted by families each week at 6 PM. At 6:30, our activities and discussions will begin for each group separately in both the gym and youth room. We will be looking for volunteers each week to assist Sue Clark with high school and Lori Schwan with middle school.

### National Youth Gathering

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 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the upcoming school year, they are eligible to join us on the trip!

## *Want more information about Saint Michael Youth Ministries?*

Contact Sue Clark for all the High School and Middle School Youth news and events at 239-349-0395.

### 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.

### Opportunities to Serve

Do you have a heart for students? Are you interested in serving the youth of our community? If so, please prayerfully consider joining the youth team. Sue Clark can answer any questions you may have about the youth team. Sue can be reached at 239-349-0395. Thank you!

### Parenting in a Digital World Presentation

Parents of all ages are invited on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:15-10:30 AM to hear Mandy Zehnder share some amazing work she has done to help families get stronger in this technological age where Satan is trying to tear us apart. Join Mandy with Family Strong Project as she shares live what she often shares in her virtual [Parenting in a Digital World webinar/masterclass](#).

***Director of Worship and Music******Pastor Colton LaMay***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

What an exciting time at Saint Michael as we prepare for the festival time of the year and the school is coming back into session! We will have our staff commissioning before you know it, and we will be off on another great year of education here in our community. If you attend Saturday evening, you may have noticed that we are blessed to have Kerry Spencer back on the piano after being off for a time healing from an injury. Kerry is a great blessing to our congregation, and I am excited he is back! Keep an eye out for advertisements this month about choir getting started again.

Diane is excited for many new voices this year. We even plan to do a Christmas Cantata, so stay tuned for opportunities to participate in that with the choir. You may not even need to be a regular member of the choir to participate as the music is relatable and easy to learn, meaning if this is something you want to try, minimal rehearsal times would be required. I am about to begin my final stretch of the SMP program. I have four classes left, finishing in June of 2022. Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this time; my family and I appreciate you so much! It is a blessing to serve alongside you, and I pray that the peace of Jesus that passes all understanding be with you all each and every day.

Blessings in Jesus,  
Pastor Colton

***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/>)

- Aug 04: Economic Update with Peter McFarland
- Sep 02: Lauren Daigle Virtual Concert
- Sep 17-19: Tony Dungy
- Sep 22: Understanding Social Security and Annuities with Robin Mueller
- Sep 29: Student Loans with Ryan Law

STAY CONNECTED:

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

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

Email: [SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com](mailto:SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com)



**THRIVENT**  
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**Thank You**  
to our  
**TEACHERS**

We will have a special time of prayer and blessing for our school and early learning center faculty and staff at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please keep our faculty and staff in your prayers during this upcoming school year.