

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

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Fort Myers, FL 33901
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www.smlcs.org

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Col 2:6-7

“Overflowing”... some translations say “abounding.” But both words bring to mind the picture of the Thanksgiving cornucopia spilling out an abundant harvest blessing. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of our heart, our mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34)

So, as we approach this Thanksgiving, the question that confronts us is this - What is in my heart? Is it complaining? Is it self-interest? Is it pride? OR, is it thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is the mark of a believer in Jesus, a follower of Jesus, because thanksgiving always points us **out** and **up!** Complaining points only back to ourselves and feeds our pride, self-interest, and dissatisfaction.

Thanksgiving towards God and others actually fits the Great Commandment like a glove – to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, body, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. What better way is there than thankfulness to express that kind of love for God and others?

I don't know if you remember the Pillsbury Doughboy commercial; when they would poke his belly, he didn't flare up and get angry. He responded with a friendly, giggling “oh.” Well, I want to be like that (minus getting physically poked); I want to be so full of friendliness that when someone “pokes” me, my first instinct is thankfulness rather than anger.

My desire is that others would find thankfulness oozing out of me. I want thanksgiving to mark my conversations, interactions, and my manner. I want to abound with it, be full of it; I want to overflow with thankfulness. How about you?



Thanksgiving Worship Schedule

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday November 24, 7:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 10:00 a.m.

Advent Midweek worship will start December 1.

From our Principal***Kati Miser***

“Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call. You’ve got a friend.” If that’s a familiar lyric, you’re showing your age. So what season are you in? And I am not referring to seasons in nature. We all go through a variety of seasons in life. But we know that in any season, “in all things”, Jesus is the one Friend we can count on to answer our call (prayer). That’s why the mission of SMLS is so important ... ***educating children and touching families’ lives with the love of Jesus Christ!***



What a blessing to know that, even though the seasons (in nature and in life) may be changing, our faithful God is unchanging ... His promise to be our “all in all things” brings us peace and joy especially during these challenging times. Your daily prayers for SMLS are so appreciated as we continue to share that Good News with our children, families, and community. This month you can support SMLS through the following events:

- November 1-5 The Scholastic Book Fair
- November 19 The Move-a-Thon sponsored by the PTL

Call the school office if you would like more information.



Applications for the 2022-23 school year are now open. Click the admissions tab at the top of our website. Give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to experience Saint Michael Lutheran School. Virtual tours are available.

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

Little Saints held our 5th Annual Pirate Pasta Dinner on Saturday, October 2nd in the school gym. The parents and children enjoyed a fun-filled evening of games, prizes, and a silent auction. Proceeds will be used to build a new shed for our playground to store bikes and garden supplies. Once again, thank you to the Little Saints and Saint Michael family for your support and fellowship.



October was a busy month as the children learned about fire safety. Thank you to the FMFD for coming to visit us and letting the kids sit in the truck! We also learned a lot about the fall and enjoyed two fun fall events this year. Thank you to Curtis Volkman for sending us a big box of fall leaves from Minnesota! The kids loved actually getting to see and touch real fall leaves.

The week of November 8-12 we will hold our 7th Annual Pet Food Drive. The holidays are an extra hard time of year for the animal shelters; people are focused on holiday shopping and the shelter donations drop. Please join us in giving when the need is so crucial. We are collecting dog food, cat food, treats, pet toys, bleach, old towels, cat beds, and leashes. All donations are going to ARC (Animal Refuge Center) in North Fort Myers. Please drop off your donations in the drop box at the front of the church starting Sunday, October 31st. Thank you!

***LCEF Launches Free Mobile App***

Great news for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) MyAccount users: LCEF now has a free mobile app! This convenient new tool allows users to make transfers, pay bills, and stay up to date with account balances—all from the convenience of a phone or tablet. If you are an LCEF MyAccount user, the new mobile app is available for download now from the Apple store (lcef.us/appstore) and the Google Play store (lcef.us/googleplay)

From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan



Children's Ministry

Simply Loved Sunday School - Kids and volunteers are loving our new Simply Loved Sunday School Curriculum. We are gathering as PK3-Kindergarten and 1st-4th Grade. Both age groups will be studying Joseph's story from the Old Testament. Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering with the kids or behind the scenes.



New 5th and 6th Grade Sunday School Class

Our preteen kids in 5th and 6th grade have heard the Bible stories, but their minds have developed to ask those harder questions. This month's questions:

- How Important Is It I Tell People About Jesus?
- If God Is My Friend, What Does That Mean?
- Do Good People Go to Heaven Even If They Aren't Christians?
- What Does Jesus Want Me to Do When My Family Drives Me Crazy?

This new class is a place where it is safe to wonder and talk together as we see how the Holy Spirit answers those questions and empowers us to be bold for Him.



Operation Christmas Child



Help share God's love with kids through Operation Christmas Child. Pastors in other countries invite kids who don't have much to know Jesus by giving them a box filled with gifts and the message of Jesus. On Nov. 14th, bring in your small items (no candy or food; toothpaste; used items; toy guns, knives, or military figures; liquids or lotions). Some of our older kids will sort and pack them on Nov. 21st. We have shoe boxes already this year. \$9/box is needed to ship each box if you want to donate.

Advent Event for Families of All Ages

The Board of Parish Education invites you to our annual Advent Wreath Making Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 28th from 9:15-10:30 a.m. In addition to making wreaths for your household, some will make wreaths for those who are homebound. We will deliver the wreaths along with Advent Devotions to our homebound members.



Thrivent Financial Sponsors Needed NOW!

We usually do more than half of our Action Teams during the Holiday Season (over 50). We are in need now of people who want to sponsor teams. Please contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in sponsoring a Thrivent Action Teams education event, fundraiser, or service project.

Women's Bible Study

We've moved back on campus in ELC Board Room but also have Zoom as well. Join Lori Schwan on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on Zoom or on campus for ladies Bible study. We are studying [Louie Giglio's The Acts of the Apostles](#).

Pastor Jon's Sunday Bible Class

Join us Sunday morning in the cafeteria to study the book of Hebrews. If you cannot be there in person, you can now get Pastor's weekly outline on our webpage, and you can come on live via Zoom using the church volunteer account.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 305 113 7001

Passcode: church

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day will be observed the weekend of November 6th and 7th. Join us for a special time of remembrance at any of the three weekend services.

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Wednesday Youth Nights Exploding God decided to quadruple the number of Middle Schoolers we had coming to Wednesday youth nights in the last month! Chic-fil-a and Romans and Christians have been a big hit with our school and church kids. Middle School and High School meet each Wednesday from 6-8 PM. Join us as we have dinner hosted by families each week. Each group separately has activities and discussions. We are growing closer to each other and God. Having a variety of adult volunteers each week to assist Sue Clark with high school and Lori Schwan with middle school has been a blessing.

11/03 – Slip n Slide Kickball on the Soccer field

11/10 – National Youth Gathering Parent Meeting 7:15 PM

11/17 – Chic-fil-a Thanksgiving Feast (bring a side dish or dessert to share)

11/24 – No Youth (Thanksgiving Eve)

National Youth Gathering Registration is Mailed Today! November 1st is the day we get to overnight our registration to the LCMS Synodical office for the Youth Gathering July 8 – 14, 2022 in Houston, TX. At the time of printing, we have 25 youth and 6 adults going. All those going should plan to come to the youth night at 6 PM on November 10th to build community, but also, parents need to come 7:15-8:00 PM to a fundraising meeting.

High School Living Faith The high school youth group has been reading through the Bible during Sunday School. We are taking the opportunity on the first Sunday of every month to live out our faith, bringing the Scriptures to life. Our first event will be Nov. 7th. Meet in the youth room at 9:15 a.m. Come prepared in appropriate shorts, t-shirts, and tennis shoes that you can get dirty since we will be sprucing up the Memorial Garden while the regular Sunday morning activities are going on. Fellowship, food, and devotions will follow. We will be done at noon. Bring forms if you need signatures for service hours. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Father-Son Retreat - Save the Date! The Father-Son Retreat will be January 14 - 15, 2022. This year, the retreat is open to boys in 5th - 8th grade and their fathers. It will be 24 hours of amazing fun! Watch the announcements for more details.

Visioning for the Future

In October, we had our second and third of seven monthly meetings with Pastor Jacob Hoyer, Certified Navigator in the vision planning processes. Our vision team, made up of congregational leaders and staff, discussed what makes St. Michael unique as well as our unique mission to which God has called us.

In November, we will discuss our values that holds our vision together.



Pastor Jacob Hoyer

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped with the Reformation Combined Worship and meal. It was a blessing to so many and a great way to connect with the St. Michael family.

Thank you for all the candy donations for our SMLS Fall into Fun Festival! The students (and the parent volunteers) had an amazing time. Special thanks to Khrys Greco for heading up this event.

Board of Human Care - Holiday Happenings



Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals - The Board of Human Care will once again be serving church and community families this Thanksgiving and Christmas. The BOHC will be collecting monetary donations to purchase food and gift cards for approximately 50 families during the months of November and December. If you write a check, please note “for Board of Human Care” in the memo line. If you donate cash, please write “Human Care” on the envelope. Both cash and check donations may be placed in the offering plates at the church doors as you leave service, or you may bring your donations to the church office. Any donation, small or large, will help brighten the Holiday season for a family. Please have donations in by Sunday, December 12th. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and for being a blessing to so many in our community.

Christmas Senior Social - The Board of Human Care will again be celebrating our Seniors with our annual Christmas Senior Social on Sunday, December 5, 2021 after the 10:45 a.m. service. A delicious Christmas dinner, entertainment, and an opportunity to reunite with St. Michael friends will be provided. This event is free to all Seniors. Please call or email the church office by Monday, November 29th to make a reservation. (239-939-1218 ext. 241 or stephanie.bellino@gsmlcs.org) Also, if you would like to participate, we will be collecting new, unwrapped men’s or women’s socks or t-shirts for the homeless.

Angel Tree - We will have the “Angel Tree” in the narthex later this month. We will be collecting gift cards again this year to help families in need. Watch the church announcements for more details.

GriefShare and DivorceCare

GriefShare - Surviving the Holidays

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can’t be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar on Sunday, November 14th from 2-4 PM in the cafeteria is especially for people who are grieving a loved one’s death. Join Pastor Jon and others as together we learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you’ll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Register at: www.griefshare.org

DivorceCare – Surviving the Holidays

After separation or divorce, your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays won’t look the same as they used to. Traditions change. Some family members won’t be there. Social gatherings can feel stressful. But DivorceCare Surviving the Holidays can help! This special one-time DivorceCare class will meet Friday, November 12th from 8:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. This group will be online and in person. Register at: www.divorcecare.org. Have questions? Call Lori Schwan 239-939-1218, ext. 237.

Poinsettias

The Youth Group will be having a poinsettia fundraiser this Christmas season. Poinsettias can be placed in the sanctuary for the advent season in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The memorial list is published in our Christmas Eve bulletins. Watch the announcements for more details.