

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



Pastor Jon Zehnder



Weekend Regular Worship

Sat: 5:30 pm Informal
Sun: 8:00 am Traditional
10:45 am Blended

3595 Broadway
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 939-1218
www.smlcs.org

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

If you haven't seen them, then you really need to take the time to watch the three *Back to the Future* movies featuring Michael J. Fox and a souped-up DeLorean that had the ability to take its passengers back in time. Once there, the incidents that they witnessed or, worse, those they got themselves involved in had profound consequences in the future.

Well, friends, the "incidents of Holy Week" had, and continue to have, a profound consequence. Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection have impacted our world. Our Risen Savior changed the world! His influence is so deep and has gotten so deeply woven into our world, our culture and our society that, in many ways, people no longer recognize just how deep Jesus' impact has been.

So, over the next several weekends, we're going to take a step back and unpack that. It is our prayer that, by the end of this series, we're all going to have a renewed sense of wonder, admiration and a kind of pride about our Savior – so much so that we will want to be a part of His ongoing story (which is what Pentecost is all about).

Here are some of the things we will be looking at: *compassion, humility, dignity, forgiveness* and *teaching*. Come join us as we go "back to the future!"

May 8 – Mother's Day

A mom has the kind of love that willingly gives up hours of sleep, mountains of energy, thousands of dollars and endless time – all so that her child will have whatever is needed. Sound familiar? It should! That's why the prophet Isaiah uses the example of a mother's love to describe God's love for us. Thank you, moms, for being a conduit and a reflection of God's love, grace and blessing!

Pastor Jon



From Our Principal

Kati Miser



The month of May brings thoughts of “summer is almost here!” Celebrations mark those final days of school and graduation. Jesus has been here with us and will follow us into our summer activities. **Here at Saint Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families’ lives with that awesome love of our Lord Jesus Christ!** Thank God for all the blessings of the 2021-2022 school year as we have experienced His love, guidance and presence “in all things.” Did you know that the PTL is sponsoring a **Teacher**



Appreciation Week May 2-6? What a great time to send a note to a teacher!

Our biggest fundraiser, the **Bid for Kids Auction**, took place this year on **April 2**. There were over 300 guests who helped raise over \$160,000 to benefit our children – a record year! Thanks to their generosity, in addition to providing funds for the usual school expenses, extra funds were made available to purchase a new greenhouse that will be able to be used as an outdoor classroom, a new kiln for the art room, a new laminator and some new cooking supplies for the school kitchen.

It’s on to the next major PTL-sponsored event that children of all ages, parents, extended families and our friends in the community enjoy: **Fishin’ with a Mission** on Friday-Saturday, May 6-8! Contact the school office or event chairperson Amy Helgeson at fishinwithamission1@gmail.com for more information.



Applications for the 2022-2023 school year are open. They can be accessed via the admissions tab at the top of our website. Give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member for a tour to experience Saint Michael Lutheran School firsthand.

From the Director of Little Saints

Stacie Thompson

Mud Day was a huge success! The kids had so much fun playing in the mud, making mud pies and painting with mud on our first annual Mud Day. Pictures were shared with the office to be shown at church on Sundays; hopefully, you all will get to enjoy a glimpse of our Mud Day fun too!

Another school year is winding down for the older two-year-old rooms, and we will soon close out the year with our end-of-year party to celebrate and say goodbye. We will miss having these friends in our building, but we will still see each other around campus as many will move on to Pre-K 3 in the SMLS main building.



The playground will be shut down over the summer months to allow the natural elements to recuperate from constant use during the school year. We are also hoping to install a new storage shed during this time since our old one has seen better days. We hope everyone enjoyed our sunflowers this spring. The kids love planting the gardens and watching them grow. We wish you a safe and fun summer!

Visioning for the Future

On Saturday, April 9, the vision team, elders, council members, DCE calling committee and administrators met together with the help of our vision coach, Pastor Jacob Hoyer, to continue to develop the best staffing model for the next chapter of ministry. It was helpful to have leaders come together to collaborate so we can begin the process of calling the next senior pastor from somewhere in the country.



Pastor Jacob Hoyer

From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

"Simply Loved" Sunday School

In May, both Pre-K 3 through Kindergarten and first through fourth grades will study some of the ways Jesus shows He is God's Promised One. Please contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering with the kids or behind the scenes.

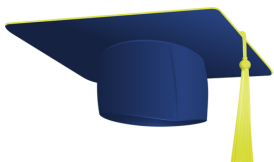


Fifth and Sixth Grade Sunday School Class

In May, our preteen kids in fifth and sixth grades will ask Jim Grier and Tiffany Roszell their harder questions. This 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.

Youth DCE Call Committee Update

Each of the candidates that the youth DCE call committee interviewed have let us know that God is calling them to their current ministry or to a new call elsewhere. Since meeting with Pastor Hoyer and the other churches' leaders on April 9, we will update the job description to better fit our newly proposed administrative structure. The committee will continue to search for those who might be a good fit in our future structure. Thank you for continuing to keep this process in prayer as we discern from the Holy Spirit whom God has in mind to serve and lead our congregation in this next phase.



Graduation Blessing

Each year, we recognize the graduates in our congregation. If you are a high school or college graduate since June of 2021, please send in a little information about accomplishments (e.g. clubs, honors, sports) as well as future plans (education, jobs, career, etc.) to Lori Schwan by May 6. We will be having a special graduate blessing on Sunday, May 15 at the 10:45am worship service for our 12th grade seniors and

their parents as part of our Faith Stepping Stone program. We will have a special gift for each of our high school graduates and a reception with cake in the narthex following the service.

Women's Bible Study

Join Lori Schwan on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30am on Zoom or on campus in the ELC board room for ladies' Bible study. This month, we will be finishing Matt Chandler's study of Psalm 119 on RightNow Media.

Pastor Jon's Sunday Bible Class

Join us Sunday mornings in the cafeteria to study "Living a New Life: What Do I Believe and Why It Matters." If you cannot be there in person, connecting via Zoom is also an available option. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 305 113 7001 Passcode: church

DivorceCare

The new DivorceCare session will meet on Tuesdays from 11:00am-1:00pm beginning May 10, 2022 and running through August 2, 2022. Anyone separated or divorced can join any session. This group meets online and in-person. You can register at www.divorcecare.org. If you have any questions, call Lori Schwan at (239) 939-1218, ext. 237.



Palm Sunday Thank You

Thank you to all of Chuck Oliver's team of volunteers who helped make the Palm Sunday celebration amazing! Don Hanchey's BBQ was awesome, and the desserts were the best we have had in years.

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Wednesday Youth Nights

May will feature four fun nights from 6:00-8:00pm where we will grow in our faith together. **May 4**—Romans and Christians; **May 11**—National Youth Gathering “In All Things” Themed Night; **May 18**—Celebration of Our Graduates; **May 25**—Slip ‘n’ Slide Kickball

National Youth Gathering

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11 from 6:00-8:00pm. Parents, please come to a parent meeting that night at 7:00pm.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Confirmation with Parents

During April, we talked about Confession, and, in May, we will talk about the Lord’s Supper. Parents are encouraged to be a part of these classes as they apply to our lives. Please bring *Luther’s Small Catechism* each week.



Car Wash

Our middle and high school youth will be holding a free car wash from 7:30am-12:00pm on Sunday, May 1. Parent volunteers are needed to help with valet parking. A sign-up will be e-mailed out soon. This is a great opportunity to gain points to help pay for youth activities like Camp Luther Springs and the LCMS National Youth Gathering.

Youth Thank You

Thank you for your generous support of the Youth Group’s Wall o’ Money. We raised \$7,136! These funds help the youth with all their activities including the National Youth Gathering and middle school summer servant event at Camp Luther Springs.

Middle School Summer Servant Event at Camp Luther Springs

Our beloved middle school summer servant event is back! Those going into sixth through ninth grades are welcome to join other youth from around the Florida-Georgia District for a week of camp fun as well as serving in the community around Gainesville. Parent drivers will leave Sunday, June 19 in the late morning, and parent drivers will return to pick up youth on Friday, June 24 around noon. Total cost for camp and transportation is \$500. Payments can be made with a deposit of \$150 to hold your spot. Final payments are due Wednesday, May 25. Points will be totaled by May 20 so that they can be used to help pay for this event. Contact [Lori Schwan](mailto:Lori.Schwan@gsmc.org) for more information.

Faith and Film This Summer

Vacation movie school? Talking pictures? *Jesus Christ Moviestar*? In all things, God has hope for any situation. Join us Thursday 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 to 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 will open at 5:00pm, and the movie will begin playing at 5:45pm. Bring your favorite lawn chairs, or bring money to rent chairs or even couches to support the youth ministry! Dinner and movie snacks will also be available for a free will donation. We will have service projects on various weeks to support local community agencies which are thematically related to the movies. Stay tuned for a listing of the weekly movies. This series is co-sponsored by the youth and parish education boards. If you have any questions, please email lori.schwan@gsmc.org.



Adult Information Class



Our next **Adult Information Class** is being held on two consecutive days, Saturday May 14 (9:00am-12:00pm) and Sunday, May 15 (2:00-5:00pm) in the Saint Michael cafeteria. Please consider attending the class if you are interested in becoming a member of Saint Michael Lutheran Church or if you would like to learn more about the teachings of the Lutheran Church. If you have any questions about the class, please call the church office at (239) 939-1218.

Board of Human Care

For the month of May, the Board of Human Care is supporting the work of ECHO, a Fort Myers-based ministry focused on helping people through local dedication with a global impact. Their mission statement reads, "ECHO exists to follow Jesus by reducing hunger and improving lives worldwide through partnerships that equip people with agricultural resources and skills." If you would like to contribute, please note "Board of Human Care - ECHO" on your donation. Many thanks to you for your continued generosity in supporting these Christian ministries. To learn more about ECHO, visit their website at www.echonet.org.



Opportunities to Serve

Church Cleaning

The church housekeeping team is looking for additional members! We have a small team keeping God's house in order. If you are interested in joining the team, please call Lisa Ciarlo at (407) 864-7436.

Ushers and Communion Assistants

We need volunteers as we are returning to the rail for Communion. Interested in becoming an usher or Communion assistant? Please contact Lee Berchtold at (239) 872-8999.



Wednesday Youth Nights

For middle and high school, youth nights are every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm in the gym. We need one additional adult who wants to facilitate small groups for middle school discussions. Contact Lori Schwan if you are able to help.

Altar Guild

The altar guild is in need of assistance at all three services as we return to communion at the rail. Altar guild is a wonderful way to serve at St. Michael behind the scenes and to make new friends! Please call Deb Helton at (239) 560-5830 for more information.



Sound Booth

We are in need of volunteers at all three service times who would be interested in serving in one of a few roles in the sound booth during worship. If enough people enter the rotation, then volunteers will be able to alternate weeks in the booth. Different roles are available from clicking through the slides to operating the sound board and camera for the livestream. No prior experience is needed; we can set up training with someone more experienced to help you get started. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving in this way at (239) 939-1218.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



This month, LWML is meeting on Saturday, May 14 at 10:30am in the band room in the Anderson-Eichler (SMLS gym) Building. All women in the church body are invited to join. A Zoom option will also be available. Meeting ID: 305 113 7001 Passcode: church

Thrivent: May 2022 Events

Anyone who is interested can attend Thrivent's free virtual events for May 2022:

BINGO: A Celebration of Membership

Join the Thrivent Member Network—Southeast Region for a game of BINGO to celebrate your Thrivent membership! Hear updates from the Thrivent Member Network, and join other Thrivent clients and guests during this time of fellowship. Receive instructions upon registration.

Thursday, May 12 (7:00pm)

RSVP <https://bit.ly/bingocelebration>

4 Truths About Long Term Care with Guest Speaker, Bill Comfort

If staying in your home is a top retirement priority, you're not alone. Learn how creating a plan for care as you age can help you achieve that goal. Join us for our free workshop, *4 Truths about Long-Term Care*. Discover how to create a strategy to protect your assets and reassure your family about the future.

Thursday, May 19 (12:00pm, 7:00pm)

RSVP <https://bit.ly/May19LTC>

thrivent®



Saint Michael Foundation



I am sure you've seen this logo thousands of times and wondered, "What do those three stylized individuals, standing on an open book with the cross in the center, mean?" Well, the book is the Bible which is centered on the message of the Good News that God was in Jesus reconciling the world to Himself by laying our sins on Him so we could receive His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:19-21). The three individuals represent our church, our school and our foundation.

Our foundation was created to ensure that the ministries and missions that the Lord has challenged us to do would remain strong and effective into the future and that new opportunities could be pursued and funded. Through board-established policy, funds are professionally managed using short-term, long-term, and endowment strategies that support the work of the church, the school and missions.

From generation to generation, we pass the blessings we have received forward as God works through our gifts and works through us to touch hearts for eternity and to change lives in our congregation, our school, our community and around the world. As of the end of December, our Foundation stood at \$1,624,166. Please prayerfully consider how you might be a blessing to those who will follow us. Feel free to check out information on our website (smleftmyers.com/saint-michael-foundation/), or call Bob Jablonski (Saint Michael Chief Financial Officer) at (239) 939-1218 or Michael Roach (Investment Manager) at (239) 275-9233.