

Volume 13, Issue 6  
June 2022

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

3595 Broadway  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 939-1218  
[www.smlcs.org](http://www.smlcs.org)



# The Messenger

*From the Pastor*

*Rev. Jon Zehnder*

Some of you might remember Bernie Nesor, a long-time member of Saint Michael, who, for decades, served as the unofficial greeter at our 10:45 worship service (along with volunteering to help beautify our campus in a group called “The Loyal Landscapers”). Bernie and his wife, Ernestine, were able to celebrate 78 years of marriage! God called Bernie home to heaven at age 100 and Ernestine at 107.

Their story is a great one. Although both families had immigrated together from Germany to the United States and were friends, Bernie and Ernie didn't start dating until Bernie got pressed into taking Ernestine to a Walther League gathering in Baltimore. Walther League was a young adult ministry in our Lutheran Church similar to the National Youth Gathering of today but for slightly older youth. You never know where or when God might draw two people together!

Anyway, Bernie would often share remembrances, stories and articles with me over the years. Here's one he passed on to me: it's a poem by Jim Galloway entitled “**My Dad**”. Bernie had given this note to me along with the poem, “I Had a Wonderful Dad.”

When I was just a little boy, no more than just a lad,  
I met a lot of special men but none quite like my Dad.  
Though other men would often hear the things I'd have to say,  
None could listen with their heart in Dad's own special way.

I love to think of all the things he used to say and do,  
And how I felt down in my heart – “I want to be like you.”  
If I could be just half the man my father was to me,  
What a great example I would for all the world to see.

The world could see a man who tried to never fail the test,  
Who never faltered in his quest to always be the best.  
They'd see a man who loved his Lord through times both good and bad,  
What a man I would be if I lived just like my Dad.

**Happy Father's Day!**

*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 comes to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children to love and follow Jesus. But wait! That mission continues with our summer camp which begins in June. What an opportunity to keep on proclaiming Jesus! Even if your children do not currently attend Saint Michael Lutheran School, they (and any other children you know) are invited



to participate in summer camp, Faith and Film and summer Sunday school. Summer camp brochures are available in the school office, and camp director Sue Hampel (239-939-1218, ext. 229) is ready to answer your questions. Contact Lori Schwan (239-939-1218, ext. 237) about Faith and Film or summer Sunday school.

There is still time to give me a call if you want to **see our school** firsthand or want to show it to a friend, neighbor or family member. New online applications for 2022-23 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, our budget and our calendar for the next school year.

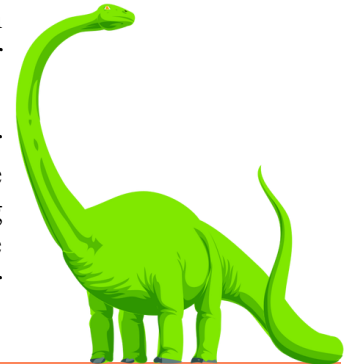
*From the Director of Little Saints**Stacie Thompson*

Our school year has come to an end, and we have had to say **goodbye** to another graduating class of two-year-olds as they move from Little Saints to "the big school." It was a bittersweet time for the teachers and parents as so many of our little ones have been with us since they were infants. They have grown so quickly, and we hated to see them leave our building, but what an exciting time it has been for our two-year-olds as they are finally "big kids now, 'cause we are going to the big school!"



Summer has begun, and so has the **summer fun**. Our classes have moved to a summer camp style as we work on fun summer themes, like dinosaur week and camping week. We have been enjoying hanging out in our tents and making s'mores with our solar-powered oven.

Summer is also a time to say goodbye to our teachers who are moving on or graduating college and to say **hello** to new friends. We are excited to promote Amber Whitaker as our new lead teacher in our transitional "ones" room along with several new teaching assistants. A lot of new and exciting changes have been taking place at Little Saints as we begin to prepare for a new school year already. Have a safe and blessed summer!

*Visioning for the Future*

Over the summer, we will be creating our plan to share what the **vision team** has developed since July of 2021 over the next year. We will kick this off in the fall of 2022.

*Pastor Jacob Hoyer*

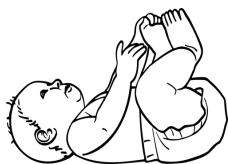
## From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

### **Children's Ministry**

#### **"Simply Loved" Sunday School**

In June, both incoming pre-K 3 through Kindergarten students and incoming first through fifth grade students will study some of the Judges. Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering during the summer with the kids or behind the scenes.



#### **Sunday School Nursery Reopening**

Enjoy caring for little ones? Contact Lori Schwan if you would like to volunteer with infants through two-year-olds once a month so that their parents can strengthen their faith during this important education time.

### **Thrivent Financial Members**

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, you can give \$250 two times without giving any of your own money. Contact Lori Schwan to see how you can partner with a fundraiser, a service project or an educational Thrivent Action Team. There are several happening this summer.

### **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. In June, we will be starting a new RightNow Media study that will be revealed in the bulletin at a future date.

### **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**

DivorceCare is currently meeting on Tuesdays from 11:00am-1:00pm 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](http://www.divorcecare.org). If you have any questions, call Lori Schwan at (239) 939-1218, ext. 237.



### **Faith and Film This Summer**

All ages are welcome to 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, our goal is to process secular movies through God's redemptive lens and to develop the skills to have spiritual conversations with different ages over popular culture. It's perfect for families and people of all ages! Doors open at 5:00pm, and the movie begins at 5:45 PM. Bring your favorite lawn chairs or borrow chairs from Saint Michael. Dinner and movie snacks will also be available for a free will donation to support the youth. This series is co-sponsored by the Youth and Parish Education Boards. If you have any questions, email [Lori.Schwan@gsmcls.org](mailto:Lori.Schwan@gsmcls.org).



- June 2 – *Encanto*
- June 9 – *Hidden Figures*
- June 16 – *The Pacifier*
- June 23 – *Remember the Titans*
- June 30 – *National Treasure*



*Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

*Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

**Summer Sunday School: Middle and High School**

During the summer, our new sixth through eighth grade students will gather together for summer Sunday school. Meanwhile, the new ninth through twelfth grade students will gather in another group to continue their study of the Bible.

**Wednesday Youth Nights**

We will continue to meet every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm. However, since we will also be sponsoring concessions at Faith and Film each Thursday night at Saint Michael, we are trying to meet off-campus this summer. Want to host a middle school Wednesday youth night in June or July for the incoming sixth through eighth graders or to host Revive for the incoming ninth grade through college freshman at your home or clubhouse? A night of fun usually includes a simple dinner, fun (maybe an indoor or outdoor game or swimming) and devotional time. Someone in your family can share a devotion (resources are available if desired), or another adult or youth can lead. Receipts can be turned in to reimburse for food costs. Let Lori know if you or someone you know might be interested. With everyone's schedules in flux, attendance numbers will vary between 5 and 25. We will send out a Google form each week to help the host estimate numbers.



Date	Middle School Host	High School Host
June 1	TBD	TBD
June 8	TBD	Miser family
June 15	TBD	Minor family
June 22	TBD (lower numbers with students at Luther Springs)	TBD
June 29	TBD	TBD

**LCMS Youth Gathering—Houston, Texas**



On Saturday, June 4, students and adults attending the National Youth Gathering will meet at Saint Michael from 10:00am-12:30pm for fun, connecting with other students who are going to the NYG from Grace Lutheran Church in Naples and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers. Please bring \$5 to offset the cost of lunch.

Covenants and Medical Authorizations are due by June 8 via email or hard copies turned in to Lori or Kati Miser at Revive.

**LCMS Youth Gathering—Prayer Partner Sponsorship**

If you requested a prayer partner for the LCMS Youth Gathering, we will be contacting you this month to let you know for whom you will be praying as well as some ways in which you can pray for them each day. We could still use a few more prayer partners. Contact Lori if you are interested and missed the initial chance to sign up.

**Middle School Summer Servant Event at Camp Luther Springs**

The nine youth and one adult attending the FL-GA District Middle School Summer Servant Event at Camp Luther Springs will be commissioned on Sunday, June 19 at our 8:00am worship service. We will leave right after that and will return around 5:00pm on Friday, June 24. Thank you for keeping these students in your prayers during that week.





## *Youth DCE Call Committee Update*

In May, our church's elders began the Senior Pastor Call Committee process. Some of the elders began crafting the new Senior Pastor's job description. The Youth DCE Call Committee is collaborating with the elders to make sure the job description for the youth DCE position compliments that of the new Senior Pastor's job description along with the newly proposed administrative structure. Throughout the summer, the Youth DCE Call Committee will continue to seek those who might be a good fit in our future ministry. 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 to lead our congregation in this next phase.



## *Board of Human Care*



The Board of Human Care would like to support a LCMS missionary for the month of June with our loose change offerings. Ruth Maita and her husband, Pastor Gustavo, serve together in Puerto Rico. Ruth was a teacher at St. Michael in between her missionary work in the Dominican Republic and her present work in Puerto Rico. Ruth and Gustavo are starting a kids' club for reinforcing reading, math and English. They want to reach more families so that they will get to know the church and, more importantly, our Savior. If you would like to contribute, please note "Board of Human Care - Maita" on your donation. We thank you for blessing so many Christian ministries!

## *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. We need families who are willing to host either middle or high school youth for a Wednesday evening this summer. 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 Church Extension Fund Gift Cards

Gift-Giving Is Easy with the LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) Visa Gift Card. Is someone you know graduating high school or college? Will wedding bells soon be ringing for a friend or family member? For special occasions like these, a Visa gift card makes a thoughtful gift, affording the recipient flexibility to use it however they wish. For LCEF investors, the LCEF Visa gift card can be a great gift giving option. The gift cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 values. An additional \$1.99 fee per gift card will be added to the order. LCEF investors can learn more or place an order by visiting [lcef.org/product/lcef-gift-card/](http://lcef.org/product/lcef-gift-card/) or by calling Lutheran Church Extension Fund at 800-843-5233. For other questions about LCEF services, please contact Joni Zehnder, Congregational Advocate.



## Phil's Friends



There will be an ingathering at the FL-GA District Convention this year for Phil's Friends, a recognized service organization of the Synod. Phil's Friends distributes free care packages (called Phil's Friends Box) and monthly cards of hope to cancer patients of all ages all over the country. We will be collecting items through June 12 to fill the care packages. For every Phil's Friends Box filled, the FL-GA District will donate \$5.00 to Phil's Friends.

All items need to be new and unused as the recipients have compromised immune systems. Please donate adult items only. You can bring in hats, fuzzy socks (women's only), Biotene (6 oz. or smaller), fragrance free lotion (5 oz. or smaller), gift cards, playing cards, lip balm, puzzle books, 5 x 7 journals (not spiral bound), toothbrush, toothpaste (5 oz. or less), water bottle, pen, drawstring backpack, Bible. Please drop off the items in the narthex by June 12. Thank you!

## 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 ([smlcftmyers.com/saint-michael-foundation/](http://smlcftmyers.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.