

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

"There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every event under heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Some of you might be old enough to remember the rock group Byrds singing the song, "Turn, Turn, Turn" back in 1965, the lyrics coming from this text in Ecclesiastes. That was 57 years ago... wow, time flies! Now we stand at the beginning of another "appointed time," the start of the 81st fiscal year of mission and ministry for our church and the 67th for our school.

As we gather at the end of this month, we'll hear again in our annual report all that God in His grace did for us and what He was able to accomplish through the ministries of our ten ministry boards. But more than just looking back with thanks, we'll also be able to consider the future: new opportunities, new staff, new congregational ministry leaders and volunteers. What excitement there is in all of that, knowing that the God who brought us this far will certainly carry us into this next season where His grace will once again abound to us.

In this past year, a gathering of some of our ministry staff, congregational leaders and lay members worked long and hard to help us grasp the uniqueness of our ministry, the unique community God has placed us in, the unique opportunities that surround us and our unique ministry "DNA." I hope you've been reading along in the newsletter the work they have been doing with Pastor Jacob Hoyer.

Together, we were able to define **our mission**, delineate **our values**, determine **our measures**, and describe **our strategy**. All of that framing is assisting us as we perform **short range** and **long range vision planning**, a strategic part of which involves staffing. The hard work, long hours and discussion have given our church's leadership the tools needed to approach the staffing needs required to meet the functions of ministry that are core to Saint Michael Lutheran.

I certainly want to invite your prayers for this process of filling ministry staff positions. There are a few moving parts right now, and the leadership of the Church will be keeping you informed about that as well as when your involvement in this process will be necessary. All said, God's got this! He knows the appointed time for all of this hard work to come to fruition. So, we move into an unknown future knowing the One who holds our future in His gracious hands!

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!** Check out our SMLS Facebook page for photos and posts about recent events and stories shared by Saint Michael families about the impact of our school on their lives. Give me a call if you want to see our school firsthand. Online applications for 2022-23 are being accepted on our website.



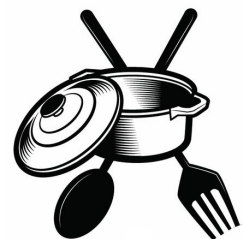
From the Board of Elders

The Board of Elders is excited to share that we have officially completed all paperwork and provided the required documents to the FL-GA District Office to start the process to search for a new Senior Pastor. Using the information that we have provided to them, the District will work on and provide us with a list of possible candidates for us to review. While the district compiles their list, we, as a congregation, can also submit nominations. In order to nominate a pastor, there will be an official form both in the narthex and in the church office. We will be collecting nominations beginning on July 1 and continuing through July 31. In order for a nominee to be considered, they must be a fully ordained pastor in good standing with the LCMS. Completed forms can be returned to any elder or to the church office. Nominations received after July 31 will be held for consideration should there be a need for a second list. Please keep the call/transition team in your prayers as we seek and follow God's guidance throughout the search process. Thank you for your support.

From the Board of Human Care

Amigos Ministry

During the month of July, the Board of Human Care is requesting support from the Congregation for AMOS, Amigos Ministry of Southwest Florida, a Lutheran, Fort Myers-based ministry located in Immokalee. According to Pastor Seth at AMOS, "they are focused on having a Christian ministry of presence in the community." Their immediate need is for a new kitchen so they can expand food services to those in need in the Immokalee area. If you would like to contribute financially, it is important that you specify Board of Human Care - AMOS on your check, or, if you include a donation in an envelope, please note "Board of Human Care - AMOS" on the envelope so that you are assured your donation is given to the AMOS mission. Sincere thanks to you for your continued generosity in supporting these Christian ministries!



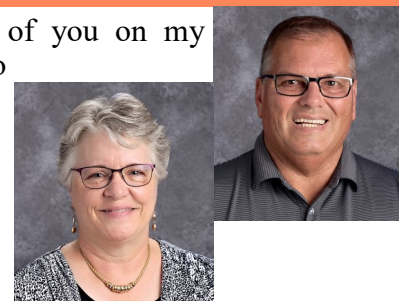
Medical Supplies

Are you in need of any of the following items as you are healing from an injury, sickness or surgery? We have a variety of items that can be borrowed during your healing process: wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, toilet seat risers, adjustable bedside tray, canes and a variety of other smaller medical items such as oxygen tank holders and walking boots. Please email Sue Hansen at suehansen103@gmail.com to request any items.

From Joni Zehnder and Bob Schaaf

Many thanks for the kind words, cards and gracious gifts from so many of you on my retirement. Teaching at St. Michael has blessed me, and I pray God used me to be a blessing to others. Thanks again for your kindness. -Joni Zehnder

A heartfelt "thank you" to all the St. Michael Lutheran church members and friends who helped me celebrate my retirement from teaching in the school for the past 40 years. Thank you for all your well wishes and gifts. It was an honor and privilege to dedicate my life's work to the children of the Fort Myers community. Again, thank you! -Bob Schaaf



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Simply Loved Sunday School

In July, both incoming Pre-K 3-Kindergarten and incoming 1st–5th 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

We have volunteers who are serving in the nursery during Sunday School hour to show the love of Jesus to these little ones and to allow parents to 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 of these happening this summer and fall.



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. We are studying RightNow Media's *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*.

Pastor Jon's Sunday Bible Class

Join us Sunday morning in the cafeteria to study "Living A New Life - What do I Believe & Why it Matters" If you cannot be there in person, Zoom is also available. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 305 113 7001 Passcode: church

DivorceCare

The new session of DivorceCare is meeting on Tuesdays from 11:00am-1:00pm through August 2, 2022. Anyone who is separated or divorced can join any session. This group is online and in person. Register at www.divorcecare.org. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Schwan at 239-939-1218, ext. 237.



Faith and Film This Summer

All ages are welcome to continue joining us Thursday nights throughout the summer for Faith and Film. The goal is to process secular movies through God's redemptive lens and 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 will begin at 5:45pm. 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 missed the movie but would like a faith discussion guide, e-mail Lori.Schwan@gsmles.org.



- July 7 – *Tangled* or *The Grinch*
- July 14 – *Angels in the Outfield*
- July 21 – *Family Camp* featuring the Skit Guys
- July 28 – *Greater*



Saint Michael Youth Ministries

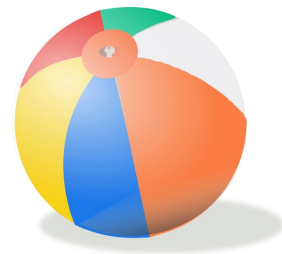
Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Summer Sunday School: Middle and High School

During the summer, incoming 6th-8th grade students will gather together for Summer Sunday School while the new 9th-12th grade students will also gather in another group to continue their study of the Bible.

Wednesday Youth Nights

Thank you to the Miser, Schwan, Minor, Tonini Guerra, Shovlin and Gilles families who generously hosted either middle school or high school youth at their homes in June. We have had a lot of fun, eaten some great food, gotten to know each other better and grown in our faith. We will continue to meet every Wednesday from 6-8pm. Let Lori know if you or someone you know might be interested in hosting. With everyone's schedules different, numbers will vary between 5-25. We will send out a google form to sign up each week to help the host to estimate numbers.



Date	Middle School Host	High School Host
July 6	Hilla family	at St. Michael
July 13	TBD	N/A (National Youth Gathering)
July 20	TBD	Hodson family
July 27	TBD	TBD

LCMS Youth Gathering

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 ways in which you can be praying for them each day July 8-14. Contact Lori if you missed out on the chance to sign up. Also, those who are in town should plan to attend the commissioning at all three services: Saturday at 5:30pm on July 2 and 8:00am and 10:45am on Sunday, July 3. The mass events each night will be streamed through the LCMS for anyone who wants to enjoy a glimpse of what our teens and adult leaders will be experiencing. The link will be included in an upcoming bulletin.



Middle School Summer Servant Event at Camp Luther Springs

Thank you for praying for and supporting these students and adults as they served the community near Luther Springs with Jesus' love.

- Eli Hart
- Julian Heck
- Riley Milgrim
- Lucy Molloy
- Tiago Passos
- Andrew Schwan
- Jacob Schwan
- Lori Schwan
- Hansen Truax
- Savannah Truax



Youth DCE Call Committee Update

In June, 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 and the newly proposed administrative structure. As the Youth DCE Call Committee continues to look for those who might be a good fit in our future ministry, we are also looking at people within our community who might temporarily assist with the youth ministry. Watch the bulletin for more information to come. 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.



LWML Craft Fair

Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be hosting a Craft Fair/fundraiser on Reformation Sunday, October 30. We will be renting 8' tables for \$25.00 on which for you to sell your products (independent distributors are welcome). The fair will be held in the gym with room to expand to other rooms in the same building if necessary. We think there will be a large number of people attending as we have one service that day, and lunch is provided. This is a great time as the holidays are just around the corner. So, start planning and creating! Please call Paulette Mueller at 239-677-6688 or Toni Hanchey at 239-565-0108 for more information and to rent a table.

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.

Thrivent: July 2022 Events

Anyone who is interested can attend Thrivent's free virtual events for July 2022. RSVP at <https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/southeast/events>.

thrivent®

Flourishing Pastors, Flourishing Communities

Join Made to Flourish's Tom Nelson and Amy Sherman for a biblically rich conversation on how to lean into the gift and the mission of personal and community flourishing. In the midst of our broken communities and stressed lives, it can be difficult to believe that God desires our flourishing, provides the way to flourishing and wants to use us as his agents of flourishing. But, God's promise to strengthen us and bring blessing to others through us is no chimera.

Thursday, July 7 (12:00pm)

Living in Financial Victory with Dr. Tony Evans

Do you wish your house were in better financial order? If so, you won't want to miss this message of encouragement from pastor, leader and best-selling author, Dr. Tony Evans. You'll discover the biblical principles of stewardship. Take this opportunity to learn to be a good steward, or manager, of what God has entrusted to you.

Monday, July 11—Sunday, July 17 (on demand)

Paychecks & Playchecks: Retirement Solutions for Life

Want to learn a proven approach to retirement that is tailored to your priorities? Join us for a free special event with national financial expert Tom Hegna, author of *Paychecks and Playchecks: Retirement Solutions for Life*. You will learn how to retire with enough guaranteed lifetime income to cover your basic expenses and how to optimize the rest of your portfolio to make sure you receive your "playchecks." You want to feel comfortable that you have a strategy in place so that your basic living expenses are covered for life and there is something leftover to play with.

Wednesday, July 27 (12:00pm and 7:00pm)

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 (smcftmyers.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.