

Volume 13, Issue 8
August 2022

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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The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Jon Zehnder

With the start of schools this month, I thought we might all enjoy the “lighter” side of educational moments (by the way, ask any of our teaching staff; they have fun ones to share too!):

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: How can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects?

Student: Don't bite any?

Teacher: Max, use the words “defeat,” “defense” and “detail” in a sentence.

Max: The rabbit cut across the field, and defeat went over defense before detail.



On August 10, Saint Michael School will start their 67th year of ministry to our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of this unique ministry that we share. The faculty, administration and staff treasure your encouragement and prayers as do the families of the children we are privileged to serve. From infants to 8th graders, we get to share with them not only English, literature, math, science, technology, history, music, art and athletics but, most importantly, that there is a God who made them, loves them and redeemed them in Jesus. We have the opportunity to join with parents and families to assist in the development of their child's character, help instill values but, especially, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to touch their hearts and lives.

Joni and I were fortunate to have been able to attend Lutheran grade schools as well as a Lutheran High School in Cleveland. So, we know of the sacrifices and support that congregations, individuals and families make in order to provide not only a quality education but, more importantly, to share and build students up in their faith and life in their Savior Jesus.

I was reminded of those sacrifices as I was going through some of my dad's old files and ran across some information about my great-grandfather George Zehnder who taught at St. John Lutheran Church and School for 50 years. It was estimated that 13,500 students passed through his room and had him as their teacher. He and his wife, Ann, had 11 children, and their eldest son, Clement, became a Lutheran Pastor (as did all three of Clement's sons, two of his grandsons and one of his great-grandsons). George would never receive a salary higher than \$125 a month with a son at Seminary and ten mouths still to feed at home. The next four siblings quit school in ninth grade to help put food on the family table (they also gardened and raised pigeons). But from all accounts, as a family, they sacrificed willingly and joyfully in serving our Lord in ministry and mission.

So, let me thank you again as we begin the adventure of this new school ministry year, trusting that our God is able to make all grace abound to us, that He is able to bless us abundantly so that in all things at all times, having all that we need, we will abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Pastor Jon

From Our Principal

Kati Miser



Saint Michael Lutheran School continues to experience God's grace and the support of His people. Thank you! Now, another exciting time lies just ahead as the new school year opens on Wednesday, August 10. This year's theme is "Making Disciples for Life" which is based on Matthew 28:19-20: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to



observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." "All nations" certainly includes everyone connected with Saint Michael: not just students but staff and school families as well. The words to an old, familiar hymn, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," reminds us that being a disciple isn't a matter of age but a matter of a believing heart that bids us walk Jesus' way, not our own. Your continued prayers are requested on behalf of our ministry to children and families during the 2022-23 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 2022-23 are being accepted on our website.

From the Board of Elders



The board of elders would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support as we move forward with the senior pastor transition process. The church constitution directs that the pastoral call committee is to consist of the board of elders. Together with Kelly Zinn, president of the congregation, Pastor Jon and the district office, we hope to have a list of candidates at some point in August. We intend to keep the congregation informed of our progress with regular updates during all three weekend services, through announcements in the bulletin and via our monthly newsletter. If you have any questions at any point throughout the transition process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kelly Zinn by e-mailing kellyzinn65@gmail.com.

From the Board of Human Care

During the month of August, the Board of Human Care is requesting support from our congregation for LARC, Lee Association for Remarkable Citizens. LARC has been operating for eight years to provide vocational training and community residential services. They are currently helping 300 local women and men participate in LARC's various community programs as well as supporting 100 individuals live independently in our community. LARC supports local people with disabilities in living happier, fuller lives in the community and helps them to be as independent as possible. If you would like to help this local organization assist a special segment of our community, please note on your envelope or check "Board of Human Care - LARC" so the funds will be directed toward this organization. We thank you for supporting the different organizations we highlight each month for our Board of Human Care ministry.



Supporting Individuals with Disabilities
SINCE 1954

From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Children's Ministry

Simply Loved Sunday School

Since, in July, the children studied Judges, now, in August, kids will study the Road to Kings (Ruth, Hannah, Samuel, Saul). Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering during this year, either 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 fall.



Women's Bible Study

Join us 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 begin a new series. 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 August 16 through November 15, 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 call Lori Schwan at 239-939-1218, ext. 237.



Thank You: Faith and Film

Thank you to the 87 people (ranging in age from infants to older adults; 56 were church members and 31 were friends of members) who participated in our movie watching this summer. We grew by learning to see themes in movies that relate to our faith and discussing them together.

Senior Pastor and Youth DCE Call Committees Updates

In July, the senior pastor call committee was hard at work collecting names from the district and the St. Michael congregation of people to be considered for the next senior pastor. Some of the youth call committee networked at the LCMS Youth Gathering with DCEs. As both committees continue 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 assist the youth ministry on a temporary basis. Keep an eye out for more information in the bulletin on that front. Thanks 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.



Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Saint Michael Youth Ministries

Parents and 6th-12th Grade Kick Off

We want all parents of 6th-12th grade students to join us Sunday, August 14 in the band room from 9:15-10:30 to hear about youth program for this year. These include the 2022-23 youth calendar, plans for 6th Grade Sunday school, 7th-8th grade Confirmation and high school Sunday school, Wednesday night youth group for middle and high school, high school Living Faith activities, LCMS youth gathering thank you event, Confirmand retreat, middle school district youth gathering, high school summer servant event possibilities, Camp Luther Springs FL-GA District summer servant event, fundraisers throughout the year, point system explanation to fund activities and trips, service projects for the year and ways for families to be involved directly or behind the scenes.

5th and 6th Grade Sunday School

Our preteen kids in 5th and 6th grade 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.

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation with Parents

Our first official week of Confirmation will begin Sunday, August 21. We encourage parents to attend with their students. Any 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to join us. This class meets upstairs in the education building (look for printed signs).

9th Grade Confirmand Final Preparation

The Rite of Confirmation will be Sunday, October 30. 9th graders will meet with high school Sunday school. Come to the meeting on August 14, and learn about the confirmand retreat, one-on-one interviews and your faith statement that will all happen before confirmation day.

High School Sunday School

Join us in the youth room as our journey of walking through the Old Testament continues in 2 Samuel.

Wednesday Youth Nights

Thanks to the Hilla, Gilles, Hodson, Schwan and Pastor Jon and Joni Zehnder families who generously hosted either middle school or high school youth at their home in July. We have had a lot of fun, eaten some great food, gotten to know each other better and grown in our faith. In August, we head back on campus for our weekly Wednesday groups from 6:00-8:00pm. We continue to ask for families to sponsor a dinner either through making, purchasing or funding the meal. We will send out a Google form to sign up each week to help us estimate numbers for food.

LCMS Youth Gathering Thank You

Thank you to all those who encouraged, prayed for and financially supported our 27 youth and 7 adults as they joined almost 20,000 other high school youth and adult volunteers. They had a phenomenal faith-developing experience. We are making plans to be able to share highlights with the congregation.



Living Faith - Destination Unknown

The high school youth will be going on an unknown adventure Sunday, August 7 from 8:00am-10:00pm. Only the adults will know the next destination. Approximately \$50 will cover meals, activity and travel. Meet in the youth room. RSVP is required. Contact Mandy Zehnder (239-265-6226) with any questions.

WWII Servant Event

Seven of our high school youth will be volunteering at the Spirit of '45 event honoring local WWII veterans on Sunday, August 14 from 3:00-7:30pm at Sanibel Harbor Resort/Marriott. Questions can be directed to Mandy Zehnder at 239-265-6226.

GriefShare

A new session of GriefShare will be beginning on Sunday, August 21. GriefShare meets Sunday afternoons from 1:00-3:00pm in Pastor's Conference Room in the Education Building. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Hallen at hallenp50@gmail.com or 239-910-6014.



AmazonSmile



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>

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 you can 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.



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 become volunteers, then they will be able to rotate 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 Laurel Volberding if you are interested in serving in this way at (239) 470-8026 or ronlaurelv@earthlink.net.

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.



Thrivent: August 2022 Events

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

The Easiest Way to Win College Scholarships—Starting in 8th Grade

Jeannie Burlowski is a nationally recognized college planning speaker. She is an academic strategist, podcast host, speaker for students ages 10-26 and their parents/grandparents—and she is the author of the book *LAUNCH: How to Get Your Kids through College Debt-Free and into Jobs They Love Afterward*.

Tuesday, August 9 (7:30pm)

How to Convince Your Kids They Don't Need Student Loans

Jeannie Burlowski is a nationally recognized college planning speaker. She is an academic strategist, podcast host, speaker for students ages 10-26 and their parents/grandparents—and she is the author of the book *LAUNCH: How to Get Your Kids through College Debt-Free and into Jobs They Love Afterward*.

Thursday, August 11 (12:30pm, 7:30pm)

Balance Homebuying

Plan for your purchase. Learn valuable tips to prepare for one of the biggest financial decisions of your life, whether you want to buy your first home or move to another.

Tuesday, August 16 (12:00pm, 7:00pm)

Virtual Filter Build with Wine to Water Founder, Doc Hendley

Doc Hendley, the founder and president of Wine to Water, will share his captivating story of an ordinary bartender who is changing the world through clean water. Get ready to be educated and inspired about the mission of the organization and their global impact. Plus, you will be given step by step instructions on how to build the water filters that have been received in your limited-edition Thrivent Action Team kits with the promo code WATER22. We can't wait to see you online!

Tuesday, August 23 (7:00pm)

Thrivent Night with the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels

August is Membership Appreciation Month at Thrivent. To show our gratitude for your membership, you are invited to join us on August 27 for a Fort Myers Mighty Mussels baseball outing at Hammond Stadium. The Mighty Mussels take on the Lakeland Flying Tigers at 7:00pm! We've reserved a block of tickets for Thrivent members and their guests and will be accepting ticket orders here until August 20 or while supplies last!

Each ticket is \$10 and includes:

- Reserved seating
- Pre-game dedicated hospitality picnic area along first base line with buffet from 6:15-7:45pm
- Networking with other Thrivent members and guests

Saturday, August 27 (7:00pm)

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