

Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's newsletter. Send to: [smlcspublications@gmail.com](mailto: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*

*“We proclaim Jesus, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To that end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”*

(Colossians 1:28-29)

Right after Paul talks to the followers of Jesus in Colossae about how the hope of glory is Jesus in us (Col 2:27), he shares the words above: “We proclaim Jesus Christ!” It’s not about proclaiming clever human insights or self-improvement strategies or stress management techniques or life balance or career enhancement; it’s not just a system of beliefs or a political platform or a set of traditions. We proclaim Jesus!

We do that because our Savior Jesus is the Light of the World, He is the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists, He is the Head of the Church, the One who brings us into God’s Kingdom, and He is our Sin Bearer. He is the Death Defeater, the Life Giver and the only Hope of the World because God was in Jesus reconciling the world to Himself through Him (2 Corinthians 5:19).

So, that’s what we are betting the farm on; that’s what we are staking our lives on; that’s what we are staking the future of this ministry on, and that is what we are devoting ourselves to: this Crucified Carpenter from Nazareth. We proclaim Jesus to everyone! Three times Paul says that: we teach everyone, we admonish everyone so that we might present everyone mature in Christ.

“Everyone,” those who are outside the church and are far from God, we want them to come to know Jesus. For those inside the church who have already received Jesus as their Savior, we want them to come to know Him better and follow Him more closely. The Apostle Paul knew that one of the best ways for Jesus to be spread to people who don’t know Him as Savior is for Him to be seen in the people who do know Him.

The purpose for everything we do is to present everyone mature in Jesus. Our goal for our community is to present everyone mature in Jesus with all the conviction, energy and passion God gives us; we pursue this one thing. With Paul, we say, “For this we struggle, for this we labor: to present everyone mature in Jesus.”

**“Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”**

After 43 years of ministry here at Saint Michael, after “retiring” but continuing to serve since 1995, Walt Kittel let the elders and leadership of the church know that family circumstances and physical challenges are bringing his 80 years of serving our Savior through his music ministry to an end. If you know Walt at all, he never wants to be in the spotlight, he doesn’t want a big deal made of his retirement, but congregational leaders felt that we needed to provide those of us who have been blessed by his ministry to have an opportunity to honor and thank him. Cards of thanks and well wishes can be mailed into the St. Michael office (3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, FL 33901) and will be presented to him in a binder.

*Pastor Jon*

## From Our Principal

Kati Miser



It's obvious that Saint Michael Lutheran School is still *educating children and touching families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ!* The campus and its classrooms are alive with over a hundred staff (teachers and administrators) who truly care about the more than 600 children you can find there and their families. You hear His Name spoken during classes and in chapel, and you see discipleship training in practice whether it's with the children, the staff or the parents. What a blessing it is to know that, even though the seasons may be changing, our faithful



God is unchanging; His promises are everlasting! His call to discipleship continues into all seasons of nature and through all seasons of our lives. Your daily prayers for SMLS are so appreciated as they continue to be a light in our community.

Give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience Saint Michael Lutheran School. Tours are available.

## From the Director of Little Saints

Stacie Thompson

We are happy to announce that this year's Pirate Pasta Dinner was another huge success! This event is always a great chance for the families of Little Saints to get together to enjoy eating Carrabba's and bonding for a few hours while the children enjoy safe games and activities in the gym. A great time was had by all!

October is Fire Safety Month. We once again hope to have the Fort Myers Fire Department back to visit with the kids. This is a wonderful opportunity for the little ones to meet the firefighters, to learn about fire safety and to climb into the trucks.



Little Saints will be holding our mini fall festival day again this year on October 31. Our little ones will enjoy a day filled with games, activities and a costume parade. This event has always been a big hit with the kiddos!



## Visioning for the Future

Over several months, leaders of Saint Michael gathered to help us understand "Who We Uniquely Are." It's what we need to understand before we fill our staff ministry leadership positions. We were able to build a framework for both short-range and long-range planning that will take place as Congregational leaders, volunteers and members explore that in more detail with the new ministry leadership staff.

We looked at one side of that framework which is "**Our Mission**," the guiding compass of our Church. It answers the question, "What are we ultimately supposed to be doing?" in order to set our overall ministry and mission direction. Here is that statement: "**Reaching across boundaries to cultivate peace in Christ from generation to generation.**"

Last month, we explored the first part of that statement, "**Reaching across boundaries**," recognizing that we live in a world afflicted by separations and divisions. We have been called by our Savior to reach across those chasms because each and every person matters to our God.

This month, we want to unpack the second part, "**to cultivate peace in Christ.**" We know that the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus is one that surpasses all understanding, and we know that God has promised an ultimate end to all wars and conflict, but there are many wonderful ways we can understand and experience God's blessings of peace every day of our lives. That is also a peace that the world is desperately in need of. We know that, even in the midst of trouble, trial and storm, God is with us, the One who has overcome the world and calmed the storm. The Good News (Gospel) of God's grace, love and forgiveness in Jesus offers the restful assurance that there is a loving God who has always been and will always be with us to sustain us.



Pastor Jacob Hoyer



## *From the Ministry Coordinator*

*Lori Schwan*

### **Children's Ministry**

#### **Sunday School Nursery Available**

We have volunteers who are serving in the nursery during Sunday School to show the love of Jesus to infants under two years so parents can strengthen their faith during this important education time.

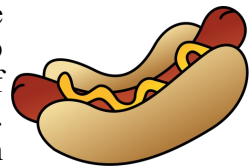
#### **“Simply Loved” Sunday School**

Last month, we learned about following Jesus, and, this month, our focus will be on the first kings of Israel for Pre-K 3 through fourth grades. If you would like to help the children's ministry in multiple possible ways, please contact Lori.



### **Reformation Celebration**

Every year, we like to celebrate Reformation in a special way. This year, we will be celebrating on Sunday, October 30. There will not be education classes during this weekend, but there will be other things to enjoy! First, there will be a combined communion worship service at 10:00am in the sanctuary which will include the rite of confirmation for our church's ninth graders who have been preparing to be confirmed. Following the service, the board of fellowship will provide food and fellowship with burgers, bratwurst, hot dogs and beverages. We ask everyone to bring a picnic side of their choice to serve 8-10 people. There will also be an inflatable game outside for the kids. If you would like to help with this event, contact Chuck Oliver at charliet1333@gmail.com or at (239) 292-6058. There will also be craft tables sponsored by LWML.



### **Thrivent Financial Members**

We have about 30 projects in the next two months that need a Thrivent Action Team sponsor. 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.

### **Women's Bible Study**

Join us on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30am on Zoom or on campus in the ELC boardroom for ladies Bible study. We are starting a new study: Kyle Idleman's *One at a Time*.

### **GriefShare**

GriefShare is meeting on Sundays from 1:00-3:00pm through November 20, 2022 in Pastor Jon's conference room. Anyone can join any session. If you have any questions, please call Gail Schultz at (732) 991-0642.



### **GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays**

Are you 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 years past can't be recreated? Our Surviving the Holidays seminar on Sunday, November 5 from 1:00-3:00pm will provide support for people who are grieving a loved one's death. It will cover 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 and how to discover hope for your future. You can register at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

### **DivorceCare**

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

### **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 be stressful, but DivorceCare: Surviving the Holidays can help. This special, one-time DivorceCare class will meet Tuesday, November 1 from 11:00am-1:00pm. This group will be online and in-person. Register at [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

## *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

# *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

### Fifth and Sixth Grade Sunday School

Our preteen kids in the fifth and sixth grades will ask Jim Grier and Tiffany Roszell their difficult 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. If you haven't checked out this class, come with your questions because they can be answered as Jim and Tiffany formulate the lessons each week in response to students' areas of interest.

### There is a place for you to plug in with our students!

At our parent meeting in August, we shared our annual calendar with all kinds of weekly activities as well as monthly and one-off events. Adults are needed in so many ways. Our **Wednesday night youth group** for middle and high schoolers needs weekly volunteers as, with the start of the school year, we are having about 50 students every week (setting up and serving food from 5:30-6:30pm, assisting the high school youth from 6:00-8:00pm as they share about their lives, assist with the games that are played each week from 6:30-8:00pm, be a middle school small group leader from 7:15-8:00pm, help with cleanup from 7:30-8:15pm, help with games that require extra setup or teardown, sponsor a meal). We also need help coordinating the **LCMS youth gathering thank you event**, a breakfast that will be happening this winter, as well as the **Mother-Daughter Retreat** on March 3-4 and the **Father-Son Retreat** on March 4-5.

### Ninth Grade Confirmands

Come to the ninth grade **confirmand retreat** with parents at Southern Waters on Saturday, October 15 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Join us for ninth to twelfth grade **Sunday Bible study** in the youth room instead of confirmation. Every confirmand's **faith statement** is due October 19. Book your **individual meetings** now; they must be done by October 24. The **rite of confirmation** will be held on October 30 at 10:00am worship.

### High School Fall Fun

Join other Southwest Florida high school students from Zion Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church for some fall fun. We are meeting at Zion Lutheran on Saturday, October 29 from 11:00am-1:00pm for fall games, lunch and a devotion. Save the date!



### Car Wash

Thank you for your support at the youth car wash! These funds help allow our youth to attend activities like the Middle School Youth Gathering and Rock the Universe.

### Seventh and Eighth Grade Confirmation with Parents

After finishing our Baptism unit, we are studying the life of Martin Luther. We encourage parents to attend with their teens. Any seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to join us. This class meets upstairs in the education building (look for printed signs).

### High School Sunday School

Join us in the youth room as our journey of walking through the Old Testament continues in 1 Kings.

### Stay Connected

If you are not receiving e-mails or text messages about youth activities, please contact Lori so that you can be added to our contact lists.

### Middle School District Youth Gathering

The LCMS FL-GA district is sponsoring a sixth through eighth grade youth gathering at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, FL on November 4-6. Friends are welcome to come along. Our main speaker will be Tanner Olson who was at the LCMS Youth Gathering this summer. We'll enjoy music by the Birdsongs, topical breakout sessions and a servant event on site. Registration includes lodging, transportation, four meals and t-shirt. A \$50 deposit of \$260 registration is due by October 19. The final payment is due November 2.

Details and paperwork will be e-mailed to you. You can use your points to offset the cost of the gathering (see Lori Schwan for balances). There are also scholarships potentially available if needed. Adults should contact Lori if they are interested in attending.



## *From the Board of Elders*



The transition team continues to review the pastoral candidates' information provided by the St. Michael congregation and the LCMS FL-GA district office. We will continue to provide more detailed updates on a regular basis as we prayerfully seek God's guidance throughout this process. Please contact Kelly Zinn if you have any questions at [kellyzinn65@gmail.com](mailto:kellyzinn65@gmail.com).

## *From the Board of Human Care*

Our board of human care has chosen Valerie's House to support throughout October. Valerie's House provides support groups and activities for children who need help healing after a significant loss in their life.

Valerie Melvin was a young mother, wife and nurse in Fort Myers in 1987 when she was killed in an automobile accident, leaving behind her husband and two children. Her daughter Angela grew up and moved away from Southwest Florida. She returned to the area in 2013 and wanted to do something to help grieving children. She found that there were limited opportunities and resources to do so. After researching with the help of many people, she was able to create a place for children and families to provide support and mentorship for others going through the grieving process.



If you would like to help this nonprofit organization, please write "Valerie's House" on the memo portion of your check, or write a note on the envelope enclosing your cash donation to Valerie's House.

The board of human care is so appreciative of your help for our mission each month! So much good is being done through your generosity and the hard work of the organizations in our community.

## *From Lutheran Women's Missionary League*

### 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 to learn more information or to rent a table.



### October Meeting

LWML will be meeting in the band room on the second Saturday of the month, October 8, at 10:30am. All women in the congregation are welcome to attend.

## *Revelation Bible Study*

Beginning on October 2, Pastor Jon's Sunday morning Bible study will be examining the book of Revelation. This group meets Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the cafeteria.

## *Breast Cancer Awareness*



There will be information in the narthex regarding breast cancer awareness on October 15-16, and we will have health care professionals speak during the ministry minute. If you would like to, you can wear pink to church on October 15-16.

## Bell Choir



Bell choir is starting up again! If you are an experienced ringer or if you are a beginner and would like to try them out, you are welcome to join us! There can be an extra rehearsal or two scheduled for beginners to learn the basics. Our regular rehearsals will begin Tuesday, October 11 at 5:45pm in the church. If you are interested in ringing bells, please e-mail Sue Hansen at [suehansen103@gmail.com](mailto:suehansen103@gmail.com), or call or text her at (847) 987-0150.

## Adult Choir

St. Michael's choir meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. We invite you to join us as we lift our hearts and voices singing praises to our Lord. For more information, call or text Diane Rohrs at (239) 339-7226.



## Thrivent: October 2022 Events

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

- October 3-9, 2022—Big Daddy Weave Virtual Concert & Trivia
- October 6, 2022—Faith and Finances: Simplifying the Money Conversation
- October 10-12, 2022—Where There's a Will There's a Way with Michelle Singletary
- October 19, 2022—A Lifetime Gift
- October 25, 2022—Savvy Tax Strategies

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## 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](mailto: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.

