

Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School

2022-2023 Annual Report

“Surrounded, then, as we are by these crowds of witnesses, let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin that dogs our feet, and let us run the race that we have to run with patience, our eyes fixed on Jesus, the source and the goal of our faith... think constantly of Him... and you will not lose your purpose or your courage.” (Hebrews 12:1- 3; Philip’s Translation)

How quickly time flies – 32 years that we’ve been in this ministry together! It has been my absolute privilege, joy, and honor to shepherd here all these years. Together we’ve seen growth and decline, joys and sorrows, success and defeat, new facilities, staffing changes, weathered storms; but through it all we’ve also seen God’s continued blessing, His care, grace, and provision.

Some of the joys of a long-term pastorate are to be able to celebrate the birth of little ones and be a part of God adopting them into His forever family in Baptism and then to watch them grow up into the people God intended for them to be, get married, and have families of their own. Over all these years it has also been part of our time together to say good-bye to dear loved ones as God welcomes them to their eternal home. And in-between those two milestones, we receive each day as a gift of God’s grace and live them fully with Him.

As we take a moment to look back on this past fiscal year in this report, and maybe even these past 32 years, in the midst of the changes that will certainly come as Saint Michael goes through succession and welcomes a new senior pastor, there are some things that have not, and I am sure, will not change.

In that first annual report (1991-1992) we said, “After living through 365 days, after countless meetings, after spending the money, after investing much time and effort, the bottom line is not ‘Have we filled the calendar?’ or ‘Have we had good attendance?’ The bottom line is ‘Have we glorified God?’

“To determine whether or not our congregation has glorified God, we have to translate our purpose for existence into a specific goal, which is the top priority for St. Michael Lutheran Church and School. In the Scriptures, we clearly see that the goal of our ministry is to MAKE DISCIPLES.”

Disciple making reaches out in two ways: First, to those who do not know Jesus as their Savior, it reaches out with the message of the forgiveness of sins. Second, it reaches out to those of our Saint Michael family (church and school) who need our encouragement, comfort, strength, and help to continue to grow in grace and faith.

So, we are continually called upon to touch hearts and lives, to encourage people in their journey in life with our Savior, and to abound in good works (which are the fruit of faith). God has provided us with the resources we need to meet Jesus’ command to make disciples, to run our race, and to glorify God, and those **resources are each one of us!** As we endeavor together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we trust God’s promise that He will supply all that we need from His glorious resources in Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

With our eyes constantly focused on our Savior, we will be reminded that God has not withheld anything from us – not even His Son – but along with Jesus will provide everything that we need. Because of His blessing, we will not lose our purpose or our courage.

So, we will continue to “Reach across boundaries, in order to cultivate peace in Christ, from generation to generation!” To God be all the glory!

Pastor Jon





Saint Michael Lutheran

CHURCH • DAY SCHOOL • FOUNDATION

Greetings Saint Michael Brothers and Sisters,

As we close out the 22-23 year, I am so amazed at the determination and resilience of our members and staff at Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School. Our community was tested on September 28, 2022. Many of our friends and neighbors, and some of our own, have dealt with loss due to the hurricane. Faith in Christ Jesus is what kept us going, pushing through the clean-up and ongoing rebuilding process. I am so thankful for all of the hard work that went into the support that Saint Michael offered after the hurricane.

I want to thank all the membership for the awesome support that you have given to Saint Michael. Even with all the issues, we had a good year financially. Our organ fund has almost reached its goal as well. The Lord has blessed us with so many who share the blessings they have.

Our ministry boards have done an outstanding job this year. We always have a need for board members and volunteers; please let us know if you are interested in joining a board or assisting with events.

Lastly, as our search continues for our next senior pastor, I would like to thank Pastor Jon for his continued leadership and all the support he has given during this search process. We are so blessed to have a Pastor with us during this time. Many congregations work through this without a senior pastor. The Holy Spirit will reveal our next senior pastor. Please continue to pray and be patient and understanding while we work through the call process.

God's blessings to each of you,

Kelly Zinn

Congregational President

Saint Michael Lutheran
2022-2023 Annual Report and Voters' Meeting
Sunday, July 30, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Opening Prayer**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- V. Foundation Update**
- VI. Treasurer's Report**
- VII. Board Reports, Standing Committees
 Reports**
- VIII. Vote to Affirm Officers and Board
 Chairs**
- IX. New Business**
- X. Old Business**
- XI. Adjournment**
- XII. Closing Prayer**

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINUTES FROM VOTER'S MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022

The Voter's Meeting was called to order at 9:35am by President Kelly Zinn who thanked all for attending. Pastor Zehnder spoke to us on "Here I Am Lord" and how God has called us to Saint Michael. Pastor then gave an opening prayer.

Agenda- A motion was made to accept the agenda by Rudy Rouse and was seconded by Jason Zehnder. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report- The report was presented by Jack Pohlman. It was a great year overall. There was a nice bounce back from COVID. The school had many late enrollees AFTER the start of school which created more revenues and government aid. \$176K came from the school to the church. Higher revenues allowed us to NOT use CARES ACT MONEY as planned, so it was expensed into reserves for property improvements and betterments. \$88K went to extra reserves. We currently have three loans: a 1st, 2nd and a Capital Improvement loan with a cumulative total of \$2.7 million balance owed. See attached balance sheet which also addresses "Restricted Accounts." A motion was made by Rudy Rouse to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Leroy Waldren. The motion was approved.

Foundation Report- We started with a balance of \$800K. We received a very generous donation of \$700K to begin an endowment. The interest earned from this account (up to 5%) is used for projects on both the church and school. Mike Roach assists us with management of these funds.

Release of Colton LaMay- A peaceful release and transfer is given to Colton LaMay as he accepts God's calling to become the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. A motion was made by Pastor Zehnder and seconded by Billy Truax to grant this release. The motion was approved.

****Side Note**- Vincente Aravena, a young man from within our congregation, has shown great interest in attending Concordia in Ann Arbor, Michigan to one day becoming a pastor.

Board Reports- Pat Ryan is stepping down as chair for the Board of Missions after 16 years, and Leonardo Garcia will be taking the position. Rudy Rouse will be stepping away for the Board of Stewardship, and Pastor George Matzat will serve as chairperson. Megan Shores will be taking the helm for the Board of Parish Education. Tim Underhill will be stepping down from the Board of Education and Billy Truax will be the board chair. Sue Clark thanked the church on behalf of the youth for all the support at the recent National Youth Gathering (NYG) in Houston, Texas. Rudy Rouse reported on online viewership via the internet was 110K viewers and "the family" known as Saint Michael Lutheran Church that he has been a part of for 45 years. Carry on!!

Adjournment- A motion was made by Marty Natter to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Lee Berchtold. The motion was approved. Pastor Zehnder gave the blessing, and the meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Beck

SAINT MICHAEL MEMORIAL GARDENS

Saint Michael Lutheran Church has consecrated an area to the south of the sanctuary for the purpose of a Memorial Garden. Here the cremains of members and their families may be placed into the ground or scattered. In loving memory, the following members and friends have been commended to their eternal home:

1996 Richard Scibbe; Daniel Baker
1997 Gerna Pederson; Trung “Jack” Nguyen
1998 John Grape; Miriam Ellis
1999 Inge Radtke; Ronald Howell
2002 Daniel Baker; Jeannette Baker
2003 Maria Rosa de Kermer; Evelyn Renouf; Frank Mallory, Jr.; Kay Rouse
2004 Nicholas Piesco
2005 Evalynne Hansen; Leonard Renouf; Edward Lenick
2006 O.T. Atkinson, Sr.; Evelyn Atkinson; Thomas Wadzuk; Elaine Borden
2007 Frank Schwarz; Jeanne Mountford; Ruth Stevens
2008 Dietrich Radtke
2009 Katie Eason; Margaret Smolka;
2010 Elizabeth Tice; Martha Piesco; Donald Smith; Wayne Wolfarth
2011 Dianne Korf; Robert Scibbe; Lori Howell; Kathryn Zehnder
2012 Michael Tice
2013 Lars Marell; Warren Bauer
2014 Marie Knarr; Gary Schultz, Jr.
2015 Shirley Wayne; LaVerne Wadzuk
2016 Carl Bergner, Jr.; Eugene Heiwig; Dorothy Smith
2017 Mary Stalter; Marilyn Lehman; Marcia Gordon; George Rosine; Betty Rosine
2018 Robert Merritt; Katherine Merritt; Jeanette Franks; Dean W. Hartman
2019 Beth Gehringer
2021 Charlotte J. Smith; Kenneth Fritsch; Gale Wadzuk; Donald Zehnder
2022 Ned Stalter; Klaus Mueller; Kerry Spencer
2023 Ardene Ballantine; Claire Middleton; Rudy Rouse

May God the Father, who created these bodies, may God the Son, who by His blood shed on a cross redeemed these bodies together with their souls, may God the Holy Spirit, who through Baptism sanctified these bodies to be His temple, keep these remains unto the day of the resurrection. Amen.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN and BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

As the ministry and mission of Saint Michael continues to grow by God’s grace and your continued faithful and generous support, we are doing all we can to share space and use our facilities wisely. There is one last phase of our overall campus expansion that remains (namely the construction of two large multi-purpose conference rooms). There is also a passion among some of our members and leaders to address and pay off our mortgage. The leadership of the Congregation, the Building Committee, and Foundation are considering all possibilities and assessing what would be wise and responsible at this time.

SAINT MICHAEL FOUNDATION

Saint Michael Foundation is a separate 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and is charged with serving the mission and ministry of Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School. The Foundation focuses on accomplishing short and long term needs through donations, investments, estate planning, endowments, charitable gifting, trusts, wills, and other memorials.

The Foundation Board meets regularly to be sure policies are being followed and to make decisions, relying on the advice of our investment manager, as to how to invest assets, handle funds, and make conservative disbursements. The total of all accounts was \$1,310,784.37, as of December 31, 2022 (up from \$1,284,389.04 as of 06/30/2022) - including Short Term, Long Term, and Endowment Accounts. The next meeting is June 24, 2023.

If you have designated Saint Michael Ministry (Church, School, or the Foundation) as a beneficiary, please call **Mike Roach** at 275-9233 (office)/768-1965 (home) or **Bob Jablonski** at 939-1218, ext. 339 so that your name can be included in our patron list. This will also enable the Foundation to give an accurate forecasting for future gifts. Gift amounts will be kept confidential, although the total amount of all gifts may be published.

SENIOR PASTOR SUCCESSION

Starting in 2021, leaders of the church and school met with a ministry consultant, Pastor Jacob Hoyer, to help us understand the unique culture of our ministry, how we do ministry and how we work together. That enabled the church to develop a ministry position description and allowed us to understand the unique gifts, talents and experiences the next senior pastor will need in order to carry the ministry forward.

The Board of Elders worked hard and long to evaluate the 42 nominations they had received. As the list was narrowed down, top candidates were interviewed again. The top two candidates and their spouses were brought down for a visit to allow everyone at Saint Michael a chance to meet them and get to know them better before selecting one of them to call. On April 16, the congregation voted to extend the call to Rev. Jon Thomas. After much prayer and deliberation, Pastor Thomas returned the call on May 30 feeling led by the Lord to continue his ministry at St. John.

A second congregational voters' meeting was held on June 18, and the congregation voted to extend a call to **Rev. David Bass**. Pastor Bass, his wife Katy, daughter Anna, and son Jonah, visited again July 5-10, meeting with key staff and leaders to make sure they have all the information they need about Saint Michael so they can prayerfully deliberate where God is calling them to serve in His kingdom (whether continuing at Hosanna or coming to Saint Michael). That deliberation usually takes place in a 2-to-4-week time period before we will hear what Pastor David Bass has determined is God's will for him, his family, and his ministry (to accept or decline our call).

Please keep praying for unity, grace, and guidance for Pastor Bass and strength for the church, ministry, and members of both Saint Michael and Hosanna.

CALLED TEACHER THANK YOU LETTER

To the Congregation of Saint Michael Lutheran Church:

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration and extension of a call to serve in our school as a called & commissioned minister of religion (teacher).

I accept it gratefully, and I ask that all of you continue to pray, not only for me, but for our entire faculty and staff that we continue to discharge our duties responsibly, lovingly, and faithfully.

While I have "worn many hats" here at SMLCS over the years, I am excited to begin my tenth year on the SMLS faculty as a called member of the staff.

When I was hired on in 2014, I was looking for a greater knowledge and understanding of the Lutheran Confessions and how best to convey Biblical truths to my students and was encouraged to pursue Colloquy through the Concordia University system of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. After a time of adjustment to teaching parochial middle school — having previously been in Florida public schools in elementary special needs (Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing) and high school (regular & honor education) — I began the Colloquy process.

After a lot of work, prayer, serious contemplation, and proper reflection, I completed Colloquy. It was a difficult but amazing experience. Just as we always tell our students: excellence in your field is something you should always strive for — whether you are an athlete; a student; a minimum wage, part-time employee; or an astronaut. It is important that you are always trying to become the very best you can be at what it is that you do. Use the gifts that God gave you to be the best you that you can be every day. A little bit of the Lutheran doctrine of vocation, in small bite-sized pieces.

How blessed we are that God would choose us to use us. That we, in our vocations, can serve as the "masks of God" which He dons to work amongst His creation to its benefit is humbling. I'm grateful daily to be a part of the SMLCS family and to have the opportunity to openly talk about Jesus and to teach the Christian faith, as we confess it in our Lutheran traditions, in the classroom; to talk about forgiveness, mercy, and grace, and our Lord and Savior.

It is my humble hope that through the work of this ministry, and by the grace of God, seeds continue to be planted that the Holy Spirit will grow, to inspire the next generations of workers for the harvest field.

He told them, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."** Luke 10:2

Thank you for inviting me to be a called member of our ministry's efforts to continue "Reaching across boundaries to cultivate peace in Christ from generation to generation" and "Educating students and touching families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ."

Thank you all,

Jason Zehnder

Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School Annual Financial Report for 2022 - 2023

CHURCH

CHURCH INCOME ACCOUNTS:

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
3000.00 CH Offering--Regular	1,161,704	1,172,297	1,210,848	1,216,058
3040.00 CH Offering--Extra Service				
3080.00 CH Offering--Sunday School				
3120.00 & 3200 CH Restricted & Misc Income				
3160.00 CH Interest Income				
3240.00 CH Memorials & Gifts				
3280.00 CH Advance Repay't Income				
3320.00 CH Mfg & Equip/Ln Pmt Suppl't fr Sch/Elsewhere				
3360.00 CH Parish Ed Income				
3400.00 CH Youth Income				

Total Church Income

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
166,000	5.70%	0.91%	3.29%	3.73%
2,304				
7,299				
1,211				
1,951				
186,000				
5,371				
15,000				
1,426,048				
1,427,966				
3,769,841				
527,882				
60,873				
90,268				
7,000				
50,000				
90,135				
213,206				
4,809,203				
6,149,673				

Total School Income

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
3,769,841				
527,882				
60,873				
90,268				
7,000				
50,000				
90,135				
213,206				
4,809,203				
6,149,673				

Total School Expense

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
4,809,203				
5,249,338				
6,622,819				
5,536,132				
5,624,993				
7,052,958				

Net Revenue vs Expense -- Board of Christian Ed

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
80,746				
17,724				
5,325				
3,160				
9,700				
287,967				
229,873				
558,907				
118,922				
1,338,470				
6,147,673				

Total Church Expense

	Tot Off'g '21	Tot Off'g '22	Tot Off'g '23	(1)
	ACTUAL 20-21	ACTUAL 21-22	BUDGET 22-23	ACTUAL 22-23
	FULL YEAR	FULL YEAR	APPROVED	FULL YEAR
80,746				
17,724				
5,325				
3,160				
9,700				
287,967				
229,873				
558,907				
118,922				
1,338,470				
6,147,673				

Net TOTAL Excess (Deficit) of Income vs Expense

Explanatory Notes:

- (1) The "mix" of "Regular" vs other off g categories is immaterial. See total at the top. Finished a bit over for entire year.
- (2) Continued help from School. Now \$20K above the "old standard."
- (3) Very satisfactory result with late enrollees making up for several with-drawals attributable to Hurricane Ian.
- (4) Helped by taking on some Summer Programs and related revenue.
- (5) More clients; more income AND an improved net despite larger staff.
- (6) PTL's normal aid to cover IT & other Educational Improvement costs.
- (7) Bright note, again... More student "customers" AND higher rates though somewhat offset by higher costs.
- (8) Higher regular revenues allowed less dependence on other sources.
- (9) As is done with Church surpluses -- money was "expensed" into reserves for property improvements / betterments.
- (10) Raises for all plus a much greater need for Teacher Aides and Substitute Teachers than was anticipated.
- (11) More (and costlier) celebrations than planned.
- (12) As has been our practice, this Board "expenses" Church surpluses into Restricted Accounts to use on long-term improvements and maintenance.
- (13) Under budget due to absence of Youth and Human Care Directors.

Restricted Accounts Thinking some may wonder about these accounts upon seeing them mentioned in financial reports from time to time --we thought we'd give a bit of insight. Consider these as "savings accounts" --each of which holds money (often built up over a long time) for a specific purpose. Most of the time, these accounts are funded by book entries from budgeted accounts about which the Annual Financial Report is concerned. In some cases, though, they are increased by direct "gifts" which are like Offering Income, yet not counted as such. Donations made separately from Sunday offerings for missions, "Sonshine," Parish Ed study materials, Easter baskets, even specific capital improvements are among these gifts (some solicited, some not). As of June 30, Restricted Accounts totaled \$1,289,698. Though it's intent may have fully been to spend on an immediate need --monies "given" (not generated by mere journal entries) for fiscal year '22-23 totaled more than \$600 thousand, most notable being for the Organ Fund. While the main driver of ALL non-school ministries MUST come through Sunday Offerings, we greatly appreciate the additional help we get from these generous donors. One other key way St. Michael is helped comes via our Foundation about which we are reporting below.

Saint Michael Foundation

Balance Sheet

	At Jun 30, 2023	Fiscal Y-T-D Change	Notes:
Assets	\$1,550,350.30	\$265,961.26	
Operating Acct at Edison Nat'l	64,438.66	1,220.85	(1) Where all normal deposits are made (for building fund or other donations, event ticket sales, etc); all journal entries recognizing interest income; and out of which all normal payments are made
LCEF Short Term Investment	-	-	(2) (accounting charges, development costs, supplies, disbursements for building projects, costs of events, support to school, etc.)
Funds@Broker (FSC Securities)	1,484,227.09	264,732.31	(3)
DepositAcct@LCEF	1,684.55	8.10	(4)
Liabilities	1,550,350.30	265,961.26	(5)
Short Term Restricted	171,299.64	21,326.17	
Long Term Restricted	485,511.89	244,635.09	
Endowment Funds	893,538.77	-	

Income & Expense

	From 07/01/22 Thru 06/30/23	
Income	\$322,279.01	
Interest Income	62,933.92	(1)
Invest't Value Change	201,823.33	(2)
Building Fund Offering	14,710.00	(3)
Desig'd Or Alloc'd Rec'ts	6,949.01	(4a)
Event Revenue	-	(5)
Miscell Receipts	550.00	(5)
UN-Designated Rec'ts	35,312.75	(4b)
Expense	\$322,279.01	
Actual Spending	56,317.75	(6)
Desig's/Alloc's to ... Shrt Trm	57,188.92	(7)
... Long Term Category	208,772.34	(7)
... Endowments Category	-	(7)
Net	\$0.00	

Total Income from above	\$322,279.01	
Less Actual "spending"	56,317.75	
Net Change in Assets for year	\$265,961.26	

*** ties to "Full Year Change" on Balance Sheet at 06/30/23)

CHURCH STATISTICS

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Membership *Transfers: Adults - 16; Children - 2* *Adult Confirmation Class: 4*

Membership Losses **Transfers - 14 adults, 2 children; Released - 0; Deaths - 15**

Total Membership as of 6/30/2023 **Baptized - 344; Confirmed - 797; TOTAL - 1,141**

Pastoral Acts: Weddings..... 4 (3 done by Pastor Jon; 1 done by Pastor Hess)
 Baptisms..... Adults - 4 (*3 from SMLS); Children – 33 (*16 from SMLS)
 Confirmation..... Youth - 9
 Funerals..... Members - 15; Non-Members - 4

School Mission: Families joining church..... 3 families: Adults - 5; Children - 3

Average Worship - Fiscal Year (% Difference from previous years)*

1991-1992	326		
1992-1996	440	35%	(4 years)
1996-2000	534	21%	(4 years)
2000-2004	570*	7%	(4 years)
2004-2008	513*	-10%	(4 years)
2008-2012	489	-4.7%	(4 years)
2012-2016	474	-3%	(4 years)
2016-2020	444	-6.3%	(4 years)
2020-2021	408	-8.1%	(52 weeks)** (This includes both in-person attendance and online views.)
2021-2022	462	13.2%	(52 weeks) (This includes both in-person attendance and online views.)
2022-2023	512	10.8%	(52 weeks) (This includes both in-person attendance and online views.)

Offering Trends – Fiscal Year (% Difference from previous year)

1991-1992	\$261,538		
1992-1996	\$411,170	57%	(4 years)
1996-2000	\$581,137	41%	(4 years)
2000-2004	\$764,374	32%	(4 years)
2004-2008	\$942,494	23.3%	(4 years)
2008-2012	\$934,176	-0.9%	(4 years)
2012-2016	\$989,046	5.9%	(4 years)
2016-2020	\$1,062,648	7.4%	(4 years)
2020-2021	\$1,161,704	9.3%	\$1,157,600 budget
2021-2022	\$1,182,803	1.8%	\$1,220,100 budget
2022-2023	\$1,202,364	1.65%	\$1,197,748 budget

School Enrollment Trends PreK3-8th Grade (+/- Students)

Early Learning Center (ELC) started in 2012-2013. Full capacity is 65.

1991-1992	271	2016-2020	352 (PK3-8) + ELC 65 = 417 (4 years)
1992-1996	465 (4 years)	2020-2021	423 (PK3-8) + ELC 65 = 488
1996-2000	514 (4 years)	2021-2022	434 (PK3-8) + ELC 65 = 499
2000-2004	507 (4 years)	2022-2023	443 (PK3-8) + ELC 65 = 508
2004-2008	513 (4 years)	2023-2024	447 (PK3-8) + ELC 65 = 512 (projected)
2008-2012	401 (4 years)		
2012-2016	336 (4 years)		

* Includes Spanish Worship which ended 5/4/2008; ** Numbers are affected by COVID-19

PROPOSED OFFICERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

President: Kelly Zinn
Vice President: Bill Minor
Secretary: Robin Beck
Treasurer: Jack Pohlman

Board of Elders

Lee Berchtold, Director

Board of Christian Education

Dr. Billy Truax, Director

Board of Fellowship

Laurel Volberding, Director

Board of Human Care

Ann Sluiter, Director

Board of Missions

Leonardo Garcia, Director

Board of Outreach

Joyce Bell, Director

Board of Parish Education

Megan Shores, Director

Board of Properties

Lou Conzelmann, Director

Board of Stewardship

Pastor George Matzat, Director

Board of Youth

Susan Clark, Director

BOARD REPORTS

Music and Worship

submitted by Ben Ball, Director of Music and Worship

It has been a busy—but exciting—eight months since I was blessed by arriving last November to assume the duties of Director of Worship and Music at Saint Michael. A small overview of the current music ministry is below.

Church Music Ministry:

- Adult choir – Average of 25 singers in worship from January through May.
- “Grace Notes” Handbell Choir – has grown to the point of having to add more handbells (we previously only had three of the churches four octaves of bells out and playing) and an additional table in the music area to accommodate the expansion of bells and new players. There was a waiting list of players throughout the spring.
- “Rejoice” Children’s Choir – founded and held first rehearsals in January 2023. Ended our season on Mother’s day with 12 children singing in worship. Plans next year include singing once per month in worship and two evening services.
- Worship Team – regularly has seven dedicated members on an average Sunday. Working to cultivate multiple teams of leadership at the blended service so we have multiple instrumentalists available on each instrument to give a fuller, richer sound.
- Instrumentalists – bringing in instrumentalists, both volunteer and paid, to support the worship and music ministry.
- Worship plans for each group for the 2023-2024 season have already been made and sent to the respective groups.

Musical Instruments:

- New Organ Fund: the campaign was opened to the congregation on the last weekend of January. The project costs a total of \$398,000 and, as of this date, the goal is nearly complete. If all goes well, the organ will be built over a 10-11 month period, including integrating the retained portions of our current pipe organ with the new digital components, and could potentially be installed in the summer of 2024.
- A smaller two-manual (keyboard) Allen digital organ was acquired in the spring to support the worship ministry in the interim as the old pipe organ was having more frequent mechanical failures and becoming difficult to deal with. This instrument is more portable and was used for the combined Palm Sunday service and will be used in the future to lead any services held outside of the sanctuary.
- We acquired a beautiful Baldwin grand piano (built in 1918; refurbished in the last few years) which better suited the desires of the director of worship.

Share the Music Scholarship Fund:

- Established in spring 2023 as a means to support students who are serious about their music and are ready to take their gifts to the next level and hone them in by working with a professional teacher.
- Program coordinator: Ben Ball
- The scholarship covers the cost of a weekly private music lesson with a vetted teacher.
- The students must apply and audition for the scholarship, maintain a high academic standard, make good progress with their instructor (accountability), and offer two pieces in worship each semester. In addition, they will offer select pieces at the Christmas and spring concerts and other special functions as available.
- First recipient of the scholarship: Jacob Schwan (studying trumpet with Dr. Bryan Edgett)
- Goal for next year: to sponsor four students. I have already received interest from several parents.

Miscellaneous:

- Working with Mike Wenzlaff and other fine arts teachers – coming alongside them to support their music education ministry, plus working with them to craft a vision for integrating the fine arts of the school with the ministry of the church. We have crafted a multi-year vision of where we are currently and where we would like to be in five years as a fine arts department.
- Invitations extended to Katie Ball as the school choir director to have choirs participate in various worship services (mainly the mid-week) and plans continue to expand and build upon that next academic year.
- Rearranged the sanctuary music area and built a drum riser to better accommodate the worship and music ministries and placed the riser on the side where it should be as a supporting ministry and not in the center focus.
- Revamp and reprogramming of the sound board to make it function in a more practical manner.
- Appointment of Shea Flynn as the lead tech in the sound booth.

Ongoing Projects and/or Goals:

- Getting youth and children involved in the worship leadership
- Intergenerational choir and handbell choir
- Televisions installed and fully functioning in the sanctuary
- Establishment of a regular concert series in the future
- The second annual “Sounds of the Season” Christmas Concert will be this December. Plans are well underway to make it bigger and better than last year, and will also include some of our “Share the Music” scholarship participants. One goal is to make this a Christmas benefit concert with one of the boards supporting (board of human care or outreach or both, etc.) so we can benefit something or someone in our community (example: food drive or a collection for a certain cause). This event will also include an element of fellowship with a Christmas cookie reception following the concert.
- Dates are already on the calendar for the music ministry Christmas and spring fellowship parties.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Parish Education

submitted by Lori Schwan, ex-facto member

Members of the Board of Parish Education:

Megan Shores, Chair
Julie Zehnder
Lori Schwan, ex-facto member

Priscilla Flynn
Cindy Schafer

Our purpose is to plan and help implement spiritual growth programs for all members of Saint Michael Lutheran Church family. We had great volunteers who helped us continue our programs to reach our goal.

Family Education:

- Advent Event – About 60 Advent wreaths were made by families and individuals. Breakfast was served, adding time for fellowship. Church families delivered about 20 wreaths to our homebound members. Advent devotions for all ages were given out at the event.
- Family Christmas Eve Worship – Thanks to the help of Ben Ball and Jamie Danielson we had beautiful music incorporating pictures into our Christmas Eve 5:30pm worship led by the children in the congregation.
- Faith Stepping Stones
 - ◆ We changed our timing for the 5th and 6th grade Mother/Daughter and Father/Son retreats so that they happened on the same weekend, back to back at Riverside Retreat Center.
 - ◆ After a break since Covid, 14 sons and dads enjoyed the Father/Son retreat put on by a great team of 6 men. Together they learned that men of God are courageous, honorable and faithful to the end.
 - ◆ We had a record 34 mothers and daughters grow at the retreat put on by 4 women and baked good donations of others. They learned a lot about how Daughters of God are cherished, pure and faithful.
- Vacation Bible Connect
 - ◆ The board decided to revamp our previous family VBS to have congregation members of all ages experience the three strategies that help fulfill the church mission: Worship, Small Groups and Service.
 - ◆ We spent much of the spring and summer devising a plan:
 - ◇ Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:30-7:30pm: Dinner, Large Group/Small Group around Maundy Thursday theme
 - ◇ Friday, July 14, 2023 5:30-7:30pm: Dinner, Large Group/Small Group around Good Friday theme
 - ◇ Saturday, July 15, 2023: Morning Service Projects in our Community
 - ◇ Sunday, July 16, 2023: One combined worship service at 10:00am with a BBQ lunch and fun games in the gym
- RightNow Media
 - ◆ RightNow Media is a wonderful gift of over 18,000 videos of Biblical teaching that the church provides for all family and friends of Saint Michael.
 - ◆ Pew cards with information can be found in the sanctuary or the front office center.
 - ◆ Create an account using this link: www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/StMichaelLutheranChurch
- Mail Ministry – volunteers that minister through mailings:
 - ◆ Robin Beck sends baptismal birthday postcards to our children 3 yrs – 5th grade.
 - ◆ Kathy Byers sends birthday cards to all of our members (children – adult).
 - ◆ Marcia Malisiak sends anniversary cards to our members.
 - ◆ Janet Elliott sends get well cards.
 - ◆ Linda Lang sends *Journey through Grief*, a year-long mail ministry for those who lost a loved one through our Human Care Board and Parish Nurse program.
 - ◆ Pastor Jon sends notes on the anniversary of a loved one's death for up to three years after.
 - ◆ We currently are looking for a volunteer to do the Nursery Roll Ministry, a mail ministry for parents of infants – 2-year-olds to receiving materials at specific milestones.

Education for Children:

- Sunday School – We got to divide into PK3-K and 1-4 and utilized Group's Simply Loved resources this year. We tried to continue aspects of Biblical chronology. The 5th-6th grade class had a variety of topics based on the kids questions. We had dedicated volunteers to work with the kids.
- Summer Sunday School – We continue using our same resources each week.
- Bibles for 3rd Grade SMLS Students – for a second year we gave out a Bible to each student from our Board with personal notes written in each one from church leaders, faculty and staff to our SMLS 3rd graders.

Education for Youth:

- Confirmation – 7th and 8th graders attended classes each week during the school year and parents were invited to attend as their Sunday School time. Lori Schwan taught. They took an in-depth look at the Apostle's Creed, Martin Luther, Office of the Keys, Communion and the Lord's Prayer.
- High School Sunday School – Sue Clark led our students as they read and discussed the Bible, chapter by chapter. They spent the year in the Old Testament finishing 1 Chronicles.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Parish Education

(continued from page 12)

Education for Youth (continued):

- Because of Hurricane Ian, our fall confirmand retreat with parents had to be shortened to a Sunday School hour. Each student had an individual meeting to practice explaining our faith with Lori Schwan, and our nine ninth grade students were confirmed at the combined Reformation service at 10:00 AM. Their written faith statements were published in the bulletin. One student who was confirmed was first introduced to the Bible four years earlier by attending Saint Michael Lutheran School after moving from China.

Education for Adults:

- Pastor Jon's Sunday Bible class covered a variety of topics and continued to be zoomed so that others who are homebound can also participate.
- We have 260 people involved this year in our regular Adult Small Group Ministry. We offer a variety of groups that vary in their focus (Bible studies, serving teams, and fellowship groups), when they meet, and where they meet.
 - ◆ Couples Bible Study
 - ◆ Women's Bible Study
 - ◆ Men's Ministry Bible Study
 - ◆ Young Families Bible Study
 - ◆ Stephen Ministry Ongoing Education (see Board of Human Care)
 - ◆ DivorceCare has three sessions each year that are hybrid classes with both in person and Zoom options that draw people from all over. Since we continue through the summer because the pain of divorce does not take a break, we have had a large burst of growth because other churches aren't offering DivorceCare until the fall. This year we had 25 people participate, of which 3 are church members. This outreach is a huge blessing to our community.
 - ◆ GriefShare had two groups this year (one in the fall and another in the winter). We are thankful for the leadership that Gail Schulz and Pat Hallen gave to these groups as they meet people in some of the hardest moments of their lives as they grieve the loss of a loved one.

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Board of Christian Education

submitted by Stephanie Webb, Ed.S.

Members of the Board of Christian Education:

Craig Ecelbarger	Cynthia Schafer
Jamie Gilles	Dr. Billy Truax
Vicky Manietta	Dr. Timothy Underhill
Tony Mast (resigned)	Stephanie Webb

Ex Officio Members of the Board:

The Reverend Jon Zehnder	Bob Jablonski
Kati Miser, Administrator SMLS	Jennifer Pohlman, Assistant Administrator SMLS
Stacie Thompson, Administrator of ELC	

Accreditation Facilitator:

Judy Scharpenberg

The Board of Christian Education is established under Article V of the Constitution of Saint Michael Evangelical Lutheran Church. Specific duties and responsibilities of the Board are outlined within the constitution and governed by a policy handbook that aligns with the by-laws and constitution of the church. The Board is aligned with the mission and philosophy of St. Michael Lutheran Church and School and with the Early Learning Center (Little Saints) program. Members of the Board are members of St. Michael Lutheran Church and are appointed by the Pastor and Board Chair, with input from the Administrator. Eligible candidates are under consideration to fill two vacancies for the coming year.

The Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 12:15 PM (some meeting dates may vary from this schedule) in the conference room of the Early Learning Center. Meeting dates are announced in SMLS publications. An agenda prepared in advance guides the discussion and business for each meeting.

Monthly agenda items include a financial report and reports from Administrators of SMLS and the Early Learning Center that include enrollment data and trends, reports covering discipline/behavior, testing and instructional updates, staffing, and programming notes (extended care, summer, extracurriculars). The Board reviews parent, student and staff policy (handbook) updates for SMLS and Little Saints and the proposed academic calendar for the following year. The Board is tasked with approving the school budget for the following year in the month of April.

The following is a summary of the business acted upon by the Board of Christian Education for 2022-23:

- Board review of MAP testing scores (Fall and Spring)

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Christian Education

(continued from page 13)

- Board review of current district, private and charter school actions that could impact SMLS
 - Review of legislation that could affect SMLS, e.g. library materials review
 - Review and approval of school handbooks for the 2023-24 school year
 - Board approval of proposed budget
 - Review and approval of the proposed school calendar and meeting dates for the Board of Christian Education 2023-24
 - Monthly comparisons of enrollment data and trends that includes withdrawals and applications for both SMLS and Little Saints
 - Ongoing accreditation activities addressed and completed for the areas specifically identified for the Board of Christian Education
 - Regular updates on campus security and safety
 - Participation in annual EOY school events – Saints Scholars Society, recognitions and graduation
 - Acceptance, with regret, of the resignation of Board member Tony Mast
 - Extending a call to Jason Zehnder, middle school educator
 - Met with pastoral candidates & their wives in joint opportunities with PTL leadership
 - Creation of the Judith Howell Early Learning Center award/recognition
 - Annual performance review of Administrator Kati Miser by Pastor Zehnder and Board Chair, Dr. Truax.
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Board of Fellowship

submitted by Lori Schwan (Ex-facto member)

Chuck Oliver (Chair)

Lori Schwan, Ex-facto member

Purpose: To bring together a variety of church members to do the various fellowship events.

Reformation Sunday/Fall Festival

On October 30, we celebrated with a combined worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00am celebrating Holy Communion and the Rite of Confirmation. We enjoyed great food, inflatable games for the kids, and time to celebrate being together as the family of God. This event is put on by a great team of volunteers.

Advent Event

Partnering with the Board of Parish Education and Food Service Ministry Director Candy Offerman and her team, we had our annual Advent Event fellowship breakfast where we made Advent Wreathes (see Parish Ed report).

Lenten Soup and Sandwich Dinners

Our Food Service Ministry Director Candy Offerman provided soup and sandwich dinners on the nights before the evening Lenten worship.

Palm Sunday

Our annual combined service in the gym to celebrate the start of Holy Week was complete with BBQ of pulled pork, ribs and chicken, beans, and coleslaw made by Don Hanchey. The youth and children's ministry hosted an inside Easter Egg Hunt.

Memorial Day

We had a presentation and fellowship breakfast in between services on May 28 where we honored our veterans and remembered those who have gone before. We wrote notes to our active service men and women from our congregation. We also gave out magnets to every family. Since this is also at the end of our school year, we honor those Sunday morning educational leaders and staff who are celebrating anniversaries. Candy Offerman and her family once again did a wonderful job providing the breakfast.

We thank all those who worked as leaders or helpers at these events. We look forward to a new year of opportunities. If this is a passion for you, please don't hesitate to contact our chair to ask how you can be involved.

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Board of Human Care

submitted by Sue Hansen & Ann Sluiter

The 2022-23 Church Year will be one to remember. The year of Ian. The generosity of our church members was unparalleled as we continued to live and give generously throughout this year.

We ended this year by officially welcoming back Ann Sluiter as our Board Chair, who by God's grace has recovered with the help of her bone marrow transplant and is now in remission. We bid Greg Gehringer farewell as he leaves our board where he has faithfully served for many years and now seeks new ministry opportunities within our church.

Our card ministry continued to reach out to the homebound and others in need of an uplifting message. Our Christmas Senior Social

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Human Care

(continued from page 14)

blessed over 100 seniors with a lovely holiday dinner, fellowship and song. Every request on the Christmas Angel Tree was taken to bless over 100 children in our church, school and surrounding community. We were able to give Publix food cards for the holidays to people recovering from Ian in addition to our list of grateful people in our church, school and surrounding community for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

We completed a warm clothing drive for the Salvation Army and a diaper drive for Eva's Closet.

We were charged with carefully and prayerfully considering the needs presented to our board, and the following is a list of the recipients for this last church year:

Amigos en Cristo, City Takers, LARC, United Way, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief, Oasis Youth Shelter, Thrive (Lifeline), Amigos Ministries, Valerie's House, Dominican Republic Hurricane Relief, Ian Relief Fund (St. Michael), Project Dentists Care, The Big Backpack Event, Eva's Closet and Lutheran World Relief.

The Board of Human Care sends heartfelt thanks to the SMLCS members and families, winter visitors and others for their donations and support. These projects could not be done without your generosity. Thank you for being a blessing in our community and to our world in need. You truly do not know how many lives you have touched. As Pastor Jon always says, "Your generosity never ceases to amaze us!"

Christ's Blessings,

the St. Michael Board of Human Care

Additional Human Care Ministries

Counseling – St. Michael Lutheran School contracted with a counselor from Lutheran Counseling Services out of Orlando to provide a school counselor 1-2 days a week this past year. We are exploring ways the counselor may also be available to counsel people on our campus on the days they are not working in the school.

Stephen Ministry www.stephenministries.org – Lee and Julie Berchtold became trained Stephen Leaders in 2001 when our congregation enrolled in the Stephen Series. St. Michael has benefitted from six active, trained Stephen Leaders within our congregation and 43 trained Stephen Ministers: currently active (16), currently serving Care Receivers (10), inactive (7), relocated (14), deceased (15). These dedicated, mercy minded servants provided care for over 100 official Care Receivers and many others in their paths as God provided opportunities.

Parish Nurse – We are thrilled to have Ann Sluiter's health improving enough from her bone marrow transplant to have her coming back in the role of Parish Nurse. Tammy Zinn also finished her training in what Lee Health now calls the "Faith Community Nurse." Tammy is assisting Ann by volunteering her time a few hours a week to make hospital calls and help in other capacities when others can't. We are also thankful for Laurel Volberding's involvement with the Bloodmobile's needs for their scheduled days at St. Michael. Laurel's great organizational skills and commitment to this vital need in our community is greatly appreciated by all.

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Board of Missions

submitted by Leonardo Garcia

Our calling, our mission to make disciples, causes us to look for open doors both near and far, to partner with different groups and organizations as we seek to fulfill what our Risen Savior challenged His church, and us, to be about – namely, making disciples. Your gifts given through our offerings and budget, as well as your ongoing sponsorships and direct gifts, have allowed us to pursue numerous ways to answer Jesus' call. We continue to support the mission and ministry work of our Florida-Georgia District and national and international work of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. **For the first 15 years of Saint Michael (1941-1956) we received District subsidy to support and grow our ministry. Having been recipients of that grace and blessing, we seek to bless other ministries, too.**

We also support four Circuit Outreach Missions: Thrive Church at FGCU, Pelican Lutheran in Golden Gate, AMOS which is the Word and Sacrament ministry reaching out to Hispanic and Haitian communities, and Amigos Immigration. We continue mission work in Liberia through Hope and Care Outreach under the guidance of Linda Kurtz (building schools, churches, orphanages, and caring ministries). Plus, we have adopted a student from Dr. Ben Dennis' village of Vahun.

And, of course, we continue in our ongoing 25-year support of the mission we started in the Dominican Republic: preaching stations, churches, schools, the Seminary in Palmar (preparing Pastors and Deaconesses to serve in South and Central America, the Caribbean, and even Spain). Working with the City of Fort Myers, we continue to provide training and resources for firefighters and police.

Putting love into action through backpack giveaways, Christmas gifts distributed, sponsorships to English language classes, as we move into new communities, we always strive to invite and involve our missionaries as we seek to build new bridges for outreach, mission, and ongoing ministry. **We are restarting our child sponsorship program for \$35 a month;** you will receive pictures and letters so you can respond to your "god-child" and remember them in your prayers. Contact the church office if you are interested. And please do join us in the spring for our Taste of the Dominican Luncheon!

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Stewardship

submitted by Rev. George Matzat

A definition of “stewardship” reads this way, “Empowered by the Holy Spirit, stewardship is dedicating everything we are and everything we have to God’s glory, the building of His Kingdom (where He rules in grace in people’s hearts and lives), our neighbor’s welfare as well as our own good welfare all out of our love for Jesus in response to God’s love for us in Him.” What an amazing family we have here at Saint Michael! The generosity shown not only in the financial gifts gathered here but the time, talents, gifts, passions, and experiences that are being put to use to glorify God and bless others is astounding!

The baton of leadership with this ministry board was given to me by Rudy Rouse. We are looking for ways to bless all of you so you can be enabled to bless others in the future, as you have done in the past. We trust in the incredible promise of our God, who 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)

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Board of Outreach

submitted by Joyce Bell

The Board of Outreach’s “Purpose Statement” is “Gospel to Others” or **GO**. This is based on Mark 16:15—“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

This year we experienced outreach from the other side. Although we were a part of it, we were motivated and blessed by the generous outpouring of love all the way from Louisiana. The Outreach Board helped coordinate the feeding of the masses with the arrival of the Forged by Fire Disaster Relief Organization. Our own daughter of St. Michael, Rose Schutt, who still has family in this area, was instrumental in letting the needs of the community be known to Pastor Paul Ernewein and his group. Less than a month after getting hit by hurricane Ian, we were able to serve over 6,000 New Orleans style cuisine meals in two days! Thank you to the many St. Michael volunteers who came out to make this a successful outreach event. You were the hands and feet and smiles of Jesus!

During the year we helped with preparing and mailing the Christmas and Palm Sunday/Easter postcards. It is hard to determine if those outreach postcards mailed to households in our area ever bring in someone to our church. If you are ever aware of someone in the community that attended because of one of those postcards, please let us know.

Our goal this year was to reach out to the St. Michael school families which is a mission field in our own backyard. We partnered with the school on Grandparents Day to help fill bags with goodies, adding church information and invitations to the Palm Sunday BBQ. Also, during the last few weeks of school, we prepared 400 goodie bags with St. Michael trinkets, church information cards and fliers about VBC (Vacation Bible Connect) and handed those out during dismissal car line!

A new member dinner potluck was organized. We coordinated sponsors to welcome our newest church members. It was nice to share a meal and have a chance to fellowship again!

We voted to make financial donations to two local organizations in our community, Oma's Heart and City Takers. These donations help provide toys for children at Christmastime (Oma’s Heart) and help previously incarcerated men get successfully back into the workforce and community (City Takers).

Plans are currently underway for the Outreach Board to assist Parish Ed and other boards as they prepare for this summer's VBC.

One of our monthly meeting devotions was from 2 Corinthians 9:7, “God loves a cheerful giver.” We need a few more Outreach Board members so, if you are willing to cheerfully give of your time and talents, please join us. Your current board members are Joyce Bell, Nancy Ryback, Jessica Radecki, Janice Waldren and Tammy Zinn, our newest member this year.

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Board of Properties

submitted by Lou Conzelmann

The Board of Properties is responsible for the maintenance of all physical properties belonging to the church and school. Board members include Gregg Tharnstrom, Brian Hoffmann, Ron Krugman, Will Kollmann and Lou Conzelmann. Bob Jablonski, Director of Support Ministries at St. Michael, is our ex-officio member who oversees the maintenance operation and manages the budget. Steve Eggen, Maintenance Director, coordinates the day-to-day operations and is also a helpful participant at our meetings. Thanks to Ron Krugman and Will Kollmann for filling spots on our board as they are new additions in 2023. We feel blessed to have them join us.

Ron Zerkel, who had been a member of our board for many years, has retired from our group as of the beginning of 2023. Many thanks to Ron for his faithful service for these years. May God bless him and his wife, Sharon, as they continue to serve in other areas.

Steve Eggen and his assistant, Joel Zehnder, are the main employees of our paid maintenance staff. Bob Lang has worked throughout the fall and winter months for several years. Bob has been a great help, and we look forward to him coming back this year. We are

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Properties

(continued from page 16)

also pleased to be getting some extra summer help from Chuck Oliver. These manpower additions are helping us to address the many items on the project list.

As everyone knows, a major hurricane can cause a mountain of issues and force you to totally adjust the agenda. After Hurricane Ian, Steve Eggen made a three-page list of items to address due to the storm. There was everything from cleaning up debris and brush, to replacement of soffits on the Education Building, to replacing the roof of the Little Saints Building. Most of the Ian repairs have been completed, but we continue to finish up with a few lingering projects such as the undersides of major walkway canopies. Prayerfully we won't have to deal with another "major" for the foreseeable future. Another major accomplishment for Little Saints was a much-needed upgrade to its air conditioning which had been less than satisfactory for many years.

We are currently working on our usual summer projects since school is out. Carpet replacement, painting, and lighting improvements are usually annual standards. Replacing air conditioners and upgrading ceiling tiles are also often on the list.

We are happy to see that our parking lots and drives have held up quite nicely for another year. We know that we will need a significant repair to these areas in the future, but for now we plan to repaint the traffic flow markings and observe how we do for another year.

Volunteer work events are usually held on some Saturday mornings throughout the year. Thanks to the volunteers who come to help. It's a great way to serve. Upcoming events will be advertised in the church bulletin.

We thank God for the members and administrators who work to keep St. Michael running smoothly. We pray for God's continued blessings as we honor Him by putting forth our best effort in the maintenance of the St. Michael campus.

Board of Youth

*submitted by Lori Schwan, Ministry Coordinator
Sue Clark, Director*

During the vacancy of a Youth Director, we are very thankful for our team of board members, parents, volunteers and staff who together, empowered completely by the Holy Spirit, helped grow our students to know our Savior through the following activities:

Worship

- * Students Serve as Sound Assistants, Media Assistants, Acolytes, and Crucifers
- * Rock the Universe
- * Youth Led Lenten Worship

Fellowship

- * Faith and Film
- * Middle/High School Youth Group every Wednesday with dinner and games
- * Wednesday Night Halloween Hangout
- * Wednesday Night Thanksgiving Feast
- * Middle/High School Christmas Progressive Servant Event for Oasis Youth Shelter
- * Rock the Universe
- * High School Christmas Party
- * Graduate Celebration
- * Summer Youth Group at Middle & High School student's houses for dinner, games, devotion

Spiritual Growth

- * LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, TX
- * Faith and Film
- * Middle School and High School Youth Group every Wednesday
- * Confirmand Retreat with parents and interviews
- * High School Sunday School
- * Middle School Confirmation
- * FL-GA Middle School Youth Gathering, Leesburg
- * Mother/Daughter Retreat
- * Father/Son Retreat
- * 12th Grade: Blanket Blessing and Reception
- * High School Servant Event to Blairsville, GA
- * FL-GA Middle School Servant Event to Camp Luther Springs
- * Summer Youth Group at Middle & High School student's houses for dinner, games, devotion

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Youth

(continued from page 17)

Service Projects

- * Various event set-up/take-down
- * Students Serve as Sound Assistants, Media Assistants, Acolytes, and Crucifers
- * Keeping 45 Alive - Serve at WWII Event
- * Make & deliver Advent wreaths to homebound
- * Help decorate the church for Christmas
- * Christmas gifts for teens at Oasis Youth Shelter
- * Christmas Eve luminaries
- * Kids' Easter egg hunt
- * 12th Grade: Blanket Blessing and Reception
- * High School Servant Event to Blairsville, GA
- * FL-GA Middle School Servant Event to Camp Luther Springs
- * Compassion International Sponsorship

Outreach

- * Faith and Film
- * Middle/High School Youth Group every Wednesday
- * Intentional outreach to youth in SMLS, especially Wednesday Youth Group
- * High School Servant Event to Blairsville, GA
- * FL-GA Middle School Servant Event to Camp Luther Springs

Fundraisers

- * Faith and Film
- * Fall and Spring car washes
- * Sunday Donuts
- * Poinsettia Sale
- * Edison Festival of Lights Parade Seats
- * Vending Machine

Statistics

Middle School Totals	101
High School Totals	67
Total Youth Touched in 1 Year	168
Total Points Earned	4,834.50
Average hours invested by youth and their family	29
Percent members	36%
Percent non-members	64%
Percent no church home	23%
Percent not sure of church home	11%
Current SMLS student or alumni active this year	118

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Elders

submitted by Lee Berchtold

It has been a busy year as the board has spent hours receiving names for a prospective “call,” reviewing pastor files, setting zoom interviews, and eventually presenting two names for a congregational vote, calling one who returned the call to remain in his current call. Recently, Pastor David Bass was extended a call, and we are waiting on his decision.

Reviewing the year, we saw our SMP take a call to a church in Canada further opening up positions we are all waiting to fill. Please pray for our new pastor (as well as Pastor Jon). Remember also prayers are needed for filling Jack Proctor’s position along with Small Group/Discipleship leader and Mission leader.

We ask for prayers for our members to grow in discipleship/small group development looking for opportunities to form or join a small group. Also, pray and intentionally look for ways and opportunities to share Christ with others.

The vision framework set out by the vision framework team coached by Pastor Jacob Hoyer helped us clarify who we are as the church at the corner of Broadway and Carrell Road. Additionally, we defined our need to fill staff openings with team member(s) with a passion and an affinity to develop and grow members along these lines. The idea is based on the Great Commission – go, tell people about Jesus and make those His disciples using His Word. Fulfilling the commission starts first with you and me becoming more and more like Jesus, walking in His will as He walked in His and our Father’s will.

In First Thessalonians chapter four, Paul gives an urgent call for the church to walk in a way to please God, just as you are doing, but also more and more. He reminds them of instructions he has taught them through the Lord Jesus. He continues, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification....” Paul then lists sins to abstain from as well as continuing in brotherly love. Paul shares the gospel and how we all need to walk. In Chapter 5 vs. 23-24, Paul closes with this beautiful promise, “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”

Please pray for our church and school to be equipped in Christ and united in our faith, along with knowing and becoming more like Jesus until we are all mature.

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FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2022

Sue Hampel again leads our **Summer Programs** for the 19th year.

The **National Youth Gathering** was held July 9-13 in Houston, TX. 27 youth and 7 adults attended.

The Board of Elders began the **call process** for our next senior pastor.

AUGUST 2022

St. Michael Lutheran School celebrates its 67th academic year with the theme “Making Disciples for Life” led by Principal Kati Miser. Our **School Resource Officer** Deputy Andy Penny returned to keep our campus safe! **Little Saints** welcomed 10 new families to our school.

SEPTEMBER 2022

St. Michael Lutheran Church celebrates its 81st year of ministry!

St. Michael Lutheran School hosts the 45th annual **St. Michael Invitational Volleyball and Soccer Tournament**.

September 28 & 29 **Hurricane Ian** hits Southwest Florida.

OCTOBER 2022

SMLCS responds to the needs of the community after Hurricane Ian. The school re-opened on October 11. **LCMS Disaster Relief** was here October 25 and 26 and served over 6,000 meals while assisting cleanup crews.

Reformation Celebration combined Sunday worship at 10:00am with a Fellowship Lunch afterwards in the gym. Plus, 9 of our youth are Confirmed!

NOVEMBER 2022

Ben Ball begins as Director of Music and Worship!

Thanksgiving Remembering God’s goodness, we provided grocery gift cards to over 70 local families in need, and Sunday School created over 50 Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Little Saints sponsored the **8th annual Pet Food Drive** to benefit the Annual Refuge Center.

Nine youth and 2 adults attended the FL-GA District **Middle School Youth Gathering** in Leesburg, FL.

DECEMBER 2022

Gift cards for Christmas for children in need were collected and distributed to 85 children, and over 70 families received grocery gift cards.

The Board of Human Care hosted the **Christmas Senior Social** on December 4 for over 100 seniors.

For the first time, we held a **Blue Christmas** service on December 21 (96 people in person and 104 virtually.) 760 worship in person (234 virtually) at the 3 evening services on **Christmas Eve** and 98 (93 virtually) on **Christmas Day** to celebrate God’s great gift of a Savior!

JANUARY 2023

SML Youth attend **Rock the Universe** at Universal Studios, FL.

SMLS hosted their annual **open house** on January 25.

New organ campaign begins to raise \$398,000.

FEBRUARY 2023

February 4, Little Saints hosts their annual **Father-Daughter dance**.

February 7 - 10, SML hosts their **first senior pastor candidate**, Rev. David Bass and wife, Katy.

MARCH 2023

March 22, **youth lead mid-week Lenten service**.

March 25-28, SML hosts their **second senior pastor candidate**, Rev. Jon Thomas and wife, Margaret.

March 25, SMLS hosts the annual **PTL Bid for Kids Auction** which raised over \$130,000.

APRIL 2023

April 2, **Palm Sunday** celebrated in-person and online at a combined 10:00 am service, followed by a fellowship BBQ and Easter Egg Hunt.

Holy Week concluded with in-person and online Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. April 9, Easter Saturday and Sunday services were attended by 1,187 in person (467 virtually).

April 16, Voters’ meetings extends **senior pastor call to Rev. Jon Thomas**.

MAY 2023

May 30, **Rev. Jon Thomas declines our call**.

JUNE 2023

June 1, **The Saints Scholar Society Awards Ceremony**; Kathy Scharlau, Candy Offerman and Carol Flores receive staff awards.

June 2, **38 Students graduate** from SMLS as the 49th graduating class in our 67th year.

June 18, 2nd Voters’ meeting extends **senior pastor call to Rev. David Bass**.

7 Youth (+ 1 adult) attend the **Middle School Summer Servant Event** at Camp Luther Springs; 4 youth (+ 2 adults) attend the **High School Summer Servant Event**.