

Deadline for submissions  
is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the  
following month's newsletter.

Send to:  
smlcspublications@gmail.com



**Pastor Dave Bass**



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. Dave Bass*

## **"On your mark, get set, GO!"**

Well, it's official! The baton of ministry has been passed to me, literally and spiritually. Years of prayer and planning by the leadership of St. Michael Lutheran Church and School were celebrated on Sunday, September 10 as I was installed as St. Michael's next senior pastor. What an amazing worship celebration and reception it was to welcome my family and me to St. Michael! Thank you to everyone who helped make this day possible. I am truly blessed to take hold of this baton of servant leadership in Christ's Church and to continue running the race with each of you.

In good Lutheran fashion, we must ask, "What does this mean?" What this means is that I (together with church and school leadership, church members, school families and friends) will work together in *'Reaching across boundaries to cultivate peace in Christ, from generation to generation.'* As I continue familiarizing myself with the community and culture of our congregation and school, I will use my gifts to help shape and direct existing ministry opportunities while prayerfully considering what opportunities for Christ-centered community, discipleship and missions the Lord is bringing to our attention. While this might cause us to be hesitant and cautious about what the future brings, I want to encourage you to think and dream of the possibilities that lie ahead!



If you've been joining us in our weekend worship services, we are engaging our hearts and minds in a sermon series based on the Old Testament book (and the person) of Joshua. Each week we are reminded of how God led and encouraged Joshua to overcome fear and to lead the Israelites with courage, boldness, trust, hope and love.

As we enter October, I am reminded of the same faithful promises that God made to another servant in His Church, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther. He is the namesake of our congregation and denomination, which he would have disagreed with (that's an article for another time). But, the theology that Luther stood firm on is the same theology that we continue to profess today: *sola scriptura* (Scripture alone), *solus Christus* (Christ alone), *sola fide* (faith alone), *sola gratia* (grace alone) and *solus Deo gloria* (glory to God alone).

This is the baton of faith that has been handed to us in our generation. Will you join us as we continue to run this race of faith?

With blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Dave*



## From the Principal

Kati Miser



It is obvious that Saint Michael Lutheran School is still *educating children and touching families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ!* Our campus is alive with over a hundred staff, teachers and administrators who genuinely care about the more than 500 children and their families you find there. You hear the name of Jesus, our Master Teacher, spoken during classes and chapel promoting the renewal of our minds and producing relationships being transformed by His love (whether it is relationships between the children, the staff or the parents). Your daily prayers for SMLS are so appreciated as they continue to be a light in our community.



October is a busy time with activities that you can participate in (especially by praying for those who are involved). Call the Saint Michael office at (239) 939-1218 if you would like more details.



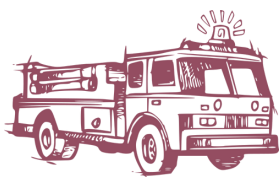
- Varsity soccer and volleyball tournaments
- Fall into Fun (October 13) – bring the family!
- Mission society trip (October 14-20)
- **Fall break and staff development (October 16-20)**
- High school fair for seventh and eighth graders (October 26)
- Confirmation Sunday (October 29)



Give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience Saint Michael Lutheran School. Both in-person and virtual tours are available.

## From the Director of Little Saints

Stacie Thompson



We are happy to announce that our annual **Pirate Pasta Dinner** was another huge success this year! This event is always a great chance for our families to get together and enjoy a few hours eating Carrabba's and bonding 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 Fort Myers Fire Department back to visit with the kids. We will be able to meet the firemen, 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, pumpkin painting and a costume parade. This event has always been a big hit with the kiddos.



## From the Board of Human Care



This month, our board of human care would like you to consider supporting the people affected by the recent earthquake in Morocco. The earthquake struck near the major city of Marrakesh. It was the most powerful earthquake to hit the country in 120 years. Many homes were destroyed, and 3,000 people were killed as a consequence of the natural disaster. Lutheran World Relief is organized to help the survivors of the earthquake with food, tents and medical aid. If you would like to help Lutheran World Relief with their efforts, please write "**LWR—Morocco**" on your check memo or envelope. Thank you for your consideration in supporting these people in need. They have lost so much, and the help is so needed.

## From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

### Children's Ministry

#### **Sunday School Nursery - 6th Grade**

- Nursery-2s and under are loved on in the sanctuary nursery by consistent volunteers.
- PK3-Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> have been learning about Joshua in sync with the sermons.
- 5th-6th Grade are studying questions they come up with about faith.

Contact Lori Schwan if you are interested in volunteering with the kids or behind the scenes.



### Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent financial product, you can provide \$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 events happening this fall that would benefit from your attention.

### Adult Sunday Bible Class

Join us Sunday morning in the cafeteria to study *Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You Are Irrelevant and Extreme* by Kinnaman and Lyons. If you cannot be there in person, Zoom is also available. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 305 113 7001 Passcode: church

### Sunday Marriage Enrichment

Anyone is welcome to join any Sunday morning at the boat table in the office center for our marriage study *Us in Mind* by Ted Lowe on RightNow Media. This group is led by Lee and Julie Berchtold.

### Sunday Women's Bible Study: Praying the Names of God

This new women's study will focus on a specific name of God each week and how we can use it as our focus for prayer. Priscilla Flynn looks forward to welcoming you on Sunday mornings in pastor's conference room.

### Wednesday Women's Bible Study

This women's group will begin on Wednesday, October 25 in the ELC Board Room from 10:30-11:30am as they study the book *The Women of the Bible Speak*.

### Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study

Join us every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm. There will be an optional dinner at the beginning in the school cafeteria. Discussion will be held at the table in the back of the office center. *Unshakable* looks at eight remarkable men and women from the Bible that God shook to the core then used to point people to the hope of salvation. Questions? Contact Vicky Manietta at 239-826-6325.

### Thursday Women's Bible Study

Join us on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30am on Zoom or on campus in the ELC board room for a ladies Bible study as we finish the series *The 10 Most Misunderstood Verses in the Bible* and begin *Women in the New Testament* both on RightNow Media.

### GriefShare

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences, the loss of someone close. GriefShare is running through December 2 on Saturdays from 9:00-11:00am in pastor's conference room. You may join any session. Please register at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). Questions? Contact Gail Schultz at 732-991-0642 or [gail1370@aol.com](mailto:gail1370@aol.com).

### DivorceCare

A new session of DivorceCare is meeting on Tuesdays through November 28 from 11:00am-1:00pm. Anyone separated or divorced can join any session. This group is online and in person. Register at: [divorcecare.org](http://divorcecare.org). Have questions? Call Lori Schwan 239-939-1218, ext. 237.



## *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

# *Saint Michael Youth Ministries*

### **7th and 8th Grade Confirmation with Parents**

7th and 8th grade students along with any parents who want to join to help make the application throughout the week are studying the 10 Commandments during Sunday school in the education building room 48 (Mrs. Weaver). We will send out the topic in our weekly email if a week is missed.

### **9th Grade Confirmand Final Preparation**

Faith instruction continues on Sunday morning in high school Sunday school (enjoy the couches). The Rite of Confirmation will be Sunday, October 29 at 10:00am. Ninth graders meet with high school Sunday school. Confirmands have a special Confirmand Retreat with their parents on Saturday, October 7 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Please also pray for them as they write their faith statements and complete their one-on-one interviews with Lori Schwan this month.



### **High School Sunday School**

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

### **Wednesday Youth Nights**

On average since school started, fifty middle and high school students and adult volunteers have been growing in their faith each Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm with dinner, games and small group devotions. Want to volunteer or sponsor a meal either by making or catering a meal or making a financial donation for a meal? Contact Lori Schwan.

### **Youth Ministry Weekend - Middle School Youth Gathering & High School Leadership Event**

The LCMS FL-GA district is sponsoring a Middle School Youth Gathering and a High School Leadership Event at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, FL on November 3-5. A \$50 deposit of \$250 registration is due by October 4. Final payment is due November 1. Students can use their points to offset the cost. Also, there are scholarships if needed. See Lori for details and paperwork. Adults interested in going, contact Lori (your way is paid).

### **Car Wash**

The middle and high school youth will be holding a free fundraising car wash from 7:30am-12:00pm on Sunday, October 8. Attend worship on Saturday or worship online. Parents are needed to help valet park cars. Watch emails to sign up. This is a great time to gain points to help pay for youth events.

### **Stay Connected**

If you are not getting emails or text messages about youth activities, contact me so we can get you added to our lists.

## *Family of Faith Reformation Reunion*

*(cont'd. on pg. 5)*

Reformation Sunday is October 29, and we like to celebrate Reformation in a special way. We will not have education classes that Sunday but instead enjoy the following:

- We will have a combined communion worship service at 10:00am in the sanctuary that will include the Rite of Confirmation for our ninth graders.
- Following the service, the board of fellowship will host the Family of Faith Reunion in the gym. They will provide fried chicken, brats, sauerkraut and beverages. We are asking everyone to bring their best potluck dish or dessert to share with 8-10 people. We will also have fun themed games for everyone. Please sign up through this link <https://tinyurl.com/SMReformation> or by calling the office to let us know you are coming and what you might bring so we are prepared. If you want to help with this event, contact Laurel Volberding [laurelvolberding@gmail.com](mailto:laurelvolberding@gmail.com) or (239) 470-8026.

*From the Director of Worship & Music***Ben Ball**

*"Music is the art of the prophets and the gift of God."*  
 – Martin Luther



Martin Luther truly understood how important music is and what it means for our lives. He knew how useful a tool it could be for teaching theology, praising God and lifting our spirits. He also knew that beyond all the ways that we analyze it—our desire to categorize, understand and label everything—it is simply a gift of God. As the hymn writer Fred Pratt Green wrote in his marvelous hymn, "When In Our Music God Is Glorified," "How often [when] making music we have found a new dimension in the world of sound as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!" Please take a moment to read the full text of this hymn which can be found on page 796 of our pew hymnal. But, please read it during the prelude and not the sermon! It is truly a text echoing what Luther and Bach knew to be true of music hundreds of years before: that "all music is to be for the glory of God and the refreshment of our souls." Music (and especially the art of congregational singing) connects us in a way that nothing else can compare to. We all join in the community around us when we sing those hymns, psalms and spiritual songs. So, make a joyful noise! Those of you who were able to attend the installation service for Pastor Bass heard when, during the opening hymn, the roof was lifted off the sanctuary by everyone's glorious singing. It was electrifying to be there as those words lifted joyfully heavenward. That is but a pale imitation of the joy of the heavenly choir one day. Keep up the glorious singing!

So many of you have taken time to share your beloved hymns, songs and anthems with me, and I so appreciate getting to know your favorites. Please keep them coming at any time.

As always, we would love to have you join us as we lift our musical gifts together to glorify God! Please see me if you are curious about how you might become involved (even if not every week as we realize what a commitment this can be). If you play an instrument or sing and you are feeling a pull to become involved musically, please chat with me so that we can see where you can plug in as part of our music and worship ministry. Something new this year is that middle and high school students are invited to join the sanctuary choir. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

Please continue to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns or to let me know your favorite hymns. My church email address is [ben.ball@gsmclcs.org](mailto:ben.ball@gsmclcs.org).

Blessings,

Ben Ball

Director of Worship and Music

*Family of Faith Reformation Reunion**(cont'd. from pg. 4)*

- Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be hosting a craft fair fundraiser on Reformation Sunday, October 29. They will be renting out eight-foot tables for \$25.00 for you to use to sell your products (independent distributors are welcome). The fair will be in the gym and will extend to other rooms in that building if more space is required. We expect a lot of people to be attending since there is a combined church service that Sunday with lunch provided afterward. It is a great time to participate with various holidays around the corner. So, start planning and creating! Please call Paulette Mueller at (239) 677-6688 or Toni Hanchey at (239) 565-0108 if you would like more information or if you are interested in renting a table.



## *From the Faith Community Nurse*

Dear friends at Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School,

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Early detection is the key to good outcomes and survival. Breast cancer is sometimes found after symptoms appear, but many women and men with breast cancer have no symptoms. This is why regular breast cancer screening is so important.

The American Cancer Society (2023) recommends that

- **Women between 40 and 44** have the option to start screening with a mammogram every year.
- **Women 45 to 54** get mammograms every year.
- **Women 55 and older** switch to a mammogram every other year or choose to continue yearly mammograms. Screening should continue as long as a woman is in good health and is expected to live at least 10 more years.
- **All women** should understand what to expect when getting a mammogram for breast cancer screening – what the test can and cannot do.

### **Breast cancer does not only affect women; men are at risk too!**

Men and women should be familiar with how their breasts normally look and feel and should report any changes to a health care provider right away.

Talk with your provider if you observe any new changes:

- A new lump in the breast tissue, chest wall or under the arm
- Swelling of all or part of a breast (even if no lump is felt)
- Skin dimpling (sometimes looking like an orange peel)
- Breast or nipple pain
- Nipple retraction (turning inward)
- Nipple or breast skin that is red, dry, flaking or thickening
- Nipple discharge (other than breast milk)
- Swollen lymph nodes under the arm or near the collar bone (Sometimes this can be a sign of breast cancer spread even before the original tumor in the breast is large enough to be felt.)



We will have breast cancer awareness information and resources available to you in the narthex on October 7 and 8.

God's blessings and good health to you,

Tammy Zinn, RN, MSN, OCN, CBCN, Faith Community Nurse

## *Thrivent: October 2023 Events*

Anyone who is interested can attend Thrivent's free virtual events for October 2023. Learn more about the events, and RSVP at <https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/southeast/events>.

### **Navigating Awkward Financial Conversations with Erin Lowry**

October 17 at 1:00pm and 8:30pm

October 19 at 7:30pm

### **Have You Used Your Thrivent Action Team?**

Available on demand beginning October 31

### **Get to Know Money Canvas**

Available on demand beginning October 31

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