

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

Send to:  
shea.flynn@gsmllcs.org



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

walk through Psalm 23 together with a group of new friends  
or ones that have walked through many different seasons with  
you.

My prayer for you is that, whether in worship or in  
continuing study throughout the week, the Good Shepherd  
who ever lives will draw you closer to Himself.

In His peace,  
Pastor Dave Bass

*Pastor Dave*

# The Messenger

*From the Pastor*

*Rev. Dave Bass*

Greetings in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus,

The Lord in His infinite wisdom continues to lead His Church and her ministries at St. Michael. As you read through this newsletter, you will see how and where our Lord continues to shepherd us into fulfilling the good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Part of Jesus' leading is to ensure that we are always trusting in His promises and walking in His paths. This month, we will take time to examine what that looks like as we ground ourselves in a Easter season sermon series exploring the timeless words of Psalm 23. Over four Sundays, we'll walk slowly through this treasured Psalm uncovering fresh meaning and deep comfort for our daily lives.



## Week 1 – "Shepherd and Sheep"

We begin with the opening image of Psalm 23: God as our Shepherd and us as His sheep. What does it mean to be led, provided for and known by name? This week, we'll reflect on God's loving leadership and His care for us in every season.



## Week 2 – "Paths and Shadows"

Life is not without valleys. But in those shadowy places, our Shepherd walks with us. We'll explore what it means to trust God in hardship, how He restores our souls and why we need not fear even in the darkest moments.



## Week 3 – "Anointed and Fed"

Even in the presence of enemies, God prepares a table for us. This week, we'll consider God's abundant provision, His anointing and the surprising ways He nourishes us with grace and honor.



## Week 4 – "Now and Forever"

The Psalm ends with a promise of unending presence and eternal dwelling. We'll celebrate the Shepherd's faithful goodness today, tomorrow and forever.

I hope you will join us in worship, prayer and reflection as we revisit the words and promises of this cherished Psalm. As you continue to "Find Your Five," I encourage you to



*From the Principal for the Interim**Shelly McGovern*

**He is risen! He is risen indeed!** At SMLS we have the privilege of teaching students (and parents) about the life, death and resurrection of our Savior. What amazing love our Heavenly Father has for us that He would send His Son to bear our sin so that we might live! **Our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with that amazing love of Jesus Christ.** A vital part of that mission is providing parents with a strong Christian support network by inviting them to worship and fellowship events at SMLCS.



We praise God for our parent-teacher league and those who have served faithfully this past year. On April 15, our PTL elected its 2025-26 officers and celebrated the 2024-25 officers. If you would like to join us in expressing appreciation to our 2024-25 **PTL officers** for their dedication, please drop off cards at the St. Michael office, and we will see that they are given to these outstanding volunteer leaders:

- Meg Minor, PTL president – 12 years
- Khrys Greco, PTL vice president – 1 year
- Carlena Snyder, PTL secretary – 5 years
- Kelly Williams, PTL treasurer – 2 years

Bring the whole family for the **SMLS drama production of Moana Jr.** Students have been preparing all year for these exciting theatrical nights May 15 and May 16 at 7:00pm in the SMLS gym. Tickets are available in advance at the St. Michael office and will also be available at the door. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and FREE for children four and under. Please pay with exact change or a check.



The 2025 **Fishin' with a Mission** event will take place in the fall: September 12 to 14. FWAM is a family event at South Seas Resort. Watch for details in the upcoming months about how to register your boat or sign up your children for Rock the Dock.

The last day of the 2024-25 school year is Wednesday, June 4. **Summer programs** begin June 9. If you have a child interested in attending summer programs at SMLS, please visit [smlcs.org/summer-programs](https://smlcs.org/summer-programs). Camps fill up quickly. So, don't delay!

**We are accepting new online applications for 2025-26 at [smlcs.org](https://smlcs.org).** Click the "admissions" tab at the top of our website to apply. Give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience St. Michael Lutheran School firsthand.

*From the Director of Little Saints**Nikki Howley*

As another school year is winding down for the older two-year-old rooms, the teachers are busy planning their **end of year party** which will be held on May 23. The year end party is an annual tradition featuring water slides on the soccer field to celebrate and say goodbye. We will miss having these friends in our building, some of whom we have watched grow since infancy. It is bittersweet for all of us to watch them leave our building, but we will still see each other around the campus as many will move on to what we call the "big school."



All of Little Saints are busy planning for a very special time of the year, **Mother's Day!** This is always a memorable time as we help our little ones work on a keepsake gift for all the moms to help them remember times with their babies when they were small. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms!

## *St. Michael Youth Ministries*

# *St. Michael Youth Ministries*

### **Sunday School: Middle and High School**

In May, we will learn that there is only “One Way,” and we are “Here to Share Jesus.”

### **Wednesday Youth Nights**

Now that Lent is over, we are returning to youth group on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00pm with dinner, games and devotions.

### **Big Night on Wednesday, May 14**

Plan to join us for a big night on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:00pm! We will be welcoming our new DCE intern, Sam Morganstern, honoring our graduates, having our final LCMS Youth Gathering meeting, playing games, having a devotion and having a meeting for parents about the LCMS Youth Gathering from 8:00 to 8:30pm.

### **Middle School Summer Servant Event**



Transportation costs will be shared with participants on May 18 and will be due June 1. Medical forms including a record of a physical in the last eighteen months will need to be turned in by May 18. You can download the form at [tinyurl.com/luthermedical25](https://tinyurl.com/luthermedical25) (or by scanning the QR code). The blessing will take place on Sunday, June 22 at 8:00am and 10:45am services. Following that, we will depart for Camp Luther Springs.

### **21 New Young Communicants**

St. Michael had a historical moment on Maundy Thursday as 21 students took first communion during the explanation of Christ in the Passover.

### **Compassion International Scholarship**

Thank you for supporting Renata through prayer and our regular \$43 monthly scholarship. She is thriving in her home country of Indonesia.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who supported our YETI cooler fundraiser to defray the cost of the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans on July 18 to 24!

### **Graduation Blessing**

We will be having a special graduate blessing on Sunday, May 11 at 8:00am worship and 10:45am worship. Twelfth grade seniors and their parents are invited to participate as part of St. Michael's Faith Stepping Stone program. We will have a special gift for all high school graduates and a cake reception for all graduates in the narthex following the two Sunday services.

### **Stay Connected**

If you are not receiving emails or text messages about youth activities, please email Lori Schwan at [lori.schwan@gsmlcs.org](mailto:lori.schwan@gsmlcs.org) so you can be added to our contact lists.





## From the Director of Worship & Music

**Ben Ball**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
He who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled—  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.*



Happy Easter **season**! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Easter is always a hectic time but also an absolutely glorious time as we celebrate Christ's defeat of death. We hold onto that glorious resurrection hope: that sin's curse has truly lost its grip over us because we have been bought with the precious blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We remain in this hope; alleluia and amen!

I want to invite you to two very special events coming up here at St. Michael! We are blessed to have four outstanding music teachers (Mike and Christy Wenzlaff, Katie Ball and Rachel Cox) as well as a very talented bunch of youngsters who have been working hard to prepare for their spring performances.

1. **Spring drama production**—*Disney's Moana Jr.* will be presented on May 15 and 16 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and free for children four and under. Tickets can be purchased using exact change or check at the front office or at the door the night of the performance.
2. **Spring music concert**—Join us Tuesday, May 20 at 1:30pm in the gym. This event is free, and no tickets are required.



Please make plans to come out and support our fine arts program as our students share their gifts. I hope to see you there!

As the church music ministry winds down its formal rehearsals for this season, I have a favor to ask of you. Please take a moment to thank the members of the choirs, handbells, worship team and tech ministry for all their hard work and dedication to enhancing our worship ministry. They spend much time in rehearsal and private practice each week to make our worship services so special. I also ask that you would prayerfully consider joining us this fall! You do not need to be a trained musician; you only need a heart that is ready to praise God and learn some new music along the way. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our music ministry!

Blessings,  
Ben Ball  
Director of Worship and Music



## *From the Director of Children & Family Ministries*

**Katy Bass**

### **Wiggles Welcome: Grab a Worship Pack!**

Wiggles happen—we get it! That’s why we’ve created worship packs for kids to help little hearts and hands stay engaged during worship. Each bag is filled with goodies like sermon-themed activities, stickers, a fun craft or fidget toy and even a snack to keep the “grumbles” at bay. Grab one at the sanctuary entrance before the service starts! The plastic bags are yours to keep, but please drop the pencil pouch back in the basket when you’re done so we can refill it for next week. Worship together, wiggles and all; we’re glad you’re here!



### **Sunday School Service Project**

On Sunday, May 4, our Sunday school students will take part in a special service project to support the youth at Bridge & Beyond, an emergency shelter in Fort Myers operated by Lutheran Services of Florida. The children will be making cozy fleece tie blankets and assembling coloring packs to be given to kids as they enter the shelter. Our hope is that these small gifts will bring comfort and a smile during a time that can feel uncertain and scary. We’re so proud of our Sunday school students as they learn to share God’s love through simple acts of kindness!

### **Flippin’ into Summer**

We’re wrapping up the Sunday school year the sweetest way we know how: with a pancake breakfast party! Join us on Sunday, May 18 during the Sunday school hour as we flip some flapjacks and sizzle some sausage. Mrs. Bass will be serving up stacks of pancakes with all the toppings your syrup-loving heart could dream of. Come hungry, come happy, and let’s celebrate a great year as we kick off summer in the most delicious way possible!



### **Let Go of Your Lego**

Is your foot tired of stepping on stray Lego bricks? Is your Lego bin bursting at the seams? We can help! Children’s ministry is on the hunt for Lego donations. If you have any Lego sets or loose pieces collecting dust, we’d love to give them new life in our ministry. Drop donations off at the St. Michael office or contact Katy Bass if you would like to contribute. Help us build faith and epic Lego towers one brick at a time!

### **Preschool Playtime**

Join us on Saturday, May 31 from 9:30 to 10:30am in the gymnasium for preschool playtime. It is a playgroup for all kids preschool-age and younger and their parents. There will be games, crafts, snacks and more. The theme for this month will be “May Flowers and Little Sprouts.”

### **VBS: Camp Moosefeather Falls**

Mark your calendars; VBS is back and better than ever! Get ready for an adventure-packed week from June 16 through 19 from 5:30 to 8:15pm.

- **Who can join?** All kids from four-year-olds through those entering sixth grade are invited to be a part of this exciting camp experience.
- **Meet your camp leaders!** Join Camp Director Dave, Kodi the bear and Beez the bee as they lead us through amazing Bible stories and joyful music each evening before we head to our cabins for more fun.
- **Choose your cabin adventure!** Campers will get to pick from awesome activity cabins in their age group including cooking, sewing, messy fun, Lego, science, sports, arts and crafts, games and more.
- **Register fast!** Registration is open, and cabins are filling up quickly. Don’t miss out on this unforgettable adventure. Register at [tinyurl.com/smlvbs25](http://tinyurl.com/smlvbs25) or using the QR code.
- **Questions or interested in volunteering?** Contact Katy Bass at [katy.bass@gsmlcs.org](mailto:katy.bass@gsmlcs.org).



Pack your bags for fun. We can’t wait to see you at Camp Moosefeather Falls!

## *From the Director of Children & Family Ministries (continued)*

**Katy Bass**

### **Calling All Grown-Up Campers: Volunteers Needed!**

Camp Moosefeather Falls is gearing up for an unforgettable week of songs, s'mores and sharing God's love, and we need **you** to make it happen! This wild and wonderful week can't run without lots of helping hands and big-hearted volunteers like you.

Do you love crafts, storytelling, snacks, games or just being a part of something amazing? Check out the information below, and see where your gifts could make a big difference in the lives of the kids in our community. If you are ready to join the adventure, find more information and sign up at [tinyurl.com/moosefeathervolunteer](https://tinyurl.com/moosefeathervolunteer) (or scan the QR code).



If you have any questions, please reach out to Camp Director Katy Bass by emailing [katy.bass@gsmllcs.org](mailto:katy.bass@gsmllcs.org) or texting (409) 790-9835. Let's make this a moose-tastic week to remember!

### **VBS Volunteer Information Meeting**

Get ready to embark on a wild adventure at Camp Moosefeather Falls VBS! We are holding an important volunteer information meeting on Monday, May 12 at 6:00pm in the cafeteria. Volunteers can be anyone from sixth graders through adults. Whether you're a VBS "pro" or a first-time helper, come learn everything you need to know to make this year's VBS a fun and faith-filled experience for our campers. We'll cover roles, schedules, training and will answer any questions you have. We can't wait to see you there. Let's get ready to lead with joy and share God's love in the great outdoors! If you have any questions, please contact Katy Bass.

### **St. Michael Cookbooks Are Here**

Our much-anticipated church cookbooks have arrived and will be available to purchase before and after all services on the weekends of May 4, 11 and 18. If you ordered a cookbook to be shipped, keep an eye on your mailbox. It should be on its way! Cookbooks cost \$20 each, and all proceeds are going to supporting the ministries of St. Michael. Thank you for the support, and enjoy cooking the delicious recipes!

### **DCE Intern Update**

Last month, we introduced you to our new DCE intern, Sam, and we're excited to officially welcome him to St. Michael beginning May 15! Pastor Dave and Katy had the opportunity to attend an intern and supervisor orientation at Concordia University Irvine in April. It was a wonderful time of getting to know Sam and learning how we'll be working together in ministry.

Sam is on track to graduate from Concordia in December 2025 which means that his internship schedule will be a little bit unique. He will be with us this summer from May 15 through mid-August before returning to Concordia to complete his final semester. His official year-long internship will begin in January 2026 and run through January 2027.



We have a plan in place to continue supporting our youth program while Sam is back at school this fall. In the meantime, let's give Sam a warm St. Michael welcome when you see him this month!





## *From the Ministry Coordinator*

**Lori Schwan**

### **Service Beyond the Walls**

St. Michael has benefited over the decades from Thrivent Financial (formerly Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood). Like me, many congregational members are also members of Thrivent and steward our gifts to be a blessing to others. Because I have helped Thrivent members connect with others who want to serve within our congregation, school, community, state, nation or beyond, I was asked to represent Thrivent in Washington, D.C. on their member advocacy trip on May 6 through 8. The purpose of the trip is to participate in a meeting with our local member of Congress and our state's senators to tell our Thrivent story and how we try to be a blessing as a fraternal benefit for society and a not-for-profit organization.



### **Senior Adult Luncheon**

The sixth grade students of SMLS are excited to welcome those who RSVPed to the senior adult luncheon on Friday, May 2 from 11:30am to 2:00pm. Please report to the office center with your driver's license to get your sticker to be on campus. Then, make your way to the gym. The students will be cooking and serving the food and organizing activities for the attendees. This will be the culmination of their service project week.

### **2W Club**

Over 20 people enjoyed a luncheon on Saturday, April 5 to form a new group of fellowship, outings and service for individuals who have lost a spouse. The 2W Club is open to any widow or widower regardless of age or church affiliation. We brainstormed activities to do on-campus and off-campus. If you did not get a survey to vote on prioritizing the activities or if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Gail Schultz at [gail1370@aol.com](mailto:gail1370@aol.com).

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

Join us on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00am on Zoom and on campus in the ELC boardroom for a women's Bible study led by Lori Schwan. Please bring the Bible verses that you wrestle with for us to dig in to together.

### **I Want to Trust You, but I Don't Bible Study**

Author and national Christian speaker, Lysa TerKuerst, will walk us through areas where we want to trust others, ourselves or even God, but we don't. Join this six-week Bible study for men and women from the book of the same title from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the ELC boardroom or virtually via Zoom on the following Tuesdays: May 13, 20 and 27.

