

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

Send to:  
shea.flynn@gsmcls.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

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Fort Myers, FL 33901  
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www.smlcs.org

you see them! As the Lord continues leading us in ministry and mission for His glory and purpose we are reminded that everything that is fulfilled on our campus is done for the sake of one unified goal: to share Jesus!

May your summer be one of rest, reflection and sharing Jesus wherever you go!

Abiding in Him,  
Pastor Dave

*Pastor Dave*

# The Messenger

*From the Pastor*

*Rev. Dave Bass*

Can you believe that it is already June of 2025? We are in the sixth month of the twenty-fifth year of this century. So often I find myself asking, "Where does the time go?" Time and day, weeks, months and years are all numbered as we move from one season to the next. All of life is under the careful watch of the Lord. In Acts 17:26, we are reminded that this is God's doing. "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed *times* in history and the boundaries of their lands."

As we live out these appointed times, Moses is apt to remind us to ask the Lord to give us wisdom for the living out of these days. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12).

We've seen the Lord's divine wisdom at St. Michael over the past three years. We've witnessed a pastoral transition of three decades and two bonus years wondering what that would look like. Now we find ourselves in June of this year (two years after the Divine Call was extended and accepted), and the Lord marked out the appointed time.

As I reflect on these past two years and on the decade of ministry the Lord appointed to Kati Miser as principal of St. Michael Lutheran School, I am reminded that ten is a number seen in Holy Scripture. The most notable example is the Ten Commandments. The number reminds us of God's completeness, divine order and perfection. I'm grateful that the beginning of my ministry intersected with Kati's ministry: divine order and perfection even if I struggle to understand all of the reasons why. Thank you, Kati, for your servant heart and hands from the littlest of the Little Saints to the "big" Saints in the eighth grade.

Numbers in Scripture continue to point us to God's perfect order in life and in all things. Three is a number that we see not only in the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) but also with our Lord's earthly ministry as well. Three gifts are presented to Mary on behalf of our Lord: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus invests three years of life and ministry here on earth, and there are three disciples who make up His inner circle: Peter, James and John.

The Lord has brought to St. Michael Dan, Roy and Sam. You'll recognize these three names as Dan Maser, the new principal for our school, Pastor Roy Peterson, our new associate pastor and CFO and Sam Morganstern, our new DCE intern for junior and senior high school students and young adult ministries. These are three names and faces you will be seeing as part of the St. Michael ministry team, the Lord having appointed their time and place here in our midst. Please welcome them when



Left to right: Dan Maser, Sam Morganstern and Pastor Roy Peterson

*From the Principal for the Interim*

*Shelly McGovern*



At St. Michael Lutheran School, *our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the love of Jesus Christ!* As another school year draws to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children to love and follow Jesus. But, wait! That mission continues with our summer camp and Vacation Bible School. What an opportunity to keep on proclaiming Jesus! Even if your children do not currently attend St. Michael Lutheran School, they (and any other children you know) are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School or summer camp.



Information and registration forms are available on our website at [smlcs.org](http://smlcs.org). Space is limited. For questions, contact Mrs. Sue Hampel at (239) 939-1218, ext. 229 or [sue.hampel@gsmlcs.org](mailto:sue.hampel@gsmlcs.org).

We want to take this opportunity to **thank you** for all your support throughout the school year. Your prayers and encouraging words have been so uplifting during this time of transition. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Dan Maser to our campus this summer as he begins his divine call as principal at SMLS. God is good!

We are accepting new online applications for the 2025-26 school year at [smlcs.org](http://smlcs.org). Click the admissions tab at the top of our website to apply.



*From the Director of Little Saints*

*Nikki Howley*

Summer has begun, and so has the summer fun! **Summer camp** is in full swing at Little Saints. Our classes have moved to a summer camp feel as we work on fun summer themes like ocean week and camping week. We will enjoy lots of water activities and hanging out in our tents. If you stop by the campus during the week, don't be surprised if you see splash pads, pools and fun sprinklers on the soccer field. You might even spot the gang sitting in the shade enjoying a nice, cool popsicle. We have a whole summer of fun planned for our Little Saints!



Summer is also a time of **staff changes** as we say goodbye to some of our teachers and have other teachers move into new positions. Little Saints is currently looking for someone who would love to help in the infant room from 7:30am-1:00pm Monday through Friday. The time is flexible to change. If it is something you would be interested in, please email me at [nikki.howley@gsmlcs.org](mailto:nikki.howley@gsmlcs.org).



*Above: 2025 Outstanding Educator Award winner Morgan Kollmann*

*Right: 2025 Outstanding Support Person Award winner Darrell Eacholes*

*Above: 2025 Judy Howell Award winner Megan Oharriz*

*From the Director of Youth Ministry**Sam Morganstern***I am excited to be here!**

My name is Sam Morganstern, and I am excited to be the DCE intern at St. Michael Lutheran Church. It has been a blessing this past week to meet and connect with many of you, and I am excited to continue to get to know you, meet new people and walk together in our faith as brothers and sisters in Christ.



I am Southern California born and raised, growing up in Orange County. I grew up in the Lutheran Church, attending Hephatha Lutheran Church and School in Anaheim Hills, CA. I attended my home church's school from preschool all the way through eighth grade, and I was confirmed at Hephatha as well! My calling into ministry was also realized through my home congregation as I had the chance to be hired on as an afterschool care staff member, and from there the rest was history. God used that opportunity to open new doors for me. I gained new experiences which eventually led to me transferring to Concordia University Irvine where I am finishing up my B.A. in Theological Studies with an emphasis in Christian education leadership and a director of Christian education minor this coming December. If you are interested in learning more about me, please take a look at my WIX site (<https://samuelmorganstern.wixsite.com/sam-morganstern-dce>) which I created this past semester in order to help introduce me to the congregation.

I am beyond grateful to serve at St. Michael, and I am looking forward to the extra three months I get this summer to connect with you and walk with you in Christ!

Blessings,  
Sam Morganstern, director of youth ministry and DCE intern

**Junior High Ministry**

Junior high youth groups will be continuing through the summer. Keep an eye out for emails with further information as they roll out shortly.

**High School Ministry**

High school youth groups will be continuing through the summer but on a different day starting the week of June 9! Please keep an eye out for an email with further information.

**Luther Springs**

I am excited to get the opportunity to take some junior high students to Luther Springs this summer! We will be commissioned on Sunday, June 22 and leave from church for Luther Springs. We will return on June 27. I would love to connect with the parents and students prior to leaving for this trip so we are able to get to know one another. Keep an eye out for an email with further details.



*From the Director of Worship & Music*

*Ben Ball*

*Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*



As you read through this glorious hymn text by Henry Van Dyke, I am willing to bet that you began humming or singing the tune in your head (or maybe you sang it out loud). This hymn gives but a glimpse of our future, heavenly worship overflowing with thanksgiving, worshipping God for who He is and what He has done. As worship pastor and author Rory Noland states so beautifully, “Every church service here on earth is preparation for the real thing—a rehearsal for the glorious praise gathering we will experience in paradise.”

I want to repeat a request that I made last summer. If you would, please fill out the “favorite song” form below and return it to me (or email your responses to me at [ben.ball@gsmllcs.org](mailto:ben.ball@gsmllcs.org)).

Blessings,  
Ben Ball  
Director of worship and music



Do you have a favorite *psalm, hymn, or spiritual song*? Or more than one favorite? Please list them below or send them to me in an email. Don't forget to include your name please!

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_



## 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!



### **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!

### **Sunday School Service Project**

On Sunday, May 4, our Sunday school students completed six fleece tie blankets and 24 creative coloring bags to support the youth at Bridge and Beyond, an emergency shelter in Fort Myers operated by Lutheran Services of Florida. Great job, kids!



### **Faith at Home Family Summer Boxes Available June 7-8!**

Summer is just around the corner, and we’re excited to help your family grow in faith while enjoying all the fun this season brings! Be sure to pick up your *Faith at Home* summer family box the weekend of June 7 and 8. June’s theme is “Faith Delivered: Pizza Box Prayers.” This is a creative way to help families stay connected to God and each other whether at home or on the go. These boxes are packed with engaging resources to encourage faith conversations and fun. They include silly games for long car rides, quiet activities like finger labyrinths, mealtime and bedtime prayers, conversation-starters and ideas for serving others.

Each activity includes a short instruction sheet lovingly prepared and clearly marked as a gift from the children’s ministry at St. Michael. These boxes aren’t meant to replace being part of the worshipping community; they are a supplement, a tool to use to help deepen faith and keep church close wherever summer may take you. Let’s make faith a part of your summer adventure; grab your box and enjoy the journey!

### **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](http://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@gsmlcs.org](mailto:katy.bass@gsmlcs.org) or texting (409) 790-9835. Let’s make this a moose-tastic week to remember!

## From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

### A Glimpse of God's Kingdom

When we think of three days working to meet with congressional leaders, we usually would not think of heaven, but that is what I concluded as I took my taxi back to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; I got a taste of what heaven can be like. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for God's kingdom to come through our lives, and that was the case for my fraternal member advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. on May 6 to 8. Over 40 people from Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Kansas, Missouri and Florida from Thrivent and Modern Woodmen of America gathered together to proclaim what God had enabled them to do. There was no division, only unity. I didn't even know who was a Republican or a Democrat; we were united as fellow Christians to serve in our hometowns and fill the gaps where local, state and federal aid aren't reaching.



I learned about the history of fraternal organizations and their nonprofit tax status as a 501(c)(8) and how Thrivent was officially formed on January 1, 2002 with the merging of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) which were established in 1902 and 1917 respectively. The merger formed the largest fraternal benefit society in the United States. Its members use the revenue to be a blessing to others. Our main goal was to help the elected officials connect with the fraternal members from their home states and districts as well as helping them see the impact and value of local fraternal activities in the communities they represent. How exciting it was to hear what God is doing through so many diverse situations to be a blessing to others! Thank you for allowing me to attend this trip and to share the incredible things that St. Michael has been doing in collaboration with Thrivent members.



### Thanks for Water Filters and Solar Lights

Thank you to the 11 Thrivent members who requested their free water filters and solar lights so we could put them together as a servant event. Though we didn't get to complete them as we hoped at the Senior Luncheon, middle and high school Sunday school and Wednesday night groups assembled the 33 items and wrote notes to their recipients. They have been shipped and will be distributed around the world providing clean water for up to ten years and light for an estimated 7,300 hours. If you are curious about them, you can watch video instructions on how to assemble the water filters ([youtube.com/watch?v=HB\\_BUTa45oI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB_BUTa45oI)) and the lights ([youtube.com/watch?v=RQDa4v0ZKg4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQDa4v0ZKg4)).



### Senior Adult Luncheon

The sixth grade students of SMLS worked hard to plan and sponsor the senior adult luncheon on Friday, May 2. The 50 students prepared the meal of salad, lasagna, strawberry shortcake and scotcheroos which was wonderfully received by the 27 adults who so graciously came. The students also made flower centerpieces which doubled as discussion-starters for the students and adults. Each table was a team for trivia, and both generations laughed as they learned some new facts and terms that they didn't know before. We hope this is the first of many years for such a special luncheon to take place during sixth grade service project week.

### Thursday Women's Bible Study

The Thursday women's Bible study attendees have decided to keep meeting over the summer with members facilitating Lysa TerKuerst's Bible study, *I Want to Trust You, but I Don't*. It will explore areas where we want to trust others, ourselves or even God, but we don't. Join the group on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00am on Zoom (meeting ID: 305 113 7001; passcode: church) or on campus in the ELC boardroom.

### DivorceCare

A new summer session of DivorceCare meets on Tuesdays from June 3 to August 26 from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the ELC boardroom. Join any session in-person or online. Go to [DivorceCare.org](https://www.DivorceCare.org) to register. Daily email devotions are also available at this site. If you have any questions, please call Lori Schwan at (239) 939-1218, ext. 237.