

Volume 15, Issue 6
June 2024

Deadline for submissions is the 15th 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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faith in you is the same God who is sustaining and preserving the fire of that faith so that you can live it out boldly, humbly and joyfully. Have a great summer, and I'll see you in worship!

In Christian love,
Pastor Dave Bass

Pastor Dave

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Dave Bass

Summer's Here... So Is Jesus!

Happy (almost) summer! The official start of summer is Thursday, June 20. However for most Americans, the unofficial star of the summer months begins with Memorial Day weekend. While Memorial Day gives us an opportunity as citizens of this great nation to give thanks to all who have given their lives defending the freedoms we enjoy, this weekend is also about enjoying our favorite pastimes. The beautiful weather this time of year along with a more open daily schedule usually allows us to relax a bit. Maybe you like to ease into summer with a daily swim or a bicycle ride. Maybe you enjoy a nice walk in the morning before it gets too warm and then getting together with friends for some time out on the water later in the day. I would be remiss if I did not mention firing up the grill for some delicious American fare. The grill or a campfire setting have always been part of our summer experience.

Fire (like the food that usually goes with it) tends to draw people together for fellowship. That's what we will be doing this summer at our weekend worship: drawing together for fellowship and being nourished by God's Word.

The sermon series for this summer is entitled *Campfire Stories: Parables of Jesus*. Throughout His ministry, Jesus shared many parables. We will take a look at 12 of them in the coming weeks. Some of them may be familiar to you and some may not. My prayer for the St. Michael family is that as we gather around the refining fire of God's Word (Jeremiah 23:29) we will be reminded that these earthly stories that Jesus told always have a heavenly meaning that makes a difference in our faith and our lives as His disciples.

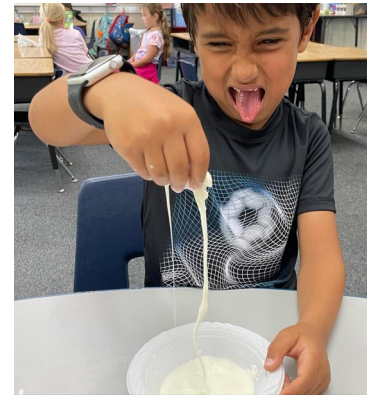
Whatever your summer plans may be (whether you are out on the open road on a destination vacation or staying locally on a "staycation"), I hope that you'll continue to gather in weekly worship with fellow believers in-person or online. No matter where you are, rest assured that the same God who kindled



*From the Principal**Kati Miser*

At St. Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of our Lord, Jesus Christ! As another school year draws to a close, we pray that our families continue to teach their children to love and to follow Jesus. But, wait! That mission continues with our summer camp which begins in June. 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 summer camp. Brochures are available in the school office, and camp director, Sue Hampel, is ready to answer your questions. Sue can be reached at sue.hampel@gsmlcs.org.



There is still time to give me a call if you want to see our school firsthand or want to show it to a friend, neighbor or family member. Online applications for 2024-25 are on our website.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support throughout the school year through your encouraging words and prayers, your helpful hands and your monetary donations. Thank you in advance for continuing that support even during the summer as we prepare our campus, our budget and our calendar for the next school year.

*From the Director of Little Saints**Stacie Thompson*

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 dinosaur week and camping week. We have been enjoying hanging out in our tents and making s'mores with our solar oven. If you stop by campus during the week, don't be surprised if you see water slides and splash pads on the soccer field or 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 assistants who are graduating college and moving on to pursue their careers. We are working on exciting changes as we start putting staff in place and getting ready to start a new school year in August.



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Thrivent Financial Members

If you own a Thrivent Financial Product, you can give \$250 two times without giving any of your money. Contact Lori Schwan to see how you can partner for a fundraiser, service project or an educational Thrivent Action Team.



Online Directory

Invitations to members who have not already signed up for the online digital directory were sent in May. As we pause Bible studies for the summer, this can be a great way to stay connected. You can login through this site: <https://smlcs.360unite.com/members>.

If you did not get your picture taken, you can edit your own account or email one to me at lori.schwan@gsmlcs.org.

Thrivent: June 2024 Events

Anyone who is interested can attend Thrivent's free virtual events for June 2024. Learn more about the events, and RSVP at <https://www.thrivent.com/member-network/southeast/events>.

Dr. Tony Evans: Kingdom Stewardship

Available on demand June 3, 2024—June 30, 2024

What is your God-given purpose? Join Thrivent along with Dr. Tony Evans where he will share insights from his book, *Kingdom Stewardship*. Learn how to faithfully protect and expand the resources God has entrusted to you.



2024 SMLS Drama Production

Congratulations to the cast and crew of our production of *The Little Mermaid* on their fantastic performances. We were transported "under the sea" by such a talented cast! We would like to give a huge thanks to Mike and Christy Wenzlaff, Sue Hansen, Jessie Tapia, Gabby Mantilla, Katie Ball, Rich Kline and Brad Barnum for all of the hard work that they put into this production.



*Saint Michael Youth Ministries****Saint Michael Youth Ministries*****LCMS Youth Gathering 2025**

Students currently in seventh through eleventh grades are invited to the LCMS Youth Gathering taking place in New Orleans. We will be gone July 18-24, 2025. If you already signed up, we will begin planning for our 12 months of fundraising. If you need more information, please check your email for the link or contact lori.schwan@gsmlcs.org.

**Youth Special Summer Connection**

We are planning special times this summer for each group to connect with each other in a fun way. If you have any ideas for youth activities in July, reach out to Lori Schwan.

High School Top Golf Adventure

By popular demand of our high schoolers, we will be going to Top Golf on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:00pm. Please bring money for food from [this menu](#). St. Michael will cover the renting of the bay. Help us plan for the event by letting us know by Sunday, June 16 if you are planning to come via [this Google form](#). Friends of St. Michael youth are welcome to join us.

Middle School Youth Escape Room

On Wednesday, June 12, our new sixth through eighth graders are invited to join us for an evening of excitement and teamwork at Escape Room Adventures on 12995 South Cleveland Ave. Suite 217, Fort Myers, FL 33907. Stay tuned for details about timing and pricing. Youth board policy is to never let finances stand in the way of a youth participating. Partial scholarships are available if needed. Let us know if you will be joining us so that we know how many rooms to book using [this Google form](#). We will need one adult for every six youth participating.

Volunteer Work Day at St. Michael

We will be having a volunteer work day at St. Michael on Saturday, June 29 from 8:00am-12:00pm. Youth are encouraged to join anyone from the congregation or school who wants to come help with our institutional renovation. We will be working in the youth room among other projects like cleaning, organizing and moving classroom furniture to the hallways to prepare for carpet cleaning. There will be things to do for people of all different abilities. Come be a part of this intergenerational service project on our campus!

Compassion International Scholarship

Thank you to everyone who is living generously by sponsoring a child in a developing country through Compassion International. Our youth group sponsors Renata, a 15-year-old girl who lives in Indonesia. In addition to bringing in cash to help pay for her \$43 monthly scholarship, you can now make electronic donations in the youth designation at secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8M7/home. Type "compassion" in the text box.

Growing in Faith During the Summer

Taking a break from Sunday school or confirmation during the summer doesn't mean we should break from growing in God's Word; we just have the opportunity to do it in a different way. One way to grow is by checking out one of the 20,000 Biblical videos offered through RightNow Media. It's like Netflix for Bible studies! St. Michael pays for the subscription, and RightNow Media wants us to share this resource with as many people as we can. Feel free to make use of it yourself, and pass it on to your friends. You can get started at <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/user/StMichaelLutheranChurch>.

**Stay Connected in the Summer**

If you are not getting emails or text messages about youth activities, please reach out to Lori so you can be added to these lists. Lori will be sending out devotions you can share with friends and family over the summer.

From the Director of Worship & Music

Ben Ball

*Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.
Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre;
praise Him with timbrel and dancing; praise Him with the strings and pipe;
praise Him with the clash of cymbals; praise Him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.*
—Psalm 150



I am so excited to share this progress picture of our new organ which will be installed this summer! The Allen Organ Company in Pennsylvania sent me the picture of the finished console still on the factory floor. The organ will move into the final construction stages shortly and then move into a strenuous final testing phase before it is crated for shipping to Florida. One thing to note, however, is that the installation of the instrument is not open to the public. As exciting as it is, the sanctuary will be considered a “construction zone” during the installation. So, it is open to the installation teams only. We will still have worship on Saturdays and Sundays as usual. I will update our social media account with progress pictures and descriptions so everyone can follow the progress of the installation remotely.

Mark Your Calendars

There will be several more dates to add this fall, but two very important dates to plan for are:

- **Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.** – In addition to it being Martin Luther’s birthday, we will be holding a festival of Reformation hymns led by organ, choir, soloists, readers and brass quartet.
- **Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** – We will hold the official dedication concert of the new organ!

Blessings,
Ben Ball

Opportunities to Serve at St. Michael

Church Cleaning

The church housekeeping team is looking for additional members! We have a small team keeping God’s house in order. If you are interested in joining the team, please call Lisa Ciarlo at (407) 864-7436.

Ushers and Communion Assistants

We need volunteers to serve as Communion is distributed. If you are interested in becoming an usher or Communion assistant, please contact Lee Berchtold at (239) 872-8999.



Sound Booth

We are in need of volunteers at all three service times who would be interested in serving in one of a few roles in the sound booth during worship. If enough people become volunteers, then they will be able to rotate weeks in the booth. Different roles are available from clicking through the slides to operating the sound board and camera for the livestream. No prior experience is needed; we can set up training with someone more experienced to help you get started. Please contact Ben Ball if you are interested in serving in this way at (239) 939-1218 or ben.ball@gsmllcs.org.

Altar Guild

The altar guild is in need of assistance at all three services. Altar guild is a wonderful way to serve at St. Michael behind the scenes and to make new friends! Please call Deb Helton at (239) 560-5830 for more information.



From the Director of Children & Family Ministries

Katy Bass

Sunday School in a Box

During our summer break from regular classes, families are invited to pick up a monthly “Sunday school in a box.” These boxes have everything a family will need to work through an interactive Bible lesson together. The lessons match up with the Sunday readings, sermon and children’s message. The activities, games and devotionals are designed for toddlers through teens to enjoy. In the box, you will find all devotions, directions for crafts and games and even some fun additions to help with activities. You can pick yours up in the narthex each month.

Worship Packs for Kids

Don’t forget to pick up a worship bag for your child as they enter the church. Each bag contains activities related to the sermon and children’s message, stickers, a craft and a snack. The plastic bags are yours to keep, but we ask that you return the pencil pouch to the designated basket.

Pancake Breakfast Party

Thank you to all of the kids who attended our pancake party on Sunday, May 19! We had a great time learning more about Pentecost, making a fun craft and enjoying yummy pancakes.



Church Nursery Update

Over the summer, the occupational therapy class that has been using the church nursery will be moving to another location on campus. This means that we will have more space in the nursery and are in need of **very gently used** or new items. We are looking for toys meant for children three years old and younger (preferably ones that do not make noise or play music). Other items that would be helpful include baby wipes, small packs of diapers in various sizes, Play-Doh, cookie cutters, board books, Lysol wipes and a child-sized table and chairs.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

You’re invited to join us for a time of fellowship in the cafeteria on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:30am. Coffee and refreshments will be served. You can use this time to get to know someone new or to catch up with old friends. Volunteers are needed to make coffee and to bring refreshments (pastries, donuts etc.). Please contact Laurel Volberding at (239) 470-8026 if you would like to help.

Volunteer Work Day at St. Michael

On Saturday, June 29, we will be holding a volunteer work day on the St. Michael campus from 8:00am to 12:00pm. There are a lot of projects that people will be able to help with. Some of the things that we’ll be working on are moving items, cleaning spaces and organizing rooms.