

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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Fort Myers, FL 33901
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faster and the only way for that to happen is drastic reform. Only a continued, close examination of the Word will continue to guide us to determine which is true. So, are we a congregation of the Reformation or a congregation that continues to be reformed? The answer is yes. As Dr. Luther said of the Reformation in his day, "The Word did it." So, of all good, continuing reformation within the Church and our lives we stand in agreement: "The Word must do it."

Continued blessings to you in Christ,
Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave

The Messenger

From the Pastor

Rev. Dave Bass

Reformed or Reforming? Why Not Both?

October 31 will mark the 507th anniversary of Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Since that date in history, much has unfolded not only in Christendom but in the world. To some extent, I think the reformer would be delighted with the technological advances that have been made with technology that has increased access to spreading the Gospel across the world. In other instances, he would probably be very disappointed that some who call themselves Christian or even Lutheran have abandoned core truths of the Christian faith. In some ways, it seems that the reformation within the Holy Christian Church is spoken of from an historical perspective. Tours are regularly offered to Wittenberg where one can visit the sites where Luther lived and preached and taught. But, the Reformation is not only about visits to historic locations via a tour bus. It was and is a vital movement for truth and life in the Church of Jesus Christ.

To answer the first part of this article's title, yes, we are Christians who have been reformed by the Word of God. The 'solas' of the Reformation still hold true: **sola scriptura** (the Bible is the only authority for Christians in faith, doctrine and practice), **sola fide** (salvation is found in faith in Jesus Christ alone), **solus Christus** (salvation is found in Christ alone), **sola gratia** (salvation is a gift of grace from God, not a result of human merit), **solus Deo gloria** (salvation is a work of God for His glory).

But, we are also Christians whom the Lord continues to reform within His Church in the present age. We need to always be reforming because we fail to understand and follow God's truth as we ought. Always reforming does not mean adapting or adjusting doctrine because the times have changed. Rather, it means turning as the Reformers did to the Word of God to allow it to change us, and, as we are changed, we bring that change to bear upon the needs of the present day.

The beauty in this truth is that the commission that Christ has given to His Church (Matt. 28:18-20) never has to be compromised for it stands outside of the bounds of all cultural whims and oppressions. Continuing to share the good news of the Gospel, that Jesus has indeed fulfilled all righteousness, has conquered sin and death and the devil for all people and is ushering in the new and everlasting creation through His Church, remains our sole aim and purpose. Throughout the centuries, the Church has had seasons of serious decline in doctrine or life and must be reformed. Other times, Christians may become convinced that the Church needs to grow



*From the Principal**Kati Miser*

Unbelievable! It's been almost eight weeks since school has been in session. Our campus is alive with over 100 faculty and staff who genuinely care about the more than 500 children that can be found at St. Michael. You hear the name of Jesus spoken during classes and in chapel, encouraging us to **endure** as we read in Hebrews 12:1-3, **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith..."**



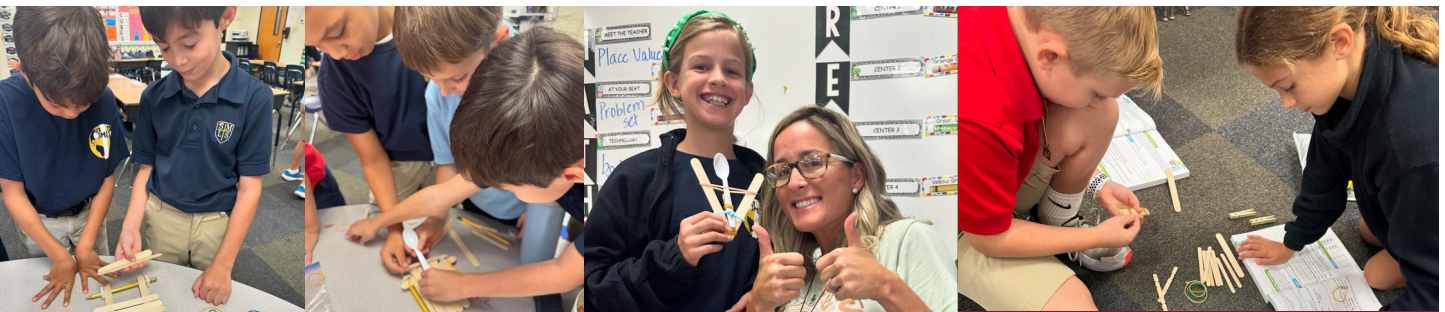
October is a busy month with activities you can participate in (especially by praying for those who are involved). Check with the St. Michael office for details.

- Bring your family to **Fall into Fun** (sponsored by our PTL) on Friday, October 11.
- **Fall break and staff development week** will be October 14-18.
- Our seventh and eighth grade students will be able to experience our **high school fair** on October 25.
- We will be holding our **Reformation service and confirmation** on October 27.



As you have heard, this is the school year in which we are renewing our **accreditation** with the National Lutheran School Association and COGNIA. Thank you for participating in the September survey that is a part of that process.

Your continuing prayers are requested on behalf of our ministry to children and families during the 2024-25 school year. **At St. Michael Lutheran School, our mission is to educate children and touch families' lives with the awesome love of our Lord Jesus Christ!** There is still time to give me a call if you want to invite a friend, neighbor or family member to experience St. Michael Lutheran School in the upcoming school year.

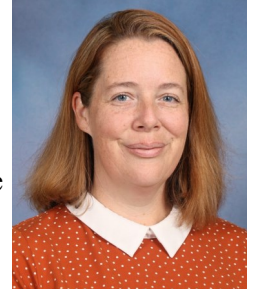
*From the Director of Little Saints**Nikki Howley*

We are happy to announce our annual **Pirate Pasta Dinner** was another huge success this year! This event is always a great chance for the families to get together, 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 FMFD back to visit with the kids. This is a great chance for the kids to meet the firefighters, learn about fire safety and 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 kids.

Little Saints will hold our tenth annual **Pet Food Drive** for ARC in North Fort Myers on November 3 through 10. Please keep us in mind for pet donations; the shelter could really use our help.



From the Ministry Coordinator

Lori Schwan

Thrivent Financial Members

We are gearing up for a fall full of fundraisers and special events. Contact Lori Schwan to see how you can partner with a fundraiser, service project or educational Thrivent Action Team to get \$250 as seed money to go toward the project.



Lysa TerKeurst and Natalie Grant Trust Again Tour

You can buy tickets for speaker Lysa TerKeurst and singer Natalie Grant's *Trust Again Tour* on Thursday, October 24 at First Assembly of God. There are various types of tickets available from VIP with a question and answer session beforehand, early seating or general admission. Seats aren't reserved. So, St. Michael members can purchase tickets through the following link: <https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-trust-again-tour-with-first-assembly-of-god-tickets/13717473>.

GriefShare

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grieving the death of a loved one: a spouse, parent, child, friend, sibling, coworker or other relative. Through this group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what is normal in grief. St. Michael's GriefShare is meeting on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00am through December 14 in Pastor Dave's conference room. Anyone who has lost a loved one can join any session. Please register at www.griefshare.org. Daily email devotions are also available from the same website. If you have any questions, please call Gail Schultz at (732) 991-0642.



DivorceCare

DivorceCare is currently meeting on Tuesdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm through December 17. Anyone who is separated or divorced can join any session. The group meets virtually and in-person in the early learning center boardroom. Please register at www.divorcecare.org. Daily email devotions are also available from the same website. If you have any questions, please call Lori Schwan at (239) 939-1218, ext. 237.

Thursday Women's Bible Study

Join us on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30am on Zoom on campus in the ELC boardroom for a women's Bible study led by Lori Schwan. We are currently studying the theological foundation of the LCMS Youth Gathering on the book of Hebrews.



Reformation Celebration
Sunday, October 27th
11:30 am - In the Gym

Join us for a celebratory lunch and some Reformation fun!
 Lunch is provided along with fun and fellowship opportunities.

Volunteers are needed to help with this event.
 If you are able to assist in the effort please contact
 Laurel Volberding @ 239-470- 8026





St. Michael Youth Ministries

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LCMS Youth Gathering 2025

Students in grades eight through twelve are invited to the LCMS Youth Gathering taking place in New Orleans on July 18-24, 2025. So far, we have had 12 youth, two young adult volunteers and four adult volunteers sign up. There is still time to register with a deposit of \$150.00. We will be meeting with all participants on Wednesday, October 9 to build community leading up to the event.

Wednesday Youth Nights

Join middle school and high school youth on Wednesday evenings for dinners, activities, devotions and small group discussions from 6:00 to 8:00pm. We ask for each family to sponsor a dinner during the year either through making, purchasing or funding the meal.

We will send out a Google form each week for youth to sign up so that we have an estimated attendance number for planning our meal.

Car Wash

All of our youth families would like to thank the St. Michael family as well as Edison National Bank for your incredible support of our first ever offsite sponsorship car wash. We raised \$6,000! If you didn't get a chance to submit your sponsorship, you can do that by putting your check in the offering plate with the memo "car wash." You can also submit your sponsorship via our online giving platform's youth account with the note "car wash" at tinyurl.com/smlgiving or by scanning the QR code on the right. All profits will go toward supporting the youth ministry in their various activities throughout the year.



Youth Ministry Weekend

We are excited to have nine youth attending the LCMS FL-GA District Middle School Youth Gathering and two students participating in the High School Leadership Event at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, FL on November 1-3. The final payment for the trip is due October 23.



Becoming a Confirmed Member of St. Michael

- **Foundations of Faith**—Adults who wonder what Lutheran Christians believe, want a refresher on Lutheran doctrine or would like to become members of St. Michael can attend Sundays through October 20 from 9:30 to 10:30am in the cafeteria. Those who choose to become members will be received at the Reformation worship service on October 27.
- **Ninth Grade Confirmands**—Thank you for keeping in your prayers the ninth graders who are preparing for their confirmation as they write their faith statements (due October 6) and meet with Lori Schwan for a one-on-one discussion. We are excited for them to share their faith as they are confirmed at our combined Reformation service on Sunday, October 27.
- **Youth Confirmation Modules**—Our first new confirmation module went great with nineteen youth learning about the Apostles' Creed. Congregation members will see their projects on display in the coming month. Our next module, Lutheran living, will be Sunday, October 20 from 12:15-4:00pm in the cafeteria. Lunch will be provided. Families can choose to have their kids in sixth through twelfth grades complete the seven modules in a way that best fits their schedule (over one year or several). The current eighth graders who already completed half of their study last year need to attend this module in order to be able to be confirmed in October 2025.

Stay Connected

If you are not getting emails or text messages about youth activities, contact Lori Schwan (lori.schwan@gsmllcs.org) so you can be added to our mailing lists.

From the Director of Worship & Music

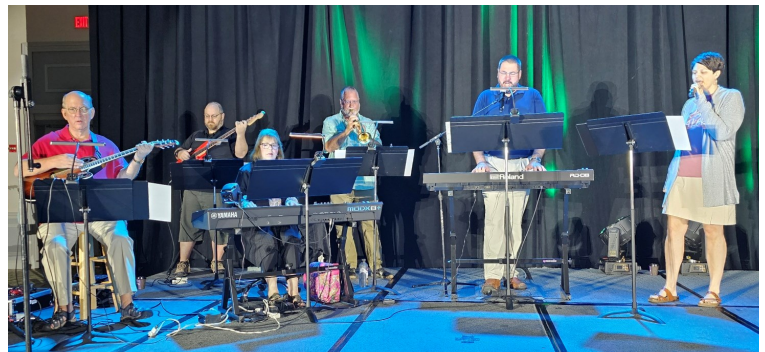
Ben Ball

*He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.*
-Psalm 40:3



If you read all of Psalm 40, we are reminded to be faithful, patient and to trust. God, the all-powerful, universe-creating Lord over all, hears us and cares for us individually and will act in His time and according to His will. But, what do we do while we are waiting? What do we do between the postlude on Sunday and the prelude the following Sunday? We continue to worship! We were created to worship God. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9). In some of my summer reading, one author summed it up this way: “We are created to worship; we are commanded to worship; we are called to worship; we are compelled to worship, and we are destined to worship (the primary act of heaven).” Worship is all of life and can be done anywhere and in everything we do, working, playing, going to school, raising our families, serving at church, because God is omnipresent. We worship a risen and living Lord and Savior!

St. Michael was honored to be asked to lead the daily worship and music sessions at the recent FL-GA District Educators Conference which was held September 25 to 27 in Daytona Beach. This is an annual gathering of roughly 700 teachers, pastors and other church workers from across our district.



Mark Your Calendars

There will be several more dates to add to your calendar this fall, but a few very important dates to plan to attend are:

- **Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 3:00pm** – In recognition of Martin Luther’s birthday, we will be holding a festival of Reformation hymns led by organ, choir, soloists, readers and brass quartet.
- **Friday, December 6, 2024 at 6:30pm** – *Sounds of the Season* Christmas concert
- **Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 3:00pm** – The official dedication concert of the new organ

Blessings,
Ben Ball

Thank You from One of Our Share the Music Scholarship Students

I would like to thank those who contributed to the *Share the Music Scholarship*. The funds blessed me and my family with the opportunity to continue my violin studies and play solo in front of my supportive church family. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Christ,
Nicola Willauer



From the Director of Children & Family Ministries

Katy Bass

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.

Weekday Mom Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 8:00am in the church narthex for a mom Bible study. Meg Shores is leading this group. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions, contact Meg at (478) 279-1812.

Family Movie Night

Gather the family, and join us for a movie night on Friday, October 4 in the gym. Bring your own chair or blanket to lounge on. The high school youth will be selling snacks as a fundraiser for upcoming activities. Doors open at 5:30pm, and the movie will start at 6:00pm.

Sunday School Service Project

Our Sunday school kids will be doing a service project on Sunday, October 13. We will be assembling health kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will be sent around the world to help people dealing with poverty, disaster and conflict. All children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us at 9:30am on October 13 in the art room to help assemble the kits.

Baptism Information Class

Have you been wondering about Baptism? Please join us on Sunday, October 6 at 9:30am in the cafeteria to find out more. Pastor Dave will help answer questions about the meaning and importance of Baptism along with any other questions. Katy Bass will then explain what this process looks like at St. Michael. If you have any questions, please contact Katy Bass at katy.bass@gsmc.org.

Church Cookbook

As part of the *Find Your Five* vision rollout, we are working on a church cookbook. Please watch for more information on ways you can help in the coming weeks. If you would like to be a part of the cookbook committee, please let Katy Bass know.



ST. MICHAEL FAMILY MINISTRY

MOVIE Night





CONCESSION SALES BENEFIT SMLC YOUTH GROUP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Snacks @ 5:30 pm Movie @ 6:00 pm

Bring your own chair, blanket, etc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KATY BASS [KATY.BASS@GSMCS.ORG](mailto:katy.bass@gsmc.org)