

Saint Michael Lutheran Church

"Drawing people to God's love in Jesus, and empowering them to become fully devoted followers of Christ"

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

THE MESSENGER

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From the Pastor

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Gifts Vital to Our Future LEADERSHIP



Pastor Jon

As we bask in the light of our Anniversary celebration, we remember that the single greatest spiritual truth we have to share is that salvation is a gift of grace and not the result of doing a bunch of good things in order to earn our way into God's good favor. Salvation is a gift you just can't earn! (Titus 3:4-7)

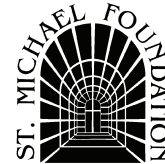
After bringing us to faith and into a relationship with Jesus, God then formed us into a "family". He called us into community and made us inter-dependent. And then He gifted us, so that together we could make a difference for eternity.

God has brought us through and blessed us for 65 years! And as we look to the future of St. Michael ministry, we want to talk about some of the gifts that are vital to that future. And the first of those gifts is – **Leadership**. Romans 12:8 says, leaders – those who have this gift, should lead with diligence. In other words, do something with that gift, develop it, own it, be faithful in how you steward it because it is important to the kingdom of God.

Here are 4 facets of the leadership gift:

- They have the God-given ability to imagine an attractive God glorifying and exciting future – to develop and share that vision with others.
- They have the God-given ability to unite people for a common purpose.
- They have the God-given ability to inspire and unite people.
- They have the God-given ability to engineer change.

The challenge for all of us as we move into the next 65 years of ministry is to continue to be strengthened by God in His grace and empowered to serve Him with the gifts that He has given us. A church like ours certainly needs effective leaders to use their God-given spiritual gift of leadership. Is God calling you to put your hands on the wheel to help steer this ministry?



Foundation News

Helen Gratzner Gift

"Helen Gratzner was a very gracious, caring, thoughtful, and most generous individual. When Helen learned that Pastor Jon and our daughter Joni were coming to St. Michael back in 1991, she shared with me 'bits and pieces' about the congregation, its history, and ministry. She mentioned the original church on Grand and Lafayette, the move to McGregor Boulevard, and the present campus. Although Helen's home congregation was Messiah Lutheran in Fairview Park, she spent winters here in Fort Myers and often worshipped at St. Michael. Annually, Helen generously supported a long list of Lutheran organizations in the Cleveland area, as well as national and international ministries. In 1995, Helen contributed to the Fine Arts/Athletic Center construction here at St. Michael. Helen was called to her heavenly home on October 9, 2003. Through her trust, she made one last gift to those ministries that were close to her heart ... St. Michael was blessed to be one of those." (Written by Dorothy Petri, Church Secretary of Messiah Lutheran, and now a St. Michael member).

The Foundation has received \$650,000 from the Gratzner Estate. Knowing Helen's history of contributing and blessing congregations through construction and donations for the large stained glass windows at Messiah, \$500,000 was designated for the Imagine campaign and \$150,000 will be used by the Foundation to establish an endowment in Helen's name.

