



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

April 2024

From The Pastor

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! It never gets old to say, but how will we identify with the resurrection after Easter Sunday? Certainly, creation keeps bearing witness. Spring is coming out of the deadness of winter these days. Of course, changing of seasons is not the same as Jesus rising from the dead. Plenty of religions cling to the cycles of creation to identify with spiritual death and life. However, the wisdom of God is in the death of His Son as a onetime sacrifice. There are no more cycles, but a new creation, new day, and new confession to a living Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ will never die again. Death has no hold over him. From the earliest times, Sundays for the church were always connected to the victory of Christ crucified. It was not something simply to add to our present life, but a whole new expectation by faith in the Gospel has come into the world. "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28).

Those first disciples were eyewitnesses to the resurrection. They confirmed Christ's crucified was not a loss, but won forgiveness for a sinful world. It means His glory now as the living Lord does reach out far more than to any single generation. To identify with the death and resurrection of Christ is built into the promise of how He comes by the Word and Sacraments. These gifts of grace are not for spectators to shrug off, but a service by Christ to redeem, restore, and refresh all by His Name. Such wisdom of God is care from the living Christ for all the baptized just as He calls others to Himself. To silence sin, destroy death, and shame the Devil is His life before life. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

Our newness of life is justified in Christ by the promises of God's Word. It means to identify with Christ risen as hope beyond what life itself can offer, to have His cross shape us in a service of love unknown to the world, and to see a fight with our sinful nature until death. Faith cannot look at self or would despair of this life and so it belongs to our risen Lord and Savior. Martin Luther knew plenty who took refuge in this present life with its comforts and pleasures only to state, "It's no surprise such people are aggravated by hearing about the resurrection. But to us, this message is pure comfort and joy because we hear that our greatest treasure is already in heaven. Only a small part remains on earth, which Christ will resurrect and draw to himself, as easily as a person awakening from sleep" (Through Faith Alone, April 5th). Because Jesus lives bodily, so will you by His grace and goodness never to die again. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3). Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!



Pastor

Church Directory Photography

Schedule your appointment today!



It's time for the church to have a pictorial directory done and your involvement is very important to the congregation and Pastor. Our new Pastor, Pastor Jerry Gauthier, has requested to have a new pictorial church directory done. First, because we are due for one at St. John considering it has been 5 years. Second, to be a tool for him to help know your names, pray for your families, and to better minister to the congregation. Finally, so that members can get to know each other and grow in Christ's love as St. Paul commends, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up..." (1 Thessalonians 5:1).

All you need to do is sign up for an appointment and come smile for the camera. You will get a free 8x10 and a copy of the directory. You are under NO obligation to purchase pictures. If you are unable to come, please contact one of the committee members for other options. Pictures will be taken April 10-12 from 2-8:36pm and April 13 from 10:00am-4:00pm with many times still available. Contact Kelly Schimm 248-909-7057 or Molly Revord 989-280-0739 to schedule!



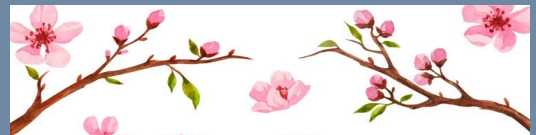
We need your help! A grass cutting team is being formed and we could use few more volunteers to help with the lawn mowing. Contact Carl Nuffer 989-686-0338 to volunteer. If you would like to help but don't like or want to

cut grass, we would happily take any donations of money or gift cards to local gas stations. Donations can be put into any offering basket just make sure you label it for lawn mowing.

Did you know! On an average we have 50 weekly online views of our church service. On Easter Sunday we had 89!



As you can see giving was low in March. The expenses exceeded the donations coming in. We borrowed \$15,000.00 from Church Extension Fund on April 1, 2024 to make sure that payroll and other expense were covered. Please continue to pray for St. John Amelith.



SPRING!! Artisan Landscaping did a fall clean up in October 2023 trimming bushes and cleaning up what they could. Now a spring cleanup is needed. The Landscaping/Flower Committee is looking for volunteers to clean up flowerbeds around the church and school property. If you are willing to help, you are welcome to stop over anytime to do some raking, pickup branches, cut dead stems and branches from perennials. Helping with cleaning flowerbeds or making a donation towards the cost of annuals, fertilizer, etc would be great. Call me if you are able to help. Debbie Fisher 989-397-5304

Livestream Call Day 2024

Soon will be the upcoming assignment and call services at both Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary – St. Louis. At these services, vicarage and deaconess internships will be assigned, and candidates will receive their placements for Divine Calls. All services will be live-streamed, and you will be able to join in the excitement virtually, if you aren't able to be there in person!

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne



April 23: Vicarage and deaconess internship assignments at 7 pm

April 24: Pastoral and diaconal calls at 7 pm

For more information and to watch the livestreams, visit ctsfw.edu/callday.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis



April 23: Vicarage and deaconess internship assignments at 3 pm (CDT);
Pastoral and diaconal calls at 7 pm.

For more information and to watch the livestreams, visit csl.edu/call-day.

Join us in keeping all of these men and women in our prayers, including St John member Kaleb Yaeger and his wife, Rachel (Ft Wayne), that God might use them mightily in His service.

VLHS Ministry Update

Celebrating National Reading Month

March is a big month in grade school! As the nationally appointed “Reading month,” schools fill each week with many different activities to encourage and foster a love for reading among the students. For the second year in a row, Valley students took part in the fun. This year six different area Lutheran elementary schools, including St John Amelith, welcomed our students to spend time together in a good book!



FINE ARTS **EVENTS**

UPCOMING

APR 14 **HANDBELL CONCERT**
4 PM, VLHS

MAY 2-4 **“LITTLE WOMEN”**
7 PM, VLHS

MAY 21 **SPRING CONCERT**
6 PM
ST. LORENZ, WEC



Ministry Transition: Wellspring Lutheran Services Takes Over Programs for Adults With Developmental Disabilities

Michigan's Wellspring Lutheran Services and Wisconsin's AbleLight (formerly Bethesda) signed an official Letter of Intent to facilitate the transition of four programs serving adult disabled persons from AbleLight to Wellspring. This decision comes after months of thorough exploration and negotiation, aimed at ensuring the smoothest transition possible for individuals served and the current Michigan-based team from AbleLight.

The programs consist of four of AbleLight's Michigan-based operations, including two programs in Saginaw and two programs in Frankenmuth. Collectively, these programs provide essential supportive services to approximately 22 individuals annually, tailored to meet their individual needs and promote the most independent lifestyle possible.

This agreement initiates a four-month period of further exploration, focusing on a seamless transition with minimal disruptions to clients and staff.

Wellspring President and CEO David Gehm said, *"AbleLight's commitment to quality care for people with developmental disabilities, particularly those affected by this transition, aligns with the Wellspring mission, creating synergy for a successful transition. While this venture represents new territory*

programmatically for Wellspring, it resonates with our longstanding history of serving overlooked or underserved populations across Michigan. With AbleLight's ongoing support, we anticipate a smooth transition and a promising future."

AbleLight Chief Financial Officer Brian Savoie shared insights into AbleLight's decision: *"When we made the difficult choice to exit our work in Michigan, our Board of Directors and senior leadership immediately sought a mission-focused, faith-based partner aligned with our mission. We were delighted to discover Wellspring, with its rich history of service throughout Michigan and a strong presence in Saginaw County. We believe this transition to Wellspring will perpetuate AbleLight's legacy for many years to come."*

The operational control of these four programs by Wellspring is expected to be complete by June 1, 2024. For more information, visit wellspringlutheran.com.



Rooted in God's Word, Growing in Christ's Love, Branching Out to Serve, Bearing Fruits of Faith

Contact Us

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