



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

August 2023



THE LORD IS FAITHFUL . HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS .

August 1, 2023



Blessed saints at St. John,

The Divine Call extended was neither easy nor taken lightly. Your Call Committee asked for a pastor that was “Not looking for a Call” and this was true for me. Yet, during this time I was reminded of the great mission efforts of St. Paul. He was going in one direction and often received redirection. God even set before him a great need as an urgent prayer; “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9).

We dare not look to visions or signs for answers, since only the Word remains true to abide alone in Christ. However, after much prayer, conversations, and deliberation, it is my decision to accept the Divine Call to St. John. I look forward to serving you in the honor of His ministry to the Holy Word and Sacraments. We can discuss further the details in the weeks ahead about our move to Michigan.

My wife and I enjoyed the visit with you in July and were thankful for your hospitality. As the Lord led you to call me with confidence to abide in Him, so with confidence in Christ I will seek to the care for His flock at St. John. Decisions go with life, but our peace and better hope remain in the Lord and Savior Jesus. He goes before us, stands with us, forgives us, and is faithful.

Peace be to you in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Gerald A. Gauthier II



Every Summer the Principals of our Lutheran Schools in Michigan meet for a three day conference at Higgins Lake to prepare for the upcoming school year. Can you spot Mrs. Hambaum?



Cardinal Connection

School Begins August 22 with chapel at 8:15am. Please consider joining our school children for our opening worship opportunity. In fact, consider this an open invitation to join us every Wednesday morning at 8:15 for our school chapel time.

All Lutheran schools gather regularly for worship. To be sure, God's word is taught every day in the day school; but chapel times are not only an additional time of instruction, they are times of corporate worship. Like Sunday worship, School chapel is framed around liturgy that is simplified and child-friendly. Liturgy helps the worshiper focus on who God is and how the work of His Son, Jesus is central to the Christian's life. In school chapel services we sing age-appropriate songs and hymns that both offer worship and praise as well as instruction.

Our school chapel service is generally 20-30 minutes. Please consider joining us occasionally or even regularly. Christians are encouraged in our faith when we worship together. Let our SJA school family be an encouragement to you while at the same time serving as an encouragement for our students and faculty.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum

Dear Family of St. John, Amelith

In his letters to the churches the Apostle Paul always ended with endearing words of grace and love. Those with whom he shared the glorious Gospel of Jesus meant the world to him. Expressions when friends end time together are more than a simple good-bye.

St. Paul mentioned a few by name like Archippus or Onesiphorus without offending others he could have named. Likewise, there is no way to individually thank so many of St. John's family for your kindness to me and Sue over the past year. We have been so warmly received. But I will mention only a couple to represent you all. I sincerely thank Gary Kloha for his kindness along with each of the men who serve as St. John elders. You men could not have been more supportive.

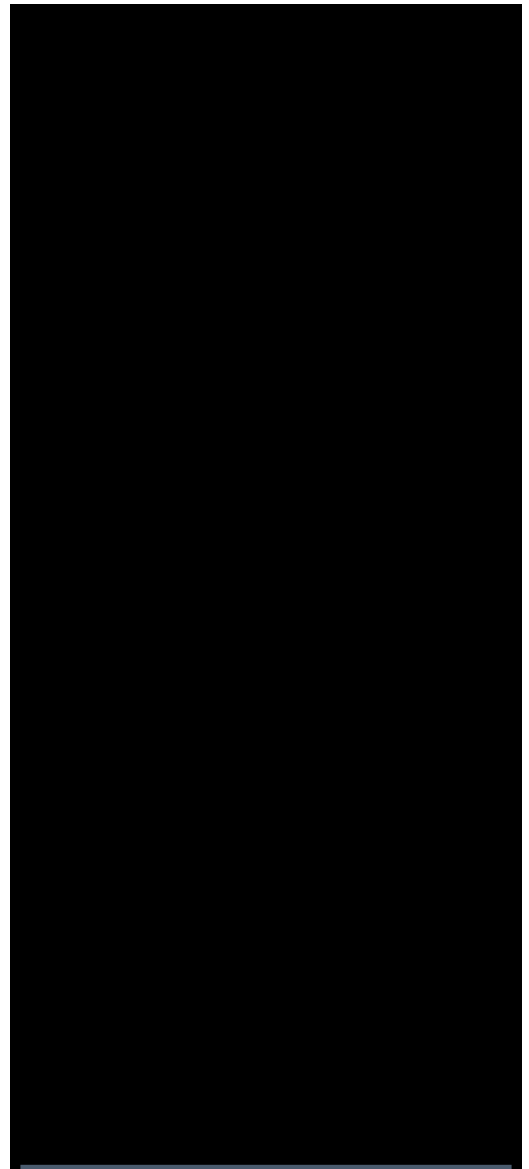
I am also grateful to Pat Hambaum for the caring and conscientious way she and all the St. John School faculty continue to advance the treasure of Lutheran education. You have in your teachers far more than most realize. And for her ready smile and dedication I thank Kara Warnke who could well represent all the caring women of St. John who serve so willingly and love the church. I thank all of you.

I rejoice that God's Spirit will ever be with you, and I remind you that the Lord Jesus is returning. Until then may you be blessed in the new exciting season of ministry ahead with Pastor Gauthier.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen. (1 Cor. 16:23-34)

Pastor Reed



Pastor Reed wearing a new stole, gifted to him by the congregation in recognition of 40 years in the pastoral ministry.

HELP!!! \$20,000.00 was borrowed against our line of credit with Church Extension Fund on Tuesday, July 25th. This is in addition to the \$10,000.00 that was borrowed in June, 2023. We have a line of credit with a limit of \$100,000.00. This will put us at about \$80,000.00. There is only \$20,000 that we can still borrow. The donations have been low as they usually are during summer months. I didn't have enough to cover payroll or other bills needed to be paid. If you can help throw in a few extra coins in the basket would be a great help. Thank you so much for your continue prayers and support.

Debbie Fisher Treasurer

Did you graduate in 1982 or 1983 from Valley Lutheran? The committee is planning a class reunion September 16 in Saginaw. This also coincides with Homecoming (Football game Friday night)! If you have not been contacted or made aware, you may contact Heidi Behnke at Valley Lutheran High School 989-790-1676, Tracie (Lynes) Riebschleger at 616-318-7034 or Sheila (Witto) Neuenfeldt at 810-845-7297 for details.

Now Accepting Pill Bottle Donations

Matthew 25 Ministries is a medical ministry that serves developing countries. We are collecting empty, clean plastic pill bottles for them to help the poorest of the poor by providing a way to distribute medicine in capped, unlabeled, and sterilized containers.

Pill Bottle Donation Guidelines

- Prescription, over-the-counter, with and without child-resistant caps are all accepted
- All labels must be removed
- Please thoroughly rinse all bottles
- Please place all bottles in small bin on the table in the narthex

Thank you for your participation with this service project.

Hotel-Sized Toiletries Now Being Collected

The McNally House in Saginaw is a hospital guest house similar to Ronald McDonald houses where out-of-town families can stay while their loved one is hospitalized. Please place unopened toiletries in the bin on the table in the narthex.

Last Chance! Some St John members have inquired about purchasing an engraved brick to be placed in the memorial garden by school. The gentleman who provides this service is retiring and will only complete orders through the middle of September. If so inclined, order brochures can be found in the narthex and turned into the church office.

SCRIP (gift card) orders are a major fundraiser for our school. A percentage of the purchase price is given back to St John to offset school costs. Orders can be made at raiseright.com using the enrollment code: 86L22AE444382. Orders can also be placed in the school office before the 1st of every month.

The Trustees are currently taking bids for cleaning services for the church and school. This position can be for both buildings or they are willing to consider 2 bids to cover each building separately. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Tom Rohde.

We welcome a new 1st and 2nd Grade teacher!



Hello. My name is Katie Gaeth and I am so excited to be a part of St John! I live in Saginaw and have Previously taught in Bangor and Saginaw. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and building a classroom family with my kiddos!

VLHS *Ministry Update*

- Valley Lutheran now has unlimited access to *RightNow Media*—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library can be used in religion classes and chapel services.
- VLHS Welcomes Kelsey Clark as Varsity Women's Basketball Head Coach. Coach Clark brings a lot to the table and will lean on her experience as a sub-varsity coach, a basketball trainer with 2nd to Non Basketball, and her playing time at Heritage High School.
- The bus barn expansion has been completed and will house all three buses.
- The following student athletes earned medals at the Track and Field State competition this past Spring: Preston Kelsey (5th in Long Jump), Noah Eden (6th in Pole Vault, set a new school record of 13'6"), Claire Neumann (3rd in the 400m, and 4th in the 200m).
- VL Ultimate Frisbee Club Team competed in the State competition and won the championship title!
- Several members of the Trap Team qualified for the State competition.
- The Varsity Boys golf team qualified for States.
- The call committee held interviews in July for the executive director position. A call will be extended after the August 16 board meeting.
- Enrollment as of the June meeting is 304 students for all grades
- As of the 2023 graduation, Valley now has 3760 total graduates since its founding.



August 10 - School Registration 5:30-7:00

August 20 - Installation and Recommissioning of Teachers, Blessing of the Backpacks,
Soft Move in day for school. 9:30 a.m.

August 22 - Opening Day of the 171st School Year at St John! - 1/2 day - Opening chapel
8:15 a.m.

August 24 - School Parent Orientation 6:00

Date in September to be Determined - Installation of Pastor Gauthier

September 1 - 4 - No School

September 7 - School Picture Day

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

Contact Us

St John Lutheran Church
1664 Amelith Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706

989-686-0176
office@amelith.org