



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

January 2024

From The Pastor

*“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side,
HE has made him known.”
John 1:18*

Christmas is far more than a single day just to pack everything away until next year. It is a “season” the Church celebrates able to carry us into the new year. What God makes known by His birth from the Virgin Mary directs us to knowing Him. Without Christ, the Old Testament would remain a promise unfulfilled for humanity (Galatians 3:23). Without Jesus, darkness would rule the day having no light showing us the love of God (2 Corinthians 4:6). Without the Son, God would be distant being unable to call upon Him as his children (1 John 1:3). The Christmas season gives us hope to enter a new year already knowing God is with us, Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Certainly, many thanks go out to those who answered the call to help as servants in the church this past year at St. John. May this blessing continue into 2024 knowing God born in a manger goes to the cross as the sacrifice that none can give. Where New Year’s resolution emphasizes our works, Jesus leads us into the season of Epiphany (Jan.-Feb.) revealing how His Word brings life to our lives. How much do we need to hear again what He says, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42). His Word of the Gospel is what He has also given as God’s mission and ministry for a sinful world.

Having full confidence in this good news made known by Christ happens daily from our promise of baptism, weekly at His Divine service, and throughout our lives. This becomes an Epiphany to others in our daily lives. The body of Christ is a witness whether together or apart. St. Paul tells us, “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...” (Romans 12:6). Bigger than a man-centered community with a house built on sand, Epiphany reveals Jesus does change lives for He is God in the flesh. This Christ-centered community built on Him continues to call out to all who have ears to hear. It is not a choice or strength of man, but a work of the Spirit coming from Jesus’ Word and Sacraments. Blessed with the Lord, this New Year is to be a gift in our lives with faith in Him and love for others, as He loves us.



The Light of Christ be with you all,

Pastor Gauthier

Treasurer's Report

December 2023

Home	\$ 89,938.30
Electronic Giving	3,278.00
Loose Offerings	2,558.00
Tuition	7,200.00
School Trip Reimb	2,027.14
Land Usage	2,100.00
Misc. Income	350.00
Auditorium	250.00
Youth Supplies	100.00
Lutheran Witness	95.00
Debt	45.00
Bulletin	25.00
Valley Lutheran H.S.	20.00
December Total	\$ 107,786.44
December Expenses	\$ 63,880.16
Other Donations	\$ 1,983.91
Missions	869.00



The Valentine's Day Chicken BBQ is back! It will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024, with take-outs beginning at 10:30am, and full sit-down dinners beginning at 11:00, in the gym. The meal will include 1/4 or 1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, and the best desserts anywhere!

Join us for the BEST CHICKEN BBQ in mid-Michigan on February 18!

Contact Us

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COMING SOON

A new report format will be in the bulletin and the newsletter soon. It will be once a month to give a better comparison for income vs expenses. If you would like a more detailed account of the income and expenses, look for the report on the table in the church entrance. This wonderful blessing of donations received in December helps our finances. It helped get many bills paid that were set aside on a pile because there were no funds to pay them.

All daily expenses are caught up to date. Donations have come in for the following items over the past year that need to be remitted.

Mission \$ 11,244.00
(Includes Missionary Mahlburg's \$4000 to support his ministry)

Cemetery Fund \$6,600.00

Church Extension \$10,000
(per congregation vote to pay down principal \$40,000.00 was already sent still need to send the \$10,000.)

After these funds are remitted, we have about \$35,000.00 in the bank account which will cover payroll for the month of January. Please continue to keep St John members and finances in your prayers and giving as donations continue to be needed to cover everyday expenses such as salaries, utilities, maintenance supplies, insurances, etc. Any questions, feel free to contact me, Debbie Fisher 989 684-8074.



The weekly Women's Bible study will begin on Wednesday, January 10 at 9:00-11:00am, in the church basement. We will be studying the book of Nehemiah through "Endurance", a study book by Donna Snow. Books are available for \$13.25. Please join us!

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