



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

October 2023

From The Pastor

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.” Galatians 1:6-7

As the month of October is a reminder of farmers in the fields and hunters out looking for wild game, we take a moment to recall our Lutheran heritage and the benefit it gave to the entire Western Church. Many picture Martin Luther hammering the 95-theses on to the castle door church in Wittenberg as what opened the floodgates for true Reformation. However, the Gospel is not merely something “discovered” like a scientist in a lab. It is not about just doing the right thing and “poof” the Reformation just falls into place. Instead, what happened was truly a miracle that let light shine once again in the darkness. Yet miracles are short lived, especially when attention spans today are at an all-time low. You can hear St. Paul clearly say, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you...”

The problem remains for us just as it did for Luther AFTER the Reformation. It is not as if hammering on the door sounded forth change and victory in Christ. Luther tells us the reality he faced, “So we today complain with Paul that the blindness and perversity of men is so horrible that no one is willing to accept the doctrine of grace and salvation. Or if there are some who accept it, they soon fall away from it. Nevertheless, it brings with it every benefit, both spiritual and physical, namely, the forgiveness of sins, peace of heart, and eternal life. It also brings light and sound judgment about everything. It approves and supports civil government, the home, and every way of life that has been ordained and established by God. It eradicates all doctrines of error, sin, death, sedition, confusion, etc. In short, it uncovers all the works of the devil and opens to us the works of God. What madness is the world up to when it so bitterly hates this Word, this Gospel of eternal comfort, grace, salvation, and eternal life, and when it blasphemes and persecutes it with such satanic rage?” (Luther’s Works Vol. 26).

Madness abounds not merely from darkness, but when distorting the Gospel no longer allows for the Gospel. If the devil cannot hold a person in captivity, he will just throw them into chaos. We are facing chaos in our time. It extends far beyond governance, economics, or even defining family. Only Christ and His Word can save sinners from spinning out of control in this world. “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). Holding the course is to confess the Reformation by teaching the Word of God in truth and purity while administering the sacraments according to Christ. Herman Sasse, a modern day Luther, understood Lutherans in American were in a land of confused Christianity. He says, “Only by means of this ‘rigid’ (as the world calls it), firm, and clear position was Lutheranism able to maintain itself. There was no Lutheranism that was receptive to the influences of the world, that was broad-minded, liberal, and modern. There were indeed Lutherans who became liberal. But then they ceased to be Lutheran” (Letters to Lutheran Pastors, Vol. 1 167).



Reformation Day

God keep us steadfast in His Word, *Pastor Gauthier*



Students play on the new playground structure, enjoying Fall temperatures. The tree planted in the foreground is a new addition, in memory of long-time St John teacher, Nancy Bauer.



Cardinal Connection

Here are a few questions for you...What is **celebrated** at Christmas? Of course, we as Christians know the answer is Jesus' birth. What is **celebrated** at Easter? Again, the answer is obvious - Jesus' resurrection. Here's a little harder one...What is **celebrated** at Thanksgiving? According to Britannica, we celebrate the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Christians, particularly, give thanks to God.

Now, if I asked you **how** we celebrate each of these observances, there we'll get a whole list of answers that both Christians and non-Christians agree on. Christians, of course, put up Christmas trees, hunt for Easter eggs and look forward to Santa and the Easter Bunny's visits. Christians also make a point to **worship** God on those high festivals because we understand what is truly **celebrated**.

What is a Christian to do about October 31 then? So many traditions and activities associated with Halloween center around fun for children so we, in our Lutheran school grapple with this question annually. We know that Halloween has pagan and even demonic historic roots and that Christians have nothing to **celebrate** on that day. So here's how we've chosen to mark the end of October. In our school we let children have fun and dress up, but we're careful to stress that costumes may not be scary. We have classroom parties, but our activities are careful to avoid demonic symbols and characters such as witches and ghosts. Of course we pass out candy....because...it's candy!!!

As a school we don't want to squelch fun or be serious all the time. The Christian life should be joyful! We are also charged to live **IN** the world, just not **OF** it. We want our Christian witness to reflect the freedom we have as God's chosen people. That means that we are very intentional about how we observe October 31...and we never, never celebrate it.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum

Cardinal Music

Throughout each week the students of St. John Lutheran make their way from their homerooms to the Music Room to sing in Choir, play in Band, or do other fun music activities in General Music.

This year in choir the older students have started out learning how to navigate hymnals, psalm chants, and liturgies, and seeing how they fit with the festivals of the Church Year. The students are eagerly awaiting the Christmas season and are already requesting their favorite Christmas carols to sing in class!

The school looks forward to Oct. 15th, when we will be celebrating Education Sunday. All of the kids from Kindergarten through 8th Grade will be singing an anthem based on Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." The students thank you for your support!



TRUNK OR TREAT

WHEN: Saturday, October 28th

WHERE: ST. JOHN PARKING LOT/
PAVILION

TIME: 6:00 Treating
6:30 Trunk judging and potluck
(After treating is finished)

Come and join us for the annual Trunk or Treat. You are invited to park your car, decorate it, and hand out treats. Plan on 75 children participating. Treating will start when the siren sounds from the fire truck.

There will be a trunk decorating contest with prizes for first, second and third place. Let's see how creative you can be! In addition, there will be a treasure hunt, potluck and a movie. "Spookly the Square Pumpkin" will be showing. We are asking everyone to bring a dish to pass. This can be a hot dish, fruit or veggies, or a dessert. Drinks and paper products will be provided.

Deb Hutter will be at the road by 5:30 to direct traffic. Please speak with her before parking.



Special Music at St. John-Musicians needed! - The Bell Choir and the Choir are looking for additional members to join their ranks. Even if you have never rung a bell before or sung in a choir, we'd love to have you join us! Bell

Choir meets to practice on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm, and Choir meets at 7:00 pm. You can only make it certain times of the year? We'd love to see you when you can! Can't make Thursday nights? Please talk to Peter Schimm and maybe something else can be arranged. ALSO, do you play other instruments well? Please talk to Peter about that, too.



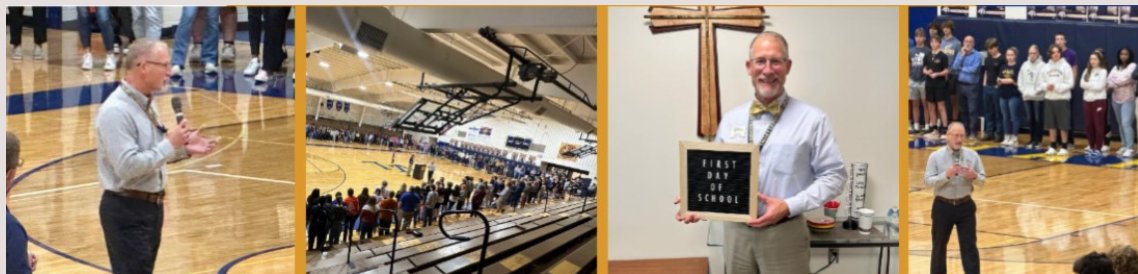
Oct 8 - Senior High 7 pm

Oct 29 - Senior High 7 pm

**Nov 5 - Junior High
(3-8 gr.) 6 pm**



Installation Sunday



VLHS *Ministry Update*

- Al Kaul officially started as the executive director on September 25th.
- Total enrollment - 307 for the 2023-24 academic school year
- 26 VL students are enrolled in one of the two area career complexes (Bay-Arenac, SCC).
- Mr. Billy Cmeyla was installed as Dean of Students and Faculty were rededicated, on September 7th during Chapel. Thanks to Pastor Burhop for leading the worship service.
- On October 31st there will be a summit breakfast at Valley. Breakfast starts at 7:30 with the program starting at 8 am. This is an event (fundraiser) done every other year.
- The old cafeteria tables and chairs are out. New tables and chairs, purchased with auction funds, are in.
- The annual Valley Lutheran Fruit Sale is just around the corner. Place your order with any Valley student or by calling the VL Office at 989-790-1676. The sale runs October 9-November 8 and will be available for pickup December 9 from 7:30am-2:30pm. A 20lb box of Florida Indian River Navel Oranges, Pink Grapefruit or Mixed box is \$39.00. A 40 lb box of Navel Oranges, Pink Grapefruit or Mixed box is \$51.00. A 10lb box of Mandarin Oranges is \$35.00 and a Citrus Delight box of oranges, grapefruit & mandarin oranges (6 pieces of each) is \$39.00. Thank you for your support!
- 50 for 50 at 50 - To celebrate his 50th birthday in September, Pastor Biber will run 50 miles throughout the day on Friday, October 20th. The final miles will be completed at the Valley Lutheran High School Home Football Game against Pinconning High School at 7:00pm. Donations for the run will be equally distributed between Valley Lutheran High School Tuition Aid and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's mission trip to work with a daycare in southern Brazil. The goal is to raise \$50,000 total for the two ministries. All donations can be mailed to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 5335 Brockway Rd., Saginaw, 48638 or on-line at: www.goodshepherdsaginaw.com/give (choose "other" and put "50 for 50 at 50" in the designation).

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

ST JOHN AMELITH
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
& SILENT AUCTION

11:00 IN THE GYM



COME BID ON
GIFT CARDS AND
PASSES TO DIVE & GLIDE SCUBA,
DISNEY FROZEN JR,
STARDUST ENTERTAINMENT CENTER,
BEARDED AXE,
CHUCK E. CHEESE,
MUSIC LESSONS,
WILDERNESS
TRAIL ZOO, ALONG WITH
ROHDE HONEY,
THEMED GIFT BASKETS,
AND MORE!



ST JOHN AMELITH SILENT AUCTION



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

Contact Us

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