



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

September 2023

From The Pastor

As I write this newsletter for September, I see stacked boxes, emptiness on walls, and plenty of disarray. By the time you read these words, Amy and I will be in the process of moving to join you at St. John. We have a delightful anticipation to be a part of the community at Amelith. Above all, our delight will be to share with you in that faithful Lutheran confession of Christ and His Gospel. While September will be filled with exciting moments like the installation service on the 10th or the honor to deliver God's Holy Word and Sacrament the following Sunday. The month will not be so "nice and neat" and this directs us to a common theme in the Psalms. For all the various feelings and issues expressed we hear, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalms 118:1.

The Lord is good even when we are on the move. Now parents especially know a thing or two about what this means. Children are growing up and there is no holding back the growth. It is best to cherish the moments God gives. Fall brings another school year that has movement and with it change. Yet, time for adjustment will pass and the focus will turn to learning. Moving too will pass for Amy and me, even if it seems like a long way off! Nevertheless, unpacking will finally turn to learning and growing with you at St. John. This togetherness as pastor and people is especially important to Christ. No wonder He has fixed this for us upon His Holy Word and Sacraments. Our Good Shepherd is always on the move, able to deliver forgiveness, life, and salvation even before every change set before our life.

In all that movement of having a school at St. John, you probably already know relationships matter. Of course, the social aim to promote learning and growing is not the same for why Lutheran schools matter. Everyone is caught up in the movement of life, but Jesus told His disciples a great promise. He said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). This has been with us the past Sundays in the Gradual at church, "Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:9, 19). What wonderful news for those on the move! Christ is our righteousness and His grace received sets everything rightly in Him for church, school, and life together.

Why are the scriptures full of how the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever? There is much movement and it begs us first to ask, "How can we figure it will be anything less for us?" Of course, change for the sake of change is no good and plenty of change can drag us into the darkness or domain of Satan. However, the movement going on in God's Word is less dramatic compared to how His love endures forever. This is what sets Scripture apart, for God's plan and aim has always been and remains in the Gospel. Christ comes before us in these days and the glory of His cross is to stand out. Love to give in the movement of life, to face the fears of death, and to be able to receive Him in joy when He comes in glory.

See you soon,

Pastor Gauthier



Every morning St John students and teachers gather for morning prayer, pledges, and announcements.



Cardinal Connection

Extra Special Friends

Have you heard the amazing news?! God has blessed our school with 69 students from 50 families! Thirteen families are new to the SJA family this year alone. To God be the glory!

Extra Special Friends is an opportunity for adults in our congregation to partner with our students. SJA has a long tradition of Special Friends; younger students are paired with older students and that relationship is nurtured throughout the school year. Extra Special Friends are volunteers from the congregation who are additionally paired with individual Special Friends groups. Activities such as book reading, puzzles, and games were scheduled where an adult ESF and their student SF could get to know each other.

The purpose of the Extra Special Friends program is to help "bridge the gap" between school and church. Relationship building is the key. Adults who may otherwise not have any connection with the school get to know individual students on a personal level. The goal is that those relationships can extend the discipling work the school staff is already doing with our students.

This new school year brings new opportunities for relationship building. We have the following dates scheduled for Extra Special Friends:

November 10

January 19

March 8

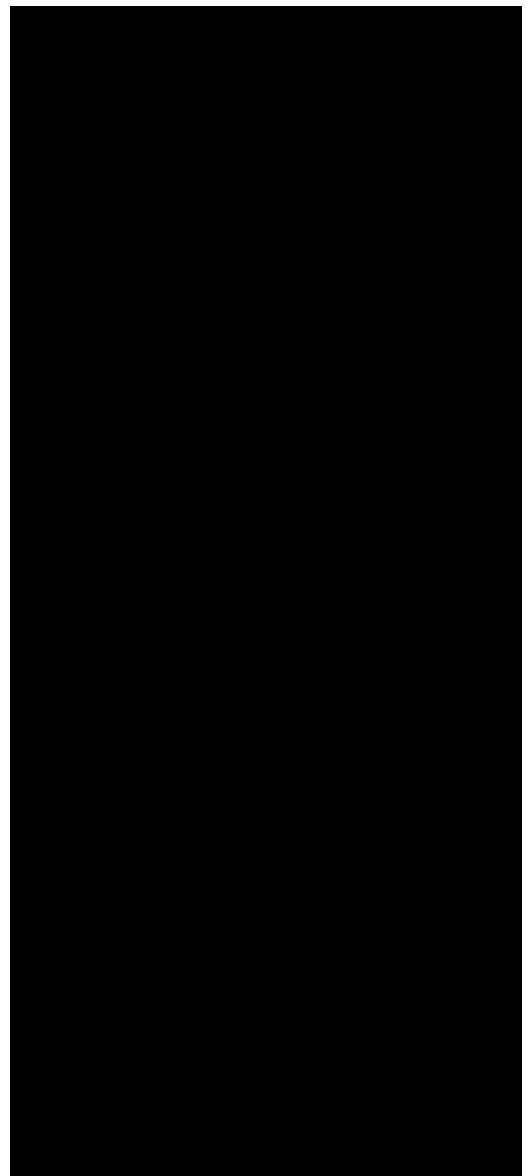
March 28 (also Grandparents and Grand Friends Day)

May 10

All Activities, except for March 28, are from 8:50-9:25. While Extra Special Friends do not have to be available for all 5 dates, we do ask that you participate in at least three.

Please prayerfully consider this service opportunity. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call me directly in the school office, or call or text my cell 989-293-1622 or by email at phambaum@amelith.org.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum



Brass, Woodwinds, and Timpani - SJA students are learning and growing every day. It's music to our ears.

Please consider bringing a dish to pass for the Chicken BBQ to be held after Pastor's installation. A sign-up sheet with suggestions can be found on the table in the fellowship area of church.

Last Chance! Engraved brick pavers, to be placed in the memorial garden by school, are available for purchase for a limited time. The gentleman who provides this service is retiring and will only complete orders through the middle of September. Order brochures can be found in the narthex and turned into the church office.



Easter Lilies Are Flowering. Believe it or not, we have Easter Lilies flowering and about to open. About 15-20 Easter Lilies that were left in the church this past spring were planted in a flowerbed on the south side of the church near the back door going into the basement and some in the raised flowerbed in front of the school. We didn't think that they would grow anymore this summer. They are growing and some have flowers on them just about ready to open. Go for a walk and see the "He Is Risen" flower bed (named by Molly Revord) and the beautiful Easter Lilies.



The beginning of school sports has arrived! To show school spirit, **Cardinal Wear is now available for purchase.** Go to <https://fatbeardesigns.com/collections/st-john-amelith-cardinals> to see and order the selection of shirts and hoodies. Choose "pick up" for orders to be delivered to school. Time is short! Sale prices and orders can be made up until September 25, so make those orders while you can! \$2 will be donated to school with every item purchased.



Calling all high school students! There will be a youth group meeting on Sunday, September 24th from 6pm to 7pm. We will meet at the pavilion, weather permitting. Please bring a bag chair. This will be a meet and greet, so bring a friend or two. All are welcome. Questions, please call Deb Hutter at 989-316-8322. See you there!

August 24, 2023

VLHS *Ministry Update*

To: The Valley Lutheran Family
From: Julie Neumann, Valley Lutheran High School
Transition Team Chair

Regarding: Executive Director Position

Dear VLHS family,

I wanted to share the very exciting news that Al Kaul has accepted our offer to become the next Executive Director of Valley Lutheran High School. A start date is yet to be determined.

As a brief introduction, Al is currently serving as Chief Development Officer and Vice President of the Foundation for Wellspring Lutheran Services. Wellspring is a faith-based non-profit recognized service organization of the LCMS. Al has more than 30 years of executive leadership experience, holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a masters in clinical Social Work with a major in interpersonal practice and a minor in business administration. His leadership roles include foundation development, human resource management, and fund development. Al and his wife Beth, along with their 3 boys, are all Valley Lutheran alumni. Al has previously served two terms as the chair of the Valley Lutheran Board of Directors, has been on the VL Foundation Board for several years, and was a member of the Campaign Cabinet for the GROWING Campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Kaul are both members at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Frankentrost.

In accepting the leadership position, Mr. Kaul said:

I am both humbled and honored to have been extended an offer of employment to serve as the next Executive Director at Valley Lutheran High School. It is with that same humility and honor that I accept the position. In doing so, you have my pledge that I will serve our students, faculty, staff, Board, and constituents to my full capacity, and I will dedicate my God-given gifts to prepare students for life with Christ as our foundation.

More information will be made available through the administrative team as we move forward through this transition. In the meantime, I want to sincerely thank everyone for your prayers and patience throughout this entire process.

God has truly blessed our school in so many ways through many caring and devoted people.

God's Blessings,

Julie Neumann
Board President



St John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Amelith

cordially invites you to the
Installation of

Rev. Gerald A. Gauthier II

on Sunday, September 10, 2023
at 3:00 p.m.

A Chicken Barbeque and Congregational Potluck
will be held immediately following
the Installation.

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
1664 Amelith Road
Bay City, Michigan 48706**

Pastor Gauthier's first Sunday leading the congregation in worship will be
September 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

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

Contact Us

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