



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

December 2021

From the Pastor's Pen...



Have you been asked yet, "Do you have your Christmas shopping done?" "Black Friday" is past as is "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday." If you haven't completed your shopping, you had better hurry. As I write this, there are only 25 shopping days left until Christmas.

It seems as if the commercial aspects of Christmas become stronger and stronger each year and the Christmas Season gets longer and longer each year. This year one of the local radio stations began playing Christmas music the day after Halloween.

We, as Lutheran Christians, anticipate the coming of Christmas as well. We call it the Advent Season. It is a time when we take stock of ourselves, admit that it is our sinfulness that made a Savior necessary, and prepare to greet our newborn Savior and King born in Bethlehem.

An important part of our preparation is our involvement in worship. We have many opportunities to worship both on Sunday morning at 9:30 am and Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 pm and Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Sermon topics for Sunday morning will be drawn from the appointed Gospel while the Wednesday service will talk about God's messengers, the angels, and how they brought news of the coming Messiah to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph. Each Wednesday service is with Holy Communion. Advent ends as we welcome the Christ Child on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm and on Christmas morning at 9:00 am.

Come as we anticipate and then celebrate the birth of God who became flesh for us. Come and sing with us those beautiful Advent and Christmas hymns. Come and receive forgiveness for your sins and strengthening of your faith in His Holy Supper. "O Come All Ye Faithful."

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."
– Galatians 4:4-5

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" –
2 Corinthians 9:15

Wednesday, December 1 - 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 8 - 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm with Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 15 - 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm with Holy Communion

Thursday, December 16 - 6:30 pm Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Eve Worship - 4:00pm and 7:00pm

Christmas Day Worship - 9:00am with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve - 4:00 pm with Holy Communion





Putting Puzzles Together with Special Friends at St John Lutheran School



Cardinal Connection

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is precious in our Lutheran School. Classrooms get decorated, schedules are rearranged, lines and songs are learned for the Christmas Program. This year, Mr. Schimm is teaching all the children how to sing beloved selections from Handel's **Messiah**. With God's blessing, our school children will dress up in their Christmas best on December 16 and present words from Old Testament prophets who gave peace to the nations. After taking a year off from an in-person program, our children are preparing for a live presentation. We encourage everyone from the congregation, even if you don't know any of the students anymore, to join our school families in this unique celebration of Emmanuel--God With Us. The program begins at 6:30. Please come and encourage the families who send their children to our school to learn about our Savior, Jesus.

*thank
you*

Thank you so much to all of you who have helped take care of the flower beds around the church, school and cemetery. Special thanks to Diane Gerhauser, Trina Scharich, Richard Weiss, Pastor Starke, Annette Trautner, Mary Ann Korman, Ion and Diann Keefer and the Trustees, Ann Lutz and all the others who have helped. Evergreens (which were not so evergreen anymore) were removed from the slope on the west entrance and replaced with mulch. The beautiful seasonal displays near the cemetery monument stone done by Lisa Helmreich added so much to the beauty of our grounds. It is a lot of work to keep these flower beds trimmed and weeded not just once a year but several times during the spring, summer, fall seasons. The work is all done on a volunteer basis. More work removing dying bushes and shrubs will be done in the spring. We appreciate your love and dedication for helping beautifying our church, cemetery and school grounds. We are always in need of more people to help, which will make the job for others a lot easier. If you are interested in doing a little of this during the year, please contact Debbie Fisher 989 684-8074.

Treasurer's Report

November 2021

General Fund

Envelopes	\$19,944.43
Tuition	5,800.00
Loose Donations	55.05
Electronic Giving	3,443.92
Birthday/Anniversary	73.00
Lutheran Witness	23.20

Total **\$29,339.60**

Designated Gifts

Electronic Giving	\$1,723.92
Gifts and Memorials	1,815.00
College Tuition	20.00
Flower Fund	60.00
Missions	1,030.00
Cemetery	300.00
Tuition K-8	90.00
Building Fund	145.00

Total **\$5,183.92**

Overall Total **\$34,523.52**

Note: Daily Budget expenses of payroll, insurances, utilities, etc. require a monthly donation of \$39,000.00 and are payed through the General Fund.

Those Who Serve

On November 21, the Voters' Assembly of St John elected members to the following positions to begin serving in January:

Chairman - Ron Warnke

Treasurer - Debbie Fisher

Financial Secretary - Jim Meddaugh

Auditing Committee - Gayle Ortner

Bd. of Christian Outreach - Pat Hambaum

Board of Education -

Wendy Jacobs, Jackie Town

Board of Elders -

Paul Guse', Bob Loftus, Dale Fish

Board of Stewardship - Dave Helmreich

Board of Trustees -

L.J. Brownlee, Kevin Scharich, Mike Soul

Budget Committee -

Jason Moon, Dave Helmreich

Endowment Fund Committee -

Kevin Scharich

Finance Committee - Jason and Traci Moon,

Kara Warnke, Joyce Helmreich

Nominating Committee - Joyce Helmreich



News Nugget

For more than a decade now, one of the *Lutheran Education Advancement Plan's* various thrusts has had to do with supporting education boards in their governance of Lutheran schools. Since mid-2013, a LEAP "Education Board Training Task Force" has devoted attention to development and refinement of a LEAP document entitled "Best Practices of Boards of Education (or Equivalent Governing Entities) of Lutheran Schools." The document reflects wise input from LCMS educational leaders locally as well as at the Michigan District and national Synodical levels. Copies of the resulting **LEAP Best Practices of Boards of Education of Lutheran Schools (pdf)** document and its companion **LEAP Boards of Education Self-Assessment Instrument (pdf)** document are in print and available in our school offices and elsewhere, and also accessible at our leap-alliance.com website, followed by a click to **RESOURCES**.

Learning and drawing upon the LEAP education boards best practices occurs as follows: Step 1) An individual school principal and his or her education board members each complete the self-assessment instrument and send their individual, confidential assessments to the *LEAP Education Board Training Task Force, for tabulation.* Step 2) *Returns of the full tabulation results are sent back to the principal and board members.* Step 3) *A meeting of the full Task Force with the particular principal and education board members is conducted to engage in discussions which include noting positives, offering praise, identifying weaknesses, offering improvement suggestions, and etc.*

To date, six education boards of our 22 LEAP entities have been fully involved in all three of the above steps, and two more boards are well along the way toward also participating in all three of the steps. Four additional education boards have expressed interest in beginning involvement in the process in the near future. As new board members and/or new principals periodically come onto boards, the process can be repeated, which is recommended and encouraged.

Advent Candles



1st Candle - (purple) **The Prophecy Candle** or **Candle of Hope** - We have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd Candle - (purple) **The Bethlehem Candle** or **Candle of Preparation** - God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd Candle - (pink) **The Shepherd Candle** or **Candle of Joy** - The angels same a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th Candle - (purple) **The Angel Candle** or **Candle of Love** - The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th Candle - (white) **"Christ Candle"** - The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Valley Lutheran High School

- LED Lighting is completed throughout the entire building.
- Connections Conference (Midwest Lutheran Schools) Presenters in Ft. Wayne, November 22-23 included: Barb Doyle, Rebecca Sugden, Doug Guenther, Jeanette Weilnau, Julian Petzold
- Danielle Ayotte and Chloe Horney have both been awarded the opportunity to travel to Walt Disney World in April 2022 to participate in the Cooking Around the World Disney Competition.
- National Honors Society Induction - 36 students inducted this year
- Grade School Musical Extravaganza was held for grade schools. I did a school tour of about 90 people following. Younger students and parents expressed most of the "WOWs."
- "The Mousetrap" Fall drama was very well done and lead by Jeanette Weilnau.
- Journalism Club – 1st edition on Monday, November 15, 2021
- 67% of our students earned the right to be on either Honor Roll (3.25+) or High Honor Roll (3.75+) for the first quarter of the school year. Teachers do a great job of preventing students from doing less than their best.
- Now for what our students are not doing. They are not perfect, but we have reason to celebrate – Mr. Heath Vincent





An LWML Christmas bake sale and Craft sale will be held on

Sunday, December 5, 2021



Immediately following the worship service in the church basement.



This fundraiser will support the mission work of LWML and provide the funding to send our delegates to the Michigan District LWML Convention in July of 2022.

Plan to come and shop for homemade Christmas tasty treats for your holiday enjoyment!

Join us for this opportunity to support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and help get yourself ready for the Christmas season!!

Contact Us

Newsletter articles are collected by the end of the month. Please send them to:

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

**989-686-0176
office@amelith.org**

**Visit us on the web at
www.amelith.org**

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

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