

Newsletter



Things Happening at Amelith

Oct 5th - Quilting 9:30am

Oct 13th - Council Meeting 6:00pm

Oct 5th - Food Giveaway 5:00pm

Oct 14th - Women's Bible Study 9:00am

Oct 6th - Bookmobile 10:30am

Oct 14th - Bible Study 6:00pm

Oct 7th - Women's Bible Study 9:00am

Oct 18th - Voter's Meeting 11:00am

Oct 8th - 175th Planning Meeting 6:00pm

Oct 18th - Confirmation Class 11:00am

Oct 11th - Confirmation Class 11:00am

Oct 18th - Sunday School 11:00am

Oct 15th - LWML Meeting 6:30pm

Oct 18th - Youth Group Meeting 11:00am

Dates Continued



Oct 19th - Quilting 9:30am

Oct 25th - Confirmation Class 11:00am

Oct 19th - Altar Guild 6:00pm

Oct 25th - Game Night 6:00pm

Oct 20th - Elder's Meeting 6:00pm

Oct 26th - BoE Meeting 5:30pm

Oct 21st - Women's Bible Study 9:00am

Oct 27th - Podcast & a Pint 6:30pm

Oct 21st - Bible Study 6:00pm

Oct 28th - Women's Bible Study 9:00am

Oct 22nd - LEAP Meeting 6:00pm

Oct 28th - Bible Study 6:00pm

Oct 24th - Trunk-or-Treat 5:30pm

Oct 30th - Half Day of School 11:30am

From The Pastor

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law...Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.” Romans 3:28, 31 In this month of celebrating the Reformation, the untangling of faith and works was no easy thing for Luther and others at that time. While this monk felt a great relief from the pure Gospel that works can never save sinners only Jesus. Luther also understood being freed from a monastic life allowed him to uphold the Law for a good life. Funny enough, in the same year of excommunication by Pope Leo X, the Reformer wrote a small book, “*De Libertate Christiana*” in Latin or in German: “*Von der Freiheit eines Christenmenschen*” or known today as, “The Freedom of a Christian.” You can find it easily online and read it for yourself, but just like St. Paul’s words above. What he Luther wrote can sound like a contradiction. However, as the Law serves the Gospel so works never replace faith that abides in God’s saving Word.



Christianity rests upon Jesus and all He did to save sinners. Such peace the world cannot give and no works will satisfy what belongs to God’s work for us. In this freedom of the Christian Luther also can say, “Although, as I have said, a man is abundantly and sufficiently justified by faith inwardly, in his spirit, and so has all that he needs... In this life he must control his own body and have dealings with men. Here the works begin; here a man cannot enjoy leisure; here he must indeed take care to discipline his body...” (24). Again, “Thus what we do, live, and are in works and ceremonies, we do because of the necessities of this life and of the effort to rule our body. Nevertheless we are righteous, not in these, but in the faith of the Son of God” (36).

A major fruit of the Reformation was being able to say, “No” to the right things.

Luther did this on October 10th, 1520 having received his official threat of excommunication and on the same day burned the bull publicly in Wittenberg. This “No” was against Papal authority denying and suppressing what only the Gospel gave from God’s Word. Luther was ordering himself to honor God and for the good life of his neighbor. Can we say the same today? Certainly, there is a need for “No” against many things publicly that would deny God’s Word and the Gospel. At the same time, there is a self-governing for a good life that needs to say, “No” to myself even as a Christian.



This is what we call temperance or self-control, but our culture today encourages much of the opposite. The temperance movement of the 18th century that banned alcohol was not the same as being temperate. We might think temperance like moderation, but not with idolatrous ways and immorality clearly against God’s Word. Self-control has benefits! As one person says, “And cultivating habits of reflection on those limits will help you live the good life, even in a time of uncertainty and excess. You’ll have to put to death desires that are sinful, which is hard, but what you will

discover is that when you start to live temperately, you’ll have more room to breathe.”¹ Luther knew extreme denial as a monk, which itself was sinful and gave no peace with God. Being freed by the Gospel by faith was to still to struggle with his Old Adam but he could flee to Christ and the gift of baptism. The Reformation did not make us free to serve self, justified by Christ is eternal salvation and so works serve our neighbor with purpose at the present.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Pastor Gauthier

¹ <https://www.plough.com/articles/what-the-good-life-means-for-a-christian?>

Faith. Life. Conversation.

with Pastor Gauthier

Join us for a new monthly gathering to enjoy good food, good conversation, and good discussion about what it means to live as a Christian today.



Each month we'll choose three podcasts from **Issues, Etc.** (Find them online at Issuesetc.org.) We will talk around topics that connects Christian faith with everyday life—things like marriage and dating, work and vocation, technology, family, relationships, and living as a Christian in today's culture.

Listen to at least to the first one listed and others if you have time before we meet. Our discussion will change topics each meeting so come when you can but be ready to talk!

First gathering: October 27th

Topic: "Being Christian in a Confusing World"

1. *The Comfort of Lutheran Theology* — Matt Harrison (6/3/26)
2. *Paths to Lutheranism: From Non-Denominationalism* – Molly Lackey, 10/28/22
3. *Explaining Lutheranism to Non-Lutherans, Part 3* — Jordan Cooper (3/6/26)

(Please Note: To search click on the magnifying glass at the top. Search for the title only of each podcast without the name.)

We'll meet 6:30p.m. at Pierce Road Bar & Grill on October 27th.

Who is it for?

Singles, married couples, parents, newer members, longtime members, and friends.

This isn't another meeting. It's an opportunity to get to know others, ask honest questions, and think together about following Christ in everyday life.

FACES OF THE REFORMATION

LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER

Born: 1472 | Kronach, Germany
Died: 1553 | Weimar, Germany



REFORMATION
2017 It's Still All About
Jesus

LutheranReformation.org

© 2016 LCMS

Artist, businessman and friend of Luther

IN 1520 LUCAS CRANACH THE ELDER WAS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, A SUCCESS. He had been serving the court of Frederick the Wise for 14 years.

His works of art had become so famous that he moved his personal studio, with several apprentices, into the town of Wittenberg. He had expanded into pursuits of real estate and small business. Cranach was active in local politics, having just been elected to Wittenberg's city council the previous year. Things were, however, about to change for the artist-entrepreneur. In the wake of the death of Emperor Maximilian, which made the political climate for reformers more dangerous, Frederick and Court Secretary George Spalatin decided that Martin Luther's face needed to be presented before the people so that he might become a household name. Cranach was the man who brought Luther's face to the people. Most of the images we have of the reformer came from his brush.

While some reformers, like Zwingli, mistakenly believed that religious art and paintings were against the Ten Commandments, Luther embraced the responsible use of the arts in the church. While Luther, Melancthon and others led the charge of the Reformation with their writings, Cranach aided the cause through the use of images, specifically paintings and woodcuts. Cranach and Luther grew close when they became colleagues in the publication of Luther's writings and pamphlets, most notably his Small Catechism and German translation of the Bible. Be it children's textbooks or scathing propaganda against the papacy, Cranach provided visual representations of Luther's thought.

More than just a colleague, Cranach became an important part of Luther's personal life. When Luther required homes for refugee nuns, Cranach provided housing. Later, when Luther married one of the escaping nuns, Katharina von Bora, Cranach was a witness at the wedding. As time went on, Luther and Cranach served as godparents for each other's children.

Cranach's lasting appeal is multifaceted. Not only is he remembered for his pictorial contribution to the Lutheran Reformation, but he is also lauded by the art community for his late-Renaissance "Wittenberg" style of painting. He painted, for many patrons, a variety of subjects including Catholic saints and Greek myths. Today his paintings and altar pieces grace museums all over the world. He accomplished all of this while engaged in politics and enterprise. In addition to working under Frederick the Wise he also served the Saxon Court under John the Steadfast and John Frederick the Magnanimous. His loyalty was unquestionable; he followed John Frederick into exile in 1547. Painter, businessman and friend, Cranach was a man who exemplified Luther's doctrine of vocation: that all stations in life are necessary for society and are God-pleasing.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
ConcordiaHistoricalInstitute.org

Help Bring Education Scholarships to Michigan Families

District September 23, 2026

There has been increasing discussion and questions on the new Federal Education Tax Credit program. Here in Michigan, this program has the potential to provide significant financial assistance to families for educational expenses. However, for eligible Lutheran school families (current or future) to benefit, the State of Michigan (Governor's Office) must first opt into the program. At this time, Michigan has not opted into the program.

Beginning in January of 2027, individuals who donate to an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) may receive a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700. SGO's can then provide scholarships to eligible families to help cover qualified K-12 educational expenses.

We encourage you to learn more about the program by reviewing the information from the [Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools](#) and the [Michigan SGO Guide](#).

For many families, this program could provide meaningful financial assistance for educational expenses. We also encourage you to consider contacting your state legislators and the Governor's office to express your support for Michigan opting into the program. Communication from parents and constituents can play an important role in emphasizing the positive impact this would have on families.

If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent of Schools Travis Grulke (travis.grulke@michigandistrict.org).

This blog is published by the Communications Department of the Michigan District, LCMS.

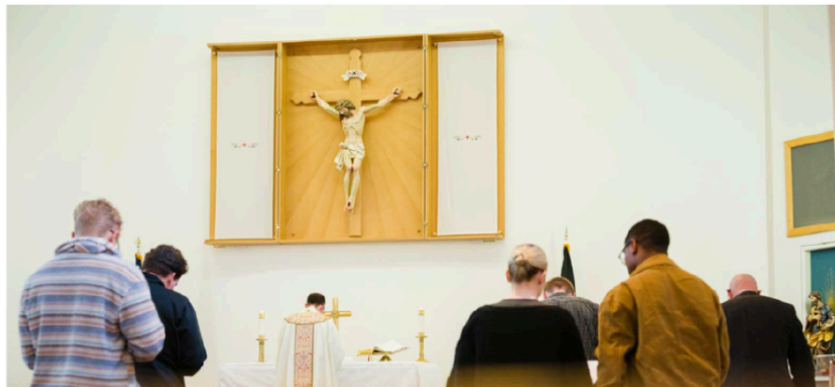
L U T H E R A N S engage

Shepherds for Spangdahlem

Spangdahlem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany is growing — according to God’s perfect plan and timing.

Story by Megan K. Mertz | Photography by Erik M. Lunsford | Fall 2026

Spangdahlem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Spangdahlem, Germany, started with just one family.



“When I arrived [in Germany] in 2021, there was one American military family from [Spangdahlem Air Base] who was coming about once a month to Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church [KELC],” said the Rev. Nathaniel Jensen, a missionary with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Germany. “I thought if we’ve got one family there, why don’t we do some work and see if we can’t get something started?”

Jensen proposed the plan to the LCMS Office of International Mission, and soon the Rev. Jonah Domenichelli was called to serve there. In September 2024, Domenichelli held the first LCMS worship service in the home of Remington Barnett, an American man living in the area.

“It’s a privilege, really, to have services held at your own house,” Barnett reflected on those early days of the church. “I think it changes the environment a bit. ... And I think it brought my family ... closer together with the people who were there.”

But God’s timing is not always our timing, and the Domenichelli family had to return to the United States sooner than expected due to family reasons. A few months later, several people who had been attending the church were quickly deployed at the start of the Iran war.

Yet, the church plant continued to grow under the guidance of Jensen, who made the nearly two-hour drive after church each week to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to those gathering in Spangdahlem.



In early 2026, Jensen received permission to hold services in the base chapel. This was a big milestone because it made the church more accessible to the 14,000 people who live and work on the base.

On a Sunday in early May, a small group of regular attendees — as well as a couple of new faces — gathered in the base chapel for the service. On this trip, Jensen was accompanied by retired Air Force Major Abel Wilson and Gerhard Neigenfind, a German. Both men attend KELC but also regularly come along with Jensen to assist him at Spangdahlem. Other weeks, the group from Kaiserslautern sometimes includes other LCMS missionaries and KELC members, and these drives provide a great opportunity for the group to discuss theology and church matters.

As Jensen led the service and then answered questions during the Bible study that followed, church member Noah Meiselwitz, who is a technical support specialist with the U.S. Air Force, recorded footage for a promotional video to help advertise the church to others on base.

Recently, the congregation received word of a new reason to celebrate: The Rev. Timothy Sandeno accepted a call to serve as an LCMS missionary in Spangdahlem, and he and his wife, Lisa, will arrive in early 2027.

Air Force Major Wilson has watched all the changes happening at Spangdahlem Evangelical Lutheran Church over the past two years. Some have seemed like setbacks, he admitted. “But then the door opened for us to come here, and now we’re advertising. ... From an earthly perspective, it seems like you have doors closing, that there are roadblocks, but it’s really just another opportunity coming from a different direction.”

Source: engage.lcms.org/military-ministry-fall-2026/

Learn More

- Learn more about [LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces](#), which supports Lutheran military chaplains, personnel and veterans.
- Read more about [Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) in Germany.

Megan K. Mertz

Managing editor of *Lutherans Engage the World* and chief copy editor for LCMS Communications.

What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's (Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it") and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1Tim. 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this parish. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this, we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me."

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving. The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything.

What does this mean?

Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom. 14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

THIS NOVEMBER: Prayerfully Consider Your Giving

In view of next month being a month of "Thanksgiving" by many. Prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe of your income to the work of God? Instead of merely a budgeted number, what is the percentage of income (1%, 5%, 10%, 15%) that you actually give? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not?

In next month's newsletter, bulletin inserts, and short Facebook videos will consider more of what God says about Stewardship. St. John's Stewardship Board seeks to encourage a good habit of giving to the Lord by way of our offerings.

November 15th - 22nd will be a special time to consider what the percentage of giving would be from our families.

St. John Amelith newsletter

OCTOBER 2026



Happy Fall Yall!

September has flown by and the kids all seem to be settling in wonderfully :)

Just like the seasons change, St. John Amelith has to make changes too. Some 2026/27 changes; class rotation schedules, new staff, lunch menu, before/after care prices, Chapel @ 8:05am on Wednesdays and probably some that I have already put in my rear view mirror. Every change we implement is part of our strategic plan to be fiscally responsible while fulfilling our mission of helping your kids grow in faith, love and knowlege.

If you ever have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. You can always message me through Jupiter Ed, email me, stop me in the hall, or even stop in and see me in the office.

Thank you for being part of the St. John Family! Blessings to you all, Molly

Upcoming events

- Oct 5th Food Bank Event
- Oct 23rd
 - 8:30am Picture Retake
 - Leaman's Field Trip
- Oct 24th
 - Trunk or Treat @SJA
- Oct 30th
 - Half Day Dismissal @11:30
 - Holy-ween classroom party
 - End of 1st Quarter

October Reminders

- Shorts can be worn until the end of October, but please know we will go outside even on cool days.
- Please send in any lunch suggestions your kiddo may have through Jupiter Ed
- Watch for communication from teachers about the end of the quarter.
- Before and After Care price increase starts October 5th
- Room parent communication will be going out next week. Reach out to Andrea if you would like to sign up.



Orphan Grain Train-Michigan News Relay

September 21 , 2026

McDonald's Huge Help

Brian Dickendesher is an elder at Peace Lutheran Church, Sandusky and is also manager of the local McDonald's. Four different area franchises generously supply Orphan Grain Train with thousands of boxes as Brian is doing here. We could use a couple more sources. If you have a McDonald's near you and would be willing to approach them about setting aside their french fry boxes for Orphan Grain Train, let us know and we can further a contact.



Beautiful Offering Scores of gorgeous quilts from the women of St. Paul Lutheran, Hale.

On September 2, OGT branch manager, Pastor Dave Reed, spoke to the women's mission group at St. Paul, Hale. They sent him off with a van load of beautifully sewn quilts. Three of their members helped load this precious cargo for which we are supremely grateful.



Monday, October 5th

St John Amelith
1664 Amelith Rd
Bay City, MI 48706

5pm-7pm
or until food is gone

Each person picking up a box must be present.

Hosted by St. John Amelith and the Food Bank of
Eastern Michigan
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



TRUNK OR TREAT!

Hosted by St. John Amelith

**OCTOBER
24TH
6PM**

Parking starts at
5:30pm

Treating begins
at 6pm

WHERE: In the Church Parking Lot

Potluck immediately following!

bring a dish to pass

contact Deb Hutter

989-316-8322

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Thanksgiving Dinner

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

5 PM - 7 PM

1664 AMELITH RD | BAY CITY

Turkey dinner:

mashed potatoes and gravy,
stuffing, veggie, roll, and pie.

No take outs will be available.

Tickets available until November 15th.

Deb Hutter (989-316-8322)

School Office (989-686-0176)

Following Church Service

Free will donation/offering to
benefit St. John's youth group

Sponsored by the Outreach and Youth Groups

October Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Fund Development	2 October Anniversaries	3 October Birthdays
4 LWML	5 Quilters	6 Bookmobile	7 October Altar Guild Servers	8 Preschool Aides	9 Preschool Director	10 SJA Students
11 Board of Ed	12 Cemetery Committee	13 Council Members	14 Women's Bible Study Group	15 Office Volunteers	16 SJA Parents	17 Confirmation
18 Coffee Hour Volunteers	19 Pastor	20 Lunch Lady	21 Lawn Mowing Crew	22 SJA Taskforces	23 Finance Team	24 Trunk or Treat
25 Youth Group	26 Elders	27 Sunday School Teachers	28 Treasurer	29 Stewardship	30 SJA Teachers	31 Principal

Every day, let us include the person/position/event mentioned in our prayers. You can pray for them, the job they do, those who receive or in whatever way you are led.