



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

August 2022



If there can be any advantage to not being able to drive, it has to be that now, as a passenger, I don't have to keep my eyes on the road. Instead, I can look around and see the scenery as it passes by the window. As I do so, I observe the lushness and the beauty of the crops in the fields. The crops look so good considering that they have not received the amount of rain they normally get.

If you have a garden, you are probably finding the same. The peas are harvested, the tomatoes are ripening, the corn is tasseling, the cucumbers are pickling. In all of it, we feel the hand of God working in our lives.

But we are sinful human beings and often lack the trust that God will provide for all of our needs. We look at the high gas prices, the cost of housing, the continuing pandemic, the level of violence, etc., etc., etc. and we ask, "Where is God in all of this?"

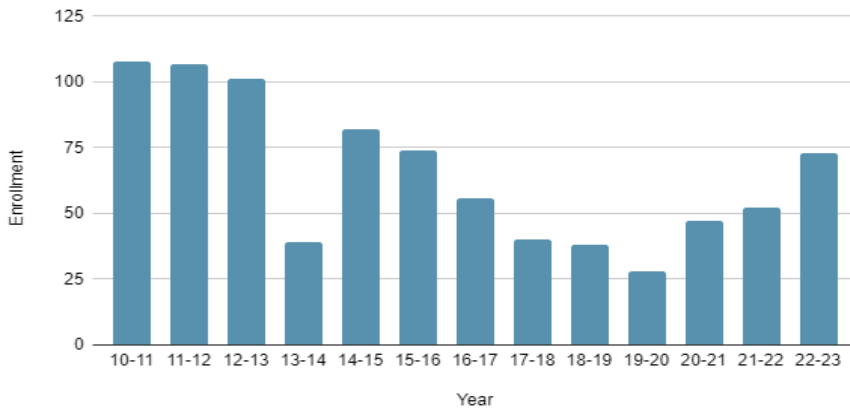
The answer is that He is there with us every step of the way. Like the "Footprints" poem, He is there to lift us and to carry us through good times as well as not so good times.

"And he (Jesus) said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest." (Luke 12:22-26)

Pastor Kurt

Trust
in the LORD with
all your heart
and lean not on your
own understanding;
in all your ways
acknowledge Him,
and He will
make your
paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6

School Enrollment 2010-2023



God is blessing St John Lutheran School with another year of growth. 73 students are now enrolled for 2022-2023.



Cardinal Connection

The 170th School Year of St. John begins on August 22 this year. As our teachers and staff prepare for the new academic year, we are continuing the discussion about school safety. School safety is not a new concern. I'm sure all of us can easily remember our own days of fire and tornado drills and some of us even remember the now infamous duck and cover drills of the Cold War Era. Active Shooter drills and procedures are now the drill du jour.

But school safety is about more than drills and locked doors. Research shows that schools that are more "relational" have statistically fewer "safety events". This conventional wisdom that's been corroborated by the research is very good news for the parents, students and faculty of St. John. We ARE a relational school as evidenced by everything from our teachers' knowledge of every student in our school, not just the ones in their classes, to our multi-age Special Friends program and now our new Extra Special Friends emphasis focusing on creating relationships with congregational members and our school children.

Scripture admonishes us in many places to be people of faith. As God's redeemed children, we should not worry but"Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." (Luke 12:31) Of course that doesn't mean we shouldn't be vigilant or aware! God has and will protect his children; but we must also not tempt the things that may bring evil and destruction to our

doors! That's why the teaching staff take CPR, First Aid, and Blood-Borne Pathogens courses. We workshop with local law enforcement and continually update building wide protocols. We have internet filters in place and we carefully monitor playground activity. I can confidently assure parents that their precious children are as safe as they can be when they drop them off at our doors.

Another quick note about school safety as it relates to the congregation. A long-standing service St. John provides is space for families to host funeral luncheons in our school gym. Please understand that when one of these events happens during the school day, there necessarily needs to be an added level of security. Access to the part of the school where the students are during a funeral luncheon is strictly forbidden. Thank you for understanding this necessity and helping our school families remain confident that their children are safe and secure.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum

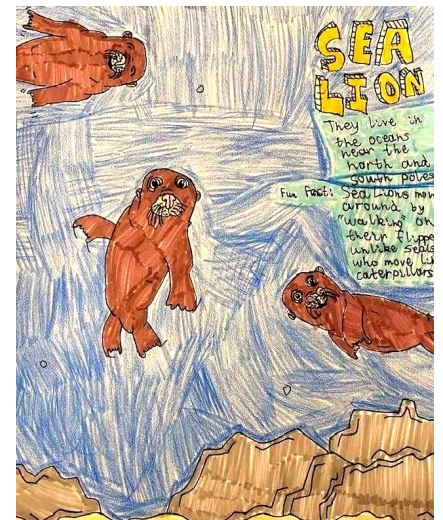
We're Looking for Instruments!



Is there an old band instrument gathering dust in a closet somewhere?

St. John is looking to expand its band program and needs more instruments for students to use. So, if you have an instrument that still works and that you are willing to donate/loan, please bring it to the school office or to Peter Schimm.

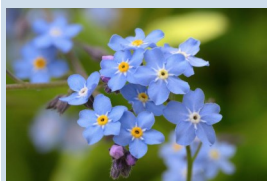
One of our own has been published in Kids National Geographic! Blake, a student at St John, always does such an amazing job and puts his all into all of his tasks. We are truly blessed that he shares his God given talents with us!





LWML is collecting school supplies for Orphan Grain Train which are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. The list of supplies is on the poster board in the gathering area. Get what you can find on sale - you don't need to furnish a complete school kit. LWML is supplying all of the cinch up backpack bags. There will be a container for these items in the gathering area until our meeting to assemble the school bags on September 20th. Thank you for your help. You are blessing many children in need.

A Very Special Thank You goes to Shawn Barbeau, Emily Barbeau and Richard Weiss for recently installing new personalized memorial bricks and cleaning up the grounds around the school flagpole. Thanks also to Joyce Helmreich who initially took care of getting all the new bricks made too. Take a walk across the parking lot to see all their beautiful hard work!



Your talents and a little work are needed to help keep the flower beds and landscaping looking nice. Many have helped by making donations to the Flower Fund to help pay for annuals, perennial, mulch and

other items as needed. We have had members give generously of their time by planting, trimming and weeding. We were really short of helpers this spring and the landscaping needed some major work to get it looking nice for the 170th anniversary celebration. This past spring was difficult to keep up with the landscaping with the limited number of volunteers. Kozy Cares was hired to trim bushes, remove weeds and spread mulch. They did a good job. But you know that it doesn't last long and the weeds come back, the bushes get over grown and plants need to be cleaned up. It is costly to have a professional do the work. We have reached the point where we need volunteers to come forward and clean flowerbeds. If you are able to donate some time to clean up even a small area of the flower beds around the church and school grounds would be very helpful. A donation to the flower fund to help cover the cost of this year's landscaping and future work would be so helpful. You can just go over and spend some time on any area you want. Please contact Debbie Fisher if you can help. 989 684-8074.

St. John members have been very generous over the last two years in their giving. However, our surplus is dropping quickly as costs increase with utility bills, insurance, etc. Please pray for our church and its financial situation and prayerfully consider giving a little extra if you can.

HONOR A LOVED ONE

Would you like to make a donation to a special project or fund within the church in loving memory of someone dear or to honor a loved one on a birthday or anniversary? There are many areas to help St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Amelith with some of the ongoing projects and funds.

1. Gifts/Memorials – a list of items are periodically printed for the “Committee’s wish list”, such as audio and video equipment microphones Misc. other items that can be used around the church
2. Bulletin - sponsor a weekly bulletin in honor of someone’s birthday or Anniversary, cost goes towards printing and paper
3. Music - used for recording equipment and sheet music for our choirs
4. Flowers Fund - cost will help cover annuals, perennials and mulch around the Church each year
5. Elementary Tuition - helps families who are having financial difficulties with the cost of sending their children to our school
6. College Tuition - defrays cost for our members who are attending Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Colleges
7. Cemetery - defrays the cost of mowing the grass and other expenses in taking care of St John cemetery
8. Altar Guild - altar, lectern and pulpit cloths and scarves, flowers
9. Moving Fund - Will help cover costs for moving a new Pastor to St. John
10. Lighting - Replacing outdated light fixtures with LED Church and School

Please consider the above areas when you are thinking about giving a donation to St John to honor a loved one. Please indicate on the envelope what fund you want the donation to go to and for whom you are honoring. Any questions about how these funds are handled and distributed, feel free to call Debbie Fisher 684-8074.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN FALL FESTIVAL

OCT 23, 2022

SERVICES AT 10:30, FUN FOLLOWING

THIS YEAR'S FEATURED EVENT CHILI COOK-OFF

CONTESTANTS NEEDED!!!!

PASTOR IS THE REIGNING CHAMP
WHO CAN UNSEAT HIM?

CALL DIANNE AT 284-0427
OR JOYCE AT 529-5309 TO ENTER.



WE MAY NOT HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER,
BUT WITH JESUS,
TOGETHER WE HAVE IT ALL.

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

Special Music is Back!

St. John's Choir and Bell Choir are going to begin rehearsing again starting September 15th. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:00 and 7:00pm, respectively. Both groups are looking to welcome new members young and old this year. Please come on Thursdays! Also, if you are a singer or an instrumentalist (especially brass!) interested in sharing your talents on occasion in worship, please contact Peter Schimm at pschimm@amelith.org.

Contact Us

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