



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

January 2023

From the Pastor's Pen...



Dear Family of St. John,

Greetings and Happy New Year again! As your interim pastor I am excited about the prospects for St. John congregation in 2023. Many blessings have certainly been here over the year of 2022 and there is every reason to know God will continue to shower His blessing on us now in the new year.

Of course, we don't know what fresh and unforeseen work or arduous trial may be in store for us, but I'm delighted that through it all the refrain to mark our year is simply to Proclaim Christ.

I pray as we enter into a new year that you will sense all the Lord has in store for His people. It is a time to begin again. Most especially it is the intent of our congregation to seek the Lord's will, guidance, and blessing for extending a Divine Call for a new resident pastor. It's a time to look and see what God will do in the lives of those He loves. Please be present for the special Call meeting January 22, and may God favor us soon with the undershepherd He has prepared for service among us.

Will 2023 prove a happy new year as we often wish? I believe it will. But only when it is a holy year in which our blessed Lord Jesus lives in us with His unchanging love and we consecrate each day to His proclamation, praise, and service.

It is traditional to make New Year resolutions as people try to identify some aspect of life they think needs improvement. Congregations should also look to the future with the goal of making advances. While we trust in God and His Spirit to aid and guide us, we can see God already has done much in our lives and be encouraged. He has promised to be with us even to the end of the world.

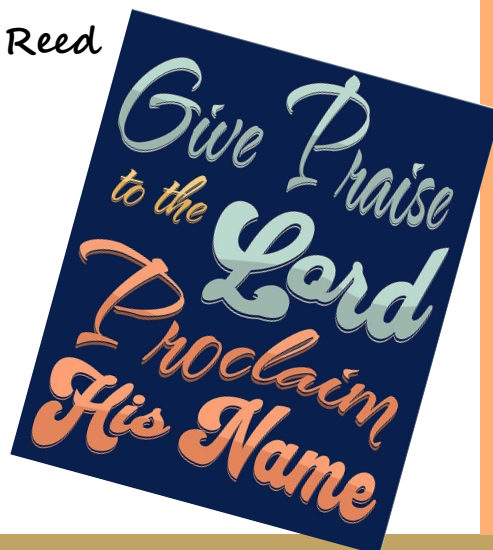
Therefore let us proclaim him as fully as He enables us and each day remember He is our sheltering place, our strength, and our life.

To be a member of St. John Lutheran Church means fellowship in faith, unity in ministry, and partnership in proclamation. One of the primary aims of this year must be to find ourselves walking together. I fear the church has too many wandering sheep. Let us help one another again in 2023.

We begin the new year in Christ's Name and make no other resolution than Jesus be our One and All. Then it will prove a happy year for us. We go to Him for pardon in our sinful weakness, for help in our tasks, comfort in our trials, and peace, even if this year should be our last. To His strong and loving hands we trust our lives, the ways of our loved ones, and the work of our cherished St. John Lutheran Church.

It's hard to believe we've come to the start of 2023, but the Lord has brought us to this time...to today. God bless you today as you Proclaim Him.

Pastor Reed





SJA students learn how school was different 100 years ago.



God In Man Made Manifest

I just returned from the first school chapel of the new year. What a wonderful privilege it is to be able to gather together as a school family in God's house to worship and learn together! (As an aside to the rest of this article--I'd like to encourage everyone to come join us for school chapel services. We generally meet every Wednesday around 8:15 and the service lasts about 20 minutes. Think of it as a mid-week devotional "vitamin" as we worship together.)

Today's hymn was the classic Epiphany hymn "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (LSB 394). As we often do before singing anything new, I had to teach some new vocabulary. The word *manifest* means something that was previously abstract is now clear and obvious. Throughout this hymn, stories and qualities of Jesus are described, all concluding with the phrase, "God in man made manifest." Through the person of Jesus, we know who the Father God is.

Our chapel school theme this year is Making Disciples for Life. Our lessons focus on helping our young students to recognize the gifts they have as children of God, and to nurture and encourage them to reach out with God's love to all those around them. In a sense, we are teaching our students to manifest Jesus in their own lives.

Happy New Year....and Happy Epiphany!

Mrs. Pat Hambaum



Our Kinder "garden" is growing well. We have been hard at work learning how to sound out words so we can start to read our favorite books. We are writing our numbers and currently working on numbers 10-19. In Science we are learning about animal habitats, and like pretending to be animals in their homes. We have also been learning about our home and our planet Earth's natural resources. We really like all our subjects and specials, as well as, learning to be good friends and playing together in centers.

However, Field trips are our favorite and in December we went to the Chippewa Nature Center and learned all about school from 100 years ago. This month we will be attending a theater works production of *Pete's Big Hollywood Adventure*, and we can't wait! We voted and we think Kindergarten is the best!!



Treasurer's Report

December 2022

General Fund

Home	\$ 72,271.79
Tuition	16,700.00
Reimb. School Supplies	13,430.00
Electronic Giving	3,278.00
Land Usage	2,100.00
Loose Offerings	302.00
Lutheran Witness	72.00
Bulletin Fund	50.00

Total \$ 108,203.79

Designated Gifts

Insurance Premium	\$700.91
Building Fund	120.00
K-8 Tuition	265.00
Audio Fund	260.00
Missions	675.00
Music Fund	50.00

Total \$ 2,070.91

Overall Total \$110,274.70

Hands on Learning



In December, students learned how butter used to be made while visiting the Chippewa Nature Center.

Call Committee Update

There will be a special Voters' Meeting on January 22. Pastoral candidates for St John will be presented and if the Lord leads the assembly to do so, a Call will be extended. All St John members are encouraged to attend. We ask for continued prayers through this process and for the Pastor who God has chosen to lead our congregation.

Looking for Donations - This time of year many of us are blessed with receiving Christmas cards. Once the season is over, what do you do with them? If they have a picture on the cover, local nursing homes make good use of them for crafts and decoration. Debbie Fisher is collecting all forms of used cards - not just Christmas - as well as old picture calendars, to deliver to Symphony Tri-Cities. Please contact her if you are willing to donate.



Great news! The Picnic and Recreation Task Force was in need of a chairperson.

Mike Davis has agreed to fill that position. In order to expedite his installation we will add this order of business to the Agenda of the Special Voters Meeting for January 22. The vote will be held at the beginning of the meeting. With the assumption that the congregation will give Mike their blessing to take on this task, rentals can be arranged with Deb Hutter at 989-316-8322 in the following order:

- Jan 22 - Feb 4:** St. John Church and School committees
- Feb 5 - Feb 25:** St. John members
- Feb 26 and on:** Sister congregations and community.

Card Night Fundraiser

- **FUNDS TO SUPPORT:** Valley Lutheran H.S. Booster Club
- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 4 at 6pm
- **WHERE:** Good Shepherd on Brockway Rd. in Saginaw
- **EVERYONE IS WELCOME:** No experience needed; but bring all your friends
- **COST:** \$20 per person at the door
- **WHAT TO EXPECT:** Snacks and beverages provided
- **RSVP:** By January 30 to Cathy Miller, 989.790.1676; or Jenny Rauschert, 989.751.4525



VL is proud to recognize the fall athletes who received post-season recognitions! See the full list:
www.vlhs.com/2022fallsportsawards



WINTER INFORMATION NIGHT

7th & 8th grade families are invited to explore the VL experience... where students prepare, belong, and excel!

Thursday, January 26
Arrivals begin at 6:00 p.m.

Register at
www.vlhs.com/InfoNight



or





NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!.

All are invited to hear Brian Rueger and Ion Keefer talk about the organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The group's goal is to make sure no child sleeps on the floor in the Great Lakes Bay Region. We will meet in the church basement January 17 at 6:30.

Our Trustees have been busy around school over the last few months, especially in the classrooms during Christmas break. Because of their hard work, all classroom lights are now able to use LED bulbs, improving energy efficiency. They have also addressed a few boiler issues as well as fix stall latches in the boys bathroom. Thank you, Trustees for your care of our church and school!

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

Contact Us

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