



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

July 2022



As I sit in the office on July 5th and look out the window at the well maintained picnic grounds of the church, I can't help but be nostalgic. I remember back to the days of my youth a quarter of a Century ago. I think of all of the change that has happened in this German/Lutheran community of Amelith.

When I was a child, almost all of my classmates and friends' fathers were farmers. The farms were normally 80 acres with the fields fenced off in small plots so that the dairy cattle could graze. Besides cattle, the farms raised chickens and pigs and had large gardens. They were practically self-sufficient.

Today the fences are gone as well as the cattle and pigs. If you look closely, you might see a chicken or two running in a yard. Houses have sprung up like mushrooms on the frontage property along Amelith and Kraenzlein Roads. A whole farm, where I picked strawberries, is now a subdivision on West Side Saginaw Road. A community college and a state university are within the mythical boundaries of Amelith.

Change! Change! Change! We don't like change. Yet change is inevitable. Except for the Triune God. Hebrews 13:8 tells us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

The salvation He offers us is the same as it was 2000 years ago when he died on the cross for our since. The heavenly home He offers us is the same one He offered us from the empty tomb. The peace that he offers us is the same peace He showered on His disciples in that upper room.

Amongst all of the change, and even chaos, of our present world, we have the certainty that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, never changes. He is always our reliable source of grace, mercy, and love. Let us put our trust and confidence in our unchanging God.

Pastor Kurt

*"You,
my brothers and
sisters, were
called to be
free... serve one
another humbly
in love."*



- Galatians 5:13



Closing Day of St John VBS 2022— "Treasured"



Cardinal Connection

July is a month where people don't generally think about school. Families plan vacations and outings. Time with family and friends is more leisurely and one doesn't hear the familiar, "It's a school night, we have to get home to get everyone to bed." July is a month for regrouping and refreshing.

Teachers are no exceptions to the usual July activities. Lutheran school teachers work long hours during the school year and July is a time to slow down for a bit before the race begins again. Teachers have spouses and families. I know this is an obvious statement, but it bears emphasis because Lutheran School Teachers often make choices during the school year that compromise their families in some way. Across the country, LCMS congregations are having conversations about how to better care for their workers and help them to balance work and home life.

There is a severe teacher shortage. We hear about it on the news a lot. God is blessing St. John with a full teaching staff even in

the midst of this shortage. Our teachers are precious ministry resources that we should never take for granted. Did you know that all of our teaching staff (with the exception of the Kindergarten teacher) came back from their summer break to teach Vacation Bible School?! Your teaching staff planned their summer schedules and availability around VBS because they recognized it as another opportunity to reach out to our community with God's message of salvation. That is to be recognized and celebrated! I know May is traditionally recognized as Teacher Appreciation Month, but I want to encourage and challenge our congregation to reach out in some tangible way this month to encourage this teaching ministry staff. Send a Facebook message; send a card; make a point to talk to them when you see them around town this summer. Communicate your appreciation for the work your teachers are doing on behalf of St. John. God is indeed glorified by the work and sacrifice of our St. John Amelith teaching staff!

Mrs. Pat Hambaum



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 are 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



Relief for Human Need Worldwide



SERVING THE LORD IN

K-TOWN, GERMANY

NEWS FROM THE JENSEN FAMILY



June 2022

The Lord Provides Opportunities to Share the Gospel When We Least Expect It

Dear friends,

Greetings from Germany! Since last writing, Emma, Agatha, and I made a day trip to Frankfurt to apply for Agatha's passport and certificate of birth abroad at the U.S. embassy. As part of our trip to Frankfurt, we decided to go to nearby Oberursel to visit Oksana and her mother Nina, the Ukrainians we are supporting with funding from the LCMS. They have been trying to apply for a visa for Nina to come to the United States. Oksana invited us over for dinner. What a wonderful surprise that the other Ukrainian refugees living in Oberursel joined us! A gentleman sitting next to me was an airline pilot from Egypt but married to a Ukrainian. As a Muslim, he was curious about Christianity in Germany and the United States. I was able to answer some of his questions and gave him a Bible as well. We pray the Lord will continue working in his life!

On Ascension Day we had Divine Service at church. We had members, guests, and visitors present from India, Mexico, the United States, Germany, New Zealand, and England. I will never forget the feeling of having so many nationalities represented. What a wonderful preparation for Pentecost!

At the beginning of June, our congregation had the honor of providing dinner for about 45 Ukrainian refugees in our area. What a joy to get to know some of the Ukrainians the Lord has brought to this area! A Ukrainian woman said they don't see themselves as refugees so much as missionaries. She cited Luke 9:3: "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics." These people had to leave their homeland with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Yet they don't see themselves as victims; they see themselves as missionaries to a western Europe shrouded in spiritual darkness.

A few months ago, I heard from a Canadian pastor in the Synod of France, who had been contacted by a Missouri Synod woman who has lived in Switzerland for thirty-five years. We were going to be traveling to Switzerland at the end of June, so I arranged a visit. Emma, Agatha, and I planned to join her and her family for dinner and discuss possibilities for ongoing pastoral care. When we were about halfway between our accommodations and destination, a hailstorm the likes of which I have never seen came out of nowhere. I pulled off the road and under a tree at an abandoned property. We were fully expecting windows to break, but ended up with two flat tires on the right side of the car. I called the German equivalent of AAA, and they put me in contact with the Swiss version.

As we waited, a family across the street saw baby Agatha and invited us in for dinner. When Emma and I prayed beforehand, the man and the woman both said they remembered their grandmothers praying. Hopefully now they see it's not so old-fashioned to pray! The gentleman accompanied me to the mechanic shop and we discussed the Gospel a bit as the new tires were being installed. The mechanic was gracious enough to give us both tires for free! With the car in good shape to get us back to Germany, we were able to relax with our new friends a bit.

Although we weren't able to reach our destination on this trip, it's important to keep in mind that God might have had a much different place for us to go. Who knows what could come from those little encounters because of a hail storm and two flat tires? I'm still in contact with this Missouri Synod woman in Switzerland and we will plan another visit at a later date.

Please keep the people mentioned in this newsletter in your prayers. Pray that Oksana and Nina would be able to return to the United States as soon as possible. Pray for the Muslim gentleman, that God would open His eyes to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for the family we met in Switzerland and that our future visits there will be met with success. Please also pray for our continued work among U.S. soldiers and other English-speakers in the Kaiserslautern area.

Jesus be with you,

The Jensen Family

June 13, 2022

The Valley Lutheran High School Board of Directors announces that Julian Petzold has asked for a peaceful release of his call as Executive Director effective June 30, 2022 due to personal reasons. We want to recognize Julian for his service to our school, and appreciate his leadership of the school over the past 2 years.

The mission of Valley Lutheran High School has been - and remains - preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation. The VL Board of Directors is committed to this mission and the continued ministry of this school.

This foundation in Christ is supported by amazingly dedicated faculty, staff, and families, who all work together to keep Valley Lutheran moving forward into the future. Now is no different. While this may be an unexpected bump in our road, our path remains clear: growing Valley Lutheran to cultivate Christian leaders who will serve in our communities. We know that the Holy Spirit works all things for good. We appreciate your prayers during this time.

In His Service,

VL Board of Directors



Contact Us

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

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PLACE
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