



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

June 2023



THIS SUMMER TAKE A BREATHER – THE AROMA OF LIFE

A good number of people in the Bible are named Simon. Two disciples, as well as a brother of Jesus were all named Simon.

Another Simon in the Bible was a tanner who lived in the ocean-side city of Joppa (Acts 10). His “house by the sea“ sounds like a nice place doesn’t it, like a summer getaway? But a tanner is about the stinkiest line of work there is. Yet, Acts tells us, Simon the fisherman (also a stinky vocation) was a houseguest there.

Pastors visit many homes. Years ago, I visited the home of some church members who were hog farmers. I don’t know if they had more flyers or dirty dishes.

But what cheerful, believing Christians these “stinky“ people were—maybe the most jolly family I ever knew. They were Christians who lived by faith. God’s grace and the love of Christ was the real deal in their house. They trusted God not to be partial toward only tidy, scrubbed, or orderly folks. They knew he comes to us where we are and as we are.

God sees the home of the young family with all the mess and toys around. It’s OK. He isn’t put off by clutter or dust in an old folk’s house. Jesus doesn’t favor somebody because of his name or circumstances. Nor does Jesus confuse you with others who may share your particular first name.

We’re all alike. We’re all stinky. That’s the first thing we confess to God. We don’t mean it the way boisterous children may be referred to as “little stinkers.“ We mean the real nasty smell of original sin.

How much our sins offend God’s senses too. The first thing we say to him in the liturgy is, “I stink.”

But we are also alike in our baptism. Cleansed

and disinfected by Christ’s righteousness, God says to you in the liturgy, “You are washed, but you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the spirit of our God.” And, “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ.”

The very essence of purity is yours.

Don’t apologize for the appearance of “your house.” It doesn’t matter. The Lord’s Supper has the aroma of salvation even if celebrated among clutter. Actually, it’s into these messy unruly lives of ours that our Lord has come. Because of Him, you are not just another stinker. Your sins are forgiven. Your life is united with the one whom God raised from the dead, never to decay.“ (Acts 13:34).

In fact the New Testament says even you are “to God the aroma of Christ, among those who are being saved“ (2 Cor. 2:15). Your knowledge of him is “the fragrance of life.“

I think that’s why Simon the fisherman and Simon the Tanner enjoyed each other’s company. These men in their work knew some pretty pungent smells and confessed in their flesh the worst stink of sin. But they also knew they shared in Christ the fragrance of life in the sweet smelling aroma of the King’s house in which they were both guests – as are you!

So if ever you’re choked by work, pause for time with your Lord and that wonderful breath of fresh air. If you ever feel like home, life, or health sometimes “stink,“ draw breath from the Spirit of Christ. The scent of salvation in the aroma of life in Him are heady and aromatic—to savor with every breath.

God bless your summer with just such a breather.

Pastor Reed



5th-8th Grade Students were able to step into a 38 foot mobile science laboratory, on June 2nd, when the Delta STEM Explorer bus arrived on campus. They were able to do some hands on activities involving forensics, robotics, and 3D printing to name a few.

Cardinal Connection

Membership

I once served a congregation where school families were charged different tuition rates if they were members or if they were not. While this is a common practice in our synod, this particular congregation had a unique approach. If a school family who claimed membership fell below established thresholds for worship attendance and giving, they were invited to meet with a "Peer Review Committee". During this meeting, families were asked to explain themselves. Were there any extenuating circumstances? and if so, how can we come along side you and help? The meetings were always a beautiful blend of Law and Gospel.

I've been talking with several of our school families over the past few months about what membership in a church looks like. I'll wager that many of us reading this article would have to think for quite a bit about their answer if asked, "Why should I be a member of St. John Amelith?"

I have a membership at Sam's Club. Sam's requires that I pay a membership fee annually and I'm in. As a member, I receive benefits like lower prices for goods and services. Membership is almost always a give-and-take relationship.

Our congregation doesn't offer financial incentives to school families for membership; so why should school families be encouraged to join our congregation? As I've been talking to families, I've suggested that by becoming a member and participating in regular worship and Bible study that they would be learning the same Biblical truths and applications as

their children do in our school. Of course, as members they would also have voting rights.

Another important part of a church membership is an intangible feeling of belonging. As a member of St. John, I look forward to coming to worship on Sundays and seeing people who are friendly and want to know about me. It's like a little family reunion each week when I see and fellowship with other members and get to know who they are.

I have to ask a hard question here. I think we all agree that having more members in our congregation would be a good thing; but are you personally doing what you can to help new people develop that belonging feeling? Do you make a point to seek out visitors or people you don't recognize and introduce yourselves? As a natural introvert, I've had to discipline and even force myself to initiate such conversations. I understand my role as a Christian, let alone a church member, is to be an ambassador for Christ. Believe me when I say I understand that this doesn't come naturally to most of us. Before coming to worship, perhaps pray a special prayer asking God to not only give you the opportunity to reach out to someone new, but to also give you the words to say.

Jesus' last words to us before he went back to his Father in Heaven was both an assignment and a promise. As members of the body of Christ, we are to claim the power of the Holy Spirit and make disciples. It's OUR job to grow the membership of the Holy Christian Church and St. John Amelith.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum



The new early childhood play structure and swings are finally in place and ready for some fun! Woohoo!

A Baby Shower is coming!

To show our love and appreciation to the Schimm family.



For: The Schimm Family
When: Sunday, July 30, 2023,
following the worship service
Where: Church basement

All church members and school families and staff are invited. Light snacks will be served.

A gift box will be placed on the table by the Fellowship area for cards and/or gift cards for Baby Boy Schimm and family, Sunday, July 2 through Sunday, July 30. Disposable diapers would be appreciated, too.



Spring Clean Up Was a Success

Saturday, June 3, 2023 turned out to be a great day for the Spring Clean Up Day that was planned. What a wonderful surprise to see so many members willing to come spend the morning helping to beautify the flowerbeds around the church and school. Flowerbeds were weeded, some dead plants removed, pine cones raked, and sidewalks were edged. Flowers were planted in the raised flowerbeds at the school, along the sidewalk and rail on the west side ramp, as well as on the north side of that same ramp and several sized red pots and around the church sign on the north side of the church to brighten up our landscaping areas. Easter lilies that were left from Easter Sunday were planted in a flower bed behind the bench on the south side of the church. They should be gorgeous next spring. Everyone who worked so hard were treated to a nice lunch of sub sandwiches, chips, veggies, fruit and sweets. A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who were willing and able to come and help. It was amazing. If you are able and willing to continuing helping with some of the areas throughout the summer months, it would also be very much appreciated. As you know those areas will still need to be watered, weeded and cared for in the months ahead. - The Flower Committee

VLHS Ministry Update

The ministry of Valley Lutheran High School is blessed in so many ways and continues to be active and strong. Thank you for being a valued partner in this ministry! Here are a few "bulletin sized" updates:

- VL is seeking qualified candidates in the continued search for the Executive Director position. The ministry position description was recently updated. If you - or someone you know - may be interested in learning more about this leadership role, view the ministry position description at vlhs.com/executivedirector. Interested candidates may send a resume and cover letter to Board Chairperson Julie Neumann (jneumanncpa@yahoo.com).
- The incoming Freshman class is on track to be the largest class in the last 6 years! If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning more about a VL education, contact Director of Admissions Amy Cooper (acooper@vlhs.com).
- Mr. Billy Cmeyla has accepted a Call to join the ministry team at VLHS as the Dean of Students - thanks be to God!
- Mr. Barry Wittig is retiring at the end of this school year after 32 years of faithful service.
- 67 seniors will graduate on June 11th! We celebrate their accomplishments to date and we look forward to watching them "launch" into the world, prepared to follow God's calling in their lives.

Thank you for continuing to keep the ministry of VLHS in your prayers!

St. John Amelith VBS!
June 26-29 2023
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Visit our web page at
www.amelith.org for
more information and
updates



Fellowship dinner
@ 5pm for VBS
kids and their
family.

Scan me to sign up!



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

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