



ST JOHN AMELITH PARISH NEWS

May 2023

From the Pastor's Pen...



DOES THE PASTOR MEAN YOU?

Did you ever have a suspicion the preacher meant you when he was speaking something particular from the pulpit? Don't ignore the notion because your pastor does mean you every time he preaches.

When he speaks of sin and warns against it, who else does he mean but you? He's not preaching about failures no one ever commits. When he speaks of indifference he means you because you haven't loved God with all your heart and mind. When he speaks of the love you owe your neighbor he means you, and when he teaches people are saved by grace he means you because that's the only way you can be saved.

Seek to derive the most benefit from sermons by entering God's house with the thought, "Today, Pastor is going to preach a sermon to me by which God wants to bless me."

You see, there's danger in failing to make personal application of what you hear from the pulpit. There's danger to think little of sins of which we could say, "I myself am guilty of such." Poison doesn't change its nature because a king drinks it. Sin is just as lethal when you commit it as when someone else does.

If the pastor does not mean "you" when he preaches, why would you even attend? You don't go to a doctor, do you, in order to see how he treats other people? You go to him so you yourself can receive treatment. You gather for worship so God can speak to you. Each of us are to say: I want my pastor to mean me in his sermons.

We would receive little benefit from worship if we would go simply to observe or listen impassively to what a pastor has to say to others instead of hearing what God has to say me.

Martin Luther remarked on this when he wrote the catechism explanations to the Articles of the Apostles' Creed. These are not repeated just in a general way by saying: "I believe God created heaven and earth." But Luther gave the Creed a very personal turn by writing: "I believe that God has made *me* and all creatures, that he has given *me* my body and soul," etc.

Similarly in the Second Article: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity is *my* lord, who has redeemed *me*."

Mere mental conviction about this or that fact of the Bible is not the faith which saves. The faith that saves believes God is speaking to *me*, that what he says to *me* is true for *me*. This is the personal faith we see in St. Paul, when he says: "I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to *me*." 2 Timothy 1:12.

Rejoice therefore that when returning home from the Divine Service you can truthfully say, "Today, my pastor convicted *me* and absolved *me*! My pastor when he preached meant *me*."

Pastor Reed



Two St. John students were baptized on May 3 during chapel.

Cardinal Connection

*"I was baptized, happy day!
All my sins were washed away.
God looked down on me and smiled.
I became His own dear Child."*

These are the precious words we sing nearly weekly at our school chapel services as we individually recognize student's baptism birthdays. Students are invited up to the front altar to stand near the baptismal font, receive a baptism birthday card and the whole school body sings the above verse with the individual's name. We make a big deal about baptism here at St. John; because God makes a big deal about baptism.

In the waters of baptism we are marked as God's own precious children. In the waters of baptism we receive God's grace and forgiveness. And because God forgives us, we can forgive each other freely. As great as our school is and as wonderful as our staff and students are, we all need God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of others who have hurt us. As baptized children of God, we can claim our inheritance and call on the Holy Spirit to empower us to ask and give forgiveness for sins we have committed and for offences made against us.

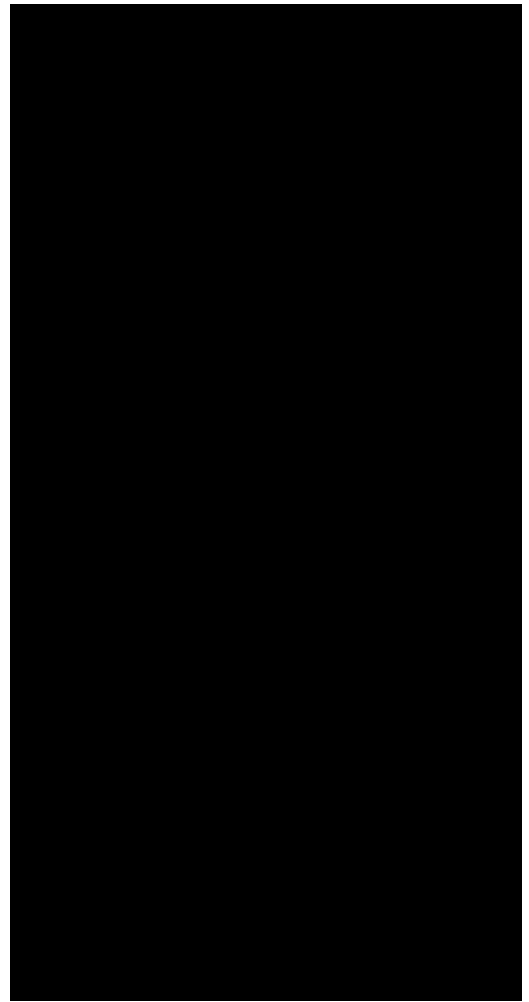
When is your baptism birthday? Is it marked on your calendar? When people are baptized at St. John, they receive a baptismal candle. Just as we light birthday candles once a year in celebration, we encourage students to light their baptismal candles once a year to remember, not only the event

and day of their baptism, but also to remember and rejoice in all the blessings they received at their baptism. Maybe you can start a new tradition in your family too.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum

Grade 3/4

Our 3rd/4th grade class has been busy this year working very hard mastering all of our standards in Math & Reading. 3rd grade had a BIG year coming from 2nd grade where they were learning to read and jumping into 3rd grade where they are reading to learn. 3rd and 4th grade learned many skills such as point of view, setting, main idea, participated in a novel study, learned how to write a 5 paragraph essay, continued to master grammar and spelling and much more! They have learned about place value, multi digit addition & subtraction, multiplication and division math facts (4th grade doing 2 digit by 1 digit multiplication and learning long division) fractions and now area and perimeter. In science right now they are completing severe weather pattern projects where they are learning research skills. In social studies they are learning about maps. Our favorite field trip is when we went to Central Michigan University to the Maker Space STEM lab and participated in problem solving projects. We will miss our 4th grade friends as they move onto 5th grade next year, but 3rd grade is looking forward to another fun year ahead!



*God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!*

Confirmation Sunday

May 21, 2023

Saynt Michael Brandow

Lindsay Marie Fitzpatrick

Noah David MacDonald

Victor Jacob Marr

Morgan Riley Rau

Morgan Dean Wearn

Please pray for our students as they prepare for this special day and receive God's gifts given through Holy Communion.



Spring Graduation is right around the corner. Do you have gift ideas? Scrip gift cards for over 700 businesses can be purchased online at www.raiseright.com. Choose

St John Amelith as your organization of choice and Scrip will give a percentage of the card price back to school. Please consider supporting your graduate and St John Amelith in this way.

Cards and Crafts

Cards (any holiday type cards - Christmas, Easter, Birthday, Anniversary, get well, etc) are still needed for Symphony Tri-City Assisted Living (formerly Caretel) for crafts. There is also a need for any other crafting items such as: Q-tips, cotton balls, beads, ribbon, yarn, artificial flowers, fabric scraps and scrap booking scrapes. Please continue collecting these items and leave them in the back of the church under the mailboxes. I will collect and deliver them for the residents. Thanks for your help. Debbie Fisher

Spring Beautification Day



June 3rd, 9am-12pm

We will gather at 9am and start working by 10am. We will stop at noon and enjoy a fellowship lunch together. Everyone is welcome to come and help beautify the church and school grounds! We will be planting flowers, cleaning up flower beds, spreading mulch, and anything else to help beautify the grounds. Any amount of time you can give, whether it's 30 minutes or the whole time, is appreciated! If you want to be part of this event and aren't able to do yard work, you can still help! We will need donations of supplies or money to purchase supplies, volunteers to help with lunch and others to "supervise"; so please come! A sign up sheet will be in church by Sunday May 7th.

VLHS Notes

1. VLHS students helped celebrate National Reading Month by visiting several Association schools to read, give a book, and provide bookmarks to the students.
2. Did you know VLHS has a Fashion Club?!? They collected gently used formal dressed and distributed them to students in our community in need.
3. Lenten Tour was a wonderful success and blessing to all who attended/participated. Valley students performed in Liberty Twp., OH, Louisville, KY, Elizabethtown, KY, Carmel, IN, and the homecoming concert at Trinity, Reese. The students shared a Lenten message of "Love Unknown." They also had the opportunity to visit the Creation Museum and the Louisville bat museum & factory.
4. Zach Lamont was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Saginaw Career Center. This society recognizes students who shine in the areas of service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, leadership, skill, knowledge, and honesty.
5. Hunter Krause (junior) is a member of the Virtual Multimedia and Promotion Team at the Saginaw Career Complex. He and his team earned an invitation to the National BPA Conference in Anaheim, California later this month!
6. Summer Camps are back! Visit www.vlhs.com/camps for more info.
7. Spring sports are well underway! Visit www.vlhs.com/student-info/calendars/ for the most current calendar of competitions.
8. Graduation is Sunday, June 11th at 2pm.

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

Contact Us

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