



# ST JOHN AMELITH

## PARISH NEWS

November 2022

*From the Pastor's Pen...*



Dear St. John Family,

There was an elderly woman who looked forward every day to getting junk mail because it gave her the illusion someone cared about her.

But no one should have to pretend to have friends.

People need real ones. If we Christians have no illusions about our Lord's presence in our lives, let's also have no illusions about the needs of others for Him. If someone is near us and we reach out to them as Jesus does for us, what a blessing St. John is.

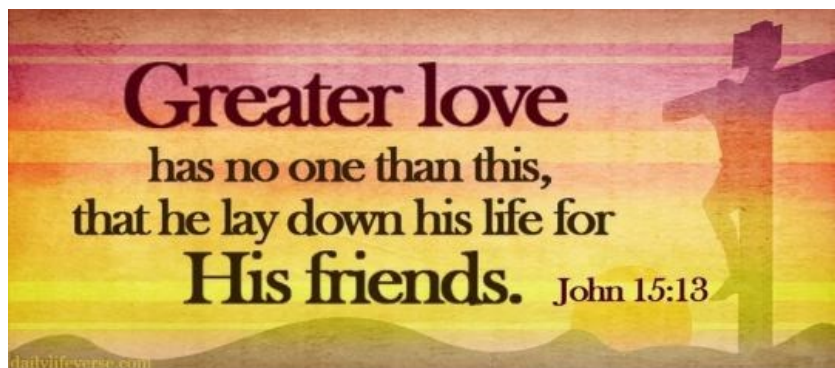
I stood this week in the sanctuary here at St. John and counted scores of different symbols of the cross. Some were in wood, some in metal, some in fabric—on altar paraments, at the baptismal font, around the pulpit, surrounding the sanctuary, and more. And it struck me again.....

..... You and I are here only because God cared to send his Son for us. No other reason! The cross is all about how far God's friendship has gone and will continue to go. Only a friend would sign his letters with his own lifeblood.

Like a personal epistle from God, Jesus came to us in Word and in Writing. It was put down; "Dear loved one, to you every day I give myself in the renewal of your baptism. Now, go beyond your own sidewalk and your own mailbox. And as you reach out to others as I have for you, what a blessing you are."

When God's people are turned loose in this way through Him, then we have a working purpose for being the congregation we are meant to be and have been for so many years.

I am so pleased, as your vacancy pastor, to hear lay members of St. John asking again important questions: Really, why are we here? And what things will God help us to do better? As we take up those questions, let's remember people like that woman at her mailbox and be moved to action by Christ's letters to us. God bless you. *Pastor Reed*





1st Place Trunk Winners at St John's Trunk or Treat



prayerfully consider volunteering some time for the students in your school.

*Mrs. Pat Hambaum*

### Extra Special Friends

On Friday, October 28 a group of very special volunteers gathered at the school for the first Extra Special Friends activity of the 2022-23 school year. Dianne G., Annette T., Kathy P., Ann K., Sally S., Debbie F., Beth E. Gary K., Judy W., Mary Ann LG., Gail C., Gayle O., Mike L., Karen L., Jean S., Kelly S., Mary R., Lisa H., Howard K., Warren S., and Shelby K. were all treated to a costume parade in the gym. Afterwards, they were introduced to their specially paired students and spent some time getting to know each other a bit better.

The goal of ESF is simple. Relationships. Research (and experience) reinforces what we already know: People, young and old, come to the Church because of relationships they have with those in it. Students from our school are accustomed to hearing about Jesus from their teachers. We ask God's blessings on these Extra Special Friends relationships and pray that His Holy Spirit bless both the adults as well as the children.

Our next scheduled dates for ESF activities are December 2, February 3, and April 28. from 8:50-9:25. ESF will also be special invited guests to our annual Grandparents/Grand Friends Day on March 24. We have room for more volunteers as not all our students were able to be paired up in October. Please

St John

MUSIC

On to the Next!

Throughout each week the students of St. John Lutheran make their way from their homerooms to the Music Room to sing in Choir, play in Band, Chimes, or Recorders, or do both in General Music. All groups have already preformed twice this year, including just recently on Stewardship Sunday.

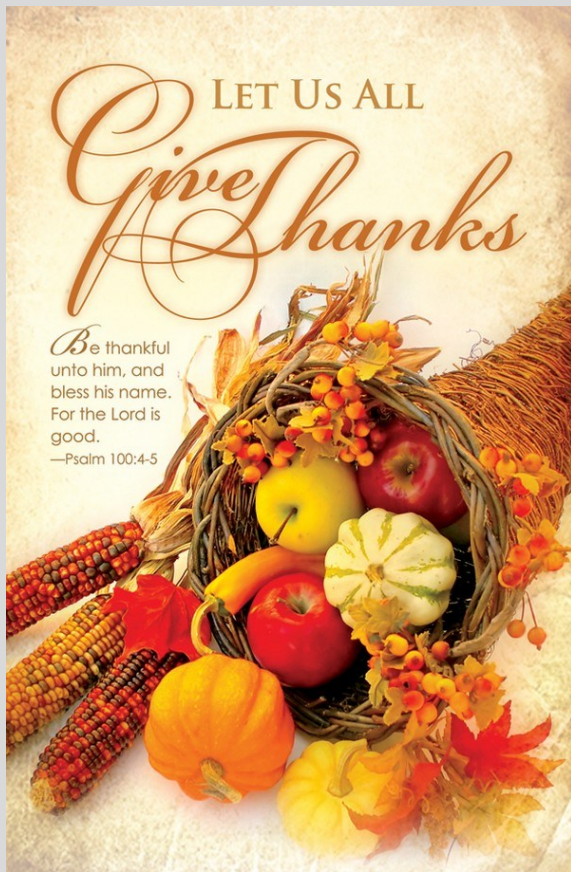
As the students learn to speak, read, and write words in their English and Literature classes, they do much the same with music. All students learn to sing and play instruments that help express what words can't. They learn music from all around the world by developing literacy in music notation. And whether on the whiteboard, on paper, or with popsicle sticks, the students are learning what it is to write music.

As the First Quarter ends and Christmas approaches, the focus is now turning to our upcoming Christmas program, "Symbols of Christmas, " where the students have the opportunity to tell the Christmas story through Scripture and song. We hope you join us on December 15th! - *Mr. Peter Schimm*



"D" is for Doctor in Preschool.





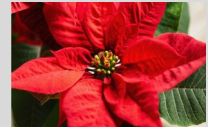
# Thanksgiving Worship

Thursday, November 24, 2022

9:00 a.m.

**Thanksgiving Display** It's time to think of all our neighbors who are in need of help. It's quite simple. Just bring in non-perishable items, hygiene items, cleaning or paper products from now until Thanksgiving. Leave items in the Narthex by the display and watch it grow! All items will be given to local families who are in dire need of assistance.

**Poinsettias for Christmas** - The Altar Guild will be taking orders for flowers to be placed in church for Christmas. Cost is \$13 and can be ordered either in honor or memory of someone. Checks need to be made payable to St John Altar Guild. Order forms are in your church mailbox. You can also order by contacting Mary Revord at 989-225-3172 or revordmary1@aol.com. Orders need to be placed by November 21.



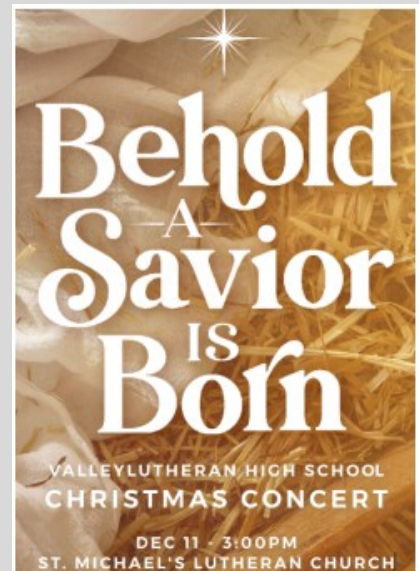
**Thanks be to God, Valley Lutheran is once again debt free!**

It was just three short years ago that we celebrated the completion of the original mortgage, and now thanks to God's provision and through the generosity of the 1,780 GROWING Campaign supporters, the expansion and improvements made through the campaign have been paid in full.

On October 12 a mortgage "burning" celebration was held. The evening's celebration featured fellowship, delicious food, great speakers, some light-hearted fun, and wonderful music courtesy of the VL Brass Ensemble.

Every priority of the GROWING Campaign had one goal in mind: to better equip Valley Lutheran to effectively pursue our mission: Preparing students for life, with Christ as our foundation!

To God be the glory!



## Call Committee Update

We have been working on preparing interview questions. The goal in preparing these questions was to make sure they would gather information that our congregation feels is important. (Topics of importance were based on the surveys everyone was asked to fill out in the beginning of the year) Now that the questions are complete, we will conduct a mock interview on November 6. If the questions are good and we get the type of information we are seeking, we may proceed in setting up interviews. Your continued prayers as we start this next step are so important. Please pray for the call committee, the Pastors that we will be interviewing and the congregation as we navigate this process together.



**SMART Card Booklets are available for purchase!** For \$25 you will be able to receive some amazing savings at businesses all around the Great Lakes Bay Region; Golf, Groceries, Entertainment, Car Washes, and best of all - Restaurants! Your purchase also helps raise much needed money for special projects around school that aren't covered through the budget or tuition. The booklets can be picked up during the week in St John's Church Office.

Dear Friends,

We have now entered our second year on the mission field. We arrived in Germany on October 7, 2021. Oh, how the time has flown! Oh, how the LORD has richly blessed us in this place!

I thank the LORD for preserving us until this point and for allowing us to serve in such a faithful congregation.

Please continue praying for us and for our work in Germany, in particular, that we might find an open door among the soldiers here.

*Rev. Nathaniel Jensen*



Baby Agatha is enjoying Autumn!

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

## Contact Us

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

989-686-0176  
[office@amelith.org](mailto:office@amelith.org)