



ST JOHN AMELITH

PARISH NEWS

September 2022

From the Pastor's Pen...



It is amazing how quickly the course of a person's life can change. I had not been feeling 100% for the month of July and early August. Mostly it was fatigue from noon on. I even thought about not completing my commitment to the church.

I asked God to guide me and let me know what His plan for me was. My answer was Covid and a 4 day hospital stay. Oh yes, and a major problem with my heart as well.

It seemed to me that I had been given my answer loudly and clearly. I talked with Heidi and family and friends who encouraged me to care for myself and get my health in order. As a result, I submitted my resignation to the Board of Elders effective September 30, 2022.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve this congregation. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think that I would be the pastor of my home church. I have been treated with love and respect by you folks and I thank you for that. I love and respect you as well and will miss your smiles and greetings each Sunday.

But time marches on. In spite of the fact that we don't like change, it is inevitable. And there can be no progress without change.

Soon you will be getting a call list; soon you will extend a call to the candidate the Holy Spirit has chosen for you; soon he will arrive and a new era in the history of St. John – Amelith will begin.

May God continue to bless you in the future as He has for 170 years. And THANK YOU for the many blessings you have heaped on me in the last 18 months.

Pastor Kurt

*Taste and see that the Lord
is good; blessed is the one
who takes refuge in him.*

Psaltn 34:8



St John 1- 4 Soccer Team



Cardinal Connection

Extra Special Friends

Have you heard the amazing news?! God has blessed our school with 73 students from 46 families! Fifteen families are new to the SJA family this year alone. To God be the glory!

Last school year, we began a new partnership we called Extra Special Friends. SJA has a long tradition of Special Friends; younger students are paired with older students and that relationship is nurtured throughout the school year. Extra Special Friends are volunteers from the congregation who are additionally paired with individual Special Friends groups. Activities such as book reading, puzzles, and games were scheduled where an adult ESF and their student SF could get to know each other.

The purpose of the Extra Special Friends program is to help "bridge the gap" between school and church. Relationship building is the key. Adults who may otherwise not have any connection with the school get to know individual students on a personal level. The goal is that those relationships can extend the discipling work the school staff is already doing with our students.

This new school year brings new opportunities for relationship building. We have the following dates scheduled for Extra Special Friends:

October 28

December 2

February 3

March 24 (also Grandparents and
Grand Friends Day)

April 28

All Activities, except for March 24, are from 8:50-9:25. While Extra Special Friends do not have to be available for all 5 dates, we do ask that you participate in at least three.

Please prayerfully consider this service opportunity. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call me directly in the school office, or call or text my cell 989-293-1622 or by email at phambaum@amelith.org.

Mrs. Pat Hambaum



We're Looking for Instruments!

Is there an old band instrument gathering dust in a closet somewhere?

St. John is looking to expand its band program and needs more instruments for students to use. So, if you have an instrument that still works and that you are willing to donate/loan, please bring it to the school office or to Peter Schimm.

**We give thee but thine own.
whate'er the gift may be:
all that we have is thine
alone, a trust. O Lord, from
thee.**

As I indicated a few weeks ago, our cash flow is low. The surplus that we carried for over a year because of a couple of very large, generous donations is now dwindled down to the point that I can't cover payroll and the bills at the same time. I have sent a letter out to Church Extension Fund asking for a draw on our line of credit. We had the balance of the current budget loan down to \$27,500.00 as of the end of August. I have asked for \$30,000 help cover two payrolls for September and more bills. Please pray for St. John and our financial needs and give as much as you can. Thank you so much for your help and prayers.

Debbie Fisher, Treasurer.



St John Amelith Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction

Join us on
Sept. 18
for
food
fellowship &
fundraising



Bid on...

a gift certificate to
Kramer's Westside Food,
admission tickets to the USS Edson,
Debbie Fisher's
pineapple upside down cake,
day passes to Dow Gardens
including Canopy Walk,
3 half-hour music lessons
with Mr Schimm,
day passes to the
Mid-Michigan Children's Museum,
"Try Scuba Diving" sessions
with Dive & Glide,
3 nights at an Airbnb in Phoenix AZ,
themed gift baskets,
and more!

We need your help! Our school has grown to 73 students strong! Just as healthy children need new clothing as they sprout up, St John also needs to make adjustments as we grow. **We are in need of a new 12 crate milk cooler** to provide more space in our large upright refrigerator for lunch program food as well as funeral luncheon dishes. We are asking members to consider donating money towards a new cooler or perhaps purchase the milk cooler if God leads you in that direction. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pat Hambaum.

With Thanksgiving

Please join us and as we thank God for Pastor Kurt and for his service to us as our interim pastor! We will celebrate him with a luncheon and fellowship immediately following the church service on September 25th. Contact Molly 989-280-0739 if you would like to help.

Cardinal Strong is organizing a tailgate for Valley Lutheran's Homecoming game on September 23, 2022, from 4:45 until game time. Come out and join in the fun! We will provide hot dogs fresh off the grill and are asking everyone to bring munchies or finger food to pass. Everyone is welcome to stay for the game with tickets sold at the door. This is a great opportunity for our Cardinals to experience a Charger game! Questions? Call Wendy Jacobs 989-860-6628.



**Valley
Lutheran**
HIGH SCHOOL

Valley Lutheran was blessed to celebrate a Service of Installation and Rededication during chapel on September 8.

Paul's words to the Ephesians served as a focus for the service, "I...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (4:1-3) Pastor Burhop from Trinity Lutheran-Reese encouraged those assembled to consider the various gifts that God has given them and seek out His calling for using those gifts in the church and world. He then installed Mrs. Missy Cruz (left), math teacher, and Mrs. Amy Cooper (right), Director of Communications & Admissions, and appointed Mr. Kyle DeWees as Interim Executive Director. The full Valley faculty also participated in a Rededication of their call into ministry.

Praise God for this celebration and we pray His continued blessings on the faculty and staff at Valley Lutheran!



**CHILI
COOK
OFF**

SUNDAY OCT 23
AFTER 10:30
SERVICES

Cook And Compete
Or Just Come To Eat

Competitors
needed. Show
us what you've
got!

Call Dianne at
284-0427 or
Joyce at
529-5309

We may not have it all together, but with
Jesus, together we have it all.

Our Youth, grades 3 and up will be having a fall gathering on Oct. 2, from 6:30—8 over at school. Come on out for some fun! RSVP to Wendy at 989-860-6628.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 29th for St John's annual trunk or treat. Fun and fellowship for all. More information to come!!

Dear Friends,

My family and I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our work in and around Kaiserslautern, Germany. We praise the LORD for how He is continuing to work here in His Word and Sacraments.

Please continue praying that we might find open doors to the military community, as well as to all the English-speakers in this region.

Jesus be with you,

Rev. Nathaniel Jensen

The Jensen Family

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

Special Music is Back!

St. John's Choir and Bell Choir are going to begin rehearsing again starting September 15th. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:00 and 7:00pm, respectively. Both groups are looking to welcome new members young and old this year. Please come on Thursdays! Also, if you are a singer or an instrumentalist (especially brass!) interested in sharing your talents on occasion in worship, please contact Peter Schimm at pschimm@amelith.org.

Contact Us

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Bay City, MI 48706**