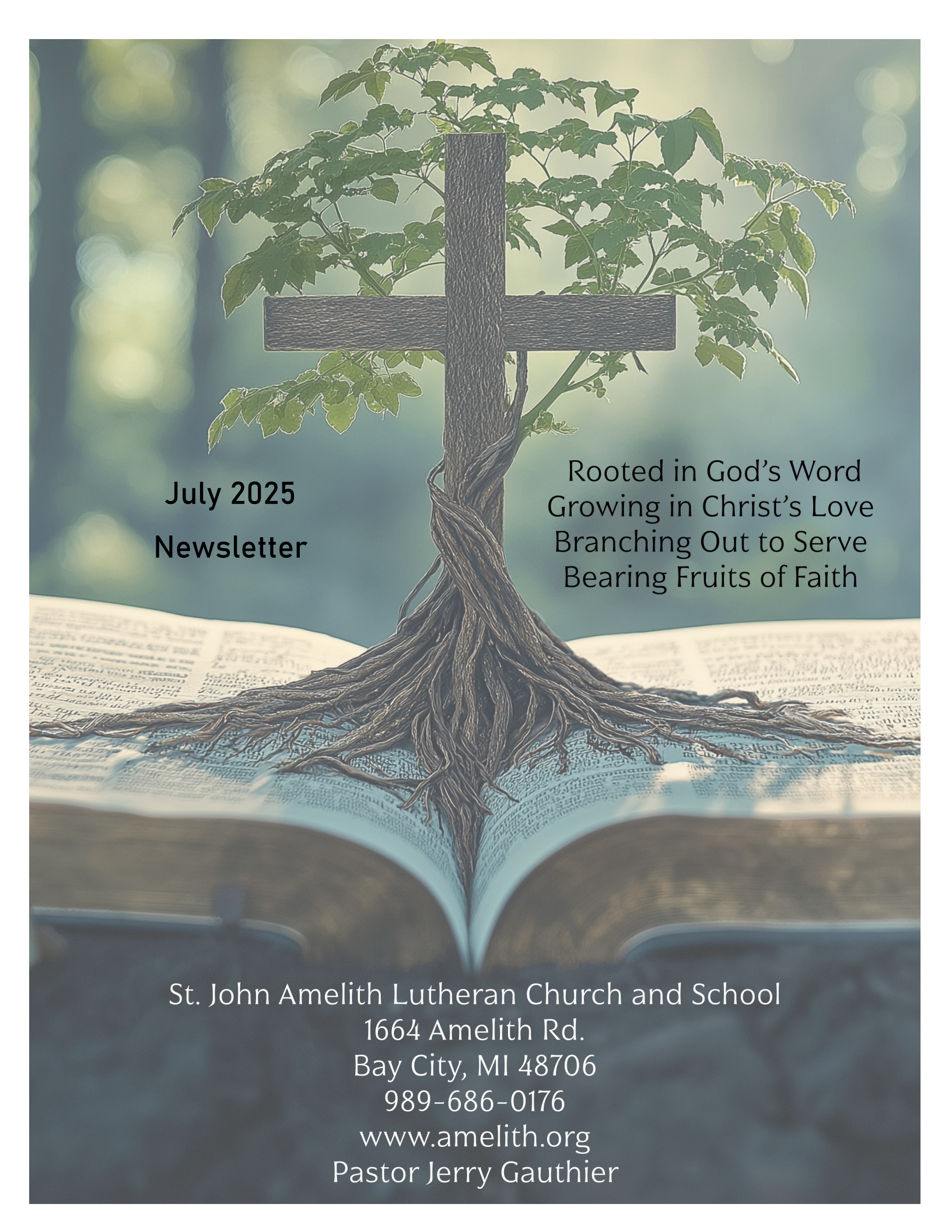




**July 2025
Newsletter**

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

St. John Amelith Lutheran Church and School
1664 Amelith Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-0176
www.amelith.org
Pastor Jerry Gauthier

From The Pastor

“And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.” Jeremiah 32:38-40

Last month I was fortunate to attend a continuing education class. It was with an LCMS scholar writing for the Concordia Commentary Series on the book of Jeremiah. Our culture already is resistant to authority of the Bible in life, but even the Christian church today from our culture tends to give less attention to the Old Testament. Of course, Jesus had no issue with what God spoke from of old stating, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17). To fulfill does not mean to dismiss or undermine. The Old Testament points us to the coming Christ but also to see life under God’s character to save His people from their sins.

As other prophets from his time (628-580 B.C.), Jeremiah was dealing with a divided people (Israel/Judah). This included a divorce like attitude toward God’s Word for their life. What Jeremiah spoke was a call of “Return to the Lord” which was to the identity already given to them by the Lord. It originally came through Moses and deliverance from Egypt. The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) was more than ancient stories, but God’s character revealed and lived out by the community formed from His love.

It can be hard to read Jeremiah, since it deals with the great fall coming upon Jerusalem by Babylon. This sign of judgment from God would sadly include Jeremiah’s own life being part of that suffering into exile. While there was great heartache, hope rested in God’s faithfulness to preserve a remnant. In time they would return to Israel and rebuild what was lost. While there was a pressing judgment, Jeremiah wrote several chapters of the greater hope promised in the coming Christ. By His new covenant God would “...give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.” Jesus speaks this hopeful identity in Him as the Word made flesh saying, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

The fear of the Lord is now forever bound to faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. It is why David boasts in Psalm 34, “Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!” God’s gift and goodness is hope of life and salvation in His Son. By suffering and death Jesus turns the fear of God upon His faithfulness for sinners. No wonder St. Paul makes the claim, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). While the end of the age is worse than that of Jeremiah, Christ sustains His own by the Word and His faithful presence. He delivers forgiveness in full and promises our identity by baptism is of a new creation. Since God will not turn away from doing good by the Gospel, His goodness now stands before others by our lives.

Grace be with all in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Gauthier





104th Michigan District Convention - Thank You!

Perhaps you attended on campus or watched the proceedings and worship services on livestream. Maybe you were one of our many prayer partners. In any case, we are grateful for your participation and presence throughout this meaningful gathering. We pray that the time spent in worship, fellowship, and decision-making has strengthened your faith and inspired you towards future ministry. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday's Convention Daily can be found at michigandistrict.org/convention/newsroom.

July Anniversaries

Here is a COMPLETE list of July anniversaries. I am so sorry! I don't know how, but I managed to miss the second have of the months anniversaries when I finished the calendar. Happy Anniversary!!! Molly

January 19-25, 2025
 07/08 Jeremy & Sara Dzuba
 07/08 Mike & Karen Lutenske
 07/09 Chad & Renee Davis
 07/15 Robert & Karen Bradley
 07/15 Tony & Gayle Johnson
 07/18 Dennis & Penny Wieck

Davis Re-elected as District President



Rev. David A. Davis, age 67, of Ann Arbor, Mich. was re-elected as District President on the first ballot.

In his presidential address, President Davis asked us to consider what sort of Christians we are going to be. His three points included: We are the sort of Christians who read our Bible; who love one another; and finally, who work hard for the King and His Kingdom. He said, *"Although we cannot predict what is coming in the next trienium, we can prepare for it by God's grace and*

power as we commend ourselves to God to shape our character, individually and corporately as we: read, mark, and inwardly digest the Word of God, are renewed by the Spirit and in fellowship with one another, and serve diligently, working hard, even with grit, to live out Kingdom life in a needy world."

Davis has served in various leadership positions in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, planted congregations, developed multicultural ministry, led non-profit governance seminars, developed mentoring processes, wrote leadership development materials, and facilitated meetings and retreats. He has authored a book, *Toward Significance: A Guide For Pastoring Well*, and has a blog with the same name (towardsignificance.com/blog).

Davis and his wife Sallie have been married since 1980. They have four grown daughters and a growing entourage of grandchildren.



Michigan District 1st Vice President Rev. Darryl L. Andrzejewski; 2nd Vice President Rev. Erik K. Cloeter; 3rd Vice President Rev. Craig L. Bickel; and 4th Vice President Rev. Andrew D. Gruenhagen.

07/22 Matt & Courtney Helmreich
 7/24 Ricky & Carol Prier
 07/25 Phil & Deb Hutter
 07/26 Ron & Gail Campbell
 07/30 Dennis & Sandy Gerhauser
 07/30 Dave & Joyce Helmreich
 07/30 Mike & Errin Milkowski
 07/30 Richard & Katie Mooney

Fellowship recognized with Lutheran Church of Bolivia

 reporter.lcms.org/2025/fellowship-lutheran-church-bolivia June 25, 2025

The Rev. Limberth Fernández, president of the Evangelical Christian Lutheran Church of Bolivia (ICEL), preaches for a May 24 Divine Service celebrating the recognition of fellowship between the ICEL and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). (LCMS/Sarah Hjulberg)



By Sarah Hjulberg

On May 24, a Divine Service celebrating the official recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship between The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Christian Lutheran Church of Bolivia (ICEL) was held in the chapel of Concordia the Reformer Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic.

The service took place the day after the LCMS Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region’s annual symposium concluded. The timing enabled the participation of representatives from the LCMS; its partner church bodies in Latin America; and faculty, students and staff of Concordia the Reformer Seminary, along with their families.

This is the second time in Synod history that church fellowship has been celebrated with a Divine Service. (In 2022, a Divine Service celebrating fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan was held in Kisumu, Kenya.)

The Rev. Ted Krey, LAC regional director, conducted the Service of the Word in Spanish, and

the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, director of LCMS Church Relations, conducted the Service of the Sacrament in English. ICEL President Rev. Limberth Fernández gave the sermon.

“Today is a special day for the church of Bolivia and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,” preached Fernández. “And what has taken place is our Lord’s answer to these churches’ prayers for each other, that the Gospel would be preached purely among their members. For this reason, today is a day of joy, because the Lord has sown the truth in the hearts of these two churches from different countries.”

Full altar and pulpit fellowship — which means that LCMS pulpits are open to ICEL pastors (and vice versa), and that God’s people in the LCMS and the ICEL may commune with each other — is established after much prayer and many conversations to ensure unity in confession, in worship and in daily life. The Synod in convention formally recognizes partner churches every three years, but between conventions, the LCMS president, with the approval of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR), may recognize fellowship with an emerging church body.

Formal conversations working toward church fellowship with the ICEL began in 2022 and concluded in February 2025, when the CTCR unanimously recommended the ICEL for church partnership. On May 4, just a few weeks before the celebratory Divine Service, the ICEL was officially recognized as an LCMS partner church.

Establishing church fellowship is a reason to celebrate.

“In heaven, there will be the one body of Christ, united in the marriage feast of the Lamb around the throne,” said Shaw. “In this world, the devil does so much to undercut that unity. So, when we can recognize that unity in Christ and His Word — wow, what a celebration. That’s incredible. It’s a foretaste of heaven.”

The LCMS currently has 43 official church partners around the world.

From Pietism to Lutheranism

Lutheranism came to Bolivia in the 1970s, when Norwegian Lutheran missionaries from the Pietist tradition began serving the Quechua-speaking people in rural Bolivia. These lay missionaries focused primarily on mercy work.

Because of its Pietist roots, for many years the Bolivian church did not heavily emphasize forming and ordaining pastors. But a meeting in 2000 between the ICEL, LCMS International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) resulted in the ICEL's shift toward confessional Lutheranism.

The ICEL began sending its pastors to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina's seminary for training in 2010; then, in 2017, the ICEL began sending students to Concordia the Reformer Seminary. In 2020, the ICEL signed an official document formalizing its understanding of the Office of the Holy Ministry, and in 2022, it signed an agreement with Concordia the Reformer Seminary to send all of its men there for seminary.

Krey noted that most emerging church bodies, like the ICEL, don't have seminaries. "Emerging churches that don't have seminaries are sometimes like a boat without a rudder, but having a clear route to ordination, where there are faithful, God-fearing professors to teach [future pastors], can quickly move a church in the direction of being a faithful, proclaiming church that reaches people for Christ and brings the Good News to all," said Krey.

One Bolivian student is currently studying to be a pastor at Concordia the Reformer, and another will begin next year.

'United in Christ'

Prior to the May 24 Divine Service, the presidents of LCMS partner churches in Latin America gathered for a morning of presentations and discussions on church fellowship.

"The five hours of class and discussions are all oriented to help our sister church body presidents understand better the doctrine of fellowship: church bodies confessing the same thing, united in Christ and His work. That is important because there are a lot of false voices that say, 'We can be diverse in our understanding of the Word,'" said Shaw.

The time spent reflecting on the doctrine of church fellowship and what it means to have unity in Christ was a poignant conclusion to a week of presentations on the history of mission work and partner church bodies in Latin America.

"In the symposium we covered the history of different churches, and how the Gospel came to each place, starting with Brazil, and then Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala and Venezuela," said the Rev. Sergio Fritzler, director of Concordia the Reformer Seminary.

A constant in each of these histories, Fritzler noted, was "the thankfulness for all those who have gone before us in the faith, that we now enjoy the Gospel among us."



Orphan Grain Train--Michigan News Relay June 18, 2025 Michigan

Makes 15th International Distribution
On June 17 Orphan Grain Train--Michigan completed loading humanitarian supplies for the Lutheran Church of Lithuania. After the loading here in Sebewaing and being trucked to Detroit, we anticipate the container taking approximately two months to travel first by rail from Michigan to Montclair, New Jersey for further loading at the Norfolk Pier onto a Latvian American Shipping Line container ship for crossing the Atlantic and then through Riga, Latvia and the discharge port of Klaipeda with eventual delivery to Jurbarkas, Lithuania.

Organist Position The Elders are asking for your help with referral names of people you may know that can play organ. If you have one, please pass it along to either an elder or the church office and Molly will get it to them.

Oktoberfest Bazaar If you, or someone you know, would like to rent a booth at the Oktoberfest bazaar please see the rental agreements available in the gathering area or scan this QR code to visit the website to download a form.



Amelith in the wild Please tag us and share your adventures with us! #amelithinthewild @stjohnamelith



Amelith Oktoberfest September 13 & 14, 2025

Saturday

Entertainment: Gemutlichkeit Verein Singers, The Frankentrost Band and Whiskey6
Petting Zoo
Wagon of Cheer Raffle
Arts and Craft Bazaar in the gym
Amelith Church Tour
Corn Hole Tournaments
German Meal and Full Concession Stand
Beer Tent



Sunday

Entertainment: The Grocholski Family Tradition
Quilt Raffle
Kids arts and craft event
World Famous Amelith Chicken BBQ
Full Concession Stand
Bake Sale
Beer Tent



Amelith Oktoberfest Sponsorship Opportunities September 13 & 14, 2025

All sponsorship levels will be announced throughout the event, displayed at the event and also with all event advertising on our social media accounts and website

Platinum Level is \$2,000 +
Ask for details

Gold Level is \$1,000 +
• 8 meal tickets
(your choice of German meal or chicken bbq meal)
• 8 drink tickets
• 8 passes for Whiskey 6

Silver Level is \$500 +
• 4 meal tickets
(your choice of German meal or chicken bbq meal)
• 4 drink tickets
• 4 passes for Whiskey 6

Bronze Level is \$300 +
• 2 meal tickets
(your choice of German meal or chicken bbq meal)
• 2 drink tickets
• 2 passes for Whiskey 6

Fund Development
events@amelith.org



St. John Amelith **FREE** Preschool

Now Enrolling for 2025/2026 School Year!
A Parochial School Helping Children Grow in Faith, Knowledge, and Service.



We have the unique opportunity to offer both 3 and 4 yr preschool for free! Spots are limited so apply today!



Scan to learn more about how we help children grow in faith, knowledge, and service!

Offering a Quality Christian Educational Experience Since 1852

Our desire and mission are to let every child know how precious they are in God's sight and that they are loved by God not because of anything that they do, good or bad, but because of what Jesus has done for them. Located in Bay City, Michigan, St. John Amelith is a parochial school in the Lutheran tradition. We believe in and trust in God the Father who created us, the Son who died and rose for us, and the Spirit who lives in and guides us.

Our school provides:

- Currently serving grades K-4 with all day Kindergarten.
- Preschool starting age 3 includes full day (8 am-3 pm) and half day morning (8 am-11 am) also available
- National Assessment for monitoring student growth issues three times during the school year. NWEA & MAP
- Departmentalized Education with teachers specializing in Math, PE, STEM, English, Language Arts, Art, Technology, Social Studies and Life Skills.
- School seeks out new opportunities for students interested in specialties.
- Hot lunch with a nominal fee per day.
- Up-to-date curriculum
- Learning field trips and school assemblies
- Before beginning at 6:30am and after care until 6pm
- Scholarship programs to those who qualify
- Tutoring available



Scan to learn more about how we help children grow in faith, knowledge, and service!

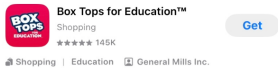


St. John Amelith School

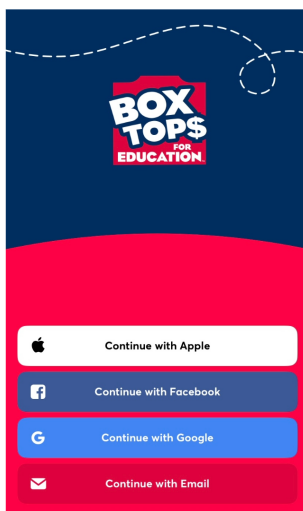
1664 Amelith Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-0176

Box Tops are back and even easier to earn money for the school!

Box Tops For Education!



1. Search in your app store for the box top app and download it to your smart phone.
2. Once down loaded, open the app to sign up



3. Once you create your account it will ask you to find a school. Click on find a school.

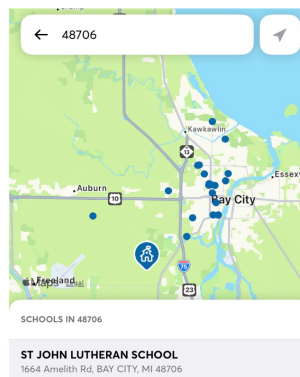


FIND A SCHOOL

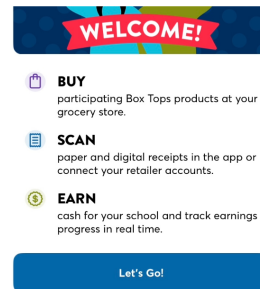
Before we get started, tell us what school you'd like to support. You can change this at any time in your account settings.



4. Enter in the school zip code "48706" and select St. John Lutheran School (make sure it list the correct address)



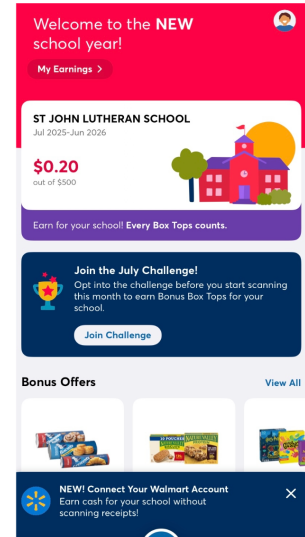
5. You should see this welcome screen when you sign in.



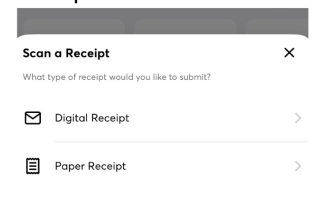
6. When you click "Let's go" this will be the next screen you see. Make sure the correct school is listed. (make sure join whatever challenges because it earns us extra monies!)

Your receipt must be scanned within 14 days of purchase!

As always, if you need help stop and see Molly in the office.



You can either submit a digital receipt or take a picture of your paper receipt.



July Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 July Birthdays	2 July Anniversaries	3 Council Members	4 SJA Veterans	5 July Altar Guild Servers
6 Outreach Committee	7 School	8 Endowment Fund Committee	9 Lawn Mowing Team	10 Pastor	11 Finance Team	12 SJA Parents
13 Treasurer	14 Task Forces	15 LWML	16 Grounds helpers	17 Trustees	18 School Janitors	19 Elders
20 SJA Youth	21 SJA Music	22 Stewardship Committee	23 Cemetery Crew	24 Salary Review Committee	25 Funeral Luncheon Volunteers	26 SJA students
27 Bible Study	28 Board of Ed	29 Principal	30 Church Mice	31 SJA Teachers		

Every day, let us include the person/position/event mentioned in our prayers. You can pray for them, the job they do, those who receive or in whatever way you are led.