

ST. JOHN AMELITH CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

Church Important Dates - see calendar for details

- 4/2 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6pm
- 4/3 - Good Friday Service @7pm
- 4/4 - Easter Egg Hunt @10am
- 4/5 - Easter Service
- 4/6 to 4/8-Office closed
- 4/9 - 175th Anniversary Meeting @6pm
- 4/10 - Eunice Bauer Funeral @11am
- 4/12 - Adult Bible Study with Pastor Winningham
Sunday School @11am
Youth Group @6pm
- 4/14 - Salary Review Meeting @ 6pm
- 4/15 - Didache Class @6pm
- 4/20 - Quilting @ 9:30am
- 4/21 - Bay City Circuit Pastor's Meeting 9am and
hosted at St. John Amelith
Elders Meeting @6pm
- 4/26 - Sunday School @11am
Youth group @6pm
- 4/27 - Board of Ed @5:30pm
Table Talk @ 6:30pm
- 4/28 - Stewardship @ 11am

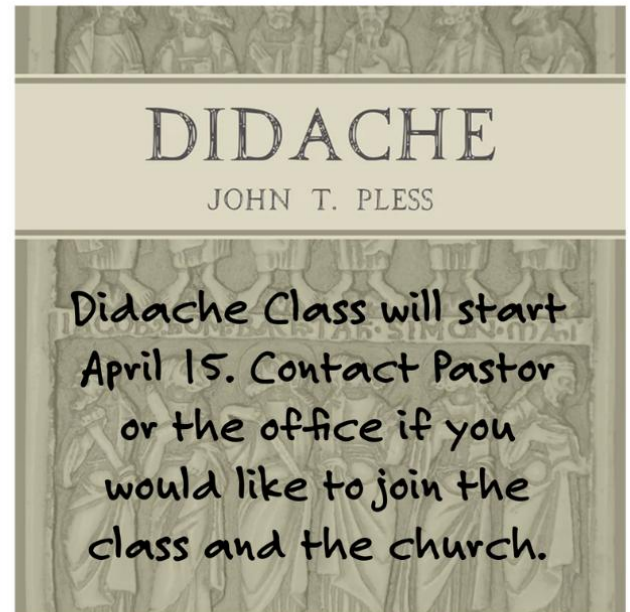


St. John Amelith Church
and School presents VBS!
June 15 - 19, 2026
9am - 11:30am

TROPICAL TREK

Jesus Comes to Seek and Save

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



DIDACHE

JOHN T. PLESS

Didache Class will start
April 15. Contact Pastor
or the office if you
would like to join the
class and the church.



Saturday, April 4th
10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt

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

Please Join
Us!

Ages : Toddler to 4th grade

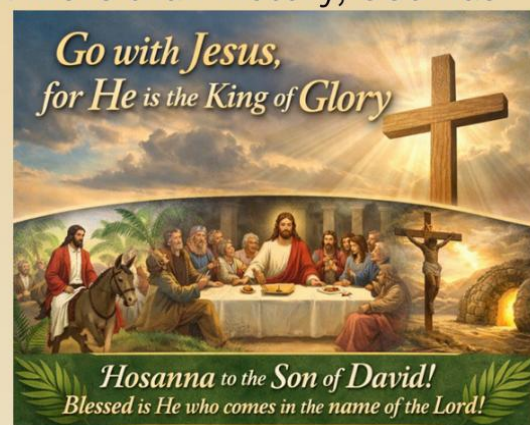
✝ Please bring a friend and your own basket or
container to collect your eggs. Rain or shine we will
hunt for eggs so make sure to dress appropriately!

Online giving through
our Vanco app is
available by scanning
this QR code



From the Pastor

By His death and resurrection, Jesus is glorified to be our crucified king. As St. Paul affirmed so today the baptized confess in His Church, “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11). This praise is what has come to us over God’s promises fulfilled and poured out in Christ. “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Such newness out of His cross a secular culture cannot see or will dare even to walk. Yet, the saints in heaven are still holding up their palm branches and sing before the victory of the Lamb and His throne. And we are no less blessed on earth by faith to give our cry of “Hosannas” to Christ as Lord and Savior. More than history, God has made His salvation known to all. From the east to the west, the good news centers on Holy Week telling everyone: go with Jesus, for He is the King of glory. Lent is for baptismal renewal, but finally for us to go and see all that Christ has won for us—not only into the shouts of Palm Sunday, but also into His humility of the upper room, the sorrow of His cross, and the quiet tomb that in three days would be empty. This road of Holy Week is the road by which the Father has



loved a sinful world in His Son to undo sin, death, and Satan. The One who rides in lowliness is the same One who bears our sin, suffers our judgment, and rises triumphant. Therefore we do not merely remember these holy days; we participate in them. For where there is forgiveness God does give life and salvation. So, as we walk with Christ through the cross to the victory of His resurrection, our voices join the saints in heaven and the faithful on earth.

Our confession of “Hosanna to the Son of David” on one side of Holy Week ends up different on the other side of Easter. This song has become part of the common liturgy where our crucified king of glory continues His faithful service to us. As with the early church, what is received from Jesus of forgiveness here at St. John can be lived among His people. In the church, we gather around His Word and Sacrament where the timeless victory of heaven and earth join around Him. At home, we continue on with this grace—praying at the table, abiding in the Scriptures, teaching the catechism to our children, speaking and receiving forgiveness, and giving thanks for the Lord’s daily mercies in our vocations. In this way the King who comes to us in Holy Week continues to reign among us: in His church, in our households, and in the quiet faith of everyday life, until the day we join the saints before His throne.

Blessed Holy Week and the “Alleluia” of Easter is Christ for you!

Pastor

Teaching Children How to Share the Gift of Hospitality

March 12, 2026



Growing up I loved celebrating Easter. The special early morning service, the brass ensemble (which I later was able to be part of once I learned how to play trumpet), the Easter breakfast that the youth at our church hosted every year, the hymns, and that glorious refrain that begins with “Christ is Risen!”

Opening Up Our Home

I also remember the Easter meal that we would share that afternoon. But what I remember most about it is not the foods that we ate, or the Easter basket hunts, or playing war with our decorated hard-boiled Easter eggs (if you aren't sure what this is, look it up: playing war with hard-boiled eggs). No, what has stuck with me most all these years later is that the people who joined us for this Easter celebration were not only family members but also friends and other acquaintances. My parents would invite people in our congregation as well as other church work families in the area who didn't have extended family to join us. We would open up our home. My brother and I weren't taught hospitality; it was modeled for us. We didn't just invite people whom we knew would return the favor but those that didn't necessarily have a place to go. For that day, for those hours, they were welcomed into our home. They became part of our family.

Hospitality and Entertaining: What's the Difference?

Hospitality is helping others feel that they belong. It's different than entertaining guests. With entertainment, it becomes about putting on a show, making sure the space is perfect, that nothing is out of place. It's about performance and looking good. But true hospitality is different. The focus is not on what you do but what you give to the other person. It's about being real and inviting them into your home, your church, your life, however messy that might be. Now I'm not saying that you don't clean up your home before others arrive, but when our preparation becomes more about perfection than connecting with the person, we've missed the mark.

These were lessons that were taught to me through experience. I picked up the clutter from my bedroom. I helped bring extra chairs into our living or dining room so that everyone had a place. I greeted people at the door and was tasked with taking their coats. I showed people where the bathroom was and the toys that were set out that the kids could play with. That doesn't mean that these skills weren't also honed through books, seminars, or wise individuals, but the best teacher is experience.

You can practice hospitality in your home, with children that you lead, and in your church.

Inviting People into Your Life

In the home with your own family, you don't have to wait until Easter or a holiday to practice hospitality. Look for occasions to invite people into your lives. Don't just be friendly but be open to being friends. Be yourself. Whatever you enjoy doing together as a family or as an individual, invite others to join you for that. This could simply be a home cooked meal or the night you pick up pizza. It could be to watch a sports game or to play a board game. To go on a hike or sit around the campfire. Any activity can be an opportunity to show hospitality.

As you invite others into your life, you are showing hospitality. This shows the person or

people that they are seen and important; they are not alone and are part of something larger. If you've never done this type of thing before, it could feel uncomfortable for you or for your family. You can prepare some ice breaker questions if there is a lull in the conversation. This or that questions. Things like "What's your favorite holiday?" or "If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?" On the LCMS Family Ministry website, you can find free conversation starters for mealtimes.

Talking through these simple details with your own family ahead of time can be helpful. Assign someone to answer the door and welcome them into your home. Part of that welcome includes helping them with their coats or anything else they are carrying and bringing them into your home. Another task could be introducing them to anyone they don't know and engaging them in conversation. This includes coaching them on how to include others in their play. There can be a designated task for everyone in the family. Through it all, guests feel welcomed and valued because of your hospitality.

Hospitality at Church and School

We not only practice hospitality in our homes but can apply the same principles with children we lead at church and school. One class could invite another group to join them for a lesson. The class could talk about the tasks and roles needed to prepare for guests so that they showed good hospitality. Students could then be assigned different roles. Some could help prepare the room by straightening up, while others get enough chairs in place for their guests. Children could be assigned the roles of greeter, coat taker, seat shower, or treat deliverer. The students could be instructed to share with the guests the normal routine, what they will do first, next, etc. These guests could then be part of the regular or adapted lesson with the students, intentionally creating discussion moments between the guests and the students.

This idea could be adapted for different environments and with different age groups that

are hosted to practice these skills. Most importantly these skills could be utilized when a new student joins the class. An individual could be asked to show them hospitality by sitting with them and explaining to them what is going on. The students could do this with a little more confidence and skill because they've already practiced these things.

The Power of Christian Connection

These skills are not just needed by our children but can be practiced in our larger church. We can look for ways to invite people into the family of the church. We can be more intentional about our welcome through our greeters, but also by having in place those people who are connecting people to each other. Can you say "Hello" to someone new, show them where to get coffee or water, or invite them to sit next to you in the pew?

As parents, teachers, and students become more aware of how to show hospitality, we individually and collectively have eyes to see opportunities to show hospitality in our church as well.

We are people who have been shown hospitality by Christ. He has welcomed us into his church. He connects us to His family and has made us His friends. Hospitality is not always convenient. It can cause some sacrifices, but it bears fruit in lives changed. Jesus faced sacrifices that were much greater than taking time to connect with others or being uncomfortable around new people. He went to the cross. Because He did, we belong and through our hospitality can help others belong as well.

Written by **Andy Becker** Rev. Andy Becker serves as the manager of family discipleship for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He served three years as a DCE before going to seminary. He served for 15 years as a parish pastor before joining the team at the Office of National Mission. He enjoys music and playing games of all kinds. Andy is married to Nikki and they have two teenage boys. Learn more about LCMS Family Ministry at lcms.org/family.

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

ST. John Amelith
office@amelith.org
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March field trip to the library.

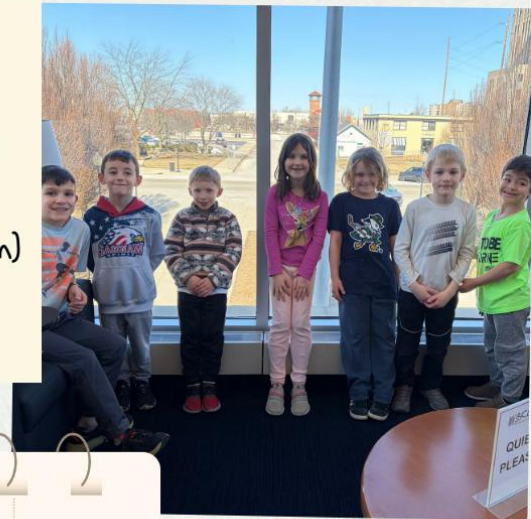
MESSAGE FROM MRS. MOLLY

Dear Students and Families,
We are excited to welcome everyone back from a well deserved and much needed vacation! When we come back from break we have 33 days left of preschool and 38 days for K-3. We are in the home stretch! Now is the time to double down and go for all the bases and make the rest of the year the best yet! I am proud of all of you and know that you can do anything you put your mind to!!

APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 3-10 Easter/Spring Break
- April 4th Easter Egg Hunt @10am
- April 12th & 26 Sunday School @ 11am
- April 15th Pastor's Didache Class begins
- April 16th United Financial Visit
- April 21st Bookmobile Visits
- April 24th Field trip (children's museum)

Looking ahead into early May
May 5th - No School



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✓ Take snow gear home! Let's pray for great weather!
- ✓ Watch for field trip forms to be coming home for the 24th of April to the Children's Museum
- ✓ Our policy states that you can wear shorts in April but Mrs. Molly is asking to not wear them until the temp is consistently above 50 degrees at recess time. Yay warm weather fun is coming!!!!

March was all about books and reading! We started off the month with a trip to our local library with all the grades. We had March reading madness and will announce the winner once it is known. Let's keep reading!

The Thankful Box

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!"

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Beginning this week, **you will notice a small box in the narthex labeled Thankfulness.**

This is a simple congregational practice of gratitude.

What Is It?

An opportunity to name and give thanks for the blessings God gives through this congregation.

What blessing has God given you through this church?

- A hymn that comforted you
- A baptism or confirmation
- A sermon that strengthened your faith
- A visit to the sick, shut-in, or other person
- A faithful teacher whether formally or informally
- A child you see or hear learning the Catechism
- An act of quiet service by a member

Use a slip a paper and you may submit it anonymously.

Why Are We Doing This?

Stewardship begins not with what we give, but with what God has already given.

When we learn to notice His gifts, gratitude grows.

When gratitude grows, joyful generosity follows.

This is not a suggestion box.

It is not a complaint box.

It is an act of thanksgiving to God.

From the months of April-June, selected thanksgivings will be shared (anonymously) in the bulletin, newsletter or included in our prayers.

May this small practice help us recognize Christ's faithful work among us and increase our joy in serving Him together.

The Stewardship Board

Lawn Mowing 2026: Schedules are set and in mailboxes for this new season. 29 different volunteers will be operating 2 donated zero turn mowers from a few years ago to keep the grounds looking good on a weekly basis. Expectations are that cost for fuel, maintenance and weed control will be up nearly 40% this year to approximately \$1000. For those not able to volunteer physically, if you have a special place in your heart for the grounds we have been blessed with and would like to donate financially, please contact Glenn Lutz or Vincent Revord. Any donations relieve pressure from our General Budget.



LWML Bay Area Zone Spring Rally

April 25, 2026 – 9:00 to 11:30 AM

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1705 Nebobish St.; Essexville, MI 48732

Speaker: Brian Rueger
Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Auburn

Brian will tell us about the needs in this area
for beds and how they assemble and deliver them to families

Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am; \$7. Registration fee

Friends are always welcome
Please RSVP to Jan Pickelmann by April 15th

A Mite offering will be collected

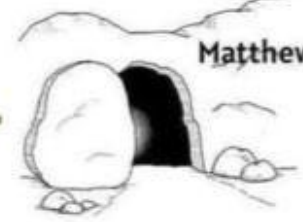
Questions Contact:
Jan Pickelmann at hmpickel@chartermi.net

Holy Week

Resurrection Sunday

Jesus is Alive!

Matthew 28:1-13



Silent Saturday

Good Friday



Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial

Matthew 27:1-62

Betrayal in



the Garden

Maundy Thursday



The Passover and Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-75

Wednesday



Judas decides to betray Jesus

Tuesday



The Olivet Discourse

Matthew 21:23-24:51



Fig Tree

Monday

Jesus clears the temple

Matthew 21:12-22



Fig Tree

Palm Sunday

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey



Zechariah 9:9
Matthew 21:1-11

@mrsjgarwood

April Prayer Calendar

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 April Birthdays	2 April Anniversaries	3 Preschool Aides	4 April Altar Guild Servers
5 Pastor	6 IT Volunteers	7 Council Members	8 Women's Bible Study Group	9 175 th Anniversary	10 Cemetery Committee	11 SJA Students
12 Youth Group	13 Teachers	14 Salary Review	15 Didache Class	16 Fund Development	17 Office Volunteers	18 SJA Parents
19 Coffee Hour Volunteers	20 Quilters	21 Elders	22 Preschool Director	23 SJA Task-forces	24 Finance Team	25 LWML
26 Sunday School Teachers	27 Board of Ed	28 Stewardship	29 Treasurer	30 Lunch Lady		