



**May 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's Desk

Former professor Rev. Harold Senkbeil and founder of Doxology-The Lutheran Center For Spiritual Care and Council writes, *"By our Lord's own mandate, he has so arranged it in his church that we grow, are fed, nourished, guarded, and protected not out of the weakness and ineptitude of our ministers but rather by the tools Christ has entrusted into their hands. The gospel and the sacraments are not static entities—mere object lessons by which we advertise and promote the kingdom of God. Rather, the gospel and the sacraments throb with vitality. They are filled to the brim with the energy and life of God's own Spirit."* (The Cure of Souls, p.30).

Sin, death, and devil do not to give relief even during the summer months. There are good questions to consider, "When can a person call upon their pastor? How has the servant of Christ been a part of my life? Why is pastoral care an extension of God's Divine Service from Sunday? The answer comes, "You are the precious sheep of Christ and He cares for you!"

Here is a list of a few things I as pastor can extend in Christ's Name and for your benefit.

- You are ill, in the hospital, or had surgery
- Have a new baby, stillbirth, or miscarriage
- Need for baptism of child or adult
- Communion at home for physically distressed
- Personal or family strife
- Breakdown of marriage or facing divorce
- Comfort of Private Confession/Absolution
- Bereavement over loss of loved one
- Are leaving for college or military service
- To be included in the pastor's daily prayers
- Healing and spiritual care with abuse or violence
- Coping with changes before life such as retirement
- Go over funeral preparations and the church service
- Blessing of a home as gift of security to the family
- Guidance for private and family devotional life
- Support with ethical matters on infertility, end of life, vocation, etc....
- Demonic affliction, dealing with persecution, or facing addictions
- Need help from losing job or other unfortunate circumstance to bear



Pastors are servants of the spirit-filled Word not simply a service offered by a church. St. Paul declares, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). Pastors are not C.E.O's, but caretakers of sheep. Jesus told Peter after His resurrection, "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15). Again St. Paul says, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).

In service to the Lord and His flock,

Pastor Gauthier



An old hymn "Come, Labor on" was ringing through my head this morning as I was preparing to come to school. Every May and June this hymn comes to mind as I see the amount of work our students, faculty, staff, and school board place into a school. The first and last verses are the two that come to mind, "1. Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, 'Go work today.' 4. Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, 'Well done, well done!'"

Next week the students will be taking their NWEA MAP testing for grades K-8. They have been laboring on for these tests. Before each test the teachers will guide the students in a prayer or devotion to ask God for his love and guidance during the tests. Something to consider is the Latin word Ora Labora meaning "to work and pray." Our students have been doing that all year but with the testing just around the corner we ask for more prayer when we dive into those tests.

Mr. Korpi



GROW AND PLAY IN THE LOVE OF JESUS

Amelith 3 & 4yr old Preschool

Open from 8:00am to 3pm
Before and After care available
6:30am-8am and 3pm-6pm

Open Enrollment Why Us?

Full Time + Part Time
First Aid and CPR Certified

Highly Qualified and Experienced Staff

Call Today!

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

St. John Amelith
Presents

6:30am - 6pm

Amelith Adventure Camp

Accepting Adventurers
Preschool - 4th Grade

\$30 a day

- STEM Exploration
- Arts & Crafts
- Children's Theatre
- Indoor/Outdoor Exploration
- Religious Study
- Devotions & Reflection
- Movement & Yoga
- and Field Experiences

6:30am - 9am Early Care
9am - 3pm Camp Adventure
3pm - 6pm Extended Care

Teaching and CPR
Certified Staff

June 16
thru
August 15

Closed for deep cleaning
June 30-July 4

Campers can come all day or part of the day
snacks provided

For More Information or to sign up Contact us!

989-686-0176
1664 Amelith Rd. Bay City, MI 48706
office@amelith.org
www.stjohnamelithparochialschool.org





Call Day 2025 celebrates seminarians sent to serve in Christ's name

112 students receive assignments, first calls
After years of preparation and a Call Day filled with joy, 112 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis students learned their placement of first calls to pastoral and diaconal ministry and assignments as vicars and deaconess interns.

First calls to serve as pastors, deaconesses, chaplains and missionaries in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) were announced at a 7 p.m. worship service in which Dr. Dien Taylor, president of the LCMS Atlantic District, delivered the sermon.

“Serving sisters and preaching brothers are the ‘today’ answers to many past prayers offered by the humble saints long before their deaconesses and pastors were ever there. Now, wounded healers will proclaim and explain that Jesus is ‘my Lord and my God,’ not because we see clearly – but because we believe that the Lord still saves valiantly – proclaimed in words of hope and embodied in acts of charity,” said Taylor.

“Broadcasting His victory over sin and death, the whole people of God will witness how the risen Christ who conquered death defeats their fears, hushes their worries and excites them for a promise-filled future. ‘I know the plans that I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘Plans to prosper you and not to hurt you; to give you a hope and a future.’”

The pastoral students receiving calls included 42 Master of Divinity (M.Div.), three Residential Alternate Route (RAR) students, three Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) students, five Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) students and three Cross-cultural Ministry Center (CMC) students. Five residential Deaconess Studies Program students also received calls.

Earlier today, 42 M.Div. and three RAR students who will serve as vicars and six residential Deaconess Studies students who will serve as interns received their assignments at a 3 p.m. worship service. The vicarage and deaconess internships assignments provide students the opportunity for in-service education.

During the vicarage and deaconess internship assignment service, Dr. Bill Harmon, president of the LCMS Southeastern District, preached.

“I guarantee you that over this next year — in fact, over the course of your entire ministry — you will have seasons of doubt and uncertainty. It might happen right after your first voters meeting. It certainly could happen after you leave the ICU as you share the commendation of the dying with someone you’ve grown to love who dies in a tragic way, and everything else in between that happens in ministry,” said Harmon, addressing the students. “When those times happen, remember that in the midst of things we cannot understand, we believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Remember that now all the vault of heaven resounds. Christ has triumphed! He is living! And that victory is in your heart. That victory is your strength. That victory is your hope. That victory is your promise.”

All calls and assignments will be served in LCMS congregations and ministries. A complete list of assignments and placements, including an interactive map and photos, can be found at csl.edu/call-day

Calls and assignments were shared on X, formerly known as Twitter, in real time during both services, and many people shared their celebratory comments and photos with the hashtag **#callday2025**.

“Jesus Christ is ‘the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth’ (Rev. 1:5 ESV). His merciful salvation and eternal promises are worthy of declaring to the ends of the earth, and these new servants of Christ will go forth to do just that,” said Seminary President Dr. Thomas J. Egger. “Each of these calls and placements represents the ongoing work of our risen Lord. He is providing pastors, missionaries, chaplains and deaconesses for His church, until He comes again.”

While today marks the campus’ primary annual

Call Day celebration, the Seminary recognizes and celebrates additional calls throughout the year. Those who are interested in attending the Seminary are encouraged to visit csl.edu/admissions or contact Enrollment at 800-822-9545 or admit@csl.edu. About Concordia Seminary, St. Louis provides Gospel-centered graduate-level theological education for pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars and other leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). To learn more, visit csl.edu. they are wallowing in idolatry that can and will separate them from the mercy of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Second, weekly repetition is necessary because it is often forgotten that what is lost and then restored by grace in one's baptismal identity is also a call to stewardship. Stewardship needs to be taught weekly since we forget it daily! But this repetition is not about being the leech of Proverbs 30, demanding "Give, give" (Prov. 30:15). This weekly repetitive call to Christian



CTFSW Announces Calls and Assignments



FORT WAYNE, April 30, 2025—Students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTFSW), learned where they will be serving as pastors, vicars, and deaconess interns in two special services held April 28 and April 29 in Kramer Chapel. The Seminary announced 84 assignments and placements in 26 of the 35 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Forty men receive calls. At the call service April 29, 40 students, including 35 Master of Divinity students and five Alternate Route students, received their first calls into pastoral ministry. Most candidates will be serving LCMS congregations in the US, with one receiving a call from the LCMS Board for International Mission to serve as a missionary.

Dr. Scott Murray, third vice-president of the LCMS and chair of the CTSFW Board of Regents, served as preacher for the service, focusing in his sermon on the power of the Gospel as the only power of the ministry.

"The Gospel must be preached with promiscuous generosity," said Murray. "We don't listen to it, accept it, believe it, or cling to it by nature. It is a miracle every time it comes to us and every time it is believed. The scriptural revelation is so rich and varied in its multifaceted Gospel content that you preachers will never—and I mean never—exhaust it."

After Murray's sermon, Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse, director of certification and placement at CTSFW, provided a snapshot of this year's call process before announcing calls. Pulse noted that the year has been exceptional for its ups and downs, but ultimately, every candidate prepared for the Office of the Holy Ministry was receiving a call.

As has been the case in recent years, the number of calls available exceeded the number of new pastors available from the two LCMS seminaries, with 54 of 165 calls going unfilled. Pulse asked everyone to keep congregations not receiving a pastor in their prayers.

CTFSW President Dr. Jon S. Bruss echoed Pulse's plea at the end of the service. "Keep those blood-bought flocks in your prayers," Bruss said. "Pray that the Lord of the harvest would continue to raise up pastors."

He then offered a recruiting message. "Men, don't be stingy with the gifts that the Lord has given you. The Lord has gifted you in significant ways. Come to the seminary. And families, do not hold back your sons, but help them see what a blessing it is to serve in the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament."

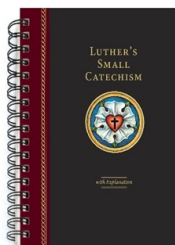
Vicarages and internships in focus April 28

On April 28, the evening before the call service, 41 seminarians learned where they would be serving as vicars, and three deaconess students received internship assignments. Three students will be serving internationally.



Adult Instruction (Didache Class)

A new cycle of classes begins Wednesday, May 14th 6pm. It will go for twelve weeks and be at the school in the Luther Room. Didache is for those interested in learning about Lutherans, for those looking to become a member at St. John, but also is a opportunity for any current member to review the Small Catechism. Sign up by calling the church office or sending an email to pastor. Those new to St. John will receive all material for free, but we ask members to give a donation to cover the course book (roughly \$15). All our welcome! Learn together and find refreshment from our Lord. Be rooted in the word and grow in our Lutheran identity that unashamedly confesses Christ!



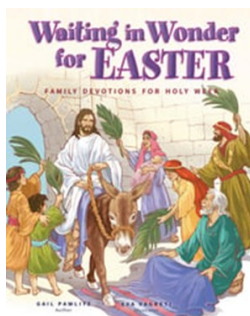
New Adult Bible Study: Defending the Faith!

Join us this Sunday, April 27th as pastor begins a study on Christian Apologetics for about seven weeks! Together, we'll learn how to clearly and confidently share the hope we have in Christ, answer tough questions about our faith, and strengthen our trust in God's Word.

- 📖 When: Sundays at 11 AM
(after fellowship time)
- 📖 Where: St. John Church Fellowship Room
- 📖 Who: Adults of all ages
bring a Bible and a friend!

Whether you're new to apologetics or looking to dig deeper, this study will encourage and equip you for conversations in today's world. Rooted in God's Word, let us grow in Christ's love that branches out in service with fruits of faith.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” — 1 Peter 3:15



Easter—the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection after His death upon the cross—is such a joyous occasion, and absolutely central to the Christian faith. If you’re looking to share this wonderful news with children you love, start with this list of some of our favorite children’s books for Easter. To order go to Concord Publishing House at CPH.org.

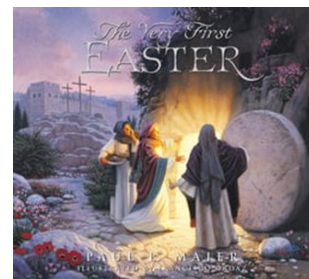
The First Easter: A Lift-the-Flap Book

The First Easter: A Lift-the-Flap Book is a great choice for toddlers. They can see Holy Week unfold by lifting the board book flaps and observing Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection. With bright colors, cute illustrations, and a compact 5"× 5" size, this book is great for little ones.



The Very First Easter

Captivating writing from Paul Maier and beautiful illustrations from Francisco Ordaz make *The Very First Easter* a treasure for children around 5–10 years old. In this book, a fictional 10-year-old boy curiously asks his parents about the very first Easter, granting them the perfect opportunity to tell the true story of Jesus’ ministry, trial, death, and resurrection.



Waiting in Wonder for Easter: Family Devotions for Holy Week Parents and caregivers field a lot of questions from children! *Waiting in Wonder for Easter: Family Devotions for Holy Week* taps into this natural curiosity, elaborating on answers to questions like these:

- What do we do in Lent?
 - Were there Easter eggs on that first Easter?
- Did any other amazing things happen on that first Easter?

Contains fifteen illustrated devotions, each offering something to learn, something to say, something to do, and something to pray to guide families through Lent and Holy Week.

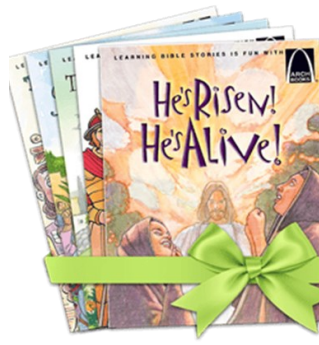
Easter Arch® Book Bundle

This isn't a book, but a bundle of books! The Easter Arch® Book Bundle includes the following books in the Arch® Book series. These books are known for their rhyming language and beautiful illustrations.

- The Very First Lord's Supper
- Jesus Enters Jerusalem
- The Week That Led to Easter
- Good Friday

He's Risen! He's Alive!

Don't worry about which Arch® Books to compile in your personal or church library for Holy Week and Easter; this bundle gives you a great variety.



Come on an "Epic Australian Adventure"

at Vacation Bible School!

When: June 16-20, 2025

Time: 9am to 11:30 am

Where: St. John Amelith School

St. John Amelith Bowling and Laser Tag Event

The SJA Youth group is inviting the families of Amelith to come and join in the fun!

When: Sunday May 18, 2025 at 4:00

Where: Valley Lanes

5021 Bay City Rd, Midland

Who: The families of St. John Amelith

Cost: Per person; 4.50 per game of bowling, 3.75 shoe rental and 8.00 per laser tag

RSVP: Please text or call Deb at 989-316-8322 by May 14th with how many in your family plan to attend.

The Stewardship Committee is conducting a Time and Talent Survey! *Please complete one form per person. (Adults, teens, and youth are all welcome to participate!)* Copies of the survey are available at church or you can scan the QR Code to complete it online. Thank you for serving! Please return printed copies to the church office or directly to a Stewardship Board Member by the end of May.



SAVE THE DATE!

Amelith Oktoberfest

2025

September 13 & 14

- Petting Zoo
- German Meal, Chicken BBQ and Full Concession Stand
- Entertainment: The Grocholski Family Tradition, Gemutlichkeit Verein Singers, Frankentrost Band and Whiskey6!
- Amelith Church Tours
- Quilt Raffle and "Wagon of Cheer" Raffle
- Beer Tent
- Corn Hole Tournaments
- Art and Craft Market
- Bake Sale

Thank you to all who ordered an Easter Lily plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. A beautiful display of Jesus' love in our beautiful sanctuary.

Altar Guild



May 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 May Birthdays	2 Oktoberfest	3 May Anniversaries
4 May Altar Guild Servers	5 Quilters	6 Youth Group	7 SJA PTO	8 Lawn Mowing Team	9 SJA students	10 SJA Parents
11 Funeral Luncheon Volunteers	12 Stewardship Committee	13 Council Members	14 Didache Class	15 VBS Volunteers	16 Finance Team	17 Outreach
18 Sunday School Teachers	19 Board of Ed	20 LWML	21 Endowment Fund Committee	22 Trustees	23 SJA Teachers	24 Cemetery Crew
25 Church Mice	26 School Janitors	27 Elders	28 Women's Bible Study Group	29 Pastor	30 Summer Camp	31 Treasurer