# THE WORD

JANUARY - APRIL

# Get Into the Word! Winter 2024 Schedule

As we begin a new year, it brings a natural opportunity for a restart - a refocusing on what really matters in defining who we are and what we are becoming. What could be better than seeking the Lord through His Word for that new beginning?

As part of our St. John family, take a moment to see what follows in this GET INTO THE WORD guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's life-renewing presence through His Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, marriage enrichment to parenting, men and women, Bible basics to more indepth studies, large or small group, on and off campus, there truly is something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstance or schedule! Many classes and groups start in the coming days and weeks.

Take a big step in this New Year in your faith walk with Jesus:

Get into the Word!

# **SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM**

Sundays | 9:30 - 10:30 | Concordia Hall | Begins January 7

Leader: Pastor Gil McDonald | g47mcd@hotmail.com

This study is a continuation of an in-depth study of the 2017 edition of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be presented and discussed during this class. (You may want to get your own copy of this edition from Concordia Publishing House or Amazon.com.). All are welcome to learn for the first time or be refreshed about these important statements of belief.

#### **EXODUS**

Sundays | 9:30 - 10:30 | Room 128 | Begins January 7

Leader: Dianna Swenson | diannaswenson@gmail.com or 248-765-7577

This class will take an in-depth look at the Book of Exodus chapter-by-chapter. Exodus shows us God's guiding presence in the lives of the Hebrews, and we want to follow God wherever he leads us. This is an interactive class with weekly handouts of the scripture and questions, no preparation required! All are welcome to join this class.

#### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 9:30 - 10:30 | School Classrooms | Begins January 14

Leader: Steve Wilson | swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006

Sunday School is offered weekly and meets at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms of our building. All children ages 3 (if potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome. Parents and guardians check children in at the welcome desk, located in the school hallway. Check-in is required for safety and security purposes. After check-in, preschoolers and kindergartners go to their classrooms to hear about Jesus through song and lesson time. 1st - 6th grade students meet in the Media Center for an opening devotion, followed by grade divided classroom time for teaching, small group discussion, crafts, and other activities depending on the week. There are no attendance requirements. We look forward to seeing your children and sharing with them the love of Jesus!

#### YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 | Youth Room | Begins January 14

Leader: Steve Wilson | swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006

Our 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will continue participating in Sunday confirmation instruction which includes the study of the Old Testament, the Book of Mark, and other topics. Small group discussion and specific parental involvement at home are key parts of the class. All 7th and 8th grade students and parents are welcome!

LIGHTHOUSE - MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | 6th- 8th grade

Sundays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Gym | Begins January 21 Leader: Steve Wilson | swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006

Lighthouse is a place where middle school students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus and have fun together. All 6th-8th grade students are welcome!

# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP | 9th - 12th grade Sundays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Youth Room | Begins January 21

Leader: Melissa Hammett | mhammett@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8008

High School is a defining part of a person's life as students often begin to really settle into their beliefs about the world, God, their purpose, etc. During this influential time, we want students to be immersed in God's redefining Word while surrounded by people who know and love Jesus! We also want to give them the skills and the support they need to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives. Our youth group is open to students from all high schools in our community. We talk, laugh, pray, work through hard stuff, do fun stuff and learn to serve it up! Join us!

# **WEEKDAY OPPORTUNITIES**

THE ONE CLASS (New Member Class)
Mondays | 7:00 - 8:30 PM | Luther Hall | Begins February 26
Leaders: Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg and Pastor Steve Grafe

Are you ready to make St. John your home? Have you or someone you know been searching for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about in a non-threatening environment where your real questions can be answered? Maybe you're new to St. John School or maybe you have been worshiping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John in Rochester your official church home. Whether transferring from another church or brand new to the Christian faith, The ONE Class is for you...and now is the time! Come join Pastor Marc and Pastor Steve on an 8-week, action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! They'll also introduce you to our St. John mission and vision! Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. We hope you can join us!

Please look for an email message and online registration through our website in mid-January or contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 / church@stjohnrochester.org.

#### THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Wednesdays | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Luther Hall | Begins January 10

Leader: Steve Wilson | swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006

Studying God's Word is undoubtedly one of the best ways to grow your faith. This year-long Bible study offers a simple yet fulfilling path to reading the Bible — from start to finish — in one year. Participants will receive a reading guide and will meet weekly to discuss the designated reading. By setting aside time each week to learn about God's character, you can build your foundation of trust in God and better understand His purpose in your life.

# **ROMANS LIFELIGHT STUDY (Part 2)**

Wednesdays | 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Concordia Hall | Begins January 10 Leaders: Carol Kahler & Ginny Schmidt | carol 5666@att.net

The LifeLight series are deep-dive 9-week Bible studies. This class will focus on chapters 8-16 of the Book of Romans and involves home-study, lectures, and small group discussions of the week's study guide questions. Study Guides (\$12) will be available by the first week of January so that participants can complete the first lesson's study questions before class begins. To obtain a study guide prior to class, please email Carol Kahler.

#### LINGERING IN HIS WORD FELLOWSHIP

January 20 & April 20 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Candi Schwark | candice@mac.com or 248-652-9449

We will Linger in His Word using the Visual Faith® Ministry Lectio Divina format for Scripture study - an ancient practice of listening, with our mouths closed and our hearts open as we study His Word. An optional creative project or two will be completed after each study. Please contact Candi Schwark if you plan to attend.

#### **HEALING HEARTS**

1st Monday/month | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Location Varies | Begins January 8 Leader: Suzanne Preuss | suzannep1227@gmail.com

Have you recently or are you currently experiencing a broken heart in your marriage? Have you gone through or are you going through an unwanted divorce? If so, Healing Hearts might be for you. Healing Hearts is a support group for those who have or are experiencing heart break in their marriage or have gone through an unwanted divorce. This can be a lonely and isolating time; we are here to listen and encourage. God has a plan for your life, and you can enjoy His plan and His blessings when you are the best version of yourself. This group is a safe place to share your hurts and disappointments, but it is also a place for encouragement to heal and grow.

# **BIBLE STUDY: COUPLES**

MARRIAGE: NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS, NEWLYWEDS

Wednesdays | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Mary Martha Room | Begins January 10

Leaders: Joe and Kerry Kaiser | kerrygremel@gmail.com

For couples who have been married 5 years or less, this Bible Study and sharing is specifically designed for you to strengthen and perhaps re-capture the absolutely beautiful gift God desires for you in your marriage. You may be realizing it takes intentional work, which it does, but connecting with other couples under the leadership of Joe and Kerry will bring encouragement and greater joy. Join us for building on the foundation for Oneness!

# **BIBLE STUDY: WOMEN**

#### **TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesdays | 7:00 – 9:00 PM |Church Library | Begins January 9

Co-leaders: Sue Stingu and Sandi Brandenburg | suestingu@gmail.com

We welcome all women to join with us as we lean into the word and grow together in relationship with God, our Savior, and other faithful women who are seeking a deeper journey.

#### MOM'S MORNING PRAYER

Wednesdays | 8:40 - 9:00 AM | Nursery | Begins January 10

Leaders: Jennie Eller & Julie Schmidt | jeller@stjohnrochester.org

Moms (and Grandmas) are invited for a short time of prayer over our school, teachers, students, and the staff of St. John Lutheran Church & School. This is a short, intentional time of prayer lifting school & student needs and protection. This takes place in the church nursery so you can attend with younger children in tow. Each week will conclude in time for parents to attend Wednesday's school chapel service at 9:00 AM.

ST. JOHN MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

2nd & 4th Thursday/month | 9:00-11:00 AM | Luther Hall

Leaders: Elizabeth Olsen & Samantha Passalacqua | stjohnthursdaymops@gmail.com

Are you a mom of a newborn, toddler, preschooler, or Kindergartener? Come join our supportive group of moms in this same unique stage of parenting young children. Our meetings consist of topics important to moms with speakers, devotion, breakfast, loving childcare, and activities with additional events like play dates and Moms Night Out. Follow us on Instagram & Facebook @st.johnmops to find out more!

# **BIBLE STUDY: MEN**

#### **PROVERBS**

1st & 3rd Monday/month | 9:00 - 10:30 AM | Church Library Begins Tuesday, January 2 (due to New Year's Day Holiday) Leader: Dan McCallum | d.mccallum@sbcglobal.net

This men's group is looking at God's gift of wisdom as presented in the book of Proverbs. An email reminder is sent before each session with discussion/meditation questions and comments. Each session begins with a brief fellowship time and an opening prayer. The emphasis is on reading, understanding, and discussing the application of God's Word to our lives, the community, and the world. Men of all ages are welcome, and no prior Bible study experience is required.

# A BIBLICAL STUDY AND APPLICATION OF PHILIPPIANS

1st & 3rd Thursday/month | 10:00 - 11:30 AM | Church Library | Begins January 4 Leader: John Fedototszkin | sherryjohnf@aol.com or 248-375-0832

Please join us as we are study Paul's letter to the Philippians and apply it to topics of our day. Each session begins with a brief fellowship time and an opening prayer. We then read and discuss the Bible verses. We close with prayer for one another and the concerns that are shared. Men of all ages are welcome, and no prior Bible study experience is required.

#### **BIBLES & BASKETBALL**

Saturdays | 8:00 - 10:00 AM | Gymnasium | Begins January 13 Leader: Eric Garland | biblesbasketball.sjr@gmail.com

Bibles & Basketball is held almost every Saturday through April. Men young and old alike and all ability levels are welcome to play some basketball, get into God's Word, and build friendships in Christ. Each week we share a devotion and have discussion time where we share triumphs and challenges going on in our lives, pray together, and just enjoy the fellowship of others while we get some exercise playing basketball.

# **LIFEgroups**

# What is a LIFEgroup?

A LIFEgroup is where you can make new friends, grow in your faith, serve in new and enriching ways and just plain have more fun. (Note that St. John Bible Studies that focus on learning and enrichment of your faith are listed separately in this brochure.)

# LIFEGROUP: ALL ADULTS

LIFEGROUP: WEDNESDAY

1st Wednesday/month | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Various Locations | Begins February 7

Leaders: Karl and Donna Sliter | dkasvolks@att.net

This LIFEgroup is a great way to grow as friends in Christ and we are always looking for new members. We are currently sharing devotions from the book, Live in Grace, Walk in Love, by Bob Goff and reading through I & II Corinthians together. We also support each other and celebrate together, share occasional meals, and try to serve together in Christ's name at least once each month at St. John, Neighborhood House, or Oxford/Orion FISH.

# **LIFEGROUPS: WOMEN**

LIFEGROUP: BIBLE STUDY SISTERS

Wednesdays | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Concordia Hall | Begins January 10

Leader: Jennie Eller | jeller@stjohnrochester.org

All ladies are invited to come around the table for a time of fellowship, connection, and a bible study. Each week we will share in a time of lesson, devotion, and table talk as we build relationships and equip one another in living with faith, hope, and love as we walk through life's up and downs. A key component to our group is our time of prayer and lifting one another to the Lord as we chase after His will.

#### **LIFEGROUP: MARTHA'S DAUGHTERS**

3rd Wednesday/month | 7:00 PM | Red Ox Tavern | Begins January 17

Leaders: Erin Morgante & Julie Schmidt | emorgante@stjohnrochester.org
This is an informal gathering for ladies to connect with each other for great conversation and a glass of wine (or beverage of your choice.) We meet at the Red Ox Tavern, Auburn Hills. Take time for fellowship with other women as we share our lives, laughter, and the love of Jesus.

# LIFEGROUP: WOMEN OF FAITH, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

2nd & 4th Wednesday/month | 7:00 PM | Church Library | Begins January 10 Leaders: Shannon Bradley & Shelly Morales | shellymorales86@gmail.com

For women who want to form lasting friendships to nurture growth in faith and support each other in and out of church. This group engages in book club style study and discussion along with group planning of monthly acts of service.

# **LIFEGROUPS: MEN**

LIFEGROUP: ROCHESTER MILLS BREWERY (RMB)

2nd Wednesday/month | 7:00 PM | Rochester Mills Brewery | Begins January 10

Leader: Pastor Jon Trinklein | jontrinklein6262@gmail.com

RMB LIFEgroup is an informal gathering for men to connect with men for great conversation about faith, life, and following Jesus along with a cold brew if you so desire. Take the time to be with others for helpful insights, good laughter, and an occasional outreach serve project or activity get together. Before you know it, God shows up in ways you didn't see coming. Bring a friend and tell the restaurant host you looking for the St. John group.

