

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 21, 2024

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



Today we together follow Jesus to the Jordan's edge for His baptism. St. Paul's words in Romans remind us that our own connection to Jesus through our Baptism into Him gives us eternal life beyond all we may see and experience in this physical life! Through our water and Word connection, Jesus does for us everything as both Savior and Lord, connecting us to His saving work through the means of grace!

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (1 Cor. 11:23-32) the Lord's Supper, properly received brings great blessings, but improperly received without understanding can actually incur God's judgment. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the Biblical teaching of communion, please feel free to commune today. If you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.

As you come forward, gluten free wafers are available by request, as well as individual cup choice of wine or lighter colored non-alcoholic grape juice (located in the center of the trays). Common cup is also offered during Traditional Praise services at the altar only. The Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first, third, and fifth weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month.

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Baptism of Jesus | January 21, 2024

Service Elements taken from the Divine Service, Setting Four, Pew Hymnal (LSB) p. 203.

All hymns will also be found in the pew hymnal and on the screen.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

LSB #394

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation

Confession

LSB p.203

Gloria

LSB p.204

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 29

Worship Bible p.461

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Worship Bible p.942

Alleluia

Holy Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

Worship Bible p.836

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *To Jordan's River Came Our Lord*

LSB #405

MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB p. 208-212

Hymn: *All Christians Who Have Been Baptized*

LSB #596

Nunc Dimittis

LSB p.211

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered*

LSB #404

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER | Classes starting now

The New Year is here and with it comes many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! Check out the latest Get Into the Word Bible brochure for class and group listings - it's available in print, outside of the entry to worship, and on our [website](#).

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Studying God's Word is undoubtedly one of the best ways to grow your faith. Have you ever thought about reading the Bible - from start to finish - in one year? By setting aside time each week to learn about God's character, you can build your foundation of trust in the Lord and better understand His purpose in your life.



A reading schedule has been posted in the special St. John group within the Bible App. If you would like a paper copy, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org. Participants meet on Wednesdays in Luther Hall at 6:00 PM to discuss the assigned reading. Meeting participation is optional. Visit our [website](#) for more information!

SHARED LIFE

INCLEMENT WEATHER CAMPUS POLICY

As a reminder, St. John follows the lead of Rochester Community Schools for inclement weather closures. If Rochester Community Schools close for inclement weather, then the entire St. John campus is closed as well. When the campus is closed, all activities (i.e. bible studies, meetings, extra-curricular activities, and volunteer groups) will be cancelled for the entire day.



ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? | Class starts February 26

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 worshipping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John 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 Pastors Marc and Steve on an 8-week, action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! You will also learn more about our St. John mission and vision!

Classes meet on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. (Free childcare is available upon request.) After completion of the series participants are welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. For more please contact church@stjohnrochester.org or call the Pastoral Office at 248-402-8020. We hope you can join us! **Register now by scanning the QR Code or visiting:** <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class-membership-class/>



ONE Class
Registration

TEACHING CANDIDATES FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

St. John is seeking candidates for three (3) preschool teachers as well as a 6th grade teacher with a math and science background for the 2024-2025 school year. The congregation is invited to submit candidate recommendations via email to Todd Pehlke at tpehlke@stjohnrochester.org. St. John will also receive recommendations from our LCMS Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Qualified candidates for this position must have a bachelor's degree, a love for Jesus our Savior, and a love for children and their families. A job description is available at the Main Office. All recommendations must be received by January 26, 2024.

PRESCHOOL AIDE POSITIONS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

St. John is now accepting applications for the position(s) of Preschool Teacher Aide starting with the 2024-2025 school year. The hours of this position will be 8:00-3:45 for school days only and applicants can apply for full-time or part-time (please include your preference in your letter of application). Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of application as well as a resume to the St. John Main Office, attention Todd Pehlke, Principal, by Friday, February 9, 2024.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM

Weekly Sunday School meets at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms of our building (September – May). All children ages 3 (if potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome.



LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | Grades 6-8

Lighthouse will meet in the gym from 6:00 – 8:00 PM on January 21. For more information, please contact our Director of Child and Family Ministry, Steve Wilson at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | January 21 from Noon to 2:00 PM

This week the High School Youth will meet in the atrium at noon before walking to lunch. The group will return to St. John for devotions in the Youth Room. Check your emails for upcoming trips and registration. For more information, please contact Director of High School Youth Ministry, Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE | February 2 at 6:00 PM

This year's Daddy Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, February 2 at 6:00 PM. Hosted by St. John Child & Family Ministry and the Parent Network, this event will be open to Preschool 4's to 8th grade from both our church and school. The cost is \$30 per family. Registration is required and is now open at: www.stjohnrochester.org/event/daddydaughter2024/

DADS & DUDES | Starting February 17

Dads & Dudes is a new small group for St. John Lutheran Church & School boys in Grades 1-5 and their fathers, focusing on outdoor adventure and following Christ together. Boys and their fathers will meet on the third Saturday of every month for two hours to explore the outdoors, learn new skills, and spend time in God's Word together. The meeting location and time will vary depending on the scheduled activity. The first meeting is February 17. We know not every Dude has a Dad, so please reach out to Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org if your Dude would still like to participate.



DADS & DUDES
REGISTRATION

Please register by February 2 at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/groups/dads-dudes/> or scan the QR Code. Additional meeting details will be shared when you register.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL School Open House

Join us THIS Sunday, January 21, from 12:00 – 1:30 PM. You are invited to attend to learn more about our Preschool to 8th grade. Talk with the Principal and teachers, visit the classrooms and hear more about updates for next year! Check-in is located in the main atrium.



Enrollment Dates

Current school student re-enrollment and congregation early enrollment is underway through Friday, January 26. Any remaining space will be available with Open Enrollment, starting February 1. If you missed Kindergarten Preview or Preschool Preview, or if you have any enrollment questions, please contact our Director of Admissions, Beth Dameron at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

National Lutheran Schools Week

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) is this week, January 22–26. This year's theme is "Connected" based on John 15:1-5 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."*



NLSW provides our network of more than 1,800 LCMS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools the opportunity to celebrate the blessings of Lutheran schools and to proclaim God's work in our schools and communities. Throughout the week, our students will participate in a variety of events focusing on Connection.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

Interested in enrolling at Lutheran Northwest for the 2024-2025 school year? Here are some important dates and deadlines:

1. 8th grade *Intro Night* is Wednesday, January 24, at 7:00 PM. This fun evening provides an official welcome to 8th graders already registered or considering Lutheran Northwest for next year. It will also provide helpful information to parents about the LHNW curriculum and scheduling options for 9th grade. Students who have taken our High School Placement Test will receive their test scores at this time. No pre-registration is required. Dessert is included as we celebrate with the newest members of our Crusader family!
2. If you haven't yet applied and are ready to take that step, now is the perfect time to apply for admission for 2024! The application fee is currently \$150, but it will increase to \$200 on February 1. The application can be completed online at www.lutherannorthwest.com/apply.



If you have any questions or would like to arrange a family visit and/or student shadow day, please call Admissions Director, Mary Gutenkunst, at 248-852-6677, or email mgutenkunst@lhsa.com.



SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 | July 22-26

VBS is planned this summer for **July 22-26** from 9:00 AM to Noon at Lutheran High Northwest. Registration will open **February 14**. Save the date on your calendar and look for more details coming soon.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

LIMITED FOOD DRIVE FOR ST. PAUL, PONTIAC | Through January 28

The number of families being served at the St. Paul, Pontiac Food Pantry has increased greatly, and they are in need of the following items: **cereal, peanut butter, canned chicken, and canned fruit**. St. John will collect these items now through Sunday, January 28. Donations can be dropped off in the collection bins located in the atrium. For more information, please contact our Director of Mission Mobilization, Jennie Eller at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.

YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing!" 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Your continued financial support and partnership in the ministry and mission of St. John Lutheran Church & School is so important and is making a huge difference in changing lives for eternity in Jesus' name! If you are worshiping onsite, offerings will be taken touch-free at the door. You can also scan the provided QR Code to give online, or many have switched to faithful ongoing giving electronically either through their own bank (as a recurring automatic transaction) or through our website giving portal at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Gauss at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



GIVE ONLINE

YTD Mission & Ministry Offerings (July 1 – January 14)

St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/23 through 6/30/24

Budget \$ 1,592,153

Actual \$ 1,548,190

Variance (\$43,963)

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

FAMILY OF GOD, DETROIT | Volunteers and donations needed

St. John is looking for 4-5 volunteers to transport and serve food donations to Family of God, Detroit on Sunday, February 4. Food and paper product donations are also needed. Sign up to serve or donate using the link below or scan the QR Code. This will be an ongoing monthly serve opportunity for the St. John families each first Sunday of the month. This is a family friendly serve opportunity.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoB44A5A72FA5FA7-47193795-family#/>



SIGN UP HERE



FINANCIAL COUNT TEAM | Volunteer Opportunity

The Financial Count Team is looking for additional members. The count teams are responsible for tabulating weekly offering donations and typically serve once a month for 1-2 hours. If you have a desire to serve in this important role, please contact Pat Krystoff at pkrystoff@yahoo.com.

CONSTANT PRAYER

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or visit our website and click on the prayer link toward the bottom of the homepage. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along (or kept confidential when requested) to our prayer warriors and are also included in our weekend worship.



Healing & Peace: Jack Koschmann (grandson of Linda & Jonathan) – newborn in ICU / Susan Mensi (sister of Nancy Egloff) - diagnosed with a tumor awaiting biopsy / Henry Hinchman (father of Kriss) – nearing end of life / Georgia (6 mo old) – hospitalized with COVID / Frank Hayes - hospitalized

Bereavement: *For the family & friends of Hans Stein (in Florida) / Janet Guetzkow / Skip Harrington*

ALL²JESUS: Thanksgiving for everything continuing to moving forward in spite of the harsh weather. Thanksgiving for the workers and their diligence! Thank you for continued generous financial support and prayers!

Strength & Guidance: The Schmidt and Hoffman families as they travel abroad.

Gospel Impact: Pastor Call Process / Crossroads Care Center and the work they do to preserve the lives of children

Thanksgiving: National Lutheran Schools Week

Community – Nation – World: May the people of God continue to witness to the truth of all life coming from our creator & redeemer with compassion and love



Worship Celebration Schedule

Traditional Praise: Sundays at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM (Online at 8:00 AM)

Modern Praise: Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays at 10:45 AM (Online at 10:45 AM)

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