

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 28, 2024

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



As Jesus once reminded his friends, so he reminds us, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) Our Lord reminds us of the importance of staying connected to God and to one another when we face challenges and difficulties and

when we share in joys and triumphs! It’s the same encouragement that we give thanks for every day through our St. John faith community and our school ministry, especially during National Lutheran Schools Week! May our Savior continue to cultivate an environment of faith, love and fellowship, where all of us together can learn, grow and thrive while connected to the Vine!

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

January 28, 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: *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* (9:30/11:00)

LHNW Concert Band

OPENING HYMN: *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

LSB #904

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation

Confession

LSB p.203

Gloria

LSB p.204

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Worship Bible p.569

Epistle Reading: Galatians 5:16b-26

Worship Bible p.974

Alleluia

Holy Gospel Reading: John 15:1-9

Worship Bible p.901

APOSTLES' CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *In Christ, We Are Forever Grafted* (Tune: O Dass Ich Tausend Zunge Hatte)

Screen

MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing*

LSB #691

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



GET INTO THE WORD

St. John offers many opportunities 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](#).

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.



ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP CALL UPDATE

After receiving an official Call List of 13 pastor candidates back from our Michigan District the week before Christmas (which included multiple names submitted by our St. John family), our Pastor Call Team prayerfully narrowed the list down to three candidates. Upon further contact, one of these candidates has withdrawn his name from consideration, leaving two excellent candidates. Please watch for more information and details in the coming days as we schedule on-campus visits with each pastor candidate, including Congregation Forums as opportunities for everyone to get to know them as we together seek the Lord's will in this important process. Our prayerful intention is geared toward potentially extending a Divine Call at a Special Congregation Meeting in early March. In the meantime, please continue to keep this important process in your prayers including our candidates, their families, as well as the congregations they currently serve. May the Lord's will be done!



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 worshiping 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



OWLS Luncheon Meeting | Friday, February 9

The next OWLS luncheon will be held on Friday, February 9 at noon in Concordia Hall. The main entree and beverages will be provided by the OWLS Ministry Team. Attendees are asked to bring potluck veggies/salads (last names A-J) and desserts (last names K-Z). Please RSVP to Roger Guetzkow at 248-377-9048 or rjguetzkow@comcast.net by Tuesday, February 6. Transportation may be arranged if needed.

February's guest speaker is Terry Priestly, St. John's Deaconess in Training, who will present "Do You Hear What I Hear." Those wishing to attend the presentation only should arrive by 12:50 PM. **Although OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) is a senior ministry of St. John, all are invited to attend the monthly luncheons.**

TEACHING CANDIDATES FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR | Deadline extended to Friday, February 2.

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. Due to numerous snow days, **the deadline for recommendations has been extended to Friday, February 2.**

PRESCHOOL AIDE POSITIONS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

St. John is 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 | January 28 from Noon to 2:00 PM

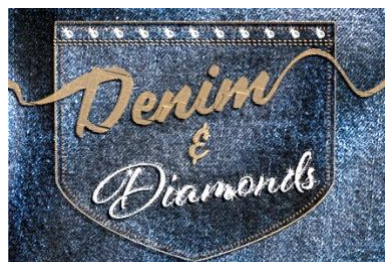
This week Lighthouse will meet in the gym from Noon – 2:00 PM. For more information, please contact our Director of Child and Family Ministry, Steve Wilson at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | January 28 from Noon to 2:00 PM

This week the High School Youth will meet from Noon – 2:00 PM. 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 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

Future City

Congratulations to our St. John Future City Team on earning 2nd Place at the Michigan Regional Future City Competition held this past Tuesday at the Suburban Collection in Novi. This international, hands-on, cross-curricular program for middle school students helps bring STEM to life. Great job to the team! To learn more, visit futurecity.org.

Enrollment | Open Enrollment Begins February 1

Open Enrollment to the community begins this Thursday, February 1. The application link will be available on our website starting at 8:00 AM. For more information about enrollment please visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions at 248-402-8012.

National Lutheran Schools Week

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) was this past week, and this year's theme was *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. Students and teachers enjoyed daily theme attire and special events including Bingo, a STEM assembly, and a service project for Lutheran Braille Workers.



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 (due to ongoing construction on our campus). Registration will open **February 14**. Save the date on your calendar and look for more details coming soon.



LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST | 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl

The Lutheran Northwest 5th & 6th Grade Quiz Bowl is back! The big day is Wednesday, February 7, at 6:00 PM. Form a team of 3-5 students and sign up for this exciting & challenging event! Registration closes on Sunday, February 4, so don't delay. Sign up online at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

CEREAL DRIVE FOR ROCHESTER AREA NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

St. John is hosting a Cereal Drive for our mission partner, Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH), from February 11- 25. This is a current need of RANH who continues to feed 150+ families in our Rochester community. 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 21)

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

Budget \$ 1,650,185

Actual \$ 1,597,580

Variance (\$52,963)

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: Jordan (10 mo old great-nephew of Karen Hager) – hospitalized / Glenn Raetzel – recent hospitalization / Suzie Robinson / Jack Koschmann (grandson of Linda & Jonathan) – continues to be hospitalized / Melissa Dominick – continued healing from ankle surgery / Gene Colin – hospice

Bereavement: *For the family & friends of Ruth Schlecht / Jack Koepke (father of Jim) / Suzie Robinson (friend of Chuck Gallagher)*

All2Jesus: Workers hoping to get the roof completed in the coming weeks as weather allows. Thanksgiving for the workers and their diligence! Thank you for continued generous financial support and prayers!

Strength & Guidance: Schmidt & Hoffman families traveling

Gospel Impact: Pastor Call Process – working through interview process

Thanksgiving: Marriage of Cary Brooks & Susan Snyder

Persecuted Church: Three churches in India, were forced to close after a mob of extremists stormed their regular Sunday morning services. The attackers ransacked the homes where congregants were gathered and warned them of further consequences should they continue to meet for worship. After the attack, three pastors were arrested and falsely charged with alleged ‘forced’ conversion activities.



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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