

# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of March 24, 2024

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

### HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the gathering of His followers in the upper room for a special meal, to His betrayal and arrest in Gethsemane leading to death by crucifixion, and miraculous resurrection that would change everything—we begin Holy Week today! Join us for the full journey with our Savior to the cross and empty grave this week! See the full list of this week's opportunities to reflect and worship on the back page of this week's Connection, or visit [www.stjohnrochester.org/#HolyWeek](http://www.stjohnrochester.org/#HolyWeek)



**HOLY BAPTISM** – This weekend we celebrate the baptism of Grace Pearl Surniak, daughter of Lauren and Andrew, after the 5:00 PM Modern Praise service. May God richly bless Grace and her family!

### 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

Palm Sunday | March 24, 2024

Service Elements taken from the Divine Service, Setting One, Pew Hymnal (LSB) p. 151.

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

**PRELUDE:** *Rigaudon*

A. Campra | Brass Ensemble

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

LSB #443

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

LSB p.151

Invocation

Confession

LSB p.151

Response: *The Tree of Life*

Screen | Choir sings stz. 4

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Worship Bible p.797

Epistle Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Worship Bible p.983

Anthem: *Hosanna in Excelsis*

G. Palestrina | Mixed Choir

Holy Gospel Reading: John 12:9-19

Worship Bible p.898

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Screen

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

LSB #442 | Choir sings stz. 2 & 4

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Steve Grafe

**ANTHEM:** *Come to Me*

C. Scialla | Mixed Choir

**PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN:** *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

LSB #441

**POSTLUDE:** *Fanfare*

W. Mathais | Organ

## BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES**

There are no classes on Easter Sunday, March 31.

**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 study brochure for class and group listings - it's available in print, outside of the entry to worship, and on our [website](#).



## SHARED LIFE

**MAIN OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:** Monday, March 25 - Thursday, March 28: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Friday: Office closed in observance of Good Friday

**NEXT WEEK:** Monday, April 1: Office closed in observance of Easter  
Tuesday – Friday: Regular hours resume 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office  
HOURS



### **PASTOR TYLER CALL FOLLOW UP**

As was announced this past Wednesday in worship and by email, after some weeks of prayer and discernment, Pastor Tyler Cronkright has officially accepted the call to serve as our Associate Pastor of Discipleship! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Please continue to keep this important time of transition in your ongoing prayers for Pastor Tyler, his wife Brandi (who serves as one of our wonderful St. John kindergarten teachers), along with the beloved people of Family of God, Detroit where Pastor Tyler currently serves. More information will be coming very soon, but in the meantime please mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 PM** when Pastor Tyler will be officially installed and welcomed!

### **SCHOOL STAFFING UPDATE**

As shared in last week's Connection, several teaching offers were extended recently as we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year. With thankfulness and God's blessings, we share the update that Mrs. Amy Gauss, Mrs. Jennifer Shore, and Mrs. Brandy Lenz have accepted positions as St. John Preschool teachers. In addition, Mrs. Lindsay Gagliano has accepted a position as a St. John 6th grade teacher. We welcome these additional teachers to the team! Preschool Aide interviews have begun and will resume after break, and additional staffing updates will be shared in the coming weeks.

### **ST. JOHN COOKBOOK | Recipes and Preorders due by April 5**

The St. John Parent Network is preparing a St. John Cookbook and welcomes our church and school families to contribute their favorite recipes! Money raised from the sale of the cookbooks will help fund Parent Network sponsored student and family enrichment activities! Cookbooks are \$20 and should be available for pick-up before Mother's Day. To share a recipe or preorder your cookbook, please go to <http://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/cookbook>, scan the QR code, or pick up a flyer outside of the sanctuary by the tract rack. For more information, visit the webpage or reach out to the Parent Network at [parentnetwork@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:parentnetwork@stjohnrochester.org).



### **VESTRY, ELDERS, AND FOUNDATION NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED | Submission Deadline is April 1**

"The greatest among you is the one who serves." Matthew 23:11. These humble words, spoken by Jesus, set the tone for what it means to be great in the Kingdom of God. Taking on a leadership role at St. John as a member of the Vestry, Elders, or Foundation is about humble service to Jesus and others. Nominations are now being accepted for individuals to serve on Vestry, Elders, and Foundation. Please pray for those whom you know that may be a blessing to Christ's ministry at St. John and if He leads you to do so, complete a nomination form. Nomination forms can be found in the church lobby by the tract rack or in the pastoral office. The Vestry has a specific need for an individual with a financial background. Please prayerfully consider if you or someone you know has this gift. What an incredible opportunity at a very exciting time to use the talents that the Lord has blessed us with, to make a difference in furthering His work! Nominations must be submitted to the Pastoral Office no later than April 1.

## **2024 ST. JOHN MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE | Begins Tuesday, April 16**

The St. John Men's Golf League is looking for league members and substitute golfers. This year the league will start on Tuesday, April 16 at Black Heath Golf Course. The league plays for 20 weeks and is scheduled to finish on August 27. Tee times are from 3:20 to 4:20 and golf carts are included with your membership dues of \$600 for the season. Substitutes pay \$20 and that also includes the cart fee. All men over the age of 18 are welcome to be members and substitutes can be 16 years and older. All degrees of ability are welcome. There are weekly prizes along with a year-end banquet. Please contact David Schulz at [davidischulz@comcast.net](mailto:davidischulz@comcast.net) or 586-770-6495 for more information.

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL | No classes on March 24 and March 31 | Class resumes April 7**

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 | Next meeting April 7**

Lighthouse does not meet again until Sunday, April 7. For more information, please contact our Director of Child and Family Ministry, Steve Wilson at 248-402-8006 or [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org).

### **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | Next meeting April 14**

The High School Youth had an amazing St. Patrick's Day celebration. The next meeting will be on April 14 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact our Director of High School Youth Ministry, Melissa Hammett at [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).

### **EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA UPDATE**

What a great day last Saturday, as we welcomed over 400 guests to our campus for the annual Easter Egg-stravaganza! Children and families enjoyed an Easter skit, cookie decorating, an Easter craft, an egg hunt, and a petting zoo with pony rides. What a blessing to share the joy of Easter with our church, school, and community! Thank you to all those who donated eggs and candy and to the many volunteers who helped make this event possible.





## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

**Chess Club:** After 48 participants enjoyed 2 days of excellent competitive play, this year's St. John Chess Tournament concluded with 4th grader, Sean defeating last year's winner, 7th grader Philip. This is only the 2nd time in the chess club's history that a 4th grader has taken the top spot! Chess Club meets each Spring with Mr. Nelson and includes students in 4th - 8th grade.

**Middle School Serendipity Week:** This annual event was held last week and included a variety of activities for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Coordinated by the Middle School Faculty with volunteer parent assistance, the students participated in the Winter Olympics, the Amazing Race, and a Bowling Outing. Thanks to all who helped make Serendipity Week a fun experience for our middle schoolers!

**School Enrollment 2024-2025:** St. John school enrollment is occurring based on space available. For a campus tour or enrollment information, visit [school.stjohnrochester.org](https://school.stjohnrochester.org). School is currently out on Spring/Easter Break, and resumes Tuesday, April 2. We pray for a restful break for students, families, and teachers!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 | July 22-26 | Register Now!

VBS will take place July 22-26 from 9:00 AM to Noon at Lutheran High Northwest (due to ongoing construction on our campus). Registration is open at: <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/2024vbs/>

## COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

### SERVE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

The faith family of St. John is tremendously blessed with amazing volunteers! These areas are in urgent need of assistance. Please prayerfully consider serving on one of these teams.

- **Family Of God, Detroit | Food donation and serve volunteers**

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve food at our Mission Partner, Family of God. If you are able to prepare and/or serve on April 7 and/or May 5, please follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoB44A5A72FA5FA7-48621144-family>.

- **St. Paul, Pontiac | Ongoing food pantry volunteer positions**  
Volunteers are needed to help on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the St. Paul food pantry from 12:45-2:45 PM. Volunteers will assist in packaging groceries for pantry clients and can serve as often as they like.
- **Drive to Church | Ongoing need**  
St. John has several seniors that need assistance getting to and from worship on Sundays. We are looking for several volunteers to help with transportation.

For more information or to volunteer for any of these opportunities, please contact our Director of Mission Mobilization, Jennie Eller at [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org).

## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

### 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](mailto:sgauss@stjohnrochester.org).



GIVE ONLINE

### Fiscal Year-to-Date: July 2023 - February 2024

	<u>Budgeted YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$3,284,630.00	\$3,267,232.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$3,303,347.00	\$3,312,722.00

These numbers consist of total budget income (Offerings, Tuition, 3rd Source Funding, etc.) and total budget expenses (payroll, utilities, facility maintenance, school expenses, etc.) for St John Mission & Ministry Operations within the current fiscal year. They do not include any income or expenses tied to the All2Jesus new construction cost - OR - existing school renovation projects.

## CONSTANT PRAYER



### WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email [prayer@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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:** Mary McColeman – stomach cancer and on-going treatment / Crystal Mischley (daughter-in-law of Bruce and Sarah Mischley) - cancer treatment / Karen Lee – lung disease and treatment / Marilyn Miller – home hospice care / Glenn Raetzel – recovering from surgery / Lisa Johnston (Carol's daughter) – cancer and strength for Carol as she travels to be her caregiver / Arnold Schilke – rehabilitation from hip repair surgery

**Bereavement:** *For the family & friends of* Anthony Noga (father of Celeste Ludwig) / Craig Koenig (brother of Karen Neumeyer & Kathy Davis)

**All2Jesus:** Walls are painted, floors are being epoxied, drywall and windows are being installed – so many wonderful things happening! Continue to keep the workers and their safety in your prayers. Thank you for your continued generous financial support and prayers that are making this expansion a reality for the future!

**Gospel Impact:** For all who will attend our Holy Week & Easter worship services

**Thanksgiving:** Pastor Tyler (and Brandi) accepting the Associate Pastor Call to St. John / Teaching position offers accepted for 2024-2025 school year / Baptism of Grace Pearl Surniak - daughter of Lauren and Andrew

# HOLY WEEK



## MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28

Go with Jesus and his disciples to the Upper Room where He offers the gift of his forgiving presence through a very special meal before his arrest.

**TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)**

4:15PM | 7:00PM | ONLINE @ 4:15PM



## GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29

Spend time at the foot of the cross as Jesus shares seven last words. Come for all or part. Last word starts at 2:30PM.

**TRE-ORE TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)**

12:00 - 3:00PM | ONLINE @ 12:00PM

Experiene the passion of our Savior through this dramatic service that contrasts darkness with light through God's Word and powerful music of reflection.

**TENEBRAE TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)**

7:00PM

**GOOD FRIDAY MODERN PRAISE (GYMNASIUM)**

7:00PM | ONLINE @ 7:00PM



## EASTER MARCH 30-31

Be one of the first to race to the empty tomb and celebrate that He is risen! Be sure to note our expanded Easter worship schedule.

**MODERN PRAISE (GYMNASIUM)**

SATURDAY @ 5:00PM | SUNDAY @ 9:15AM | 10:45AM

ONLINE @ 10:45AM

**TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)**

SUNDAY @ 8:00AM | 9:30AM | 11:00AM

ONLINE @ 9:30AM



ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY

### Worship Celebration Schedule

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

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

1011 W. University Drive | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | [stjohnrochester.org](http://stjohnrochester.org)