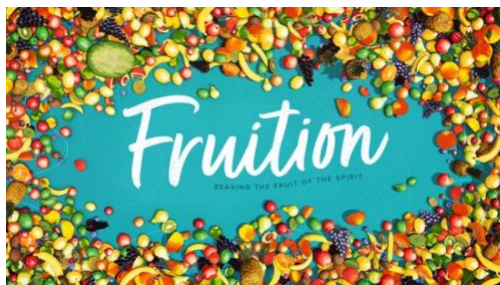


# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of August 17, 2025

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION



### FRUITION SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

Jesus made it clear that anyone who would truly be His disciple would also bear the fruit of faith (John 15:4-9, 16). Yet, perhaps your faith, like a broken off, disconnected branch has been wilting a bit lately? If so, forget the Miracle Gro, instead it's time to get reconnected in the miraculous power of the Word of God and begin thriving once again as a Spirit-filled follower of Jesus! Join us in worship onsite (or online if you're out of town) throughout the summer for our FRUITION summer worship series! It will be the perfect time to grow as you will be nurtured as a chosen one of God through His promises to rediscover the fruit of the Spirit!



### Did you miss a previous FRUITION series message?

Scan the QR code or visit the website below to watch any of the previously aired sermons. <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/#fruition>



### HOLY BAPTISM

This Sunday, August 17, at the 10:45 AM Modern Praise Service, we celebrate the baptism of Jameson Robert Douglas Miscovich, son of Timothy and Danielle (Katner) Miscovich. May God richly bless Jameson and his family.

# TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 11 | August 17, 2025

Service elements are taken from the Divine Service, Setting One, Pew Hymnal pg. 151.

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

## PRELUDE

## BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN:** *The Lord, My God, Be Praised*

LSB #794

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation/Confession

Screen

Feast of Victory

p.155

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 40:1-11

Worship Bible p.468

New Testament Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Worship Bible p.995

Alleluia and Verse

p.156

Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-23

Worship Bible p.818

## THE NICENE CREED

Screen

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

LSB #809

## MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB p.160-164

Preface/Sanctus

The Words of Our Lord

Agnus Dei

Hymn: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

LSB #685

Thank the Lord

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN:** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

LSB #643

## IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER

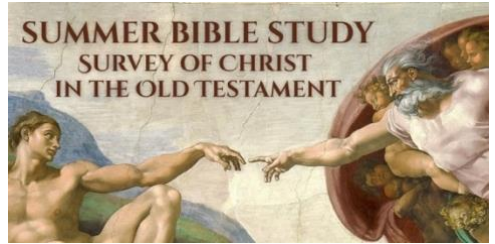
The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (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. **During regular worship weekends, the Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first and third weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday, Communion will be served at both Traditional and Modern Praise services.**

## BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY | Concordia Hall at 9:30 AM**  
*(This class does not meet on August 24 due to Family Praise and Picnic in the Park.)*

Join us every Sunday at 9:30 AM as we take a deeper look at the Old Testament Scriptures and how they reveal Christ to us and for us. This is a Chad Bird led video series, and is intended to survey the Old Testament to discern prophecies, patterns, and foreshadowing's of the Messiah.



## SHARED LIFE

**STEVE WILSON FAREWELL AND RECEPTION | Atrium | Sunday, August 17 | 10:30 AM**

We give thanks to God for the blessing of Steve Wilson as we honor and thank him with a reception in the atrium on Sunday. Steve has served God's people at St. John Lutheran Church & School for more than 10 years as Director of Child & Family Ministry, with programs, events, service opportunities, moments of prayer, and the reminder that, "the answer is always Jesus!" Steve will be serving as the Director of Next Gen Ministry at Hales Corners Lutheran Church in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. We keep Steve, his wife Janelle, Mackensi, Jimmy, and Ella in prayer in this next step in his ministry.

More information on the call process for our next Director of Child & Family Ministry at St. John will be shared very soon. Rest assured Child and Family Ministry at St. John will continue in the meantime as our entire ministry leadership team is stepping in to take on various roles in the interim. If you have any questions, please contact the pastoral office.



# Join Us!

Join us for a reception as we thank and honor  
Steve Wilson

*Sunday, August 17*

*10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Atrium*

We extend God's blessing on his Call to  
Hales Corners Lutheran Church in Hales Corners, WI.



## **GRIEF SHARE Loss of Spouse Session | Saturday, September 6**

GriefShare is hosting a one-time session devoted to those who have lost a spouse. It is always hard to lose someone you love, and the loss of a spouse is not only losing your loved one, but your lifestyle as well. Whether you are recently widowed, or it has been several years, you are invited to join us on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Church Library. For planning purposes, please register with Terry Priestley at [tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org)



# ***FAMILY PRAISE and PICNIC IN THE PARK!***

**AUGUST 24 @ 11:00AM  
ROCHESTER MUNICIPAL PARK**

Join us at Family Praise & Picnic in the Park on Sunday, August 24! Worship begins at 11:00 AM in beautiful Rochester Municipal Park, followed by a free picnic lunch! **This is the only worship service offered that weekend.** Make plans now to join us and invite your family, friends, and neighbors too.

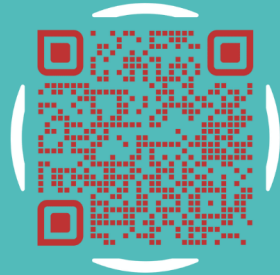
**Park Info:** Dress casually and bring your lawn chairs & blankets as seating will be on the grassy area surrounding the Band Shell in the middle of the park. For our friends and family with mobility concerns, we have golf cart drivers that will transport you to and from the parking lot, as well as seat you in a shaded area with provided chairs.

**Vintage Vehicle Display:** If you would like to display your treasured car, truck, tractor, or cycle please contact Eric Brown at [ericbrown1939@gmail.com](mailto:ericbrown1939@gmail.com) for registration details!

***PLEASE NOTE - We are low on food preparation  
and refreshment service volunteers.***

## **VOLUNTEER**

This event isn't possible without volunteers like you! Sign up today to help set up, decorate, greet, **prepare or serve food**, drive golf cart shuttles, and much more! If you are able to assist with this event, please **contact Our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens**, at [dstevens@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:dstevens@stjohnrochester.org) or (248) 402-8004 or sign up using our online form by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/fppip/>.



*This year at Praise in the Park, we will be collecting school supplies for our Mission Partners, St. Paul, Pontiac & Family of God, Detroit. Help us support the students they work with by supplying school supplies such as pencils, college ruled paper, notebooks, glue sticks, markers, colored pencils, pencil cases, and tape. Thank you for your generosity and support that is continually given to our mission partners. If you have questions or want to be more involved in missions, please contact Jennie Eller, Director of Missions & Outreach. [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org)*





# JOIN THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

Are you ready to make St. John Lutheran Church & School your home? Have you or someone you know been looking for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about? Join us in a relaxed and welcoming environment where your questions can be answered.

This is a great class for anyone new to St. John or returning after being away for some time, or for those who have been worshipping with us as a guest and feel led to make St. John their 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 to enroll!

Come join Pastors Marc, Steve, and Tyler on this engaging and interactive eight-week journey through God's Word! This is an opportunity to discover the Christian Lutheran faith and understand how St. John's mission and vision are rooted in its teachings. This is also a great opportunity to meet new friends and share your faith journey with others!

**This class meets Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, beginning on September 15. The last day to register for this class is September 29. Childcare is available for those who need it!** Upon completion of the class, participants are welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family.

If you have any questions, please contact the Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens at 248-402-8004 or [dstevens@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:dstevens@stjohnrochester.org).

**TO REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:**

[https://www.stjohnrochester.org/  
event/one-class/](https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class/)

***THE CLASS OF SPRING 2025***



### BEWARE OF PHISHING EMAILS AND TEXTS!

Phishing emails and texts appear to come from someone that you know (such as your pastor or friends) but are actually scams. Please remember that our St. John pastors and staff will never email you requesting gift cards or donations via unconventional methods. Also, our official church directory will also never be sent in an email, and we encourage you to be cautious of any suspicious emails. If an email seems fishy, it probably is—just delete it and carry on!

### 3rd GRADE BIBLE BLESSING | Tuesday, September 2 | 6:00 PM

All 3rd graders from our church, school & community are invited for a fun & engaging night where they will receive an age-appropriate bible & learn how to use it! We will discuss how it works, including teaching time with the parent(s) and student, and fun Bible games. This event is free and does not require a sign-up. For more information, please contact our Pastoral Office at 248-402-8020.



### LUTHERAN LAYMENS LEAGUE MEN'S RETREAT | September 4-7

The men of St. John are invited to attend this year's Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat scheduled for September 4-7 at beautiful Camp Arcadia on Lake Michigan. This year's guest presenter is Rev. David Davis, President of the Michigan District of the LCMS. The cost is \$290, and registration can be completed online at <http://camp-arcadia.com/register>. For more information and carpooling opportunities, please contact Wayne Kunze (248-276-0135) or Roger Guetzkow (248-622-1606)



### COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES

We would love to send care packages to all our students heading off to college this fall and keep them connected to their St. John family. To receive a care package, please scan the QR code or visit the website listed and complete the form. All students must fill out the form, even if they have received packages in the past! Please contact our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens with any questions at [dstevens@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:dstevens@stjohnrochester.org).



[stjohnrochester.org/event/college-care-package/](http://stjohnrochester.org/event/college-care-package/)

If you would like to donate items to the college student care packages, please see the Compassionate Service Section for more information.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM LEADER NEEDED

St. John is seeking a person or family to help lead our Sunday School program. Their main duties are to assist new students with registration and teachers with classroom set up. If you have a heart for kids and serving the teachers who share Jesus each Sunday, please contact Katie Gentner in the Pastoral Office. [kgentner@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:kgentner@stjohnrochester.org) 248-402-8020

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

This year's school theme is Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Power! *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16.* This school year, we are focusing on Jesus' power over all things. Jesus, through His resurrection, has power over our sin, our loss, our sickness and all things that are against us.

The 2025-2026 school year is only a few weeks away! This Tuesday we will welcome all K - 8 students and families for Welcome Day, with classroom visits, yearbook photos, ministry information, and final paperwork items as needed. Families have received information about the day. If you have any questions about Welcome Day or other Back to School information, please contact the Main Office at 248-402-8050.

## Save the date for upcoming activities and events!

- K - 8 Welcome/Classroom Visits: August 19
- Middle School Orientation: August 20
- 1st grade Parent Orientation: August 20
- Preschool Parent Orientation: August 21
- 4th grade Parent Orientation: August 21
- K - 8 first day of school: August 25 (half day)
- Preschool & Young 5's Classroom Visits: August 26 & 27
- No school August 29 & September 1, Labor Day Weekend
- Preschool & Young 5's first day of school: September 2 & 3





## KINDERGARTEN PLAYDATE

We had a great time this past week at Kindergarten Playdate with our 48 incoming Kindergarten students and their families! With great excitement they met new friends, enjoyed the big kid playground and had some refreshing popsicles!



## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

### YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

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 worshipping onsite, offerings can be placed in the designated areas outside the sanctuary. You can also scan the provided QR Code to give online or visit our website <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/>. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at [sgauss@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:sgauss@stjohnrochester.org).



## CONSTANT PRAYER

### LET US 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:** Alice Brunmeier Lee (mother of Allen Brunmeier) - hospice / Christopher Torgler - tonsils and adenoids removed next Tuesday / Pastor Michael Standfest - upcoming wrist ligament surgery to repair damage from being hit by a car / Karen Hager - thanksgiving for successful open-heart surgery and for a full and complete recovery

**Bereavement** (*for the families of*): Kathy Wilusz (mother of Jennifer Shore) / Daniel Wisniewski Sr. (father of Dan)

**Strength & Guidance:** Joel interviewing for employment

**Gospel Impact:** Praise in the Park celebration next weekend

**Thanksgiving:** Baptism of Jameson Robert Douglas Miscovich - son of Timothy and Danielle (Katner) Miscovich / Arnold Schilke's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday / Dennis & Cathy Evans' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary / Birth of Margaret Ruth Roggow to Aaron and Grace Roggow

## COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

### FAMILY OF GOD | September 7

The first Sunday of each month our St. John family provides a meal to Family of God Church in Detroit. Our next serve event is September 7. There are several ways you can help:



1. **Donate Food:** Sign up to donate specific items by visiting the link below. Donations can be dropped off to the St. John church kitchen (downstairs).
2. **Meal Prep Team:** Help prepare food (at St. John) after worship on Sept. 7.
3. **Greet & Serve:** Travel to Family of God (carpool leaves St. John at 2:00 PM) to greet and serve the meal.

**SIGN UP NOW AT:** [stjohnrochester.org/FOG2025](http://stjohnrochester.org/FOG2025)  
or scan the QR code!

For more information, please contact our Director of Missions & Outreach, Jennie Eller, at [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org).



# COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

The faith family of St. John is tremendously blessed with amazing volunteers! These areas are in urgent need of assistance. Please take a moment to pray and reflect on how your time and gifts might be used to bless others. We would love to have you join us in these meaningful ministry opportunities!

## FAMILY PRAISE & PICNIC IN THE PARK VOLUNTEERS | AUGUST 24

Our Family Praise event isn't possible without volunteers like you! Sign up today to help set up, decorate, greet, prepare food, drive golf cart shuttles, and much more! If you are able to assist with this event, please contact Our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at [dstevens@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:dstevens@stjohnrochester.org) or (248) 402-8004 or sign up using our online form by scanning the QR code or visiting [stjohnrochester.org/event/fppip/](http://stjohnrochester.org/event/fppip/).



## MOMCO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY | Beginning September 11

St. John MomCo (formerly MOPS) is seeking loving, responsible individuals to care for the MomCo children during meetings every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month (September-May). There are currently 3 different childcare rooms: Infants (under 12 months), Nursery (Age 1 – 3), and Preschool (Age 3-5). Volunteers do not have to be available for every meeting and can even sign up to be a substitute when additional help is needed. Volunteers are essential to the group, by providing childcare so moms with young children can enjoy fellowship and community with other moms.

**If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please email [stjohnmomco@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnmomco@gmail.com).**

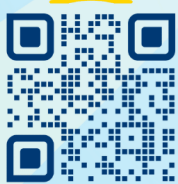


MOMCO

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE DONATIONS

You have a unique opportunity to touch the hearts and uplift the spirits of our college students! The care packages we send aren't just boxes of snacks; they're tangible expressions of God's love and our unwavering prayers, designed to offer comfort, remind them of their faith, and encourage their walk with Christ amidst academic demands.

Please prayerfully consider **donating an item from our Amazon Wishlist** and help us send a powerful message of faith, hope, and love directly to students' dorm rooms. Scan the QR code or visit <https://a.co/b9naiR1> to contribute and have items sent directly to St. John!



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT GUITAR DONATIONS

The St. John School Music Department is looking for new or used acoustic guitars and portable, electric keyboards to use in the middle school music curriculum in the upcoming school year. If you have a used guitar or keyboard and would like to donate it, please contact our Music Director, Nick Kwapis [nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org) before the end of August. Thank you!



## WEEK AT A GLANCE: AUGUST 18-24

Here is a highlight of activities happening on campus this week.

MON

10:00 AM ESL (Mary Martha)  
5:30 PM Essenmacher 242 Group (Offsite)

TUE

8:30 AM The Vine Women's LifeGroup (Mary Martha)

WED

6:00 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)

THR

10:00 AM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)  
10:00 AM Opening the Old Testament - Fedototszkin (Church Library)  
6:00 PM Torgler 242 Group (Offsite)

FRI

SAT

**NO WORSHIP DUE TO FAMILY PRAISE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK ON SUNDAY**

SUN

11:00 AM

**FAMILY PRAISE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK  
(Rochester Park)**



### Worship Schedule

**Traditional Praise:** Sundays at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM (also online), and 11:00 AM

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

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohndrochester.org