# GET INTO THE WORD

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER



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### Get Into The Word!

As the days of summer are fading into fall, we're reminded every new season brings new opportunities to get back into more intentional time in God's Word!

As a part of the St. John family, please take a moment to see what follows in our GET INTO THE WORD guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's presence through Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, men and women, Bible basics to more in-depth studies, 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 this fall as a family in your faith walk with Jesus:

Get into the Word!



### **ONE DAY EVENTS**

GRIEFSHARE Loss of Spouse Session Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Church Library Leaders: Terry Priestley

In addition to weekly meetings beginning later this fall, 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 at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org or visit the website <a href="https://www.griefshare.org/events/269112">https://www.griefshare.org/events/269112</a>.

### ST. JOHN MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST Saturday, September 20 at 9:00 AM | Concordia Hall Leaders: Pastor Jim Weist

Gentlemen, save the date as the time is quickly coming to be encouraged in your faith walk with Jesus on Saturday September 20. Enjoy a delicious breakfast provided by our men's team and connect with other guys who are humbly seeking to grow as men of faith. We will gather in Concordia Hall to eat and fellowship with each other and hear from Pastor Jim Weist, the Senior Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Lakes in Addison, Michigan. Pastor Jim has spent time as a missionary in Jamaica, serving as a chaplain for both police and fire department, as well as spent a significant amount of time serving the Lord on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana. Trust me (Pastor Tyler), you won't want to miss this event as Pastor Jim shares stories of grief, suffering, and the faithfulness of God! Watch for an RSVP in the coming weeks. See you then!

#### WOMEN OF FAITH SEMINAR Saturday, November 1 | Luther Hall Leaders: Pam Bickel

St John women! Here is an opportunity to meet and connect with many of the women in our church. Join us on Saturday November 1 as we open up the Scriptures, share a lunch together, and listen to the Living Proof Simulcast by Beth Moore. We will be listening to her sessions and then engaging in challenging conversation centered around the Scriptures. Space will be limited, so when you see the registration link in a few weeks, make sure you sign up, and bring a friend! For more information, please contact Pam at pamelabick4@gmail.com.

#### WOMEN'S ADVENT EVENT Friday, December 5 at 6:00 PM | Sanctuary Leaders: Jennie Eller

Ladies, we invite you to save the date, bring a friend, and come join us as we spend some time in the Word and in song reflecting on the true meaning of the Advent and Christmas season! Before the hustle and bustle of the season takes over, come pause and give thanks for the Lord's goodness, and intentionally prepare your hearts and homes this Christmas season. Appetizers and light refreshments will be served following time in the church sanctuary. Registration and additional details to come.

### ONLINE

### READING THE OLD TESTAMENT IN A YEAR Daily | Your Bible

**Leaders: Pastors, and Guests!** 

We are continuing our focus on the Old Testament by discovering how the promises of Jesus echo throughout these "old" stories and events. We began in January in Genesis and will finish in December in Malachi. Pastor Tyler, Pastor Marc, Pastor Steve, and maybe even a few guests, will continue posting daily one-minute videos giving a devotional thought for each of the day's readings. It's NEVER too late to jump in and join the fun!

Follow the reading plan on YouVersion Bible App (scan QR code below, or click the QR code if viewing online). The daily videos can be found on YouTube (scan or click QR code).



**YouVersion Bible Website** 



**YouTube Daily Devotionals** 

#### SUFFERING SERVANTS PODCAST Weekly (almost) | Podcasting Apps Leaders; Pastor Tyler

Did you know that Pastor Tyler, in partnership with the Michigan District, hosts a podcast? Christianity has a lot of unspoken suffering and challenges. Suffering Servants is his way of bringing these every day struggles into the modern context by reading books, articles, and conversing about the ever changing culture and the Church's response to such change. He also has conversations with other "suffering servants" about their sufferings in life and what God has revealed to them through those sufferings.

Scan the QR Code to be taken to the home page where you can listen to each episode, or subscribe on your favorite podcast app, like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast, etc. <a href="https://sufferingservants.buzzsprout.com/">https://sufferingservants.buzzsprout.com/</a>

If there is a topic that you would like to have addressed on the show, please send Pastor Tyler an email at <u>pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org</u>.

### **LIFEGROUPS**

#### **242 LIFEGROUPS**

1st Wednesdays/month at 6:00 PM | Concordia Hall

**Leaders: Matt MacLeod, Pastor Tyler** 

You were created for community! These are great opportunities to grow in the Word together, while building relationships with others. With the 242 Life Groups (Based off of Acts 2:42), we will be gathering to further our study and understanding of the previous week's sermon, such as other texts that may not have made it in the sermon, alternate directions, and questions (provided by the pastors). Another major goal with these groups is to grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ, so fellowship and socializing are a component of these groups as well. **We will have a Large Group gathering on the first Wednesday of each month**, and then throughout the rest of the month have smaller gatherings at other locations, which will be determined at the Large Group gathering. Child care will be provided at the Large Group Gatherings. See below our first few "Small Groups", which will gather monthly at their own location (make sure you contact them!):

#### **McLEOD 242 GROUP**

**Leaders: Matt and Jennie MacLeod -** An opportunity for parents of all age youth to get together and talk. Build relationships and encourage each other as new or seasoned parents! If you are interested, please contact Matt at <a href="mailto:mpmacleod44@yahoo.com">mpmacleod44@yahoo.com</a>.

#### **ESSENMACHER 242 GROUP**

**Leaders: Kevin and Erika Essenmacher -** This group is intended for younger people, newly married, or new to the church, specifically coming out of the One Class. If you are interested, please contact Erika at <a href="mailto:essential-

#### **TORGLER 242 GROUP**

**Leaders: Brett and Vicki Torgler -** This group is really passionate about those who are new to or curious of the faith and want to meet new people! Brett and Vicki also welcome couples with young children to participate in their group to provide support in parenting. If you are interested, please contact Brett at <a href="mailto:btorgler@icloud.com">btorgler@icloud.com</a>.

Again, for general questions or if you would like to start your own 242 Life Group with a small group of people, please contact Matt MacLeod at <a href="mailto:mpmacleod44@yahoo.com">mpmacleod44@yahoo.com</a> or Pastor Tyler at <a href="mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org">pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org</a>. If you're curious to see how these groups operate, join us for a Large Group gathering!

### MOM'S MORNING PRAYER Wednesdays at 8:30 AM | Church Nursery

**Leaders: Jennie Eller** 

Moms and Grandmothers are invited for a short time of prayer over our school, each class and grade, and the staff at St. John. This is a short, intentional time of prayer lifting up the school and student needs including protection. This takes place in the church nursery so you can attend with younger children in tow. Each week we will end so that parents are able to attend Wednesday school chapel service at 8:45 AM. For more information please contact Jennie at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.

#### WOMEN OF FAITH & FRIENDSHIP 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 PM | Church Library Leaders: Shannon Bradley

Beginning September 10, this group is for women who want to form lasting friendships, nurture growth in faith, support one another in and out of church. We meet twice a month for book club-style study and discussion, exploring a mix of books, videos, or biblical topics throughout the year. We will also participate in the planning of acts of service and activities for our group to play a small part in sharing the love of Christ with others in our little corner of the world. For more info contact Shannon at <a href="mailto:sibradley1208@gmail.com">sibradley1208@gmail.com</a>.

# ROCHESTER MILLS BREWERY LIFE GROUP 2nd Wednesday/Month at 7:00 PM | Rochester Mills Brewery Leaders: Pastor Tyler

RMB Life Group is an informal gathering for men to connect 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. 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. We are usually found in the middle at the high-top tables. For more information contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

#### OWLS - OLDER WISER LUTHERANS OF SERVICE 2nd Friday/Month at 12:00 PM | Concordia Hall Leaders: Roger Guetzkow

OWLS is a "senior group" that are "committed through Christian fellowship to help the young at heart experience Christ's Love". OWLS has no age requirements and extends an invitation to all who enjoy food, fellowship, and interesting presentations. Luncheon meetings are on the second Friday of the month (September-June) at noon in lower-level Concordia Hall. Our volunteer ministry team organizes additional activities such as Detroit Institute of Arts bus trips and Meadowbrook Theatre performances. For more information contact Roger Guetzkow at phone 248-377-9048 or e-mail riquetzkow@comcast.net.

### **SUPPORT**

**GRIEFSHARE** 

Saturdays 10:00 AM starting October 11 | Church Library

**Leaders: Deaconess Terry Priestly** 

Grief Share is a special weekly seminary and support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. Our group is designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the days ahead. We will begin on Saturday October 11 and conclude on Saturday January 10 (2026). For more information please contact the church office or email Terry at <a href="mailto:tpriestly@stjohnrochester.org">tpriestly@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

HEALING HEARTS SUPPORT GROUP First Monday/Month at 7:00 AM | Church Library Leaders: Suzanne Preuss

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. Healing Hearts meets the first Monday of the month, beginning September 8. For more information email Suzanne at suzannep1227@gmail.com.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays | 9:30 - 10:30 AM | School Classrooms Leaders: Various

Sunday School is offered weekly and meets at 9:30 AM in the preschool classrooms of our building. All children ages 4 through 6th grade are welcome. Parents and guardians check children in at the welcome desk, located in the new 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 Multipurpose Room 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! For more information, please contact the church office at <a href="mailto:church@stjohnrochester.org">church@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

3rd GRADE BIBLE BLESSING Tuesday, September 2 | 6:00 PM Leaders: Pastor Marc

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.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS
3 Saturdays | November 8, February 7, April 11 | 9:00 - 11:30 AM | Luther Hall Leaders: Pastors Marc, Steve, and Tyler

Our 7th and 8th grade students seeking to be Confirmed are required to attend and participate with their parents in three Saturday Confirmation instruction sessions. These sessions, which include an interactive study of all six chief parts of the Catechism, are an opportunity for our pastors to get to know both the students and their parents as together we engage with God's Word. 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! For more information, please contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

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Registration & Confirmation Requirements

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | 6th - 8th grade Sundays | 12:30 - 2:30 PM | Gym

**Leader: Melissa Hammett** 

Middle School Youth is a place where students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Our activities are for students in 6th-8th grade, and all are welcome! This year our meetings are shifting to Sundays from 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM. For more information, please contact our Interim Director of Middle School Youth, Melissa Hammett at 248.818.0861 or <a href="mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org">mhammett@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GROUP | 9th - 12th grade Sundays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Youth Room Leader: Melissa Hammett

High School is a defining part of a person's life. Students begin to really settle into their beliefs about the world, God, their purpose, etc. During this influential time, we want students to be surrounded by people who know and love Jesus. We also give them the skills and the support groups they need to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

### **ALL ADULTS**

# THE ONE CLASS | NEW MEMBER CLASS Mondays beginning September 15 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM | Luther Hall Leaders: Pastors Marc, Steve and Tyler

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.

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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 worshiping 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 our church and school 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 <u>dstevens@stjohnrochester.org</u>.

# THE PASTOR'S STUDY THE STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES Sundays | 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall

**Leaders: Pastor Tyler, Pastor Marc, Pastor Steve** 

Join our Pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall, beginning on Sunday September 7 to study one of the most interesting, exciting, and perhaps even grisly books of the Bible. Judges often gets overlooked on Sunday mornings. Not only is it difficult to discover Christ in it, there are also some stories that you may have been "protected" from as a kid. Together, we are going to look at all of the stories and talk about how Christ is at work and what God is teaching us in them. We can't wait to see you! If you have questions or want more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

#### **SOCIAL DEVOTIONAL**

### 1st Wednesday Chapel/Month | following chapel - 10:00 AM | Luther Hall Leaders: Krista Nesbit, Pastor Tyler

School parents are invited to join together each month after the first Wednesday chapel service for Social Devotional! Immediately following chapel, we will gather in Luther Hall (right across from the Sanctuary) until 10:00 AM for a special devotional and plenty of time for coffee and conversation. We welcome you to join other St. John parents to pray together and get to know one another! This is a very casual, uplifting, monthly event focused on fellowship for St. John school parents. We hope to see you there! For more information please contact Krista Nesbit at <a hreshit.krista@gmail.com</a> or 248.210.6362.

#### SAFE IN THE SHEPHERD'S ARMS - PSALM 23 STUDY Thursdays at 7:00 PM starting September 11 | Luther Hall Leaders: Melissa Auchter

Are you weary from carrying the junk of life around? God has promised that He can (and will!) lighten our load. How does He do this? Come join Melissa this fall as she walks through Psalm 23 to find out. Each week she will lead the group through one verse of Psalm 23 using Max Lucado's book, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms." This Bible study will start Thursday, September 11 and go through Thursday, October 16. Everybody is welcome and no Bible study experience is required. Please contact Melissa Auchter at <a href="mailto:msauchter@gmail.com">msauchter@gmail.com</a> to register so we can get an accurate count of books needed. Books will be provided.

# LINGERING IN HIS WORD - VISUAL FAITH 3rd Saturday/Month at 1:00 PM | Concordia Hall Leaders: Candice Schwark

Lingering in His Word uses Visual Faith® Ministry (visualfaithmin.org) resources, combining devotional time as we learn "hands-on" processes such as scripture scribing, journaling, prayer practices, etc. These tools bring us to a new level of dedication and a deeper walk with the Lord as we record, remember, reflect on His Word. An optional creative project or two will be completed after each study. We will be continuing to walk through the Psalms in September and October. We meet on the 3rd Saturday from 1:00pm - 4:00 pm in Concordia Hall. Please make sure that you follow our Facebook page too! RSVP to Candi <a href="mailto:candice@mac.com">candice@mac.com</a> for more details about materials and the study. Basic supplies: pencil/pen/Bible/notebook.

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDY Thursdays at 1:00 PM | Mary & Martha Room Leaders: Peter Harris

Everybody who typically attends this class is an immigrant or visitor to the United States - including the class leader Peter, however anybody is welcome. The aim of this Bible class has been, and will remain, manifold. Together we use the Bible to: a) expand knowledge of the English language, b) cover the history of Israel, how this lead to Christianity, and how Christianity became the foundation of Western civilization, especially in the United States, c) how the Bible shows that women are as equally important as men (this is very important to those who come from other religious and cultural backgrounds which are often male dominated), d) to show that the Bible is as meaningful today as it always has been, and e) above all, the goal is to encourage all to trust God and to take joy from the Word. For more information, please contact Peter at (248) 651-7532 or <a href="https://example.com/harris1964@wowway.com/

# ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) Tuesdays at 1:00 PM and Fridays at 9:30 PM | Mary Martha Room Leaders: Audrey Kiehl

Did you know that for more than 20 years, St. John has been home to an Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) group? Twice a week—on Tuesdays (1:00 PM -3:00 PM) and Fridays (9:30 AM-11:30 AM) - people from all around the world gather for conversation, learning, and friendship. Our wonderful volunteers from St. John offer warm smiles and encouragement as the group practices their English and builds connections. These gatherings are open to everyone in the community, and no sign-up is needed—just come and join the conversation! Please share our group with any English Language Learners you know! We also love adding more volunteers to support our ESL group. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Audrey at 248-396-2220 or Audrey.kiehl@hotmail.com.

### **WOMEN**

WOMEN OF PRAYER

Tuesday's at 8:45 AM | Chapel

**Leaders: Beth Helmer, Deana Stevens** 

On Tuesday mornings, starting September 2, we invite all women of faith to attend this gathering of faithful believers. We will begin with a Psalm or another Scripture to meditate on and pray through as we pray together for the Lord's blessing, healing, and direction in a number of different areas (family, church, government, etc). Focus on the Word of God will often lead to deeper discussion, which we will welcome, but this group is intended to be intentionally prayerful, for there is mighty power in prayer! If you would like more information, please contact Deana at <u>dstevens@stjohnrochester.org</u>.

#### WHEN YOU PRAY - TUESDAY WOMEN'S STUDY Tuesdays at 7:00 PM | Church Library

**Leaders: Sue Stingu Moore** 

Praying can be a struggle for us. Do you have trouble thinking of the "correct" words to say? Or perhaps you reach the end of the day without praying at all? Beginning September 2, all women are welcome to join with us as we dive into this 7 session Bible study, led by 6 biblical teachers, who will inspire us to dive deeper into a more fruitful prayer life. Please note at sign-up if you wish to purchase the \$25 workbook (needed for this study) on the first night of class. For more information and to sign up, please contact Sue at suestingu@icloud.com or text (248) 321-0572.

#### LADIES WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - WITHOUT WAVERING Wednesdays at 1:00 PM | Youth Room Leaders: Jennie Eller

Beginning September 10, we will be diving more intentionally into our faith Scan or Click QR journey. Enduring, resilient, courageous-these are the qualities that we want to describe our faith in God. But the truth is that faith is hard, especially when trials, setbacks, and failures seem to define us. How do we trust God day in an day out? When the odds are stacked against us? In the moments when we're left wondering how we'll ever get back up? In this study, with videos, we will be using Alexandra Hoover's book, who offers encouraging words of hope and key examples of faith from the Scriptures, particularly Hebrews 11. Through hope in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are women who weather the storms of life with renewed strength and confidence in who God is, and who He says we are! Join us on Wednesday's at 1:00 PM. For details, and books, you can contact Jennie jeller@stjohnrochester.org.



Registration & Confirmation Requirements

#### ST. JOHN MOMCO

2nd and 4th Thursdays/Month at 9:00 AM | Luther Hall Leaders: Ashley Baumann, Mady DeMiro

Are you a mom of a newborn, toddler, or preschooler and looking for a supportive group of women going through what you are? At St. John MomCo (formerly MOPS) we share Jesus with moms of young children (pregnancy-Kindergarten) and come together to support one another through our motherhood journeys. We meet at St. John on the second and forth Thursday of each month from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, from September to May. Our meetings include childcare drop-off in age-based rooms with loving care-takers, videos and speakers on topics important to motherhood, activities to promote community, and a breakfast with coffee setup! We look forward to having you join us in this upcoming season! For more information, and to join our 2026 waitlist, please contact Ashley or Mady at stjohnmomco@gmail.com.

### MEN

# THE CHRIST KEY 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9:00 AM -10:30 AM | Church Library Leaders: Dan McCallum

This men's group is taking a look at the Old Testament by reading and discussing Chad Bird's book, The Christ Key. What Christians today call the Old Testament is what Jesus and the earliest believers simply called the Scriptures. That was their Bible. From its pages, they taught about the Messiah's divine nature, his priestly work, and his ministry of salvation. By reading through this book together, we are reintroduced to these old books as ever-fresh, ever-new testimonies of Jesus. By the end, you will be encouraged as you look for Jesus on every page of the Old Testament. Join us on the first and third! For more information please contact Dan at d.mccallum@sbcglobal.net.

## THE LUTHERAN WITNESS 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 AM -11:30 AM | Church Library Leaders: John Fedototszkin

This group takes a look at various articles from Concordia Publishing House's magazine, The Lutheran Witness. Through discussion and Biblical discovery, this group will explore how are we to interpret our ever changing world through a Christian perspective and a God who does not change. The coffee is hot and the conversation is engaging, so please join us on the first and third Thursdays of each month. For more information, please contact John at 248-375-0832 or <a href="mailto:sherryjohnf@aol.com">sherryjohnf@aol.com</a>.

#### BIBLES AND BASKETBALL Saturdays 8:00-10:00 AM | Gymnasium Leaders: Eric Garland

Here is an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. This group of men meets almost every Saturday morning beginning September 13. This is open to men young and older alike and all ability levels - the more the merrier! Whether you come regularly or occasionally, all are welcome. For more information, please contact Eric at <a href="mailto:eggarail.com">eggarail.com</a>.

