

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of September 14, 2025

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



September 13/14 – Kingdom for the Lost

September 20/21 – Kingdom Economics

September 27/28 – Kingdom of No Regret

October 4/5 – Kingdom Responsibility

October 11/12 – Kingdom Gratitude

October 18/19 – Kingdom Prayer

KINGDOM PERSPECTIVES SERIES

At a time when perspectives of political power and influence have increasingly been confused to be synonymous with spiritual power, our God and Savior declares, “My kingdom is not of this world!” This same God is the one who brings a different reality into being among us through His Word and welcomes us to live in a different kind of kingdom with eternal perspectives as his people - perspectives that truly are not of this world. Join us in worship this fall as we explore some of these surprising perspectives and the impact they can have on our lives today.



If you miss any of the Kingdom Perspectives Series messages, they will be uploaded weekly to our Online Resources webpage. Scan the QR code or visit the website below to watch any of the previously aired sermons.

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/>

HOLY BAPTISM

This Sunday, September 14 at the 8:00 AM service we celebrate the baptism of Margaret Ruth Roggow, daughter of Aaron and Grace Roggow. May God richly bless Margaret and her family.



TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 15 | September 14, 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: Guide Me, O thou, Great Jehovah (8:00/9:30)

Men's Chorus

BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

LSB #851

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation/Confession

Screen

Gloria

LSB #947

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

Worship Bible p.722

Anthem: The King of Love and Grace (9:30)

Men's Chorus

New Testament Reading: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Worship Bible p.991

Alleluia and Verse

p.156

Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

Worship Bible p.874

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Sinners Doth Receive*

LSB 609

MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

Anthem: The King of Love and Grace (8:00)

Men's Chorus

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

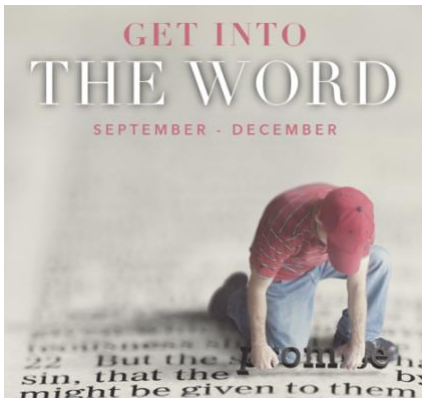
LSB #686

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



GET INTO THE WORD | Fall Bible Studies and LIFEgroups

Our Fall Bible studies and LIFEgroups have begun! Check out the full listing of classes and events by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website. A printed copy of the *Get Into The Word* guide can also be found in the narthex and atrium. Whether you are looking for a small class or large group, there is something for everyone - no matter your age, schedule, or life circumstances! Be sure to make the most of growing in your faith walk with Jesus through His Word this Fall!



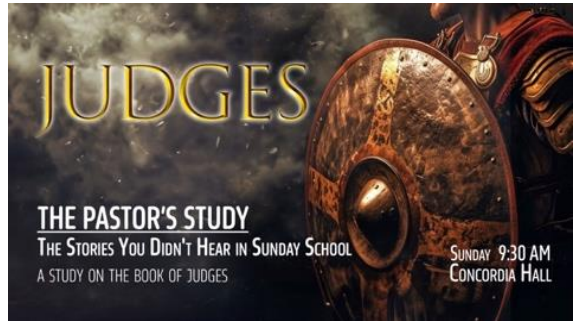
STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:

A study on the Book of Judges

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join our Pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall, as we 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 looking at all of the stories and talking about how Christ is at work and what God is teaching Israel and 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.



CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Please note that there are NO Sunday Confirmation classes this year. Students enrolled at St. John Lutheran School will receive curriculum through school religion class.

Students not enrolled in St. John Lutheran School will be required to attend three Saturday classes along with a parent. These sessions will cover the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism, as well as thoughtful discussion with the pastor who is leading. The dates for these Saturday classes are November 8 (Pastor Steve), February 7 (Pastor Marc), and April 11 (Pastor Tyler) from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM (with a break in the middle). If you have questions regarding Confirmation, or would like to register your student, please contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

THE ONE CLASS | Starting Monday, September 15

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 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.

To register for this class scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class>

If you have any questions, please contact our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens at 248-402-8004 or dstevens@stjohnrochester.org.



OWLS LUNCHEON | Friday, September 19 at 12:00 PM | Concordia Hall

OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) first luncheon meeting of the new program year is Friday, September 19, beginning at noon in Concordia Hall (downstairs). The OWLS Ministry Team will provide the main entrée (pizza) and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring potluck side dish (last names A-J) and desserts (last names K-Z). To assist with meal planning, please RSVP to Roger Guetzkow at 248-622-1606 or rjguetzkow@comcast.net by Tuesday, September 16.

September's guest speaker is Rev. Paul Arndt, who will be presenting on "*The Receptive Life*" as framed by Martin Luther's Small Catechism. **All are welcome!** Folks wishing to only attend the presentation should arrive by 12:45 PM. We will try to arrange a ride for anyone requiring transportation; contact Roger Guetzkow for assistance.

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

Gentlemen, join us on Saturday, September 20 for a delicious breakfast provided by our men's team and connect with other believers who are humbly seeking to grow as men of faith. We will gather in Concordia Hall to eat and have fellowship while listening to Pastor Jim Weist, Senior Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Lakes in Addison, Michigan. Pastor Jim has spent time as a missionary in Jamaica, serves as a chaplain for both the police and fire department, and has spent a significant amount of time



serving the Lord on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana. Pastor Tyler says this is an event you don't want to miss, as Pastor Jim shares stories of grief, suffering, and the faithfulness of God! RSVP by scanning the QR code or visiting stjohnrochester.org/event/mens_breakfast/.

LINGERING IN HIS WORD | Saturday, September 20 at 1:00 PM | Concordia Hall

Lingering in His Word uses Visual Faith® Ministry (visualfaithmin.org) resources, combining devotional time as the group learns “hands-on” processes such as scripture scribing, journaling, and prayer practices. An optional creative project or two will be completed after each study. RSVP to Candi Schwark at candice@mac.com for more details about materials and the study.

GRIEF SHARE | Begins October 11

Grief Share is a special weekly support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. It 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. This group meets Saturdays at 10:00 AM in the Church Library, starting October 11, 2025 and running through January 10, 2026. For more information, please contact Terry Priestly at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org.



MUSICAL TALENT | CHOIR ENSEMBLES

Make a joyful noise! Volunteer choirs for the upcoming church year will begin this week. St. John is blessed to offer several ensembles with a variety of meeting/rehearsal schedules. If you are a singer, ringer, or instrumentalist interested in joining, and are high school age or older, please contact Nick Kwapis, St. John Director of Music, at nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org



- **Mixed Choir:** Meets weekly on Thursday evenings
- **Men's Chorus:** Meets 1-2 times monthly on Thursday evenings
- **Jubilate Bell Choir:** Meets weekly on Wednesday evenings
- **Instrumentalists:** Rehearse as needed

LLL ARCADIA MEN'S RETREAT

Guest presenters at last weekend's 79th Lutheran Layman's League Retreat at Camp Arcadia on Lake Michigan were (left to right): Pastors Christopher Bodley, David Maier, and Dietrick Gladden. Representing St. John at the LLL Retreat were (left to right): Jonathan Koschmann, Dennis Evans, Roger Guetzkow, Paul Kienman, Dave Hofmeister, Karl Weber, John Pfund, John Drews, and Wayne Kunze. Next year's Retreat is scheduled for September 10-13, 2026 with Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, current Lutheran Hour Speaker as the guest presenter. All men of St. John are invited to attend.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT ASSOCIATE

St. John is accepting applications for the position of Technology Support Associate. This position will help manage and maintain the technology on campus, including but not limited to staff and student devices, software, smart boards, printers, and copiers. Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume to Steve Gauss at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org no later than Monday, September 29.

DIRECTOR OF CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY CALL PROCESS BEGINS

The St. John Vestry, in alignment with our policy, has formed a Director of Child, Youth, and Family Ministry call committee. You can help the call process by prayerfully submitting names of potential candidates to the main office. Qualified candidates include those rostered in the LCMS as callable with a DCE (Director of Christian Education) or Family Life degree, and background and experience serving in a church and school context.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CALL PROCESS CONTINUES

After taking a brief pause for the summer, our school principal call process will begin again this Fall. As it does, we are once again asking for name recommendations of potential school principal candidates. Qualified candidates include those rostered in the LCMS as callable with a background and experience in elementary education and/or leadership with a Master's degree or higher.

Candidate submittal forms are available at both the main and church offices and can be submitted until Monday, September 29 for both of these positions. Please keep both of these important call processes in your ongoing prayers. May the Lord lead us forward through this important time as He also prepares the heart of those whom He has in mind to serve into the future of our church and school.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Band Night was held last week for 5th grade students to learn more about the various types of instruments available. Beginner Band is offered in 5th grade, and Advanced Band in Middle School. Thanks to McCourts Music for providing Band Night!

The Cross Country team is having a great year so far. In the recent Elementary Meet at Lutheran Northwest, the team had some impressive results, including Addy with a 1st place finish for the girls and Coen with a 1st place finish for the boys. Coen's run also broke a 12-year-old Varsity Boys School Record! The team of almost 30 students in 4th - 8th grade also had a 3rd place finish for the boys and had several other top 20 finishes. Way to go Eagles!



ST. JOHN TRUNK OR TREAT - Indoors! | Sunday, October 12

Join us for the annual St. John Trunk or Trunk event to be held on Sunday, October 12, from 2:30 – 4:00 PM. Hosted by our ministry leadership team, this INDOOR, family-friendly event will take place in the gymnasium. Enjoy some light refreshments, a candy stroll, and if the weather is nice, the playground will be available too! **This event is open to our church, school, and the community, so feel free to invite your**

neighbors and friends! Registration to attend is not required. (The Lions are playing at 8:00 PM that night so there will be plenty of time to get home for the game!)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us for Sunday School! 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 south 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 church@stjohnrochester.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 12:30 - 2:30 PM

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 have shifted to Sundays from 12:30-2:30 PM. For more information, please contact our Interim Director of Middle School Youth, Melissa Hammett at (248) 818-0861 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org

Thank you Jesus! Last Sunday we hosted 60 students at MSY! These kids showed up to grow in their community and faith! Today we will gather from 12:30 - 2:30 PM in the YOUTH ROOM and have a Taco Bell for lunch.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 6:00 - 8:00 PM

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. High School Youth typically meets on Sundays from 6:00-8:00 PM, in the Youth Room or offsite. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact our Director of High School Youth Ministry, Melissa Hammett, at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



Last Sunday, the Hammett's hosted the annual Welcome Back Party with a nacho bar and a devotion about kindness. 30 amazing students showed up! Today we will gather in the YOUTH ROOM from 6:00 - 8:00 PM for devotion, chips, guacamole and liquid cheese along with the star of the show Mrs. Gazal who making churro cookies for a snack and a game to end our time!! On October 5 we will announce details for Workcamp 2026! More information to follow in two weeks!

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST NEWS

Save the date for these important events at Lutheran High Northwest:

- **Homecoming** is Friday, September 19. As part of the festivities, there will be a Punt, Pass & Kick Competition for students in grades K-8. All participants will receive a FREE hot dog, and trophies will be presented to the top 3 finalists in each age division. The contest runs from 5:30-6:30 PM on the Lutheran Northwest baseball field. Stay on for Football at 7:00 PM against the Trojans of Whitmore Lake High School! Kids through grade 8 get in free!
- **Future Crusader Day** is Friday, September 26, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. 7th & 8th graders will attend LHNW with their class, and there is also a parent info session.
- **Open House** is Wednesday, October 22, with guided hour-long tours beginning every 10 minutes from 6:30-7:30 PM. You'll have the opportunity to speak with administrators, teachers, and current students during this in-depth look at Lutheran Northwest, so bring your questions!

For more information visit www.lutherannorthwest.com.

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.



CONSTANT PRAYER

LET US 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: Tara (friend of Jessica Palmerlee) - being treated for aggressive cancer / Lindsay Papke - recovering from surgery / Pete Grund - thanksgiving for successful surgery / Destiny Riley (teacher) - hand surgery

Strength & Guidance: For an ESL student traveling back to the Middle East / Phil - opening of relationship doors

Sacrificial Generosity: The book of Acts Chapter 4 speaks of believers having everything in common, sharing and caring for whatever need there was. Give thanks for that same heart and mind among the believers at St. John for the ongoing generous giving to supply and support the mission and ministries that reach those in need!

Gospel Impact: Get Into The Word / One Class / Men's Breakfast / Trunk or Treat

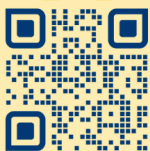
Thanksgiving: Baptism of Margaret Ruth Roggow - daughter of Aaron and Grace Roggow / Joyce & John Van Hoef's 60th wedding anniversary / Mary Ann & Stanley Rae's 61st wedding anniversary

Community/Nation/World: Current political violence resulting in shootings and deaths

Persecuted Church: Sumatra, Indonesia: Khristopel Butarbutar, a Christian second grader was beaten by 5 older Muslim boys who had bullied and taunted him for his faith. The injuries resulted in bruises and internal bleeding sustained from blunt force trauma. Khristopel died a week later from complications including a ruptured appendix that may have resulted from the beating.

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!



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE DONATIONS

This is unique opportunity to uplift the hearts & 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!



SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT DONATIONS | Needed ASAP

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 this 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 ASAP. Thank you!



M O M C O

MOMCO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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.

ST. JOHN TRUNK OR TREAT - Indoors! | Sunday, October 12

Hosts for trunks (tables) are welcome and needed! We are looking for 20-30 decorated host tables. We will provide the tables. We can also provide a theme and even some decor. Just let us know what you need. Please visit <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/trunk-or-treat/> to sign up to host a table.

Donations of individually wrapped candy including non-chocolate and no-nut are appreciated, as well as donations of non-candy trinkets. Donations may be brought to the bins in the Main Atrium starting September 13/14.



WEEK AT A GLANCE: SEPTEMBER 15-21

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

MON

9:00 AM The Christ Key - Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
6:00 PM Foundation (Church Library)
7:00 PM ONE Class (Luther Hall)
7:00 PM Vestry (Luther Hall)

TUE

8:45 AM Women of Prayer (Chapel)
1:00 PM ESL (Mary Martha)
7:00 PM When You Pray - Women's Bible Study (Media Center)

WED

8:45 AM Chapel (Sanctuary)
8:45 AM Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery)
1:00 PM Without Wavering - Women's Bible Study (Youth Room)
6:00 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)

THR

8:30 AM MomCo Leadership Meeting (Luther Hall)
10:00 AM The Lutheran Witness - Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
1:00 PM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
7:00 PM Safe in the Shepherd's Arms - Adult Bible Study (Luther Hall)

FRI

9:30 AM ESL (Mary Martha)
12:00 PM OWLS Luncheon (Concordia Hall)

SAT

8:00 AM Bibles & Basketball (Gym)
9:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Concordia)
1:00 PM Lingering In His Word (Concordia Hall)

SUN

9:30 AM Sunday School (South School Wing)
9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
12:00 PM Family of God - Bagged Lunch Prep (Church Kitchen)
12:30 PM Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
5:30 PM High School Youth Progressive Dinner (Off-Site)





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)

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