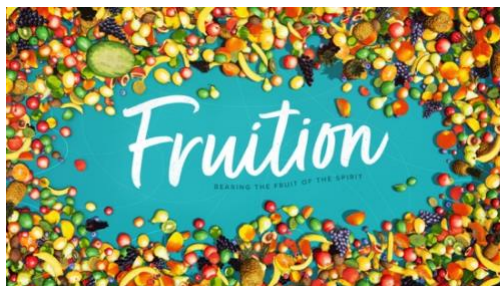


# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of September 7, 2025

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION



### FRUITION – SERIES FINALE

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) for the conclusion of our FRUITION summer worship series!



**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>

# TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 14 | September 7, 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: *How Great Thou Art*

LSB #801

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation/Confession

Screen

Feast of Victory

p.155

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 119:1-16

Worship Bible p.512

New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Worship Bible p.975

Alleluia and Verse

p.156

Holy Gospel Reading: John 14:15-26

Worship Bible p.901

## THE NICENE CREED

Screen

## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Renew Me, O Eternal Light*

LSB 704

## 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: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

LSB #707

Hymn: *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

LSB #698

Thank the Lord

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

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

LSB #691

### 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.

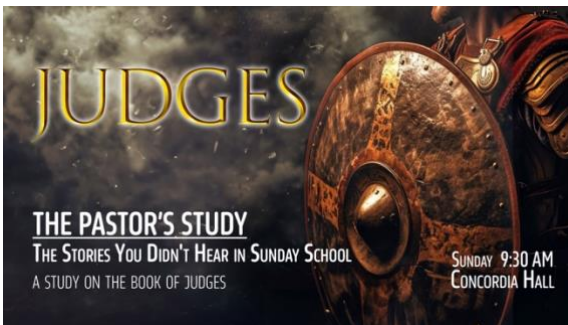
As you come forward, gluten free wafers are available by request, as well as individual cup choice of wine or lighter colored non-alcoholic grape juice (located in the center of the trays). Common cup is also offered during Traditional Praise services at the altar only. **During regular worship weekends, 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 begin this week! Check out the full listing of classes and events by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website. A hard 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, 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 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](mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org).

## SHARED LIFE



### 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](mailto: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.





# 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**





### **HEALING HEARTS | Monday, September 8 at 7:00 PM | Church Library**

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. For more information, please email Suzanne Preuss at [suzannep1227@gmail.com](mailto:suzannep1227@gmail.com).

### **RMB MEN'S GATHERING | Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 PM**

The RMB (Rochester Mills Brewery) Men's Gathering is an informal gathering for men to connect with one another for great conversation and a cold brew if you so desire. Take time to be with others for helpful insights, good laughter and before you know it, God shows up in ways you didn't see coming. Bring a friend and tell the restaurant host you are looking for the St. John group. For more information, please contact Pastor Tyler at [pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org).

### **ESTHER CIRCLE | Thursday, September 11 at 1:00 PM | Luther Hall**

This is an important organizational meeting. The group will also have a devotional based on the hymn "Have Thine Own Way Lord." If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Ruth Leucht at 248-651-3584.

### **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, as well as 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/](http://stjohnrochester.org/event/mens_breakfast/).



### **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, the Director of Music at [nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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

## **FAMILY PRAISE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK | 2025 Recap**

What a joy it was to gather together as ONE in Jesus with over 1,400 people of all ages (including almost 200 volunteers) all making this year's 26th Family Praise and Picnic in the Park one of the best ever! Many thanks to everyone who helped serve as the Lord provided a wonderful day! With all that is happening in our world, we have so much to be grateful for as a church and school in this amazing community with the opportunity to share the love of Jesus in this way!



## **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](mailto:sgauss@stjohnrochester.org) no later than Monday, September 29.

### **KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AIDE**

St. John is accepting applications for the position of Kindergarten Teacher Aide for the 2025-2026 school year. The purpose of the Kindergarten Aide position is to provide assistance and support to the Kindergarten teacher as directed; a complete copy of the job description is available in the Main Office. The hours of this position are 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, school days only. Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of application and resume to the St. John Main Office or [school@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:school@stjohnrochester.org) no later than Tuesday September 9.



## 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

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. Are you looking to enroll at St. John for the 2026-2027 school year? St. John Lutheran School provides a Christ-centered education for Preschool to 8th grade, with enrollment available to the community. For more information, please contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org).



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

Join us for the annual St. John Trunk or Treat 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!)

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sunday, September 7 at 12:30 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 are shifting 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](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org)



**To kick off the new season, we'll be hosting a WELCOME BACK PIZZA PARTY on Sunday, September 7, in the St. John Youth Room from 12:30-2:30 PM.** We'll enjoy pizza, spend time getting to know one another, share in a short devotion, and wrap things up with a fun group game. This is a great chance for returning students to reconnect and for new faces to feel welcomed. All students in grades 6-8 are invited - we can't wait to see you there! Bring a friend!

### **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays 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](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).

**We can't wait to kick off the year together at our first gathering September 7 at 5:00 PM at the Hammett house.** We will start the night off right - with dinner and a nacho bar! There will be beef, chicken, and all the delicious sides. After that, we'll jump into large group games and a devotional you won't want to miss! It's going to be an amazing way to start the year together.



### **LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS**

Is your family considering Lutheran High Northwest as a high school option for your 8<sup>th</sup> grader? If so, there are a few important events to keep on your radar as you head into this busy school year:

- First up is FUTURE CRUSADER DAY on Friday, September 26, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Students will attend LHNW with their class, but there is also a parent info session.
- Late September/Early October: our online APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION for the 2026-2027 school year will be live at [www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply](http://www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply). Watch for the official announcement!
- CRUSADER OPEN HOUSE is Wednesday evening, 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!



## 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:** Gary Mooneyham (father of Lisa Garr) - surgery / Pastor Steve Schilke - recovery from hip surgery following a fall / Francis Johnson (father of April Wieleba) - acute congestive heart failure / Preschooler undergoing tests

**Bereavement:** (for the families of): Dan Albertson

**Strength & Guidance:** Crystal Vines - strength while seeking employment / Those traveling and attending men's retreat at Camp Arcadia

**Gospel Impact:** Getting into the Word opportunities and gatherings

**Thanksgiving:** Kathie & Clare Wirsing's 64th wedding anniversary / Ed & Leah Potoczak's 48th wedding anniversary / Birth & Baptism of Joan (granddaughter of Ed & Leah Potoczak)

**Community/Nation/World:** For persecuted brothers & sisters in the faith around the world who are not allowed to speak of Jesus openly

# 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!



MOMCO

## 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).

## 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 8 - 14

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

MON	9:00 AM	Quilters Guild (Room 128)
	5:30 PM	Essenmacher 242 Group (Offsite)
	7:00 PM	Healing Hearts (Mary Martha)
	7:00 PM	Elders (Luther Hall)
TUE	8:45 AM	Women of Prayer (Chapel)
	1:00 PM	ESL (Mary Martha)
	7:00 PM	Stigu Bible Study (Media Center)
WED	8:30 AM	Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery)
	8:45 AM	Chapel (Sanctuary)
	1:00 PM	Ladies Bible Study (Youth Room)
	6:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Concordia)
	7:00 PM	Women of Faith & Friendship (Church Library)
	7:00 PM	RMB - Cronkright (Rochester Mills Brewery)
THR	8:30 AM	MomCo (Luther Hall)
	1:00 PM	International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
	6:00 PM	Torgler 242 Group (Offsite)
	7:00 PM	Safe in the Shepherd's Arms (Luther Hall)
FRI	9:30 AM	ESL (Mary Martha)
SAT	8:00 AM	Bibles and Basketball Men's Group (Gymnasium)
SUN	9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
	12:30 PM	Middle School Youth (Youth Room/Gym)
	6:00 PM	McLeod 242 Group (Church Library)
	6:00 PM	High School Youth (Youth Room)





#### 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 | [stjohnrochester.org](http://stjohnrochester.org)