# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of October 26, 2025

# **WORSHIP CELEBRATION**



#### REFORMATION SUNDAY

This weekend we are celebrating the Reformation! It is the celebration of the monk, teacher, and preacher Martin Luther and what he did for the Church, calling for the Church to abandon the heresy of buying forgiveness and the tyranny of the Papacy. It's a festival of forgiveness in Christ and in nothing else of man. It's this day that we acknowledge that God's Word is authoritative, and that deliverance and righteousness only comes through faith in Jesus Christ and the freedom that He gives freely to us! We look forward to celebrating with you!

# CONFIRMATION | Sunday at 1:00 PM

We look forward to a joyous celebration as 17 young people will be confirmed this Sunday at a special 1:00 PM service. Please pray God's blessings on our young people and their families on this blessed day!



If you missed any of the Kingdom Perspectives Series messages, you can find them on 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/

# TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

# Reformation | October 26, 2025

#### **PRELUDE**

#### BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

#### SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation

Processional Hymn: A Mighty Fortress

LSB #656 | Choir sings stz. 3

Confession

Hymn of Response: Salvation Unto Us Has Come

LSB #555 | stz. 1, 3, 5

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

Musical Anthem: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Mixed Choir

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Alleluia Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36 LSB #952

#### LUTHER'S EXPLANATION OF THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Screen

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB #556 | stz. 1-5 | Choir sings stz. 4

MESSAGE

Pastor Tyler Cronkright

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN:** Salvation Unto Us Has Come

LSB #555 | stz. 6, 9, 10

#### IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER

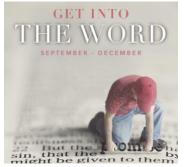
The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, I Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (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.



Don't forget to reset your clocks! Daylight saving time will end on Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 2:00 AM. Set your clocks back by 1 hour.

# **BIBLICAL DISCOVERY**



#### GET INTO THE WORD | Fall Bible Studies and LIFEgroups

Be sure to make the most of growing in your faith walk with Jesus through His Word this Fall! Whether you are looking for a small class or large group, there is a Bible Study, LIFEGroup, or event for you! 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.



## STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: A study on the Book of Judges Sundays at 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall

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 <a href="mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org">pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org</a>.



#### SUFFERING SERVANT PODCAST | This week "The Tension of Grief"

Don't forget to check out Pastor Tyler's podcast! His show attempts to bring meaning to suffering through shorter episodes highlighting basic Biblical truths in the face of suffering, as well as longer episodes conversing with others whom God has used in the midst of their own personal suffering. The podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts, just search "Suffering Servants" or visit <a href="https://www.stjohnrochester.org/sufferingservants">https://www.stjohnrochester.org/sufferingservants</a>

## THE TRUTH PROJECT | Wednesdays at 6:00 PM | Concordia Hall

The Wednesday night Adult Bible Study is beginning a 12-week series called "The Truth Project." The series features video presentations by Dr. Del Tackett, as he takes you through lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life. Topics include: ethics, science, history, sociology, law, the American experiment, labor & more.



# **SHARED LIFE**

#### SANCTUARY ELEVATOR OUT OF SERVICE

The elevator outside of the Sanctuary is currently out of service. We are working with vendors to get the issue corrected as soon as possible, and will keep you updated. Our friends with mobility issues are encouraged to use the atrium doors (#1 and #12) and use the ramp near the pastor's office to access the Church Library, Luther Hall, Chapel, Nursery, and Sanctuary. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause and are working diligently to have the elevator repaired as quickly as possible.

**Group Leaders:** If your group meets in one of the lower level rooms, and you have participants with mobility issues, please reach out to Erin Morgante at <a href="mailto:emorgante@stjohnrochester.org">emorgante@stjohnrochester.org</a> for possible room changes. Lower level rooms include: Concordia, Mary Martha, Room 128, and the Youth Room.

#### GRIEF SHARE | Saturdays at 10:00 AM | Church Library

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 and runs until January 10, 2026. For more information, please contact Terry Priestly at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org.





#### OWLS | October Meeting Recap

Fifty-three Older Wiser Lutherans in Service met last Friday for lunch, fellowship, and a presentation by State Representative Mark Tisdel's highlighting "What's Happening in Lansing?" Mark represents District 55, which includes Rochester, Rochester Hills, and part of Oakland Township. He is also a gifted soloist and closed our event with his rendition of the Lord's Prayer. Please join us for our Thanksgiving Luncheon/Fellowship scheduled for November 14, when Rev. Gil McDonald will present the "Unholy Trinity".

# MISSION PARTNER: ST. PAUL LUTHERAN HARVEST PARTY & TRUNK OR TREAT October 29 at 5:00 PM

Our Mission Partner St. Paul still needs a few more hosts to help with their Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. The event is from 5:00 to 6:00 PM with a simple dinner at 6:00 PM. There will be cider and donuts as well as pumpkin decorating for the children. The address is 1133 Joslyn Avenue, Pontiac, MI. For more information or to volunteer, please contact stpauloffice1133@gmail.com.





## WOMEN'S FAITH & FELLOWSHIP ONE-DAY EVENT | November 1, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FINAL CALL! Ladies of St. John, join us on Saturday, November 1 to be encouraged in your faith walk with Jesus! We will gather to watch curated selections of Beth Moore's most recent simulcast, engage in praise and prayer, and have meaningful fellowship with each other. This event is intended to bring women together and build relationships for a stronger community.

Whatever walk of life you are in, this event is for you!
Beth Moore is known for her engaging and



insightful approach to faith and scripture and speaks to the heart of women. Space is limited, so invite your friends and register early! Light breakfast items, coffee, water, and lunch will be provided. The cost is \$30 per person, and includes all refreshments and lunch. Scan the QR code or visit <a href="https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/womens\_event/">https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/womens\_event/</a> to register now!

#### FALL FEEDBACK FORUM | Monday, November 10

These are great days for our church and school and we have so much to give thanks for and celebrate! At the same time we want to be open to ways we can keep honing our approach to growing closer to Jesus and one another, as well as mobilizing for our mission together as a church and school. How are we doing? We want to know! Please come and join together with our pastors, principal, and other church and school leaders for a time of sharing at our Fall Feedback Forum on Monday, November 10 at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall.





## BIBLES & BASKETBALL | Saturdays at 8:00 AM | Gymnasium

Bibles & Basketball is an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. This group of men meet almost every Saturday morning from 8:00 to 10:00 AM and is open to men of all ages – the more the merrier! Whether you come regularly or occasionally, all are welcome. For more information and to get on the mailing list, please contact Eric Garland at egarlan10@gmail.com.

# **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

#### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL | WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL/CAMPUS CLOSINGS

With colder weather approaching, the possibility of inclement weather and school closings approaches as well. Weather related school closing procedures and communication processes are below.

If Rochester Community Schools closes due to inclement weather conditions, St. John Lutheran Church & School will also be closed. <u>All</u> classes, programs and activities scheduled for the day will be cancelled. This includes Preschool – 8th grade, athletic events, Bible studies, small groups, and all other facility events.

Weather related closures are communicated in the following ways:

- Texted through FACTS to school families
- Emailed through FACTS to school families
- Shared on our St. John Facebook page, @StJohnLutheranRochester
- Posted to local 'school-closing' media lists, such as <u>clickondetroit.com</u>
- Updated on our website, stjohnrochester.org



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

Join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM in the south school wing! Children ages 4 years to 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to join us. There are no attendance requirements! If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact the Pastoral Office at <a href="mailto:church@stjohnrochester.org">church@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

In the interest of better communication, there will soon be a Sunday School email list. You can register at the kiosk or on our website. <a href="stjohnrochester.org/groups/childrens-sunday-school">stjohnrochester.org/groups/childrens-sunday-school</a>

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

Middle School Youth meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room. The group will NOT be meeting this Sunday, October 26 due to Confirmation. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at <a href="mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org">mhammett@stjohnrochester.org</a>.





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

High School Youth meet most Sunday at 6:00 PM. The group will NOT be meeting this Sunday, October 26 due to Confirmation. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at <a href="mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org">mhammett@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

#### SCHOOL NEWS



Kindergarten and 1st grade students blessed us with their voices in chapel this week.

## PRESCHOOL - 2ND GRADE OPEN HOUSE November 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Save the Date for Tuesday, November 18 to learn more about our early education program! Visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn more about our Christ-centered Preschool 3's, Preschool 4's, Young 5's, Kindergarten, 1st Grade, & 2nd Grade. Enrollment information for the 2026-2027 school year will be available.





#### REGISTER FOR THE OPEN HOUSE NOW BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

For more information visit <u>school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions</u> or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or <u>bdameron@stjohnrochester.org</u>.



# BARNESVILLE MINNESOTA



# 2026 WORKCAMP MISSION TRIP | Barnesville, MN | July 18 - 25

The Group Mission Trip offers youth (age 12+ or 6th grade and up) an opportunity to serve in a community and provide home repair for under privileged, elderly, or disabled individuals. Hundreds of teenagers from youth groups across the country gather to repair and transform homes while deepening their faith and building new relationships with their peers and youth leaders. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at <a href="mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org">mhammett@stjohnrochester.org</a>.

THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK TO REGISTER! The total cost of the mission trip is \$360. A \$60.00 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is due at the time of registration. Scan the QR Code to register.

#### **LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST NEWS**

The 4th Annual 7th & 8th Grade **Crusader Quiz Bowl** will be held on Wednesday, October 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM! Teams must include 3-5 students. Visit the Quiz Bowl page at <a href="https://www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events">www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events</a>. The deadline for signing up is Monday, October 27.

# **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 worshiping 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 <a href="https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/">https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/</a>. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at <a href="mailto:sgauss@stjohnrochester.org">sgauss@stjohnrochester.org</a>.







GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN | November 15 - November 30, 2025

Beginning November 15 families are able to sponsor a child for Christmas. Angel tags with the information and needs of these children will be available in the Atrium and Church areas on our Giving Trees. Gifts will need to be returned to St. John on Sunday, November 30. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

# **CONSTANT PRAYER**

#### LET US PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email <a href="mailto:prayer@stjohnrochester.org">prayer@stjohnrochester.org</a> 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:** Wayne Kunze - upcoming PET scan / Lenore Caruso - upcoming shoulder surgery / Jim Janka (father of Lindsay Goebek) - brain surgery this week / Bob Standfest - recovering from knee surgery

**Bereavement:** For the families of Ryder Finkel / Dulane Coval

**Strength & Guidance:** For those students being confirmed this weekend / Principal - call Process / Director of Youth & Family – call process / Cross Country National Meet in WI / Girls  $7^{th}/8^{th}$  grade Volleyball State Tournament next weekend

Gospel Impact: Next weekend's Women's Event

**Thanksgiving:** Marriages of: Clayton Neff and Erika Schulz / Thomas Auger and Erika Church / Cade Kestner and Kara Nold

# **COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons draw near we are reminded that "...God loves a cheerful giver." Here are several opportunities to participate in



#### **LOOM DONATIONS**

Thank you for the yarn donations! With your generous support, no additional yarn is currently needed. Looms are still needed if you have any available. Scan the QR code to see the type of loom requested. If you have any questions please contact Cassie Benter at <code>cbenter@stjohnrochester.org</code>.



#### **BOOK FAIR I NOVEMBER 3-9**

The St. John Book Fair will be held Monday, November 3 through Sunday, November 9, and all proceeds benefit the St. John Lutheran School Media Center. You are invited to visit the Book Fair and shop for your loved ones. Book Fair items make great Christmas gifts! St. John partners with the I55 Book Fair program. I55 is a Christian organization that screens their books through the filter of faith. Learn more at https://i55bookfairs.com/

For more information contact hgardner@stjohnrochester.org







**VOLUNTEER** 

**DONATE PRIZES** 

# **WELCOME CENTER - volunteers needed**

We are pleased to announce the expansion of our hospitality services to include a special new kiosk! You may have noticed the **Welcome Center** that was launched in the main atrium just outside the Modern Praise entrance, and we have plans to launch another in the south church lobby.

We are looking for greeters to work in the welcome center booths before and after all five services. You can be scheduled on a regular basis or serve here and there as desired. It's up to you, as we want this to be a blessing to you as well as the people you are welcoming! Not sure you have a gift for this? Here are a few questions to help you decide:

- Do I have a welcoming spirit?
- Am I able to make new people feel at ease?

We're glad you're here! How can we help?

If you feel like this describes you and want to explore these new opportunities further, please contact **Deana Stevens**, **Ministry Engagement Coordinator**, at **dstevens@stjohnrochester.org** or **248-402-8004**.

# **COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**

#### **FAMILY OF GOD | November 2**

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 November 2. 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 November 2.
- 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 or scan the QR code!

For more information, please contact our Director of Missions & Outreach, Jennie Eller, at *jeller@stjohnrochester.org*.

# Neighbor-2-Neighbor Food Drive Neighbor Pood D

# NOVEMBER I - NOVEMBER 30, 2025

As you grocery shop for your family help us restock our local Mission Partner Pantries with non-perishable items.

TO HELP WHILE SHOPPING, LISTS OF ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ATRIUM AND SOUTH CHURCH LOBBY.

Donations can be dropped off at the designated areas in the Atrium and Church Lobby during school and worship hours. Even one extra item purchased helps a family in need!



# WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCT. 27- NOV. 2

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

8:30 AM Family of God Meal Prep (Church Kitchen) MON 9:00 AM Quilters Guild (Room 128)

7:00 PM The ONE Class (Concordia Hall)

8:45 AM Women of Prayer (Church Library) 1:00 PM Women Seeking Wisdom Book Club (Church Library)

1:00 PM ESL (Mary Martha) 7:00 PM When you Pray - Women's Bible Study (Media Center)

Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery) 8:30 AM 8:45 AM Chapel (Sanctuary) 1:00 PM

Ladies Bible Study (Concordia) 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)

1:00 PM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)

HALLOWEEN. HALF DAY OF SCHOOL ATTENTION 9:30 AM ESL (Mary Martha)

8:00 AM Women's Event - Beth Moore (Concordia) 8:00 AM Bibles & Basketball (Gym)

10:00 AM Griefshare (Church Library)

6:00 PM

Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall) 9:30 AM

12:00 PM Family of God Meal Preparation (Church Kitchen) 12:30 PM Middle School Youth (Youth Room/Gym) 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