

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of November 16, 2025

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



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 as we continue to explore some of these surprising perspectives and the impact they can have on our lives today.

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
November 8/9 – Kingdom Marriage
November 15/16 – Kingdom that Prevails
November 22/23 – Christ the King

If you miss any of the previous Kingdom Perspectives 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, November 16 during the 10:45 AM Modern Praise service, we celebrate the baptism of Brittney Ann Rahn, who recently completed the ONE class. May God richly bless her as we welcome her to the St. John family.

SANCTUARY ELEVATOR IS BACK IN SERVICE

We are thankful to share that ongoing efforts to repair the sanctuary elevator have been successful and it is once again operational!



TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 23 | November 16, 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

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Hymn: *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

LSB #670

Invocation

LSB p. 151

Confession

Hymn of Praise: *Feast of Victory*

LSB #155

Prayer of the Day

New Testament Reading: Malachi 4:1-6

New testament Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Alleluia

LSB #156

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-28

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Clouds of Judgement Gather*

LSB #513

MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB p.160-166

Hymn: *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

LSB #663

Thank the Lord

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *O God, Our Help, in Ages Past*

LSB #733

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

Make the most of growing in your faith walk with Jesus through His Word! 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.

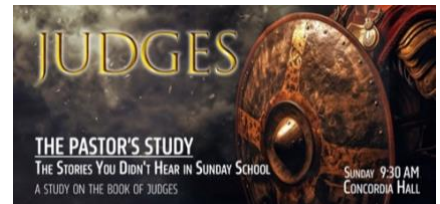


STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:

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. For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



SUFFERING SERVANT PODCAST

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 <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/sufferingservants>

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

The Wednesday night Adult Bible Study is hosting 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.



DADS BIBLE STUDY | Begins January 7 from 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM | Luther Hall

This study is intended for dads of all ages and walks of faith as we grow in God's Word together, learn what it means to lead our families well, and receive encouragement in the highest calling God has for men. Beginning on January 7, join us on Wednesday mornings (even if you have to leave early) as we pick a book of the Bible and reading through it with discussion. Coffee and bagels/donuts will be provided, so that we don't miss out on breakfast before work! For more information, reach out to Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org. See you in January!

SHARED LIFE



WELCOME TO THE ST. JOHN FAMILY!

Praise the Lord! We recently welcomed 59 families (87 adults and 57 children) into membership as part of the St. John family! These amazing individuals recently completed the 8-week ONE Class. Please give them a warm welcome and get to know them - you'll be glad you did! May the Lord bless us all as we continue to walk together through His Word as ONE in Jesus...Reaching Many! We are so very blessed! If you are interested in making St. John your official spiritual home, or want to explore what that means, the next ONE Class will start January 26. Please contact our Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at dstevens@stjohnrochester.org if you'd like to join the next class.



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOR AFRICA (COFA)

Praise the Lord for our ongoing mission partnership with our friends in South Africa through Christian Outreach For Africa. A percentage of our congregation's mission tithe continues to make a difference in Jesus' name through the churches, schools, and orphanage in Middelburg, Mhluzi, and beyond! This weekend we are so very blessed to have David Hannay and Michael Martin from COFA worshiping with us in person. They would love to answer any questions you might have! To learn more: <https://africaoutreach.org/>

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

St. John Lutheran Church & School continues the call process for two (2) open positions; School Principal and Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Call Committees are meeting and November is the month when the LCMS provides congregations with a list of callable rostered candidates for these positions. Please keep our Call Committees and the potential candidates in your prayers!

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL/CAMPUS CLOSING PROCEDURES

With colder weather approaching, the possibility of inclement weather and school closings approaches as well. As a reminder, if Rochester Community Schools closes due to inclement weather conditions, St. John Lutheran Church & School will also be closed. This means that **all** 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. Closure information will be shared on our website (stjohnrochester.org) and Facebook page.

LESSONS & CAROLS | Join the Festival Chorus

This year, our annual Lessons & Carols services are scheduled for December 14 at 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM. Once again, we are putting together a Festival Chorus for this event. The Festival Chorus is open to anyone who is interested in singing in conjunction with our Mixed Choir, Men's Chorus, and Middle School Choralier ensembles. No experience is required. Festival Chorus rehearsals will be held in the choir loft. Music and folders will be provided at the first rehearsal. If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Director of Music, Nick Kwapis at nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org.

REHEARSALS

Thursday, 11/20: 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Thursday, 12/4: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Sunday, 12/7: 12:30 - 2:30 PM (With Orchestra)

Saturday, 12/13: 9:30 - 11:30 AM (Final Rehearsal)

PERFORMANCES

December 14 at 2:00 PM & 4:30 PM



WOMEN'S ADVENT EVENT | Friday, December 5 at 6:30 PM

Ladies, we invite you to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with a special worship service led by Pastor Tyler Cronkright. Take time before the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season takes over to reflect on God's goodness, and intentionally prepare your hearts and homes this Christmas season. Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and celebrate with us the birth of the Savior of the world. Check your email next week for RSVP information! Please contact Jennie Eller at Jeller@stjohnrochester.org with any questions or concerns!

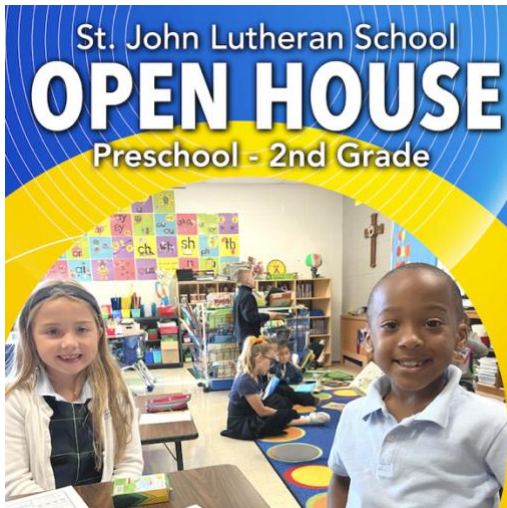


THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT | December 6

The Lutheran Choralaires is a men's chorus based in southeast Michigan. Their main purpose has always been to proclaim Christ in song. This year's concert is scheduled for **Saturday, December 6 at 4:00 PM in our St. John Sanctuary**. Suggested donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 children. For more information, please contact Paul Kienman at 248-890-4405 or info@lutheranchoralaires.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

St. John Lutheran School
OPEN HOUSE
Preschool - 2nd Grade



November 18
5:30 - 7:00 PM
school.stjohnrochester.org



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

Join us on 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, and 2nd Grade. Enrollment information for the 2026-2027 school year will be available.

REGISTER FOR THE OPEN HOUSE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

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





VETERANS DAY CHAPEL

This week in chapel our St. John students honored Veterans in their lives by inviting them to chapel for a special message from US Navy Chaplain Daniel Maske. He showed examples of the many hats US Military personnel wear while serving out of love for their country and citizens. The last example was the crown of thorns Jesus wore when he sacrificed himself out of pure love for all of us.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS!



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

Children ages 4 years to 6th grade are welcome and encouraged to join us every Sunday in the school wing for Sunday School! There are no attendance requirements! If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact the Pastoral Office at church@stjohnrochester.org.

Register for our Sunday School email list to get updates! Sign up at the Sunday School kiosk or on our website at stjohnrochester.org/groups/childrens-sunday-school

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

Middle School Youth meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



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

High School Youth meet most Sunday at 6:00 PM. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

- The Lutheran Northwest Concert Band will wrap up their 4-day Fall Tour to the East Coast with a Home Concert on Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica. Please join them for the only Detroit-area performance of this awesome concert! Additional details can be found at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events.
- Have you made up your mind that Lutheran Northwest is the right fit for your 8th grader for next Fall? They are now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Begin your child's journey to becoming a Crusader at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply.

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: Roberta Dominick (Jeff's mother) - cancer treatment / Don Susewitt - hospice / Kristie Knudsen - palliative care / Bill Schalk (brother of Sharon Barton) - cancer / Billie Martin (grandmother of Erin Morgante) / Joan Sebastian - dementia

Bereavement: For the families of Larry Boeling (brother of Carol Abramczyk) / John Quandt (cousin of Pete Grund) / Herta Ochss (mother of Linda Gerhardt and grandmother of Sara Gerhardt)

Strength & Guidance: Principal & Director of Youth & Family – call process

Gospel Impact: Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Brittney Ann Rahn (adult new member) / Birth of Peter Charles Chuhran (grandson to Kyle and Cheryl Chuhran) / Candy Bartley (daughter-in-law's baby arrived 1 month early, healthy but has breathing issues) / Birth of Ezra Kuiper (daughter of Steven and Monica Kuiper)

Community/Nation/World: Thanksgiving for our Veterans and their service

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

**GIVE BACK
NOVEMBER**

FAMILY OF GOD | December 7

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



1. **Donate Food:** Sign up to donate specific items by visiting the link below. Donations can be dropped off to the St. John church kitchen (downstairs).
2. **Meal Prep Team:** Help prepare food (at St. John) after worship on December 5.
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.



Christmas Giving Opportunity

GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

STARTING NOVEMBER 15



OPTION #1

Take an angel tag
from a giving tree in the
Atrium or Church Lobby.
Register it with the
QR code.

OPTION #2

Scan this
QR code
and sign-up
online.



*Help spread the love of
Jesus this Christmas!*

Neighbor-2-Neighbor Food Drive

NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 30
2025



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ CEREAL | ☐ CANNED CHICKEN |
| ☐ PASTA | ☐ CANNED TUNA |
| ☐ OATMEAL (INSTANT & ORIGINAL) | ☐ CANNED TOMATO PRODUCTS |
| ☐ BROWN RICE (1 LB. BAGS) | ☐ CANNED FRUIT |
| ☐ WHITE RICE (1 LB. BAGS) | ☐ CANNED VEGETABLES |
| ☐ FLOUR | ☐ CANNED BEANS (KIDNEY) |
| ☐ WHITE SUGAR | ☐ SOUP |
| ☐ BROWN SUGAR | ☐ PASTA SAUCE |
| ☐ APPLESAUCE | ☐ |
| ☐ PEANUT BUTTER | ☐ BIRTHDAY CAKE MIX |
| ☐ JELLY | ☐ FROSTING |
| ☐ COFFEE | ☐ CANDLES |
| ☐ INSTANT HOT COCOA | ☐ |
| ☐ | ☐ TOOTHPASTE |
| ☐ GRANOLA BARS | ☐ SHAMPOO |
| ☐ SNACK PACKS | ☐ CONDITIONER |
| ☐ FRUIT SNACKS | ☐ BAR SOAP |
| ☐ CRACKERS (SALTINE, RITZ ETC...) | ☐ FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS |
| ☐ | ☐ DEODORANT |

Donations can be dropped off at the designated areas in the Atrium and Church Lobby during school and worship hours.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 17-23

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 Meeting (Church Library)
	7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting (Luther Hall)
TUE	8:45 AM	Women of Prayer (Chapel)
	1:00 PM	ESL (Mary Martha)
	5:30 PM	SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE (Preschool - 2nd Grade)
WED	6:30 PM	AHG Meeting (Concordia)
	8:30 AM	Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery)
	8:45 AM	Chapel (Sanctuary)
WED	1:00 PM	Ladies Bible Study (Concordia)
	5:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
	6:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Concordia)
THR	8:30 AM	MomCo Leadership Meeting (Luther Hall)
	10:00 AM	The Lutheran Witness - Fedotoskin (Church Library)
	1:00 PM	International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
THR	6:30 PM	242 Meeting (MacLeod House)
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
	8:00 PM	Festival Chorus Practice
FRI	10:30 AM	ESL Thanksgiving Party (Concordia)
	1:00 PM	OWLS Planning Meeting (Church Library)
SAT	8:00 AM	Bibles and Basketball Men's Group (Gymnasium)
	10:00 AM	GriefShare (Church Library)
SUN	9:30 AM	Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School (School Wing)
	12:30 PM	Middle School Youth (Youth Room/Gym)
	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)

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