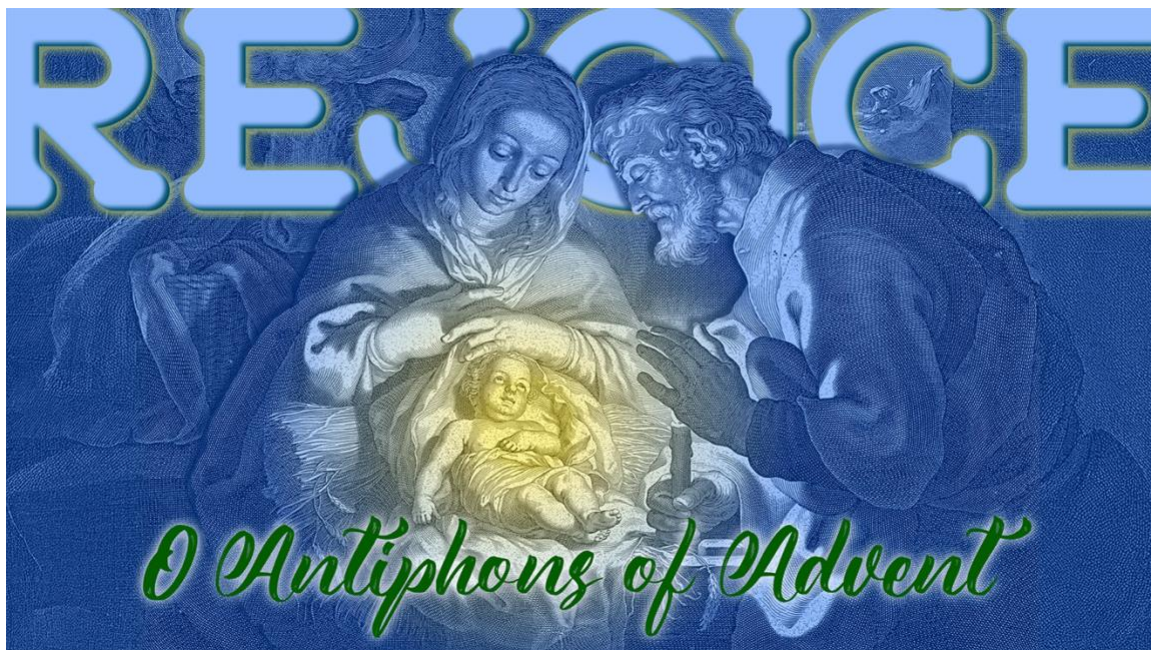


THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of November 30, 2025

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



REJOICE | Advent 2025 Worship Series

For at least 1300 years, the O Antiphons have been chanted, sung, and prayed by Christians during the last seven days of Advent (December 17-23). They serve as a helpful guide as we move closer and closer to the manger, though most Christians today are more familiar with the hymn which is based upon them: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Each of the Antiphons addresses the Messiah by a different name and all are saturated in rich Old Testament stories and imagery. Together, the O Antiphons preach the Old Testament Gospel of the Messiah who will come for us, live the life we could never live, and ultimately die for us. Join us this Advent season on weekends (regular schedule) and Wednesday evenings at 4:15 PM and 7:00 PM as we dive into the prophecies of old and celebrate the reality that the Messiah is here for us!



If you missed any of the Kingdom Perspectives message series, the entire series can be found 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

Advent 1 | November 30, 2025

Service Elements taken from the Divine Service, Setting Four, Pew Hymnal (LSB) p. 203.

For your convenience, all hymn lyrics will also be displayed on the screens at the front of the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: *The Advent of Our King*

LSB #331

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation/Confession

Hymn of Praise: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB #357 stz. 1 & 2

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 8:12-31

Gradua

Screen

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:20-25

Responsory

Screen

Holy Gospel Reading: John 1:1-5

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

LSB #352

MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

p.208

Hymn: *Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing*

LSB #737

Hymn: *Once He Came in Blessing*

LSB #333

Nunc Dimittis

LSB p.211

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

LSB #338

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.**



The St. John family invites you to join us for worship this Advent and Christmas season as we give thanks for our Savior who truly is God with us!

ADVENT MID-WEEK

Wednesday, December 3, 10, and 17 at 4:15 & 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

Modern Praise | Gymnasium

Wednesday, December 24

12:00 PM, *2:00 PM, & 4:00 PM

*2:00 PM service will be streamed online.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Traditional Praise | Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24

*6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, & **11:00 PM

*6:00 PM service will be streamed online.

**11:00 PM service will have Holy Communion.

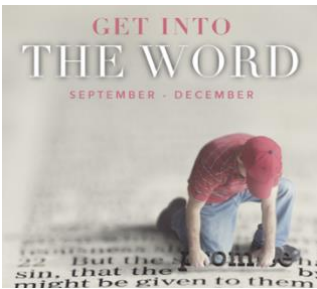
CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25

10:00 AM with Holy Communion

10:00 AM service will also be streamed online.

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.

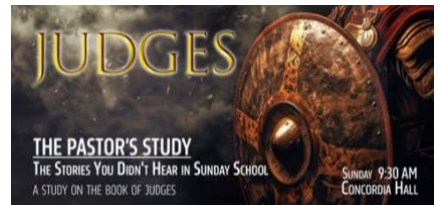


STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:

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 5:45 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, 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 read 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!

LADIES' ADVENT EVENING | Friday, December 5 at 6:30 PM

Ladies, we invite you to save the date, bring a friend, and come join us as we spend some time worshipping through the Word and music reflecting on wonderful promises of Advent and Christmas! Pastor Tyler will be sharing some insights on the beauty of the Incarnation of Christ and what that means for us. So, 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. Desserts and light refreshments will be served following time in the sanctuary.



RSVP by December 2 by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/2025-ladies-advent-evening/>. For more information, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller at Jeller@stjohnrochester.org.



THE LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE | Orders due Wednesday, December 10

Now is the time to order or renew your subscription of *The Lutheran Witness* for 2026! This publication is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The new subscription year begins March 2026 and **orders need to be turned in to the Pastoral Office by Wednesday, December 10** to take advantage of a discounted rate of \$22.50/year. Checks should be made to "St. John Lutheran Church" with "Lutheran Witness" written on the memo line. Please contact the Pastoral Office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org for more information.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

St. John Lutheran Church & School continues the call process for two open positions: School Principal and Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Call Committees are now meeting and evaluating the LCMS provided lists 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

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.



THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES CHRISTMAS CONCERT | Saturday, 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.

OWLS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON | Friday, December 12 at 12:00 PM | Concordia Hall

OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) will meet Friday, December 12, beginning at Noon in Concordia Hall. **Christmas music will be provided by several of our St. John School choirs along with an OWLS hymn song(s).** The OWLS Ministry Team will provide spiral ham, potatoes, rolls, and beverages. Attendees, if able, are requested to bring the following potluck items: Last Name A-H (desserts), and Last Name J-Z (side dishes). To assist with planning, please pre-register with Roger Guetzkow at 248-622-1606 or rjguetzkow@comcast.net by Tuesday, December 9.



December's topic is "The Real St. Nick." **All are welcome to attend the luncheon and stay for the discussion.** Folks wishing to only attend the presentation should arrive by 12:45 PM. We will try to arrange a ride for anyone requiring transportation.

LESSONS & CAROLS | Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM

Please join us on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM or 4:30 PM in the sanctuary for our annual Service of Lessons and Carols featuring many of our St. John music ensembles and instrumentalists. If you enjoy the sacred choral and orchestral sounds of the Advent/Christmas season combined with the fulfilled promises of a Savior they proclaim from God's Word, this is an opportunity not to be missed! Festive instrumental music will begin 10 minutes prior to each service. As always, near-capacity crowds are expected, so plan to arrive early!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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.



Sign up 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



SCHOOL NEWS

Get ready for the 2026-2027 school year!

Current Preschool to 7th grade St. John students have the first opportunity for enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year during the current student re-enrollment, January 12 to 22, 2026. Parents may also apply for any other children (immediate household) during this early timeframe as well. Congregation members are also eligible to apply for their Preschool to 8th grade children during this timeframe. Any remaining spots will be opened to the community starting February 2. Details and steps for re-enrollment and new student applications will be shared via FACTS email next week.

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

Middle School Youth meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room.

Middle School Youth is NOT meeting this weekend; the next scheduled meeting is December 7. 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 Sundays at 6:00 PM. **High School Youth is NOT meeting this weekend; the next scheduled meeting is December 7.** Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please

contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

- You are invited to the Lutheran Northwest Christmas Concert on our St. John Campus in the sanctuary Monday, December 8, at 7:00 PM. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear the LHNW Choirs & Bands give glory to God through their musical gifts! Many are from our St. John family!
- Are you looking to support Lutheran Northwest and pick up dinner for the family before the Christmas Concert? They’ve partnered with Panera Bread at 177 S. Livernois in Rochester Hills in a fundraiser from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM the evening of the LHNW Concert (Monday, 12/8) to benefit LHNW. Visit <http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events> for details of how to activate the 30% donation to LHNW.
- Do you have an 8th grader that is interested in heading to Lutheran Northwest next Fall? LHNW is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Begin your child’s journey to becoming a Crusader at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply.
- Looking ahead to January, there are two opportunities tailor-made for families interested in learning more about LHNW! Transfer Preview Night is Wednesday, January 14, and 8th Grade Intro Night is Wednesday, January 21. Learn more at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events and please share the information with any families that you know are looking for an excellent Christian high school option for their son or daughter.

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 <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/>. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



Fiscal Year-to-Date July 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025

St. John Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30

	<u>Budgeted YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Income	\$1,798,133	\$2,037,634
Expenses	\$2,044,247	\$1,868,721

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: Mikki Fletcher – recovery after breast cancer surgery and treatment / Bob Standfest – healing after knee surgery / Kai Chmiel – NICU (newborn grandson of Tom & Barb) / Amelia Sarrault – 7 month old having skull surgery (Godchild of Pastor Tyler and Brandi) / Garrett – starting chemo (friend of Jim and Cathy Creighton)

Bereavement: For the families of: Frank Hayes (husband of Lorraine) / Don Susewitt (husband of Jean) / Robert Pitt (husband of Joan) / James Hood (father of Erin Baller) / Marie Hatland (niece of Arnold Schilke) / Billie Martin (grandmother of Erin Morgante) / Kristie Knudsen / Pamela Larson

Strength & Guidance: Principal; Director of Youth & Family – call processes

Gospel Impact: Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive / Gifts for All God's Children

Thanksgiving: Bob and Lynn Standfest - 55th Anniversary

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.



GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Thank you to all of our generous St. John Family members who sponsored children this season.

As a reminder all (wrapped and labeled) gifts are due to St. John no later than December 3.

**Please contact Jennie Eller with questions!
jeller@stjohnrochester.org**



*Thank you for spreading the
love of Jesus this Christmas!*



WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 1-7

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

MON

9:00 AM The Christ Key Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
7:00 PM Healing Hearts (Mary Martha)

TUE

8:45 AM Women of Prayer (Chapel)
1:00 PM ESL (Mary Martha)

WED

8:30 AM Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery)
8:45 AM Chapel (Sanctuary)
9:45 AM Social Devotional for School Families (Luther Hall)
1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study (Concordia)
4:15 PM Mid-Week Advent Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)
7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service (Sanctuary)

THR

10:00 AM The Lutheran Witness Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
1:00 PM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (Choir Loft)

FRI

9:30 AM ESL (Mary Martha)
5:30 PM AHG Caroling Event (Concordia)
6:30 PM Women's Advent Event (Attrium / Sanctuary)

SAT

8:00 AM Bibles and Basketball Men's Group (Gymnasium)
10:00 AM GriefShare (Church Library)
4:00 PM Lutheran Choraliers Christmas Concert (Sanctuary)

SUN

9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
9:30 AM Sunday School (School Wing)
12:00 PM Family of God Meal Preparation (Church Kitchen)
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)

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohnrochester.org