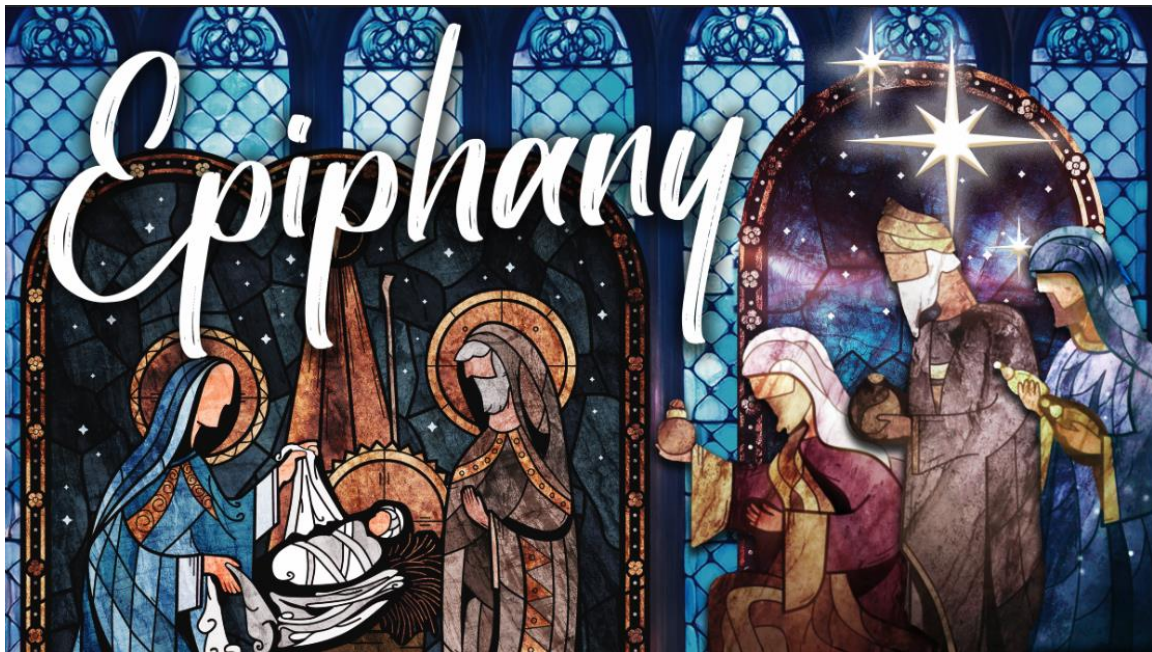


THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 4, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



EPIPHANY

The light of Jesus, our Immanuel, shines as a beacon of hope for the world. The Epiphany marks the Magi's journey in response to that light that was long foretold by the prophets. This same journey still occurs around us every day as the light of the gospel shines through His people into the darkness to bring hope to a hopeless world. May the light of Jesus have its way among us!

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



GET INTO THE WORD

Winter Bible Studies & LIFEgroups Starting Now!

It's the new year and with it comes many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word. New classes are beginning this week! **Scan the QR Code or visit our website to get the latest edition!**



TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Epiphany | January 4, 2026

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

LSB# 395 | 1, 4-6

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation/Confession

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Alleluia

LSB #952

Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The First Noel*

MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

p.208

Distribution

Hymn: *The Star Proclaims the King is Here*

LSB #399

Hymn: *As With Gladness Men of Old*

LSB #397

Nunc Dimittis

LSB p.211

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

LSB #367

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.**

ESTHER CIRCLE | Thursday, January 8 at 1:00 PM

The group is reading "Waiting" by Sharla Fritz. This week's devotion will focus on Chapter Six "The Woman with the Issue of Blood." The class will meet in Luther Hall. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Ruth Leucht at 248-651-3584.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES SUNDAY – LIVE BROADCAST February 1 at 1:00 PM | Concordia Hall

The OWLS are hosting a special opportunity to support and learn more about the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). LHM is a Christian outreach ministry that delivers The Lutheran Hour radio program, daily devotions, help topics and booklets, evangelism training, outreach resources for churches, Bible correspondence courses, international ministries, volunteer trips and service projects.



Join us on Sunday, February 1 at St. John at 1:00 PM for a light lunch followed by the viewing of the LIVE BROADCAST of the Summit Celebration Worship Service from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth at 2:00 PM. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes a boxed lunch from Half Day Cafe. Register now by visiting <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/lhm/>. Please contact Roger Guetzkow at rjguetzkow@comcast.net or 248-622-1606 with any questions or concerns.

IMPORTANT CALL PROCESS UPDATES | SAVE THE DATES

As we've prayerfully shared in recent days and weeks, our call processes for School Principal and Director of Youth and Family Ministry have been going very well. In November official Call Lists (including names submitted by our St. John family) were given to us by the Michigan District. These Call Lists were received by both committees who have prayerfully reviewed each candidate profile and followed up with phone interviews. Through continued answered prayers for clarity, and ongoing interaction, the process has led both committees to recommend an onsite visit with individual candidates. As we now continue to seek discernment as a congregation in these important decisions and processes, please make the following dates a priority:

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY CANDIDATE

Join us for one, or both, of the following events to meet Russell Baumann of St. James Lutheran Church, in Montague, Michigan, our potential candidate for Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

- **MSY & HSY EVENT | Wednesday, January 7 at 4:00 PM**
We invite all of our middle school youth (MSY) and high school youth (HSY) for a fun event, devotional, and pizza - led by Russell!
- **CONGREGATION FORUM & RECEPTION | Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 PM**
We invite everyone to come and meet Russell and have time to ask questions and learn more about him and his family. There will be a light reception following the forum.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CANDIDATE

Elizabeth Leinberger, our current Interim Principal, is our potential candidate for Principal.

- **CONGREGATION FORUM & RECEPTION | Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30 PM**

We invite everyone to come and get to know Elizabeth better and have time to ask questions and learn more about her and her family. There will be a light reception following the forum.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING | Sunday, January 25 at 12:30 PM

After several weeks of continued prayer and discernment, we will come together as a St. John family to share and prayerfully vote on whether or not we believe the Lord is leading us to extend a Divine Call to Elizabeth Leinberger as School Principal and Russell Baumann as Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

Please continue to pray for the Lord's will to be done and for Russell (and the St. James congregation) and Elizabeth along with both of their families, as we together seek His will.

JOIN THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

MEMBERSHIP CLASS STARTING JANUARY 26, 2026



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 January 26. The last day to register for this class is February 2. 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.

Contact our St. John Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at 248-402-8004 or dstevens@stjohnrochester.org for more details!

**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/)



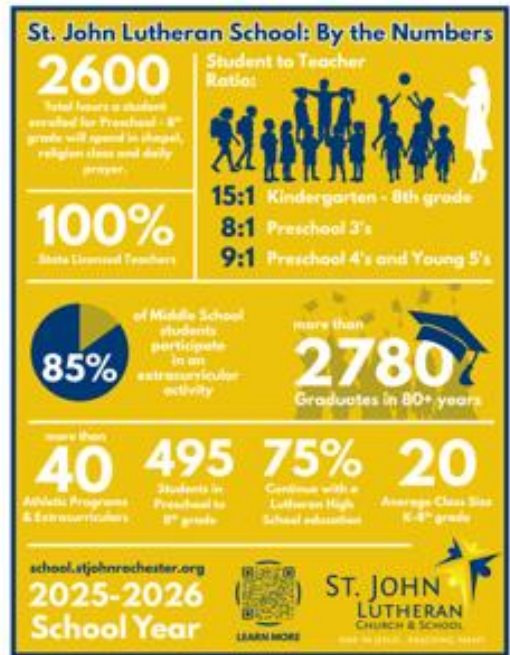
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Are you seeking a Christ-centered school for your child, with a challenging curriculum, and a variety of fine arts and extra-curricular opportunities, all while learning God's word, serving His people, and growing closer to Jesus? St. John Lutheran School provides an excellent Preschool through 8th grade, sharing Jesus with the community since 1943.

St. John Lutheran School is fully accredited by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and by National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. **Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is approaching!** January 12 to 22 is current student re-enrollment and new student applications may be submitted for children of St. John congregation members during this time frame. On February 2, starting at 9:00 AM, student applications may be submitted from the greater community.

Join us for the 3rd-8th grade School Open House on Sunday, February 1 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM! Visit the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about our 3rd-8th grade. (If you missed our Preschool to 2nd grade Open House in November, personal tours are available!) For application and enrollment information, or to schedule a personal campus tour, visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions/, or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org. We welcome your visit!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM | **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 1/4/26**

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



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

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



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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN !DATE CHANGE!

February 27 from 7:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Pizza - Games - Devotion - Surprises - SO. MUCH. FUN. All middle school youth (grades 6-8) are invited to join us for our annual lock-in on **February 27**. This is a completely student-planned event, packed with high-energy games, powerful devotion time, delicious late-night pizza, and a whole bunch of surprises you'll only discover if you're there! For more information and to register scan the QR code or visit stjohnrochester.org/event/2026-middle-school-lock-in/.



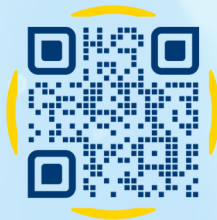
SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

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



COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



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!



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: Shirley Liddell (grandmother of Pastor Tyler) – neck & shoulder surgery

Bereavement: For the families of Jim Reed (father of Reggie) / Daniel Kah (father of Beth Mick) / Eric Schuneman

Strength & Guidance: Upcoming on-site visits of Principal & Director of Youth & Family call-candidates

Thanksgiving: Birth of Madison Riley Kisker - son of Matt and Kelli Kisker / 55th Wedding Anniversary of Lee and Mindy Althoff

Long-Term Healing & Recovery: Stephanie Hall (daughter of Mark & Margaret) - cancer treatment / Walt Brown - chemo & radiation treatment / Abel Beyer 3y (friend of Cronkright's) - daughter of missionaries in Central Asia now back for Abel's treatment of Leukemia / Ginny Siewert - cancer / Layla Loveres 6y - autoimmune disease / Sue Neumeyer (SIL of Joel & Karen) - multiple health issues and hospitalizations this summer / Diane Ringwelski (friend of Vicki Wright) - glioblastoma and undergoing treatment / Jim Genova (in-law of Pastor Steve & Sarah) - Parkinson's & leukemia / Gerald Walters (brother of Pam Peck) - long term care for kidney failure / Lauren Gonser (brother of Terry) - cancer / Gary Kwapis – cancer / Lori Kulczycki / Nancy Egloff – continuing eyesight treatments / Rosemarie Chila - cancer / Lorri Heins – cancer / Brian Thornberry (father of staff member Erin Morgante) – cancer / Brent Zoellner / Crystal Mischley – cancer / Leanne Stevens / Allison - Huntington's disease / Rebecca / Pastor Michael Standfest

Church-Work Students: Ethan Dodson / James Wilson / Nicolas Stevens

Pregnancy: Brandi Cronkright / Natalie / Shay Spaniola-Henning / Samantha Egloff / Ashley McKinnon

Those in Military Service: Mark Anderson / Aaron Byers / Devin Deck / Troy Glover / Alex Holzke / Earle IV Leighton / Alex Lindsay / Erich Mammen / David Metcalf / Matthew Neumeyer / John Paulson / Michael Pesamoska / Christian Petty / Jon Taykowski / Brad Ziegler / Kayla Pfund / Tim Pfund / Bryan Mullins / Tyler Wetzel / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin / Courtney Sharbaugh / Paul Batt / Victor Martin / Gabe Couturier / David Lyons / Austin Taylor / Tyler Doebler / Drew McBrien / Zachary Browne / Cameron Dork / Jon Rubin / Brendan Standfest / Luke Standfest

Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents: Ginny & Russ Schmidt / Jerry & Mary Bantin / Kathy Bentley / Karen & Richard Brooks / Lorraine Hayes / Bob & Sally Hobson / Helga Olson / Ruth Parish / Rob Plewa / Ray Rau / Jerry Ruff / Chuck Schroeder / Gloria Trudeau / Connie Ulrich / Lillian Von Rusten / Iris Wawrzyniak / Karen Wright / John Zimmerman / Joan Sebastian

WEEK AT A GLANCE: JANUARY 5 - 11

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

MON	8:45 AM	Chapel (GYMNASIUM)
	9:00 AM	The Five Books of Moses - Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
TUE	8:45 AM	Women of Prayer (Chapel)
	1:00 PM	ESL (Mary Martha)
	5:00 PM	AHG Kindergarten Meeting
	6:30 PM	AHG 1-5 Grade Meeting
WED	6:00 AM	Dad's Bible Study (Luther Hall)
	8:40 AM	Mom's Morning Prayer (Nursery)
	2:00 PM	The Way of Wisdom - Ladies Bible Study (Concordia)
	5:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
	6:00 PM	Adult Bible Study (Concordia)
	6:30 PM	DCE Congregational Forum (Sanctuary)
	7:30 PM	DCE Forum Reception (Atrium)
THR	9:00 AM	MomCo (Luther Hall)
	1:00 PM	Esther Circle (Luther Hall)
	1:00 PM	International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
	7:00 PM	Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
FRI	9:30 AM	ESL (Mary Martha)
	7:00 PM	Drummelsmith 242 Group (Luther Hall)
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 (Hammett House)



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 | stjohndrochester.org