

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of December 14, 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.



If you miss any of the Rejoice Advent Series messages, they will be uploaded weekly to our Online Resources webpage. Scan the QR code or visit our website below to watch any of the previously aired sermons. stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/

Join us this Advent season on weekends (regular schedule) and Wednesday evenings at 4:15 PM (also online) and 7:00 PM as we dive into the prophecies of old and celebrate the reality that the Messiah is here for us!





HOLY BAPTISM

This Sunday, December 14 at the 11:00 AM service we celebrate the baptism of Ezra Gabriel Kuiper, son of Steven and Monica Kuiper. May God richly bless Ezra and his family.

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Advent 3 | December 14, 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: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

LSB# 344

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation/Confession

Hymn of Praise: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB #357 stz. 1 & 6

Prayer of the Day

Special Music (9:30/11:00)

Preschool

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

New Testament Reading: Revelation 22:16-21

Responsory

Screen

Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

LSB #366

MESSAGE

Pastor Tyler Cronkright

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Hark! The Glad Sound*

LSB #349

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

STORIES YOU DIDN'T HEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: A study on the Book of Judges

Sundays at 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall

All are welcome to attend this bible study lead by our pastors.

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

THE TRUTH PROJECT | **ON HOLD** until January 7 at 5:45 PM

The Wednesday night Adult Bible Study will resume on January 7.

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. Coffee and bagels/donuts will be provided. For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



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 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 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.

If you have any questions, please contact our St. John Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at 248-402-8004 or dstevens@stjohnrochester.org.

**TO REGISTER FOR
THIS CLASS SCAN
THE QR CODE
OR VISIT:**

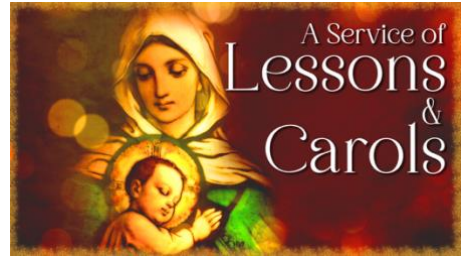
[https://www.
stjohnrochester
.org/event/one-class/](https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class/)



SHARED LIFE

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

Please join us this Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM or 4:30 PM in the sanctuary for our annual Service of Lessons & 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!**



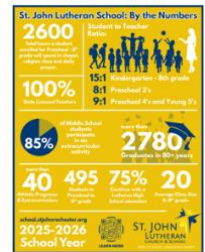
WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL/CAMPUS CLOSING PROCEDURES

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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SCHOOL NEWS | Enrollment for 2026-2027 is almost here!

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. School parents may also apply for any other children (immediate household) during this early timeframe as well. St. John 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. For more information visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS | Caroling

Our St. John American Heritage Girls went caroling last Friday evening, sharing Christmas carols and a lot of joy at various residences and senior living facilities. AHG focuses on helping girls grow in their faith, cultivate a heart for service, enjoy the outdoors, and have fun! Our AHG group is open to our church, school and the community!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM | NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 12/28/25 and 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

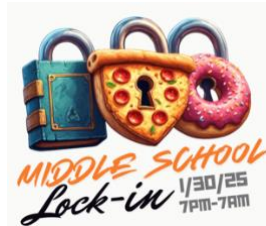


MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

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 (grades 6-8) LOCK-IN REGISTRATION IS OPEN | Scan the QR Code above to sign up!



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.

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.



GIVE NOW



MISSION PARTNER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Our Mission Partner Christian Outreach for Africa (COFA) has been **blessed with an opportunity to match all donations received from now through the end of 2025 up to \$380,000!** Your generosity fuels futures at Amajuba Orphanage and St. Peter Christian School in Mhluzi, South Africa, from interactive classrooms and youth ministry to safe housing and college dreams for orphans. This is your chance to double your impact and invest in the lives God has entrusted to us. Give now. Change tomorrow. Create Opportunity. Find out more at AfricaOutreach.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: Chris Havens - recovering from extensive kidney surgery / Phil Butkovich - recovering from a stroke / Daniel Kah (father of Beth Mick) - hospitalized / Margaret Roggow / Wes Griffith / Tim Bickel / Barbara Harris - hand surgery / Mary Lou Schwartz (cousin of Marie Schwartz) - Cancer treatments

Bereavement (for the families of): Caroline L. Klausmeier (mother of John)

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

Gospel Impact: This weekend's Lessons & Carols service

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Ezra Gabriel Kuiper - son of Steven & Monica Kuiper / Premature birth of Emmett Matthew Pavka to Ashley (Wright) & proud grandparents Scott & Vicki - all is well

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS COOKIE DONATIONS

On Christmas Eve St. John will host a Christmas Cookie and Hot Cocoa Bar from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM for all attending worship to enjoy a treat and some fellowship. We are seeking people willing to **donate store-bought Christmas cookies**. If you would be willing to purchase a container of cookies for the festivities, **please sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting stjohnrochester.org/cookies**. Please drop off all cookie donations to the designated bin in the Atrium NO LATER THAN **Friday December 19**.



WEEK AT A GLANCE: DECEMBER 15-21

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

MON

9:00 AM The Christ Key Men's Bible Study (Church Library)



TUE

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

WED

NO CHAPEL

4:15 PM Mid-Week Advent Service (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
7:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Service (Sanctuary)



THR

9:00 AM MomCo Leadership Meeting (Luther Hall)
1:00 PM International Bible Study Christmas Celebration (Room 128)
6:30 PM 242 LIFEgroup Meeting (MacLeod)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (Choir Loft)

FRI

9:45 AM **School Christmas Chapel (Sanctuary)**
9:30 AM ESL (Mary Martha)
1:00 PM OWLS Planning Meeting (Church Library)

**HALF DAY OF SCHOOL
WINTER BREAK
BEGINS**

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)

Upcoming Holiday Office Hours

Week of December 22: Monday & Tuesday : 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Wednesday - Friday: Campus Closed

Week of December 29: Monday & Tuesday : 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Wednesday - Friday: Campus Closed

Except for worship services, the campus will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday both weeks.





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

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 be streamed online.



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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