

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 18, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



EPIPHANY SERIES: CHARACTER WITNESS – PETER

If you were on trial for being a follower of Jesus, would there be enough character evidence to convict you? The truth is, every single day the Lord gives us opportunities, as His called and redeemed people, to bear witness to His grace and mercy - most often, very much in spite of ourselves. As one such unlikely character witness would later encourage us all to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:15) Join us in worship over the next several weeks as we delve into the unlikely character witness of five lives transformed by the gospel and the impact the Lord made through them.



HOLY BAPTISM

This Sunday, January 18, at the 11:00 AM Traditional Praise service we will celebrate the baptism of Madison Riley Kisker, daughter of Matthew and Kelli Kisker. May God richly bless Madison and her family.

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Epiphany 3 | January 18, 2026

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB# 904

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation/Confession

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

New Testament Reading: Acts 4:8-13

New Testament Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-15

Alleluia

LSB #952

Holy Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

LSB# 688

MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

p.208

Distribution

Hymn: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

LSB #685

Nunc Dimittis

LSB p.211

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

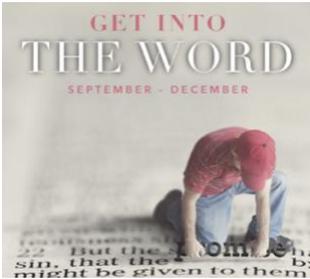
CLOSING HYMN: *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

LSB #722

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.**



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!



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:

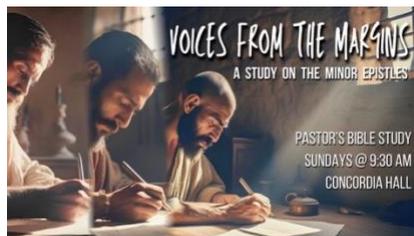
<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class/>



VOICES FROM THE MARGINS: A STUDY ON THE "MINOR" EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Pastor's Bible Study | Sundays at 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall

Join our Pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall. We are familiar with Romans, Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, but what about the smaller Epistles? John's letters, Peter's letters, or even Philemon? We're going to cover these three, study chapter by chapter, and hear from the "margins", the lesser known letters. We can't wait to see you! For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



DAD'S BIBLE STUDY | Wednesdays at 6:00 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. 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. Due to the positive response, this bible study will meet every Wednesday!

SHARED LIFE

Every life is Wonderfully Made by God above. Our mission is to share that truth with every woman and man who comes through our doors. Our clients know how hard an unplanned pregnancy can be, but few realize how marvelous the journey can be and how we will walk with them every step of the way. We are dedicated to demonstrating God's love to them by providing material, emotional, and spiritual support during and after the pregnancy. They receive these services without paying a penny.

We are able to minister to women and men without charging because of people like you. When you partner with us, you are actively changing and saving lives. You help mothers finish school. You encourage fathers to step up and be good dads. You give babies the chance to live their lives outside of the wombs. YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL PART TO PLAY. HOW WILL YOU JOIN US?

WE PROVIDE:

- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Abstinence Education Program
- Options Counseling
- Post-Abortion Counseling

JOIN US IN SHARING LOVE TO THEM BOTH.
HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Volunteer
- Become a Financial Partner
- Donate Services



3205 South Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248.293.0070

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday



Wonderfully
MADE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – CAMPUS CLOSURE | January 19

The St. John campus will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES SUNDAY

LIVE BROADCAST Sunday, February 1

Lunch at 1:00 PM, Broadcast at 2:00 PM Concordia Hall

Join us for a light lunch at 1:00 PM 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 scanning the QR code above or visiting <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/lhm/>. Please contact Erin Morgante, office manager, at emorgante@stjohnrochester.org with any registration 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 answered prayers for clarity and ongoing interaction, the process has led both committees to host onsite visits with individual candidates.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY CANDIDATE

Russell Baumann of St. James Lutheran Church, in Montague, Michigan, is our potential candidate for Director of Youth and Family Ministry. He and his family (Emilie, Millie and Levi) recently visited our campus and met with staff, students and families. Thank you to the students who greeted him at the youth event as well as the congregation members who attended the forum & reception. We are thankful for the time they were able to spend with us, and continue to pray for the Baumann family and the St. James congregation as we seek the Lord's will together.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CANDIDATE

Elizabeth Leinberger, our Interim Principal, is our potential candidate for Principal. We invite you to attend the rescheduled Forum and Reception, on **Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary**. The forum is open to both our congregation and school families. Learn more about Elizabeth, her experience, and her family, with time for questions and conversation. **Childcare will be available.**



SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING | Sunday, January 25 at 12:30 PM | Sanctuary
After several weeks of continued prayer and discernment, we will come together as a St. John family to share and prayerfully vote (rostered St. John congregation members) 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 together we seek His will. **Childcare will be available.**

2025 ST. JOHN FOUNDATION RECAP

Praise God from who all blessings flow! Your St. John Foundation was blessed to award **\$105,056** in grants in 2025 to further the ministry of St. John Lutheran Church & School, representing **93%** of the available grant pool. These grants included **19** Teacher Honorarium awards, **13** special project grants, and **4** Church Worker support grants. The Foundation also contributed **\$25,000** to the St. John Tuition Assistance Fund.



The Foundation would also like to thank the generous St. John families that donated in 2025. Because of these gifts, the Foundation is able to continue supporting the ministry of St. John Lutheran Church & School by funding the projects listed above. Every gift is an investment in ensuring Christ is made known to future generations here at St. John! A heartfelt **Thank You** from the Foundation Board!

ST. JOHN MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE | Begins in April

The 2026 men's golf league begins Tuesday, April 7 at Blackheath Golf Club, weather permitting. Tee times are available from 3:15 to 4:30 PM. The season will conclude on Tuesday, August 18, subject to weather conditions. This 20-week league is divided into two segments, culminating in playoffs between the top two golfers of each half, who will compete for the titles of overall champion, runner-up, and third and fourth place.

The league fee is \$700, with an initial payment of \$350 due by February 15 and the remaining balance due by March 24. Last year, the league welcomed 32 participants and are pleased to announce that there is capacity for additional players this season!

For registration forms or further information, please contact Tom Rowe at 248-420-1248, Bob Novack at 248-421-7971, or Dave Schulz at 586-770-6495. The league also needs substitute golfers for the season. If you are interested in joining the list of substitutes, please contact Tom, Bob or Dave.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ST. JOHN SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

The St. John Ski and Snowboard Club is open to students ages 7 and up and their parents, from our school, church, and community. Invite your friends! The club meets at Mt. Holly on Tuesdays. Follow this link or scan the QR code to sign up.

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/skiclub2526>

Membership Cost:

- \$30 per person (includes 2 lessons)
- Additional lessons may be purchased

Additional Costs:

- Lift tickets: \$30; Ski rental: \$30



SCHOOL NEWS

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year started last week!

January 12 to 22: Current student re-enrollment, and new student applications may be submitted for siblings of current students and for children of St. John congregation members. Contact Admissions for the application link; bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

February 1: Join us for our Open House for prospective 3rd to 8th graders. See the campus, meet the teachers and learn more about our upper elementary and middle school. Sign up to attend Open House: Scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/DKzUoz7BM4tvVrQs7> or



February 2: Starting at 9:00 AM, student applications may be submitted from the greater community. The application link will be available on our website at that time.

For application and enrollment information, if you missed our Preschool to 2nd grade Open House, 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.



St. John Lutheran School
OPEN HOUSE
3rd - 8th Grade

February 1
12:00 - 1:00 PM
school.stjohnrochester.org

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
ONE IN FOCUS. UNDETERMINED SPIRIT.

St. John Lutheran School: By the Numbers

2600

Total hours a student enrolled for Preschool - 8th grade will spend in chapel, religion class and daily prayer.

Student to Teacher Ratio:



15:1 Kindergarten - 8th grade

8:1 Preschool 3's

9:1 Preschool 4's and Young 5's

100%

State Licensed Teachers



of Middle School students participate in an extracurricular activity

more than

2780

Graduates in 80+ years

more than

40

Athletic Programs & Extracurriculars

495

Students in Preschool to 8th grade

75%

Continue with a Lutheran High School education

20

Average Class Size K-8th grade

school.stjohnrochester.org

2025-2026 School Year



LEARN MORE

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY





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.

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 ! FINAL DATE CHANGE ! New Date MARCH 6 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 **March 6**. 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/.



SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is planned this summer for June 22 - 26 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This event is geared toward children age 4 through those entering 6th grade. Registration will open February 17.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS

- Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM is 8th GRADE INTRO NIGHT. Learn more at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events.
- The early application deadline is approaching on January 31! Take advantage of the lowest application fee of the year and save your child's spot in the LHNW Class of 2030 here: 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 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: Tida Ball - cancer relapse / Tim Bickel - ongoing treatment / Kary - cancer testing / Carol Miller (mother of Lori Hehl) / Jeanne Robinson - eye surgery this week / Candace Horstman - recovering from hip replacement surgery / Walt Brown - hospitalized / Mary Kathryn Vickers

Bereavement: For the families of John Hurd (BIL of Linda Ayotte)

Strength & Guidance: For candidates Russel Bauman & Elizabeth Leinberger / Upcoming Special Voter's meeting

Gospel Impact: All new Bible studies & LIFEgroups / Upcoming ONE Class

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Madison Riley Kisker - daughter of Matthew and Kelli Kisker / John & Judy Stoll's 60th anniversary

WEEK AT A GLANCE: JANUARY 19-25

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

MON

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
CAMPUS CLOSED | NO SCHOOL



TUE

8:45 AM Women of Prayer (Church Library)
1:00 PM ESL (Mary Martha)
6:30 PM AHG Meeting (Concordia)
7:00 PM Vestry Meeting (Luther Hall)

WED

6:00 AM Dad's Bible Study (Luther Hall)
8:40 AM Mom's Morning Prayer Group (Nursery)
8:45 AM Chapel (Sanctuary)
2:00 PM The Way of Wisdom - Ladies Bible Study (Concordia)
5:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)
6:30 PM **Principal Forum & Reception**



THR

8:30 AM MomCo (Luther Hall)
1:00 PM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
7:00 PM Choir Practice (Choir Loft)
7:00 PM The Lord's Prayer Bible Study (Luther Hall)



FRI

9:30 AM ESL (Mary Martha)
7:00 PM Drummelsmith 242 Group (Luther Hall)

SAT

8:00 AM Bibles and Basketball (Gymnasium)

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)
12:30 PM **SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING - Calls Vote (Sanctuary)**
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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