

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

A graphic with the word "ASH" in a large, bold, black, hand-drawn font, and the word "WEDNESDAY" in a smaller, black, serif font below it. The background is a light, textured grey.

PRELUDE: “Shepherd Psalm” (4:15 PM)
“Heavenly Light” (7:00 PM)

Choraliers
Mixed Choir

OPENING HYMN: “Savior When in Dust to Thee”

LSB #419

OPENING VERSES/CONFESSION Psalm 51:1-12, Genesis 3:19, Job 42:6

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;

C **According to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**

L Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

L Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight;

C **So You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge.**

L Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C **Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb; You taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

L Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

C **Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

L Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

C **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

L Dust you are and to dust you will return.

C **Therefore, I will despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

L O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

CHORAL ANTHEM: “Kyrie” (4:15 PM) *Choraliers*
“Come to Me” (7:00PM) *Mixed Choir*

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 90 *Pew Bible p. 496*

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 *Pew Bible p. 966*

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” *LSB #422*
**On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures, Have no power to hide your face.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation, And my glory and salvation.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 *Pew Bible p. 811*

L The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew, chapter 6, beginning at verse 1
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *LSB #425*

MESSAGE *Pastor Steve Grafe*

RESPONSORY *LSB p.192*

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Benedictus" (4:15 PM)

Chamber Choir

"Surely, He Has Bourne Our Griefs" (7:00 PM)

Mixed Choir

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The imposition of ashes is something we choose to do for two reasons: 1) to remind us of the need to repent of our sins and of our mortality: "For you are dust and to dust you shall return (Gen. 3:19)" and 2) to serve as a sign of the cleansing and renewal we have through Jesus Christ. Although powerfully speaking the law (contrition and mortality), ashes also speak the Gospel – applied in the shape of a cross, where sin and death were conquered, and we are cleansed of our sin. Ashes will be applied as you come forward for communion. If you do not wish to receive the ashes, simply place your hand on your forehead.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

"God Loved the World, So that He Gave"

LSB #571

"Lord Jesus Think on Me"

LSB #610

"Lamb of God"

LSB #550

PRAYER / BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven"

LSB #877

LEN



BY HIS WOUNDS | ISAIAH 53

Join us for this Lenten Series

Modern Praise - Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sunday at 10:45 AM

Traditional Praise - Sundays at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM

Midweek - Wednesdays at 4:15 PM | 7:00 PM

Underlined are Livestreamed

February 21-22 | LENT 1

The Servant Lifted Up

February 25 | Wednesday Midweek 1

Kings Are Silenced

February 28-March 1 | LENT 2

No Beauty We Desired

March 4 | Wednesday Midweek 2

A Man of Sorrows

March 7-8 | LENT 3

Our Grievs, Our Peace

March 11 | Wednesday Midweek 3

The LORD Has Laid on Him

March 14-15 | LENT 4

The Silent Lamb

March 18 | Wednesday Midweek 4

Cut Off from the Living

March 21-22 | LENT 5

It Was the Will of the LORD

March 25 | Wednesday Midweek 5

He Shall Justify Many

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

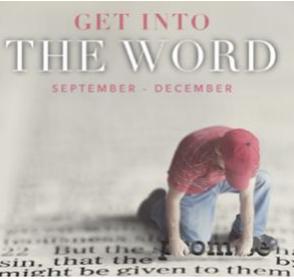
SUFFERING SERVANTS PODCAST

Special Lent edition with all three Pastors

Lent begins today! On this week's episode of the Suffering Servants Podcast, all three of our Pastors talk together with Trevor about the history of Lent, fasting, and ashes, as well as the reason the time of Lent may seem more

reflective or even somber. Of course, they had some fun too! Enjoy listening by going to the website or searching "Suffering Servants" on your favorite podcast platform (Spotify, Apple, Overcast, etc.)

<https://sufferingservants.buzzsprout.com/2105824/episodes/18662949-why-lent>



GET INTO THE WORD | Winter Bible Studies & LIFEgroups

Members & guests alike, all are invited to take a moment to see what follows in this guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's presence through Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, men and women, Bible basics to more in-depth studies, there truly is something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstance, or schedule! **Scan the QR Code or visit our website to get the latest edition!**



First Communion Class

- 6th grade and older
- Parent(s) must attend
- Sunday, March 1, 8, 15 & 22
- Luther Hall 9:30-10:30 AM



SCAN TO REGISTER



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

March 1, 8, 15, 22

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Luther Hall

We are excited to invite your 6th grade and older student to take a significant step in their faith journey! This spring, St. John will be hosting our First Communion Class, a four-week experience designed to help students and parents explore the foundations of our faith together.

Register by February 25:

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

SHARED LIFE

POSITION OPENINGS ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL | 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

With God's blessings, we report updates from our staff. After seven faithful years of service as a kindergarten teacher at St. John Lutheran School, Mrs. Brandi Cronkright has shared that she will be stepping away from classroom teaching after this school year to care for her growing family. In addition, Mrs. Lindsay Gagliano has shared that after two years of teaching in our middle school as a homeroom and science teacher, she too will be stepping back from the classroom to be with her daughter and family. We have been blessed by Mrs. Cronkright and Mrs. Gagliano and their joyful service. Please keep Mrs. Cronkright, Mrs. Gagliano, and their families in your prayers.

With this news, and with the continued growth of our school ministry, we announce that we are accepting applications and referrals for the following:

- Kindergarten Teacher, one opening
- Middle School Classroom Teacher, two openings

Names and applications/resumes may be submitted by Friday, February 20, 2026 to Elizabeth Leinberger, Interim Principal, at eleinberger@stjohnrochester.org for consideration, along with recommendations from our LCMS Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Candidates should have a passion for sharing the love of Jesus, a love for children, and a desire to work with a collaborative dynamic team. A Bachelor's Degree is required.



GRIEF SHARE | February 21 – May 16 | Saturdays at 10:00 AM | Church Library

Grief Share is a special weekly support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. It is designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the days ahead. This group meets Saturdays at 10:00 AM beginning February 21 in the Church Library and runs until May 16. For more information, please contact Terry Priestly at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA | Saturday, March 21 | 1:00 – 3:00 PM

This family friendly event shares the Easter message in a fun and engaging way with various activities including an Easter skit, cookie decorating, crafts, games, and other activities.



Eggstravaganza is designed for children ages 2 to 5th grade and is open to our church, school and community. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends! Parents are asked to stay with their children throughout the event.

For more information contact our Director of Admissions, Beth Dameron, at bdameron@stjohnrochester.org. **Registration is required. Sign up now by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/2025-easter-eggstravaganza/>.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | June 22-26 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This year's theme is Rainforest Falls! Children will explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. This event is geared toward children age 4 through those entering 6th grade.

Registration is open and space is filling quickly!

Scan the QR Code to register or visit

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/2026vbs/>.



VBS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

To support the 450 children expected at VBS, we are looking for many volunteers to help share the love of Jesus with our kids! In addition to volunteers that work directly with the kids, we are also looking for VBS Cleaning Crew volunteers to help each day with clean-up from 12:30-1:30 PM. If you can spend the week or even one day helping, please scan the QR Code to register or visit <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/2026vbs/>. If you would like more information or have questions, please email vbs@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 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.



GIVE NOW



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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