

# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of February 22, 2026

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

# LEN



BY HIS WOUNDS | ISAIAH 53

During this penitential season of Lent, we walk together step by step through Isaiah's great Suffering Servant song (Isaiah 52:13–53:12), hearing God's own prophecy of Christ crucified written hundreds of years beforehand. Come experience how the Lord brings salvation not through visible power or human glory, but through rejection, suffering, and even death. May the Spirit lead us to confess that His wounds are not defeat, but victory in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**SCAN QR FOR ONLINE RESOURCES  
& PREVIOUS MESSAGES**



### JOIN US FOR THIS LENTEN SERIES

UNDERLINED TIMES ARE LIVESTREAMED

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

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 GRIEFS, 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**



This Sunday, February 22 at the 9:30 AM service we will celebrate the baptisms of Andy Wakeland (Lydia), & their children Margot Mae, Henry Dean and Beatrice Louise. At the 11:00 AM service we will celebrate the baptism of Hudson Smith Tillman, son of Wade Tillman and Lauren Stankovich. May God richly bless them all.



Flowers are placed on the altar in Memory of Joan Kunze.

## TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Lent 1 | February 22, 2026

### PRELUDE

**OPENING HYMN:** Lord, Throughout These 40 Days

LSB #418

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

Screen

Invocation

Holy Baptism (9:30/11:00)

Confession/Absolution

Gloria

Screen | Tune: Deo Gracias

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-15

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-8

Gospel Acclamation

Screen

Holy Gospel Reading: Mark 6:1-6a

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Screen

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** O Christ, You Walked the Road

LSB #424

### MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN:** Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB #655

### 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.**



## SUFFERING SERVANTS PODCAST

### *Special Lent edition with all three Pastors*

On last week's episode of the Suffering Servants Podcast, all three of our Pastors talked 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

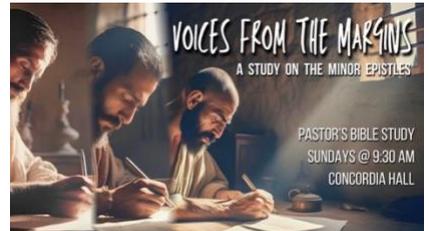
Members & guests alike, all are invited to take a moment to see what follows in this guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's presence through Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, men and women, Bible basics to more in-depth studies, there truly is something for everyone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



## 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](mailto: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, contact Pastor Tyler at [pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org).

## MOM'S BIBLE STUDY | Rooted Together: Moms Growing in Faith

1st & 3rd Fridays at 2:00 PM | Luther Hall

This study creates a welcoming community for moms seeking deeper roots in Christ and stronger connections with one another. Pastor Tyler will be sharing Scripture, prayer, and honest conversation as we grow together in faith while navigating the joys and challenges of motherhood. Whether you're new to faith or have walked with Jesus for years, you're invited to come for encouragement and growth alongside other moms. Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month (MomCo off-weeks) at 2:00 PM in Luther Hall before student pick-up! If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lowell at [ealowell1@gmail.com](mailto:ealowell1@gmail.com).

A promotional image for a First Communion Class. It features a glass of red wine and a white host on the left. On the right, there is a QR code with the text "SCAN TO REGISTER" below it. The title "First Communion Class" is written in a large, serif font at the top.

# 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



**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](mailto:tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org).



### **OWLS FEBRUARY LUNCHEON RECAP**

Pastor Tyler's February 13 OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) presentation on "Martin Luther" attracted 74 attendees. **Join us on March 13 for our next Luncheon Meeting** featuring a presentation on "Easter Blessings" along with a St. Patrick's Day-themed menu. All are welcome!

### **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 Lutheran School  
**NOW ENROLLING**  
Preschool - 8th Grade

**2026 - 2027**  
school.stjohnrochester.org

ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL  
ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY

**Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is underway!**

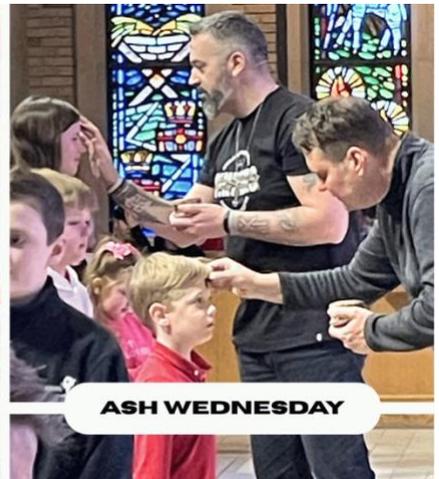
For application and enrollment information, if you missed our Open Houses, or to schedule a personal campus tour, visit [school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions/](https://school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions/), or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org).



**EAGLELYMPICS**



**VALENTINES PARTIES**



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

The St. John **Eaglelympics** are underway! Every four years Mrs. Dominic hosts Eaglelympics in the K-8 gym classes. For two weeks, our students enjoy Speed Skating, Ski Jump, Hockey, the Bobsled and more! Last week, students, teachers & volunteers made **Valentines parties** a sweet success. We love because He first loved us. This week in Chapel, students, faculty, staff, and several parents participated in the Imposition of Ashes after receiving an **Ash Wednesday** message from Pastor Tyler.



### 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](mailto: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](https://stjohnrochester.org/groups/childrens-sunday-school)*

### 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 age 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](mailto: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 for students & volunteers! Space is limited so sign up soon!**

Scan the QR Code to register or visit

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



SCAN THE QR CODES FOR ALL THE DETAILS ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LADIES & MEN'S RETREATS



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 6:00 - 8:00 PM | OFF-SITE EVENT THIS WEEK**

Meets most Sundays at 6:00 PM in the Youth Room. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).



**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 12:30 - 2:30 PM | OFF-SITE EVENT THIS WEEK**

Meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN**

**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/](http://stjohnrochester.org/event/2026-middle-school-lock-in/)



**LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS**

Have you made up your mind that Lutheran Northwest is the right fit for your 8th grader for next Fall but haven't yet filled out an application for admission? Now is a great time to complete this important step! **Save your child's spot in the LHNW Class of 2030 here:** [www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply](http://www.LutheranNorthwest.com/apply).



**ONE ACT PLAYS | February 27 & 28 at 7:00 PM**

Enjoy an evening at the LHNW Theater featuring one-act comedies directed by the drama seniors. Tickets are \$11.00 and must be purchased online in advance using this link or the QR code.



<https://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events/2026/2/27-one-act-play-festival>

## MISSION PARTNERS

### MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Your generosity to the Lord is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. This past year Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) was able to give over 435,000 meals to local families through the Food Pantry, and 550+ rides ensured our neighbors could get to doctor appointments, job interviews, and essential services. Over 1,000 children received gifts, clothing, school supplies and care through events and programs offered through RANH. Faith-based partners in our community like St. John Lutheran Church & School have an impact in the community and help RANH meet the needs of our neighbors. Thank you for making a difference for the kingdom of God.

## 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/](http://stjohnrochester.org/give/). If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at [sgauss@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:sgauss@stjohnrochester.org).



## CONSTANT PRAYER

### LET US PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email [prayer@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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:** Walt Brown - hospitalized / Rich Comeau - blood test & biopsy for pancreatic cancer testing / Margaret Staffeld - hospitalized with stage 4 cancer / Bert Luitink (nephew of Marie Schwartz) - hospitalized for heart issues / Brooke (niece of Toni Kampsen) - cancer relapse / Jon Angell - back problems / Lillian Von Rusten - hospice / Billy Britt - lung cancer / John Majerowicz / John Zimmerman - hospitalized

**Bereavement:** For the families of Pamela Robb (sister of Winnie Best) / Verna Worden / Ken Stoll (John & Judy's son)

**Strength & Guidance:** Call Team for our Child & Family Ministry Director / Carissa Crandell - Mission Trip to Czech Republic

**Thanksgiving:** Baptisms of Andy Wakeland - Margot Mae Wakeland - Henry Dean Wakeland - Beatrice Louise Wakeland - children of Andy and Lydia Wakeland / Hudson Smith Tillman - son of Wade Tillman and Lauren Stankovich / Gerry and Cathy Ruff's 65th anniversary



## COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

### 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!

**VBS Volunteers: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Cleaning Crew: 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/>. Information or questions? email [vbs@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:vbs@stjohnrochester.org).

### FAMILY OF GOD | March 1, 2026

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 March 1. 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 March 1.
- 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:

[www.stjohnrochester.org/FOG2026](http://www.stjohnrochester.org/FOG2026) or scan the QR code!

For more information, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org).



## MOBILE PANTRY TEAM

**WHO:** 2-3 teams consisting of about 4 people each

**WHAT:** Teams take turns running the mobile pantry

**WHEN:** Serve once per month, typically Thursday or Saturday

**HOW:** Serve our community with food and prayer

Your Skills:  
Compassion  
Empathy  
Prayer

Contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org).

### FAMILY OF GOD | EASTER SUNDAY HOSTS | APRIL 5

We are looking for hosts to serve the Family of God Easter meal. These volunteers will travel to Family of God (carpool leaves St. John at 2:00 PM) to greet and serve the meal.

**Ham donations will also be needed for this meal.**



For more information, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at [jeller@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:jeller@stjohnrochester.org).

# WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEB. 23 - MARCH 1

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

MON 7:00 PM The ONE Class (Luther Hall)  
7:00 PM Vestry Meeting (Media Center) **23**

TUE 8:45 AM Women of Prayer (Church Library)  
1:00 PM ESL (Mary Martha) **24**

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)  
**4:15 PM MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE (Sanctuary & livestream)** **25**  
5:00 PM Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft)  
5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (Concordia)  
7:00 PM The Chosen - Women of Faith & Friendship LIFEgroup (Church Library)  
**7:00 PM MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE - (Sanctuary)**

THR 8:30 AM MomCo (Luther Hall)  
1:00 PM International Bible Study (Mary Martha)  
7:00 PM Choir Practice (Choir Loft) **26**  
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) **27**

SAT 8:00 AM Bibles and Basketball (Gymnasium)  
10:00 AM Griefshare (Church Library) **28**

SUN 9:30 AM Sunday School (School Wing)  
9:30 AM Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)  
12:00 PM Family of God Meal Preparation (Church Kitchen) **1**  
2:00 PM MSY & HSY Service Project (GFAGC Workshop)

# LEN

BY HIS WOUNDS | ISAIAH 53





#### 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)

**Midweek Lenten Praise:** Wednesdays at 4:15 PM (also online) and 7:00 PM

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