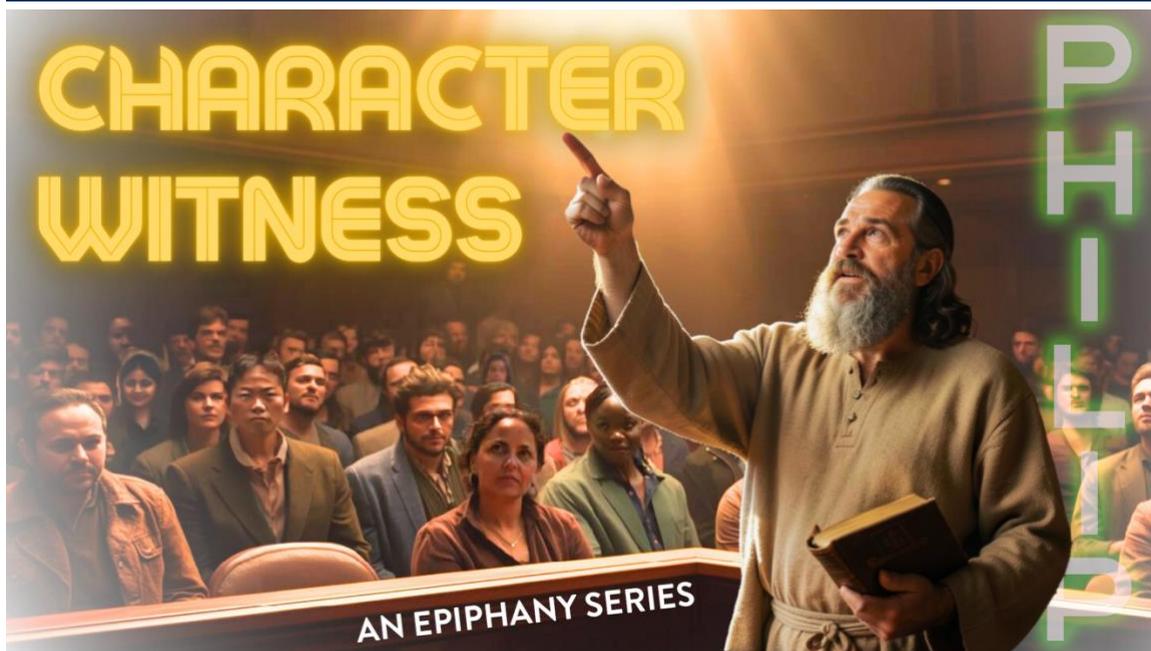


THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of February 8, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



EPIPHANY SERIES: CHARACTER WITNESS – PHILIP

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.



If you missed any of the Character Witness Series messages, you can find them on our Online Resources webpage. Scan the QR code or visit the website below to watch any of the previously aired sermons.

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/>

HOLY BAPTISM | This Sunday, February 8, at the 11:00 AM Traditional Praise service we will celebrate the baptism of Jack Irwin Thomasma IV, son of Jack and Chelsea Thomasma. May God richly bless Jack and his family.

Makayla Mae Lezotte, an adult in our current ONE class, will be baptized off-site.





LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18

Join us in worship as the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18 at 4:15 PM and 7:00 PM. Ash Wednesday services will include the Lord's Supper and the traditional imposition of ashes.

The 4:15 PM service will also be livestreamed.

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Epiphany 6 | February 8, 2026

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: Lift High the Cross

LSB #837 | Choir sings v.3 (8:00/9:30)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p.203

Invocation

Holy Baptism (11:00 AM)

Confession/Absolution

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Acts 8:4-5, 26-39

Anthem: Brighter Than the Sun

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Alleluia

Holy Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:16-20

Men's Chorus (8:00/9:30)

LSB #952

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: God of Grace and God of Glory

LSB #850

MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: Christ is the World's Redeemer

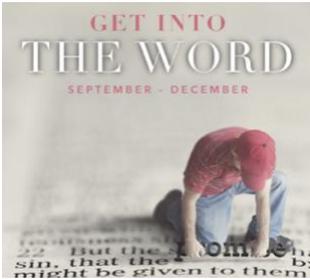
LSB #539

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



GET INTO THE WORD | Winter Bible Studies & LIFEgroups

As a part of the St. John family, please 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!**



JOIN THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS STARTED
FEBRUARY 2, 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 February 2. The last day to register for this class is February 9. 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/>



The start of this class was delayed one week due to a weather related campus closure.

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, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

**MOM’S BIBLE STUDY | Rooted Together: Moms Growing in Faith
1st & 3rd Fridays at 2:00 PM starting February 20 | 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! Our first gathering will be Friday, February 20. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lowell at ealowell1@gmail.com.

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 now:

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

BUILDING CLOSURE | February 16 & 17

The St. John campus will be closed for President's Day on Monday, February 16 (with the exception of The ONE Class at 7:00 PM), as well as Tuesday, February 17 for faculty and staff professional development.



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.

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.



OWLS LUNCHEON - Friday, February 13, at 12:00 PM | Concordia Hall

The presenter for our February OWLS Luncheon/Fellowship event is **Pastor Tyler Cronkright** (St. John's Discipleship Pastor), who will cover **Martin Luther**. We will meet in Concordia Hall beginning with lunch at Noon. Our menu will include kielbasa/sauerkraut, potatoes, and beverages provided by our volunteer ministry team.

Attendees, if able, are requested to bring the following potluck items: Last Name A-G (desserts), and Last Name H-Z (salads/side dishes).

Invite a friend -- all are welcome! Folks wishing to attend the presentation only may join us at 12:45 PM. For anyone requiring transportation, we will try to accommodate you. Please pre-register with Roger Guetzkow at 248-622-1606 or email rjguetzkow@comcast.net by Tuesday, February 10.



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

SCHOOL NEWS

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/, or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

CALL UPDATES

We give thanks to God that Divine Calls were unanimously extended to Elizabeth Leinberger (our Interim Principal) to serve as School Principal beginning with the 26-27 school year, and Russell Baumann to serve as Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Please keep both of them, along with their families, in prayer as they now take time to seek the Lord's guiding will in response to these call opportunities. In addition, please keep Russell's current congregation, St. James of Montague, Michigan in prayer as well. May the Lord's will be done!



Elizabeth and family



Russell and family



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 15

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

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 the week of February 15.**

SAVE THE DATE! EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The 2026 St. John Easter Eggstravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. This event is designed for children ages 2 to 5th grade and is open to our church, school and community. **Registration will open next week.**

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 | 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/



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

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.

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN EASTER DONATIONS

Scan this QR code for information and a link to donate Easter items that will bring smiles to over 2500 children.



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.



CALLING
NEW TEAM
MEMBERS!

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

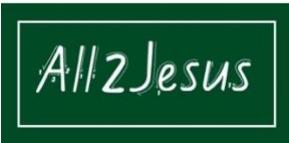
Prayer

Contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.

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



ALL 2 JESUS CLARIFICATION

Some of our St. John members have asked why they are still receiving green All2Jesus envelopes in their quarterly giving mailings. To put it simply, many of you have expressed an interest to continue paying down the principal loan of the new school addition. Receiving these envelopes does not mean that you have not met your pledge, it is only an additional opportunity to give towards paying down that specific balance. If you have any questions regarding your pledge amounts or giving to this fund, please contact our bookkeeper Donna Ritter at dritter@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8000.

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: Barbara Dodson - hospitalized / Susan Pfund - re-hospitalized / Jon Pfund / Abigail (3y) - extensive surgeries this week from spina bifida / Ann Neilson - Bell's palsy / Judy Bradley - RSV / Jeanne Robinson - recovering from kidney surgery / Jerry Best - upcoming surgery

Bereavement (*for the families of*): Kim Vitu / Ronald Piskor (friend of Wayne Kunze)

Strength & Guidance: Wisdom - guidance and discernment for Russell Baumann (and family) - called candidate for Director of Youth & Family ministry as he deliberates over his call to St. John and current call to St. James, Montague

Gospel Impact: All on-going Bible classes

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Jack Irwin Thomasma IV - son of Jack and Chelsea / Baptism of Makayla Lezotte / Birth of Jack Balent to Billie & Bailee / Birth of Theo Luch to Alicia & Andrew / Glenn & Lorraine Sattelmeier's birthdays / Jan & Roy Anderson – 62nd wedding anniversary

Persecuted Church: Eritrea, Africa: this country in the horn of Africa is ruled by a brutal dictator, President Afwerki. His rule seeks to oppress Christians and their leaders. Currently seven pastors are imprisoned for their faith in Jesus.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: FEBRUARY 9 - 15

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

MON	7:00 PM	The ONE Class (Luther Hall)	9
TUE	8:45 AM 1:00 PM	Women of Prayer (Church Library) ESL (Mary Martha)	10
WED	6:00 AM 8:40 AM 8:45 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Dad's Bible Study (Luther Hall) Mom's Morning Prayer Group (Nursery) Chapel (Sanctuary) The Way of Wisdom - Ladies Bible Study (Concordia) Bell Choir Practice (Choir Loft) Adult Bible Study (Concordia) The Chosen - Women of Faith & Friendship LIFEgroup (Church Library) RMB at Rochester Mills Brewery (Off-site)	11
THR	8:30 AM 1:00 PM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	MomCo (Luther Hall) Esther Circle (Luther Hall) International Bible Study (Mary Martha) Choir Practice (Choir Loft) The Lord's Prayer Bible Study (Luther Hall)	12
FRI	9:30 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	ESL (Mary Martha) OWLS Luncheon (Concordia Hall) Drummelsmith 242 Group (Luther Hall)	13
SAT	8:00 AM	VALENTINES DAY Bibles and Basketball (Gymnasium)	14
SUN	9:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:30 PM 6:00 PM	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall) FOG Bagged Lunch Prep (Church Kitchen) Middle School Youth (Youth Room/Gym) High School Youth (Youth Room)	15

Happy
Valentine's
Day



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 | stjohnrochester.org