



January 2, 2022

## IMPORTANT NOTE 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. However, if you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD."

### **EPISTLE READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

### **HOLY GOSPEL:** Matt. 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

## ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 2, 2022

### WORSHIP CELEBRATION



#### WORSHIP SERIES CONCLUDES TODAY

From brightly decorated trees to greeting cards, the Christmas season is full of symbols that point to the coming of a Savior. Over the years, the understanding of many of these representations has fallen into obscurity. Others have been claimed by a secular society seeking to mask the true “reason for the season”. This worship series (Symbols of the Savior) brought many of these symbols into focus, unpacked them, and connected them to the story of the Word

Incarnate, born in a manger, over 2000 years ago. Today we conclude with learning about the “star” as it led the Magi to the Christ Child in the celebration of Epiphany.

To listen to all messages in this series, visit our website and click Resources/Sermon Messages.

### BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**BIBLE STUDIES** - Watch for a new Get Into the Word bible study listing coming soon.

**SUNDAY MORNING'S BIBLE STUDIES** at 9:30AM continue to meet weekly. The study of Luther's Small Catechism, led by Pastor Gil McDonald, meets downstairs in Concordia Hall, and the Study of Matthew, led by Dianna Swenson, meets downstairs in the Mary Martha room. Everyone is welcome!



**NEW BIBLE STUDY – Following Jesus: An Invitation to an Uncommon Life** is an on-campus **Life Groups Study** (small groups around tables) where we connect with Christ in His Word and others in friendship in an ongoing adventure the Bible calls discipleship. These classes will be led by Pastor Jon (Trinklein) on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM starting January 11 & 12. Hope to see you there!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** for children preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade meets Sundays at 9:30 AM in the school wing classrooms. Check in at the kiosk in the school hallway. **Sunday School will resume on January 9.**

### SHARED LIFE

**MAIN OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:** Monday-Friday 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

**THANK YOU!** My family and I want to thank everybody for their love and support. Arnie could not have had a better send off to heaven. I want to share his favorite quote “Don’t be afraid of tomorrow, God is already there.” In Christ. Love, Kati Viohl and family.

## HealingHearts



### SUPPORT GROUP – HEALING HEARTS

**Meets Monday, January 3 @ 7PM in the Church Library**

Have you recently or are you currently experiencing a broken heart in your marriage? Have you gone through or are you going through an unwanted divorce? Healing Hearts is a support group for those who have or are experiencing heart break in their marriage or have gone through an unwanted divorce. This can be a lonely and isolating time; we are here to listen and encourage. God has a plan for your life, and you can enjoy His plan and His blessings when you are the best version of yourself. This group is a safe place to share your hurts and disappointments, but it is also a place for encouragement to heal and grow. Healing Hearts meets the first Monday of the month in the church library. For more information email Suzanne at [suzannep1227@gmail.com](mailto:suzannep1227@gmail.com).



### HAVE YOU NOTICED THE WISE MEN (GUYS) MOVING AROUND THE

**CAMPUS?** This is being done to share with our kids not only the importance of Christmas, but the truth about the coming of the Wise Men. Our Director of Child & Family Ministry, Steve Wilson, has been moving the Wise Men with the help of friends, to show them actually travel to see the Christ Child. To read more about the Wise Guys in motion, visit our website and click on the rotator. The Wise Men will continue to slowly move until they arrive at the manger scene on Epiphany this Thursday, January 6.

**MEN'S GATHERING** is an informal gathering for men to get connected for great conversation and a cold brew if you so desire. Led by Pastor Jon Trinklein, come to Rochester Mills Brewery on Wednesday, **January 12 at 7:00 PM**. Discussion will be on the best way for men to reach their personal best. What you will discover is a relaxed, enjoyable gathering where you can't help but gain insights, share a few laughs, hear some baloney – it happens - yet before you know it God shows up in ways you didn't see coming. Bring a friend and tell the restaurant host you looking for the St John group.

### OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service)

The January OWLS luncheon is at noon Friday, January 14, in Concordia Hall. Our speaker will be Pastor Gil McDonald who will enlighten us on "The Care and Feeding of Rugsrats". We will provide broasted chicken and beverages. We are asking you to bring Potluck: last name A-M bring a salad or vegetable dish, and last name N-Z bring a dessert. Please call Roger Guetzkow (248-377-9048) by Tuesday, January 11, to RSVP so we can be prepared for all our attendees. We hope you can join us.



## CALL RECEIVED BY STEVE WILSON

Steve Wilson, our Director of Child & Family Ministry, has received a call from St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Ann Arbor to serve as their Director of Junior and Senior High Youth and Media. Please keep Steve and his family in your prayers as he prayerfully contemplates the Lord's will and discernment.



**STARTING FEBRUARY 7! ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? IF SO, JOIN US STARTING FEBRUARY 7!** Have you or someone you know been searching for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about in a non-threatening environment where your real questions

can be answered? Maybe you're new to St. John School or maybe you have been worshipping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John in Rochester your official 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! Come join Pastor Marc and Pastor Steve on an 8-week, action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! They'll also introduce you to our St. John mission and vision!

This winter session will be held onsite. The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30PM. Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. Look for an email coming soon, and on our website, for more ONE Class details and a link to register. For more information, contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or [church@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:church@stjohnrochester.org). We hope you can join us!

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

### SCHOOL NEWS

**School resumes Monday, January 3.**

**2022-2023 Enrollment** – Join us to learn more about our school at these upcoming enrollment events:

- **Kindergarten Preview** – Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 PM, for parents only.
- **Preschool & Young 5's Preview** - Thursday, January 20, 6:30 PM, for parents (your prospective preschooler/young 5 student is also welcome).
- **School Open House** - Sunday, January 23, 12:00–2:00 PM for the whole family!

Re-enrollment, Sibling enrollment and Congregation Early Enrollment starts January 18. Community Open Enrollment starts February 1. For more information visit [stjohnrochester.org/school](http://stjohnrochester.org/school).



**LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | Grades 6-8**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | Grades 9-12**

Lighthouse and High School Youth will resume meeting on Sunday evenings from 6-8 PM on January 9. See you then!

## COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING!** The St. John family has shared such kindness through compassionate service this past year with many gracious deeds and acts of service that have made a real difference in Jesus' name. What a true blessing you all are as we share the love of Jesus through kind, compassionate witness and service. As we continue to support and encourage our St. John family, our mission partners, and our community, we thank you for continuing to be the feet and hands of Jesus.

## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



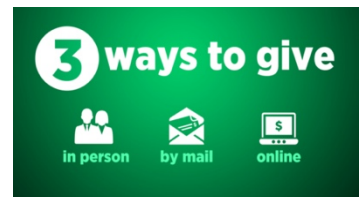
**MITE BOXES:** Pick one up TODAY at the tract rack! We hope you will take the small bank home, drop your change into it, and then return it again (first Sunday of each month) and pick up a new box. The “mites” gathered from many people add up to powerful ministry dollars for worldwide missions supported by the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Let's help spread the wonderful gospel!

## TORNADO RELIEF FUND

In the wake of the recent tornadoes that left so many families and communities in total devastation, action teams from our church body are responding. If you want to help with these efforts financially visit our Lutheran Church Disaster Relief webpage for more information and an opportunity to give. For updates on relief efforts visit our synod webpage at [www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response). To make a gift toward those affected by the tornadoes, go to <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/tornado>.

## 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 Jesus' name! We know times are difficult for many, but if you are prayerfully able to step forward for those who can't, please do so. If you are worshipping onsite, offerings will be taken touch-free at the door. In addition, many have switched to faithful ongoing giving electronically in recent days, either through their own bank (as a recurring automatic transaction) or through our website giving portal. For more information, visit <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/celebrate/giving-options/>.



## CONSTANT PRAYER

**DID YOU KNOW that you can receive a weekly Prayer Update email from St. John?** Each Monday, an email message is sent to those who have subscribed to receive Prayer Updates. This update includes additional prayers received through the weekend that were not able to be included in the Connection (due to the timing of printing). If you would like to subscribe to the Prayer Update email list, just go to our website [stjohnrochester.org](http://stjohnrochester.org), click at the bottom on “Stay Connected with Email” and chose Prayer Updates. For more information, please contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020.



**WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART.** To submit a prayer request, please email it to [prayer@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:prayer@stjohnrochester.org) at any time or submit a prayer request on our website.

### THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS:

**Healing & Peace:** Dan Albertson – hospice / Larry Grothaus – hospitalized / Howard Kastner (father of Deb Spresney) - upcoming surgeries / Marilyn Brown – recovering from a stroke & hip surgery / Sonikasree / Durga Nandam – upcoming hip surgery / Faye Colando - congestive heart failure / Dick Schlecht – failing health / Josephine Vitu (Tom's mom) - recovery from a stroke

**Bereavement:** – “*for the family & friends of*” Elaine Schlee (mother of Barbara Kienman)

**Strength & Guidance:** Steve Wilson as he seeks the Lord's direction in the LCMS Call process / Brendan Santo – still missing from MSU

**Community - Nation – World:** Oxford Community / Tornado Victims

### ON GOING PRAYERS:

**Long-Term Healing & Recovery:** Rob Plewa / Ryan Jankovich / George Jankovich / Debra Jakovich / John Kampsen / Ken Lust

**Church-Work Students:** Abby Schwichtenberg / Mackensi Wilson / Joy Craig

**Those in Military Service:** Mark Anderson / Aaron Byers / Devin Deck / Tyler Doebler / Troy Glover / Alex Holzke / Earle IV Leighton / Alex Lindsay / Erich Mammen / Matthew Neumeyer / John Paulson / Michael Pesamoska / Christian Petty / AJ Sampson / Jon Taykowski / Jonah Toy / Brad Ziegler / Kayla Pfund / Tim Pfund / Bryan Mullins / Tyler Wetzell / Joey Prokes / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin / Courtney Sharaugh / Paul Batt

**Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents:** Helen Lind / Gloria Trudeau / Frances Schuessler / Roy & Joann Juhl / Marlys Koch / Lucille Hagemann / Linda Madson / Dolores Rigg / Marlene Randall / Jerry Bantin / Shirley Mullin



#### **Worship Celebration Schedule**

**Traditional Praise:** Sundays @ 8:00 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE),  
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**Modern Praise:** Saturdays @ 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE)

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