

A stylized mountain logo composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent triangles in various shades of blue and teal. The triangles are arranged to form a mountain shape with a central peak and several smaller peaks and ridges. The logo is centered behind the text.

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

January 8-9, 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: Ruth 4:1-12

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!" Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

EPISTLE READING: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 9, 2022

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

We are connected in water and word, not our family lines or past. Too often we think that we are connected to Jesus by our family. I was born a Lutheran, a Catholic or a Christian is not what Jesus does in our baptism. We will talk through how we are connected to Jesus in our baptism through faith. We are called to repentance of our old selves and new life in Christ.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND! At all worship celebrations we will be welcoming forward all families that experienced the blessing of God's calling to faith through baptism at St. John over the past year! Candles will be lit and a special time of prayer and thanksgiving will be given over this amazing affirmation of calling in Jesus' love for us!

We are so thankful for all who were baptized in 2021: Kaylee Bartley, Isabella Baumann, Theodore Bess, Mackenzie Borra, Adeline Cooley, Oliver Edds, Carmella Fulgenzi, Sienna Fulgenzi, Averie Gastelewicz, Juliette Goike, Skip Harrington, Skylar Haupt, Addison Herman, Brooklyn Hustek, James Hutton, Ethan Kaafrani, Margaret Kiehl, Emmie Lauzon, Claire Lucas, Piper Lyon, Rex Lyon, Monroe McCatty, Brett Miller, Sylvia Miller, Eleanor Miscovich, Beau Myers, Leo Remesz, Zahra Rizwan, Olivia Robb, Adriana Shaheen, John Thomas, Lauren Thomas, William Woodhull, and Olive Wright.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER – The New Year is here, and with it come many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! Make this the year that you take a big step as a family in your faith walk with Jesus! Our new *Get Into the Word* brochure with a full listing of Bible Class selections is now available on our St. John website.



SUNDAY SCHOOL for children preschool through 6th grade meets Sundays at 9:30 AM in the school wing classrooms. Check in at the kiosk in the school hallway.

SHARED LIFE

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

NEW! STARTING THIS WEEK!

LIFEGroup is where you can make new friends, grow in your faith, serve in new and enriching ways and just plain have more fun. **Following Jesus: An Invitation to an Uncommon Life** is an on-campus LIFEgroups 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 in Concordia Hall.** Look for the email message sent out this week to sign up or contact the office 248-402-8020. Hope to see you there!

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 Rugrats". We will provide broasted chicken and beverages. We are asking you to bring a potluck dish: 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.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday, January 16, the high school youth will be preparing and serving the 1st pancake breakfast in 2 years! **BACON** is back! The breakfast will be served in Concordia Hall (downstairs) between the 8:00 & 9:30 service and before the 10:45/11:00 AM services. All funds collected will go towards the July Mission Trip to Rhode Island.



STARTING FEBRUARY 7! ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? 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 (Feb. 7-March 28) 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 the email sent out this week and, on our website, for the link to register. For more information, contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. We hope you can join us!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SCHOOL NEWS

St. John Lutheran School offers an excellent Preschool through 8th grade in a Christ-centered setting. Students receive challenging academics, with various fine arts and extra-curricular opportunities, while learning God's word and growing closer to Jesus.

Enrollment for 2022-2023 begins soon!

You are invited to attend our upcoming enrollment events for the 2022-2023 school year to see how St. John Lutheran School is the right choice for your child! Enrollment and application materials will be available.



- **Kindergarten Preview**, Tuesday, January 11: Meet our Kindergarten teachers, learn about our Kindergarten objectives, and see what a day in Kindergarten is like. This event is for parents only.
- **Preschool & Young 5's Preview**, Tuesday, January 19, 6:30-7:30 PM: Meet our Preschool and Young 5's teachers, get an overview of Preschool & Young 5's session options, and learn all about getting your child started on the right education path! This hour is designed for parents.
- **School Open House**, January 23, 12:00 – 2:00 PM: Meet the teachers, visit the classrooms and learn all about our Preschool to 8th grade. This is for the whole family!

Current student re-enrollment and St. John congregation early enrollment is January 18-28. Community Open Enrollment starts February 1. For more information or to schedule a personal campus tour, visit stjohnrochester.org/school or call 248-402-8012.

LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | Grades 6-8

Lighthouse will meet on all Sunday evenings in January from 6-8 PM. Hope to see you there!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | Grades 9-12

Youth will meet this Sunday evening from 6-8 PM. Next Sunday, January 16, is the pancake breakfast. Plan to meet in the church kitchen at 8 AM.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST

Interested in enrolling your 8th grader at Lutheran High Northwest next year? There are some important dates and deadlines to keep on your radar this month:

- **HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST** - Saturday, January 15, from 9AM-Noon. If possible, please PRE-REGISTER for the test by emailing lutherannorthwest@lhsa.com.

- **8TH GRADE INTRO NIGHT** - Wednesday, January 19, at 7PM. No pre-registration is required.
- **APPLY FOR 2022 ADMISSION!** Application fee is at its lowest (\$150) through the end of January and will increase to \$200 on February 1. The application can be completed online here: www.lutherannorthwest.com/apply.

If you have any questions, please call Admissions Director, Mary Gutenkunst, at 248-852-6677, or email mgutenkunst@lhsa.com. We're happy to be a resource for your family as you prayerfully consider your high school options for next year!

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

Our St. John church & school family served many with the love of Jesus during the Christmas season:



5th grade made 43 blankets for the homeless at HOPE, Pontiac



4th grade purchased 357 "meal tickets" for Grace Center of Hope, Pontiac



Our American Heritage Girl troop helped serve & clean up at an Advent Dinner



High School Youth and families sang Christmas carols to some of our St. John families at their homes



Elders & Vestry prepared & served two Advent Dinners for all to enjoy!

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



HAT, SCARF, MITTEN, AND GLOVE COLLECTION CONTINUING IN JANUARY –Please join in helping our Mission Partners, Hope Warming Center, Family of God, and Rochester Area Neighborhood House keep many dry and warm during these harsh winter months by donating hats, scarfs, mittens and gloves. Donations may be placed directly in the gift boxes in the Atrium. Let's fill up the boxes with new warm items to bless those in need this winter! Collection ends January 23.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing!” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

General Mission & Ministry Fund Offerings

Year-to-Date Budget to Actual (as of 1/2/2022) = 102.27%

(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/21 through 6/30/22)

Additional Giving:

December Special Gifts = \$180,000

December ONE Legacy Gifts = 206,323

CONSTANT PRAYER

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



THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS:

Healing & Peace: Faye Colando – on-going heart issues & COVID / Richard Webster (son-in-Law of Dale & Susan McGorman) – COVID / Fred Quinn – hospitalized / Laura Jacobs (sister of Brenda Mong) / Tony and Dwayne Barton – COVID / Jim and Judie Boeder (parents of Christine Wissbrun) – cancer treatment / Sandy Olson – surgery / Edith Pottenger - brain aneurysm / Roy Juhl - upcoming shoulder surgery / Krista Nesbit - preschool mom in premature labor / Doris Hughes – upcoming surgery

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of” Dick Schlecht / Jim Madigan (Stoney Creek Varsity Football Coach) / Jamie Thorpe

Strength & Guidance: Walt & Donna Brown and family traveling / Protection for Laura and Vicky

Community - Nation - World: Oxford Community / Tornado Victims / Wildfire Victims / COVID resurgence

Thanksgiving: All the blessing of the past year



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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