

The background of the entire page is a cosmic image. It features a dense field of stars in various colors (white, yellow, orange, red, green, blue) against a dark space. A prominent, bright, orange and yellow nebula or galaxy arm curves across the right side of the image. Several thin, faint lines, possibly representing distant galaxies or light trails, stretch across the frame.

BEGINNINGS

The Book of Genesis

January 15-16, 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: Genesis 1:1-6, 9-11, 14-15, 20, 24, 26 – 31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-5, 9-14

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery." The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." Jesus replied, "Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given.



THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 16, 2022

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



BEGINNINGS WORSHIP MESSAGE SERIES

Webster defines the word “beginning” as “the point in time or space at which something starts”. As we together start a New Year, our worship focus in the coming weeks will be on the ultimate beginning of time, space, and all that is, as we launch a worship message series on the ultimate book of beginnings – Genesis! From the first Word of creation, join us as we journey through exciting beginnings, unanticipated heartache, tragedies, and adventures that all lead to

ultimate new beginnings for us all! It all begins this weekend!



HOLY BAPTISM – Today we celebrate the baptism of Brooklyn Criss Bauer, daughter of Brian and Kellee at the 10:45 Modern Praise worship service. May God richly bless Brooklyn and her family!

SPECIAL MUSIC TODAY – In our Traditional Praise services today, we are blessed to welcome into our midst a combined Men’s Chorus, made up of singers from St. Lorenz (Frankenmuth), St. Stephen (Waterford), the Lutheran Choralaires (Royal Oak), Faith (Grand Blanc) and St. John (Rochester). They will be providing special music at all three services, directed by Mrs. Tammy Miller (St. Stephen). The men began the weekend by meeting for a combined rehearsal and banquet on Saturday evening before joining us for worship today. Please join us in celebrating God’s gift of music and Christian fellowship!

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 - Office Closed (Holiday) | Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

NEW LIFEGROUP STUDY CONTINUING THIS WEEK!

Following Jesus: An Invitation to an Uncommon Life is an on-campus LIFEgroup 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 are being facilitated by Pastor Jon (Trinklein) on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Concordia Hall.** Things just got started last week so it's definitely not too late to get connected. Hope to see you there! The formation of LIFEgroups is a new St. John ministry aimed at helping you make new friends, grow in your faith, serve in new and enriching ways and just plain have more fun! Masks are required for campus entry currently.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST TODAY (SUNDAY)

TODAY, the high school youth will be preparing and serving the first pancake breakfast in 2 years! BACON is back! The breakfast will be served in Concordia Hall (downstairs) after the 8:00 & 9:30AM 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

worshiping 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022 – VBS is planned this summer for **June 20-24** from 9:00 AM-noon. Registration will open February 15. Save the date on your calendar and look for more details coming soon.

VBS Planning Meeting: VBS is in the beginning of the planning process. If you are interested in serving in the planning of this event, please join us Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00 PM. Contact Steve Wilson, swilson@stjohnrochester.org for more information.

SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to the St. John Girls Basketball team on earning Consolation Champions at last weekend's tournament at Lutheran Northwest. Thanks to our coaches Steve Wilson, Sara Jung, Carol Teelander and alumni volunteers Sloane Kerska and Alyssa Edwards. Go Eagles!



Upcoming Enrollment Events and Information:

Preschool Preview is this Thursday, January 20, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Parents of prospective preschool students are invited to attend this informative presentation to learn about our Preschool objectives, and session options, followed by an opportunity to visit the Preschool classrooms. This is designed for parents.

School Open House is Sunday, January 23 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Visit the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn about our Preschool to 8th grade. This is for the whole family.

School re-enrollment and congregation early enrollment is January 18 – 28. Remaining spots will be made available to the community with Open Enrollment, starting February 1. Please feel free to contact our Director of Admissions, Beth Dameron, bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS - The sacrament of communion is an important part of a Christian's walk with Jesus. First Communion class is offered for those families interested in having their child (6th grade and older) take communion. Parents will need to attend class sessions with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. For more information, please contact Director of Child and Family Ministry Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006. Please sign up for the class at www.stjohnrochester.org/discover/middle-school. Classes are scheduled for February 27, March 6, 13 & 20.

8TH GRADE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION MEETING

For those who are completing their 2nd year of Confirmation, we will have an information meeting on Sunday, January 30 at noon in the school Music Room following the late services. At this meeting students will receive information about the Rite of Confirmation, their faith paper, and faith interview video. Please plan to be at this meeting if you are in your 2nd year of the confirmation program.



DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE | LUAU: Mark your Calendars for the St. John Daddy Daughter Dance, to be held Friday, February 11, on our campus in the gymnasium starting at 6:00 PM. Hosted by St. John Child & Family Ministry, this event is open to girls in Preschool 4's to 5th grade from both our church and school. (Girls in 6th – 8th are welcome if they are interested). Registration is required and it now open at <https://conta.cc/3qsM2Kr>. The cost is \$25 per family. As this event will be a luau theme, Dads/Grandpas who want to wear Hawaiian shirts are more than welcome to do so. Thank you to the many volunteers who are helping plan this event; additional volunteers to help host the event

welcome. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have any questions please contact Steve Wilson, swilson@stjohnrochest.rog.

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

Thank you to the youth serving breakfast this weekend! High School Youth will meet next Sunday, January 23, from 6-8 PM.

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:

- **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.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



HAT, SCARF, MITTEN, AND GLOVE COLLECTION – LAST WEEK

Please join in helping our Mission Partners, Hope Warming Center, Family of God, and Rochester Area Neighborhood House keep many people 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 OFFERINGS (as of 1/9/2022)

Offerings for week ending January 9 \$ 60,975

As of 1/9/22 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 11,408,375

As of 1/9/22 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 11,457,521

As of 1/9/22 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ 49,146

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

Budget to Actual (Week of January 9) = 142.4%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 103.5%

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: Mila McNutt (niece of Joan Lucas) – diagnosed with pancreatic cancer / Ginny Schmidt / Kathryn (Lynette Novack's mother) – COVID / Del Mallinson / Dan Albertson – thanksgiving for healing / Bill Hammond – ICU / Sandy Olson – upcoming surgery / Edith Pottenger - brain aneurysm / Roy Juhl - upcoming shoulder surgery / Faye Colando – on-going heart issues & COVID / Karen Neumeyer – broken foot / Marilyn Miller / Lorraine – health & life issues / Joy Markus (ESL) - complications from surgery / Stephanie Winter – upcoming surgery / Ruth Mowat (mother of Debbie Larsen & Diana Martin) - pneumonia and blood clots in the lungs

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of” Nesbit family (school family) at the loss of their premature baby

Strength & Guidance: Ray Jewell (Faye's son) & family – finding shelter after a December house fire in the Leonard area

Gospel Impact: New Beginnings Worship Message Series

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Brooklyn Criss Bauer - daughter of Brian and Kellee / Peter & Dorothy Pasanen's 58th wedding anniversary / Ordination of Chris Ryan (son-in-law of Wes & Dale Griffith)

Community - Nation - World: Oxford Community / COVID resurgence



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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