



April 24-25, 2021

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

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of April 25, 2021

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

THE CASE FOR EASTER | series continues

As we recently celebrated Easter and the resurrection of Jesus as Savior over sin and death, have you ever wondered if we really know if it's true? Did the disciples simply make up the story? If not, then how do we know? Could it simply be based on a rumor, myth, or legend? Does it matter? Join us in this message series we are calling "A Case For Easter" and explore the extensive first hand, eyewitness accounts for Jesus' resurrection and the truth of the matter that it is in fact, still changing the world.

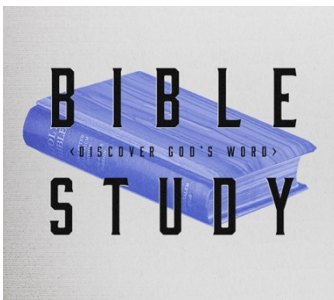


HOLY BAPTISM – This weekend at the 11:00 AM Sunday Traditional Praise service, we celebrate the baptism of Brooklyn Iris Hustek, daughter of Justin and Heather. May God richly bless Brooklyn and her family!

IMPORTANT ONSITE NOTE

In keeping with the CDC COVID-19 safeguards, face masks will continue to be worn and social distancing followed at worship services. For more information, visit www.stjohnrochester.org/regathering-guidelines as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 9:30AM in Concordia Hall – all are welcome! Come join in for the study of Ruth led by Dave Leinberger.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS - As we gradually move to regathering again in small groups for bible study onsite, there are other men's and women's bible study groups meeting on weekdays. This week's bible studies are:

Men's Small Group Bible Study – Monday, April 26, 7:00 AM. Led by Dan McCallum. For more information contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020.

Women's Small Group Bible Study – Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 PM. Study of Ruth led by Sue Stingu, suestingu@gmail.com.

SHARED LIFE



WHAT A WONDERFUL GIFT WE HAVE IN SERVING OTHERS

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with our Farmers to Families program this past week. Volunteers directed traffic, unloaded, loaded, and delivered 400 boxes of food and milk. We have received thankful calls from the community sharing appreciation not only for the much-needed food but also for the friendly, caring volunteers who served. Thank you for

sharing the love of Jesus with joyful hearts. Your witness is shining through! Look for details of our next delivery coming in May.



I would like to thank the pastors and friends for all the thoughts, prayers, and cards for my recent surgery and for the recent bereavement of my Mom (Marion Rickabus).

He has Risen, He has Risen indeed Alleluia, Sandy Olson

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: This year, Sunday School is being provided as an online weekly video. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 will take place on our campus **June 21-25** from 9:00 AM – NOON for children age 4 through those entering 6th grade. Registration is open on the website. See article under Compassionate Service for ways to help.





SCHOOL NEWS

The annual **Spelling Bee** was held this past Wednesday. The top three students from the 5th–8th grade classroom Spelling Bees competed. Congratulations to Spelling Bee Champion, 7th grader Jordan, and also to runner-up, 6th grader Samantha. Jordan will advance to the Michigan Regional Competition.

Enrollment is ongoing for the 2021-2022 school year for Preschool to 8th grade, based on availability. Tuition support is available through Tuition Assistance Data Services (TADS) for families who qualify, for students entering K – 8. The TADS application deadline is May 1. For more information on enrollment or tuition assistance, visit stjohnrochester.org/school or call Admissions, 248-402-8012.

LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

Lighthouse will be meeting this Sunday, April 25, at 6:00 PM off-site for Frisbee Golf at River Bends Park in Shelby Township. You will need to bring a frisbee. Reminder: Everyone will need to wear a mask for Lighthouse. Also, please bring your own snacks and drink. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



GROUP MISSION TRIP MEETING MAY 2

For those who will be attending the mission trip this year, there will be an important meeting on Sunday, May 2, following the 11:00 AM worship service (meeting time approximately 12:00 - 1:00 PM). See you there!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GRADES 9-12

The High School Youth will meet Sunday, April 25, at St. John from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and walk to Taco Bell for dinner! The evening will end at the prayer garden for the devotion. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



NOW IS THE TIME - COLLECTING TOILETRIES

If you have been saving travel size toiletries, it's time to bring them in! As part of The Church Has Left the Building Serve Event, we will including travel sized toiletries in care packages being assembled for our Mission Partners - Family of God and HOPE Shelters. Drop off items in the donation bin located by the south church portico on Tuesday or Thursday this week from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to many by supporting our serve opportunities!

FINANCIAL UPDATES

As in all things we need to continue praying, “Lord, what would you have us do” and “cheerfully” respond. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) Thank you beyond words for doing so in amazing ways, St. John family, through your ongoing giving!

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 4/18/21)

Offerings for week ending April 18.....\$33,379

As of 4/18/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 2,144,500

As of 4/18/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 2,019,786

As of 4/18/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ (124,714)

(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/20 through 6/30/21.)

Budget to Actual (Week of April 18) = 57.6%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 94.2%

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

Imagine the impact ... of hundreds of people of all ages and abilities going out to serve those in need with compassion in Jesus' name!



SIGN UP TODAY TO SERVE NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 1, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at The Church Has Left the Building Serve Event! You and your family can reach out with the love of Jesus in our community by serving at one of over 15 sites with your St. John family. The serve opportunities include:

- Neighbor to Neighbor Food Collection
- Care Package Assembly
- Neighbor Yard Clean Up
- Serving at HOPE Pontiac and Family of God Detroit
- And more!

REGISTER TODAY on our website so all planning details can be finalized this week! Pray for good weather and perfect opportunities to serve and give witness to our Lord's goodness!





VBS – SET UP SERVE OPPORTUNITY

Come join the fun in transforming our St. John campus into an amazing Rocky Railway for Vacation Bible School week! Set up will take place on June 15, 17 & 18 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Come ready to paint and decorate! Email Steve Wilson to help any of those days, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

VBS – CREW LEADERS NEEDED

Crew leaders lead a small group of children through daily VBS stations while station leaders will direct the activities. If you would like to serve as a crew leader the week of June 21-25, from 9:00 AM – noon, email Steve swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

CONSTANT PRAYER

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



THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Healing & Peace: Colin Jones / John Riley (father of Destiny Riley) – hospitalized with COVID & heart issues and others in her family (mother, grandmother, sister, and nephew) – COVID / Marni Barnes – COVID / Judy Bradley – upcoming knee surgery / Ellen Kraft – COVID / Mike Scharrer – COVID / Sister in law of Ellen Kraft – hospice / David – infection from brain surgery / Jim Sahr (father of Pam McKeon) - healing from a fall / Ruth Mowat (mother of Debbie Larsen) - undergoing cancer treatment / Jodi Simms – cancer treatment / Debra Jankovich / Ryan Jankovich – Mayo clinic / Correen Borst Straub / Henry Thomas (father of Lisa Hill) - for breathing issues / James G. Schmidt (JJ's father) – COVID & pneumonia / Raegan (13 year old) - brain tumor / Sandy Olson – thanksgiving for successful surgery

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of:” Mark Davidson (wife Shelley)

Guidance & Strength: Next Saturday's The Church Has Left the Building Serve Event / Debra Jankovich – safe travels

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Brooklyn Iris Hustek - daughter of Justin and Heather Hustek



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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