



May 1-2, 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 4:1-11

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 21:1-17; 24-25

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of May 2, 2021

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

THE CASE FOR EASTER | series concludes this weekend

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.



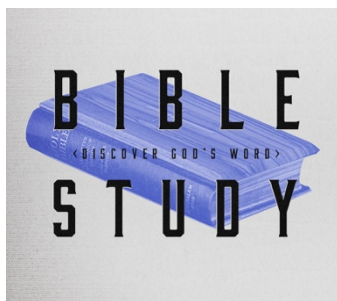
Be sure to join us next weekend as we give thanks to God for the gift of our mom's! For many of us, our moms are some of the first people in our lives who show us love in human flesh. Not every mom does this well, but they are a portrait of what love looks like...love that comes from God. And it's a love worthy of celebrating and sharing!

ALTAR FLOWERS were given by Jim & Bobbie Baker in thanksgiving and praise to God for their 70th wedding anniversary.

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:

Women's Small Group Bible Study – Tuesday, May 4, 7:00 PM, in Concordia Hall. Study of Ruth led by Sue Stingu, suestingu@gmail.com.



CONGREGATION FORUM AND MEETING

In spite of the ongoing swirling circumstances of our current pandemic world, we have so many amazing reasons to give thanks to the Lord for His continued faithfulness in ongoing church and school ministry among us, as well as incredible excitement over the developing plans for the year ahead. As a vital part of the St. John family please join us as we prayerfully come together to share in

those plans and together make decisions of impact.

BUDGET FORUM—WEDNESDAY, May 12 @ 7:00PM - VIA ZOOM

This annual forum is a chance to provide important congregational feedback to our Ministry Leadership Team as they share details about ministry priorities for the coming year, and the budget implications of those priorities. This important meeting provides critical feedback in preparation for the Congregation Meeting. Watch for email Zoom link in the coming days.

CONGREGATION MEETING—SUNDAY, May 23 @ 12:30PM

This important annual meeting will include the election of lay leadership (Vestry, Elders and St. John Foundation) as well as a presentation of the annual budget including proposed new staffing, and vote for approval. A ONE Legacy initiative project update will also be given at that time. The intention is for this to be an onsite meeting in the sanctuary; however, local gathering ordinances will need to be assessed as we get closer to the date.

Healing Hearts



SUPPORT GROUP – HEALING HEARTS MEETS MONDAY, MAY 3 @ 7PM

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 new 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 will meet the first Monday of the month in the church library. For more information email Suzanne at suzannep1227@gmail.com.



FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENT - After much thought and prayer, Mrs. Traci Kadzielewski has shared her decision to not return to a classroom teaching position next school year. Traci has taught at St. John full time for the last two years and helped as a faithful volunteer for many years prior. We extend God's blessings to Traci on what was a difficult decision for her, but one made with God's clarity and in the best interest of her family. Traci, her husband Jeff and their children will continue as an active St. John church and school family. We give thanks to God for Traci and her family, and for her time serving the Lord joyfully as a member of our faculty.

SEEKING CLASSROOM TEACHING CANDIDATE – As we begin the important call process of a second grade Early Childhood teacher, the congregation is invited to submit recommendations for candidates to be considered, along with recommendations from our LCMS Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Qualified candidates for this position must have a bachelor's degree, a love for Jesus our Savior, a love for children, and a strong knowledge in the subject of reading. Recommendation forms and a sample job description are available at the Main Office. All recommendations must be received by May 14, 2021.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR – We are pleased to acknowledge the St. John Troop 356 Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony taking place this afternoon. Eight young men have earned the highest advancement rank attainable in Boy Scouts and will be recognized at the Court of Honor. Their achievement represents many years of dedicated effort and the successful completion of demonstrating scout spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership, as well as through the support of their families and scout leaders. The ceremony will be private for the scout's families due to current restrictions.

We congratulate these young men: Paul Batt, Parker Dayton, Ian Davidson, Max Drummelsmith, Stefan Mindru, Owen Myers, Brenden Pehlke, and Austin West.



THANK YOU! I am extremely grateful to the St. John family and to the volunteers who serve the monthly St. Paul meals, for the many cards, inquiries, messages, and prayers sent during my recent time of medical issues. Healing has been slow. Thank you to all and God's Blessings to you! ~Joan Kunze

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

Kindergarten students led chapel this week in a pre-recorded video message, our Young 5's students are soaring through their science unit, and Preschool students read about a familiar caterpillar. Our teachers make learning fun! There are a few spots remaining in Preschool, Young 5's and Kindergarten, so inquire today if you are interested! Visit stjohnrochester.org/school or call 248-402-8000 for more information or to schedule a personal tour.



LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

Lighthouse will not be meeting this Sunday, May 2 or next Sunday, May 9 (Mother’s Day). See you on the 16th at 6:00 PM. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GRADES 9-12

Thank you to all who came out yesterday and served in Detroit at Family of God for The Church Has Left the Building Serve event. We will not be meeting this Sunday evening or next Sunday, May 9 (Mother’s Day). We will be participating in the 5k Race at Lutheran High School Northwest on May 16th. See your weekly email for details on registration. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST is hosting their first annual 5K Walk/Run on Sunday, May 16, on their beautiful Rochester Hills campus! Interested in participating in this fun event & supporting our Crusader Boosters? Sign up now at www.lutherannorthwest.com/events! Early registration (including t-shirt) ends May 4, but late and same-day registrations will also be accepted.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



ANNUAL DIAPER DRIVE - Can diapers make a difference in Jesus’ name? When it comes to helping local moms and babies in need, the answer is a huge yes! Please join your St. John family in making a huge difference by bringing in packages of diapers or wipes over the next several weeks (up until Father’s Day weekend) as we create a mountain of diapers in the church and school Atrium! Diapers of all sizes are appreciated! This annual diaper shower will directly benefit our awesome mission partner, Crossroads Care Center in Auburn Hills. For more information, or if you would like to become more involved, please contact Dale Griffith at 248-894-8423.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

You may have noticed that our offerings since late December have been slowly losing pace with our annual budget, most significantly over Christmas and Easter due in part to continued reduced attendance as we together navigate the current COVID reality. If you are able, please prayerfully consider how you might help make up this difference in the remaining fiscal year. As in all things we need to continue praying, “Lord, what would you have us do” and “cheerfully” respond. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 4/25/21)

Offerings for week ending April 25.....	\$50,749
As of 4/25/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 2,202,500
As of 4/25/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	\$ 2,070,535
As of 4/25/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$ (131,965)
(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/20 through 6/30/21.)	
Budget to Actual (Week of April 25) =	87.5%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual =	94.0%

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



What an amazing experience this weekend as well over 125 people of all ages and abilities went out to serve those in need with compassion in Jesus' name! Working with our area mission partners, we secured 15 different sites in Rochester, Pontiac and Detroit where teams from our St. John family were able to serve with the love of Jesus. Many thanks to our Mission & Ministry Coordinator Jennie Eller for her incredible efforts in organizing and leading this massive Serve Event. We also thank our

excellent team of site leaders and all who stepped up to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus! Thanks be to God!

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: Matt Hiler – struggling with COVID / Sandy Cotten - battling leukemia / Roberta Neilson – recovering from surgery / Tory Chila – COVID / Angie Kustasz – recovering from surgery / Colin Jones / John Fisher (Mark's brother) - triple bypass surgery / Jeff Schmitz – COVID / Maria (caregiver of James G. Schmidt) – COVID / Mark Neumeyer (Joel's brother) - starting search for stem cell donor / Kent Waggoner – health concerns and surgery / Tyler Cronkright



Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Mark Davidson (Shelly – Nathan & Ian)

Thanksgiving: For a great day of service through The Church Has Left the Building and all who organized and volunteered! / The 70th wedding anniversary of Jim and Bobbie Baker

ON GOING:

Church-Work Students: Abby Schwichtenberg / Mackensi Wilson

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 / Vance Kernes / Christian Petty / AJ Sampson / Jon Taykowski / Jonah Toy / Brad Ziegler / Kayla Pfund / Tim Pfund / Austin Wheeler Wells / Bryan Mullins / Tyler Wetzell / Joey Prokes / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin

Pregnancy: Sarah Bartley / Jordan (niece of Carol Schirr) / Anna Lucas / Katie Novack

Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents: Dan Albertson / Helen Lind / Gloria Trudeau / Wanda DeLorme / Frances Schuessler / Roy & Joann Juhl / Marlys Koch / Jack Pierce / Lucille Hagemann / Linda Madson / Jim Madson / Dolores Rigg / Marlene Randall / Jerry Bantin



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)

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohnrochester.org