

The image features a close-up of a bouquet of flowers, including several pink and red roses, a purple ranunculus, and a red chrysanthemum, set against a light brown burlap fabric background. A vertical white line runs down the center of the image, partially obscured by the text.

MOMS: PORTRAITS  
of  
God's Love

May 8-9, 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 5:1-8

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

**HOLY GOSPEL:** John 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of May 9, 2021

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION



This weekend we give thanks to God for the gift of our moms! 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!

Be sure to join us onsite or online for worship again next weekend as we celebrate Jesus' Ascension in follow up to the 40 days since His resurrection. Now begins the great eon of the ministry of His church on earth, baptizing and preaching forgiveness in His name to the very ends of the earth. Join us in celebration and praise of our King, Savior and Lord who "ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father"!

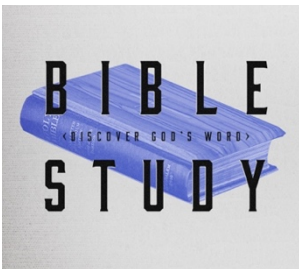


**HOLY BAPTISM** – Today at the 11:00 AM Traditional Praise worship service, we celebrate the baptism of Kaylee Marie Bartley, daughter of Sarah and Kyle. May God richly bless Kaylee and her family!

## 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](http://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! This is the last week of the Ruth study led by Dave Leinberger. **Starting next week, May 16**, Steve Wilson will lead a 3-week study on the Bible and Holy Land locations. Come see and hear how the geography of the Holy Land impacted the people of God.

**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](mailto: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 this week.

### **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.

Following are the candidates for the respective elected offices:

**ELDERS: 8 Openings** - Gordon Carr\*, Tom Chmiel\*, Tim Dameron\*, Jeff Kadzielewski\*, Dave Schulz\*, Larry Wroza\*

**FOUNDATION: 2 Openings** – Nick Oleskie\*

**VESTRY: 3 Openings** – Bob Danielson, Mark Rafdal\*, Sarah Taykowski\*, Tom Vitu

*\*incumbent*



**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.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration is open on the website.



### SCHOOL NEWS

**Teacher Appreciation Week** will be celebrated at St. John this week, May 10 – 14. A team of volunteers will be coordinating a daily, individually packaged treat for the teachers. We give thanks for our

St. John teachers, as they serve the Lord faithfully at St. John as educators, mentors and spiritual role models.

### LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

Lighthouse will not be meeting this Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day). See you on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org).



### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GRADES 9-12

High School Youth will not be meeting this Sunday, May 9. Next Sunday, May 16, we are participating in the LHNW 5K walk/run race. You must sign up online to participate. On May 23 we will have Bike Night. Join us at St. John at 6pm to hit the trails on our bikes, get ice cream at Dairy Queen and have a devotion in the park. We will end at St. John at 8pm. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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!](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events!)

## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

### 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 5/2/21)**

Offerings for week ending May 2..... \$58,079

As of 5/2/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 2,250,700

As of 5/2/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 2,128,614

As of 5/2/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ (122,086)

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

Budget to Actual (Week of May 2) = 102.5%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 94.6%



**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 of all sizes, wipes, and baby items (new and gently used)** over the next several weeks (up until Father's Day weekend) as we create a mountain of diapers and baby things in the church & school Atrium! 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 our St. John liaison, Dale Griffith at 248-894-8423.

**COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**

**The Church Left the Building last Saturday!** What a GREAT day we had serving others and serving Jesus! Over 150 St. John volunteers worked hard and in love as they showed the goodness of the Lord to our community, church family, and mission partners in Rochester, Pontiac, and Detroit at 15 location sites. Thank you for the support, prayers and work that took place and made a huge impact! Thank you for being a witness of Jesus Christ to many who may come to know Him by our efforts to be One in Jesus... Reaching Many!

Yard work was done for local community families – 6 home sites total







Family of God Church, Detroit - Created a playground area, cleaned up the lot, built 3 raised bed vegetable gardens and repaired picnic tables.



Families collected food donations from our campus neighborhood for Rochester Neighborhood House and God's Helping Hands.



**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](mailto:prayer@stjohnrochester.org) at any time or submit a prayer request on our website.

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS**

**Healing & Peace:** (The following are struggling with COVID) - Matt Hiler / Tory Chila / Jeff Schmitz / Maria (caregiver of James G. Schmidt) / Pastor Tyler Cronkright / France family (school) / Ahah Nisham / Genna (friend of Karen Hager) - pregnant and hospitalized due to Covid - baby is doing well right now (Other health concerns) - Larry Walsh (friend of Judy Bradley) / Mary Liston - complications from eye procedure / Dick Schlecht – hospitalized / Angie Kustasz – recovering from surgery / Colin Jones / Elmer Morehouse (father of Tim Morehouse) - very weak and recovering from stomach issues / Correen Borst / Ryan Jankovich - starting treatment at Mayo clinic / Mother of Rich Jordan – in hospice



**Bereavement:** – “for the family & friends of:” Bernice Donius (mother of Marlene Haegle)  
**Strength & Guidance:** Tyler struggling with addiction & in need of a relationship with Jesus / Upcoming budget forum & congregational meeting  
**Thanksgiving:** Birth of Claire Alexandra Lucas to Anna & John, Baptism of Kaylee Marie Bartley



### **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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