

September 19-20, 2020



THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of September 20, 2020

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



It has been a very difficult and challenging year. Yet considering all the ways we might respond in the face of it as God's redeemed people, perhaps the most important way is by engaging in fervent prayer.

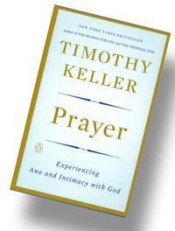
But how?

While we have often been taught that prayer is important, very few of us have received instruction or guidance in how to make prayer genuinely meaningful.

With this in mind, our St. John family has launched a six-week study series simply called PRAYER. It has three components:

WORSHIP - Each weekend's sermon message shared through onsite and online worship (see full schedule below) will introduce a different aspect of Biblical prayer with opportunities and challenges to put it into practice throughout the week.

READ - Each St. John family has been receiving a hand delivered copy of PRAYER, a book by Timothy Keller with suggested readings for each week of the series. If you have not yet received your copy, please contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org.



STUDY - Each week throughout the series, a brief devotional video will be released from our pastoral team as an encouragement to help go even deeper into each week's sermon message and reading focus. In addition, on Fridays an accompanying Bible study discussion resource will be shared (via email and on our website) to accompany the following week's series readings. Use this study resource personally, in your family, or small group to engage with God's Word and put the gift of prayer into practice. All resources for the PRAYER series will be available at stjohnrochester.org/prayer-series.

MODERN PRAISE (gymnasium)

Onsite: Saturday @ 5:00PM | Sunday @ 10:45AM

Online: Facebook Live @ 10:45AM. A recording of this service will also be added to the *Online Worship Resources* page as soon as available.

TRADITIONAL PRAISE (sanctuary)

Onsite: Sunday @ 8:00AM | 9:30AM | 11:00AM

Online: Facebook Live @ 8:00AM. A recording of this service will also be added to the *Online Worship Resources* page as soon as available.

Our Nursery is now open during 9:30 AM worship.

All those planning to worship onsite are asked to please review and follow the precautions and procedures listed on our website at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/regathering-guidelines/>. These guidelines will continue to be an important part of our St. John family walk together in the love of our Savior and for each other and our neighbors.



HOLY BAPTISM – This Sunday at the 10:45 AM Modern! Praise service, we celebrate the baptism of Ella Grace Balent, daughter of Bill and Bailee. May God richly bless Ella and her family!

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

ONSITE BIBLE STUDY UPDATE – It is our hope and prayer to be able to begin hosting onsite Bible Study groups starting on October 1. However, the current limitation in place for indoor groups (worship has separate guidelines) continues to be 10 people. We do have a few groups of 10 or less that are planning to begin meeting in October. Other groups of more than 10, including Sunday morning Bible Classes, will be on hold until the state and local orders expand the number beyond 10. Please continue to keep the current situation in your prayers, so that we may soon be able to expand to larger groups in onsite Bible Study.

SHARED LIFE



STARTING SEPTEMBER 21! 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!

Due to current gathering restrictions, **this fall session will be held online only**. The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30PM. More detailed information will be shared once you register for the class. Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. For more information or to enroll, please register online via our St. John website, or contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. We hope you can join us!



STEPHEN MINISTRY - Are you walking through a desert time of life?

Divorce, grief, job loss...There are fellow believers who want to come alongside you, to listen, be present and pray with you. You don't have to journey through this difficult time alone. Stephen Ministers are trained to come alongside hurting people. If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister, please contact Tom Rowe at 248-420-1248 or Catherine Lick at 586-337-0023.

GRIEFSHARE – If you are mourning the death of a loved one, we invite you to join with others who understand and care. You do not have to take this journey alone. We are here to walk with you. GriefShare is a Bible based support group offering videos, workbooks and discussion.



While we are not currently able to meet together on the St. John campus due to COVID-19, we do want you to be aware of the excellent resources available to all at www.GriefShare.org. You may want to set up a login to take full advantage of all that this free website has to offer. Daily emails are available to support the grieving process, along with other valuable information. As always, St. John GriefShare leaders are also available for one-on-one support. Please call Linda Baroli 248-895-0310, Joanne Curran 248-877-7309, or Marlene Leinberger 586-365-8870.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Core Essentials is our character development program, with three main messages: treat others right, make smart decisions, maximize potential. Each month also has a theme, and St. John faculty select a scripture verse for the month as well. The theme for September is Friendship. Our Principal, Todd Pehlke, shared a message in chapel this week about helping our friends, reaching out to make new friends, and a reminder of our greatest friend, Jesus.



Athletics news: Fall sports are now underway. St. John is in the North Suburban Lutheran Athletic Association (NSLAA) for Soccer and Girls' Volleyball games as well as Cross Country Meets, following the decision and guidelines of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for fall sports. Go Eagles!

Preschool and Young 5's are currently enrolling, based on session availability. There is also currently an opportunity for 6th grade enrollment. All other grades are on hold for enrollment at this time. For information, visit stjohnrochester.org/school or feel free to contact our Director of Admissions, Beth Dameron at 248-402-8012.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020-2021: In our attempt to keep students as safe as possible we are going to be doing an online version of Sunday School for kids until at least January 2021. We will have a video emailed out each week to those who register for it this fall. This will look like a chapel type of experience

for kids to watch with you as a family. We will also have activities you can do at home for those interested. Please click the link to register for Sunday school this year. rebrand.ly/SS2020-2021

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY is designed to help our 7th and 8th grade students grow in their faith, given to them in their baptism. Students spend two years studying Scripture as they continue to build wisdom and understanding of their Savior Jesus, and prepare to make their faith statement and be confirmed in their 9th grade year. **For those students entering 7th grade, we ask you to register once online**, with a fee of \$50 to cover retreats, Bible, and catechism. Classes for non-day school students are scheduled to begin in October, contingent on state limitations at that time. For more information about Confirmation, there is a video online to view. Follow the links below to see the video and register for Confirmation. ~ Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family

VIDEO: <https://vimeo.com/425203396> TO REGISTER: rebrand.ly/1c8b4



TRUNK OR TREAT - DRIVE THRU! Save the Date for the annual St. John Trunk or Treat, to be held Sunday, October 18, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM on our campus. This year, in order to accommodate safe distancing gathering requirements, we will host Trunk or Treat in a drive-thru format. You will remain in your vehicle, and you will drive by the decorated trunks, with trunk hosts providing candy and trinkets. Allergy aware items will be provided as well. Join us for a fun event, and invite your friends

and neighbors! If you are interested in hosting a trunk or helping with the event, please contact Steve Wilson, swilson@stjohnrochester.org or Beth Dameron, bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

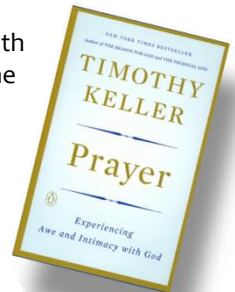
We started our church wide study of PRAYER last week. It was so wonderful to be with those in attendance! We had a meaningful, intentional and precious time in the introduction.

With this being the first week of meeting on campus since March, some specific details about what the group would look like were inadvertently omitted. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness as we navigate this unique time in life.

We will be meeting OUTSIDE this week in the Prayer Garden in socially distanced seating and without masks. The weather will likely be cool, so please bring your warm clothes, your PRAYER book, and a heart ready to dive into our second week of study. It is great that a few more people have asked to join in, and there is now room since we are meeting outside. If we get a bigger group than expected, we will just break down into smaller groups as it will be easier to share. If you are thinking about joining in, just send Mrs. Hammett an email or text.

On October 25, we will have a "Welcome Freshmen" bonfire at Mrs. Hammett's house from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Everyone in youth group is encouraged to attend for dinner and s'mores! We will be blessed by a very special speaker giving the devotion.

~Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.





LUTHERAN NORTHWEST

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER for the 22nd Annual Lutheran Northwest Crusader Golf Outing! Support Lutheran Northwest and enjoy a great day of golf and fellowship on Saturday, September 26, at Westwynd Golf Club (4151 N. Adams Road in Oakland Township). Cost is \$125/golfer and includes 18 holes of scramble golf with a cart; Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Putting contests; a Mulligan; a sleeve of golf balls; breakfast at registration; 2 free beverages; and a full dinner! Dinner only tickets are \$30. For additional details and registration link, please visit our website at lutherannorthwest.com/events.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE UPDATE

As previously mentioned, Phase 2 construction work has been paused. In the meantime, you will see some remaining Phase 1 work continue over the next couple months while we sort through the best path forward for future Phase 2 expansion and timing. Please continue to pray for the Lord’s leading and guidance in this as we seek to be wise and responsible with the blessings of God. Project items currently being scheduled for completion: front plaza railings and signage, further cement curbing, and landscaping. In addition we have recently received great news on our entire school roof replacement as part of an insurance claim in follow-up to a wind storm that occurred earlier this year. That roofing project is well underway!

As we continue to receive ONE Legacy Initiative gifts, we praise God for the ongoing generosity of His people! Every dollar given is a dollar less needed to borrow from our lender. Thank you so much for your faithful and sacrificial (over-and-above your regular offering) giving to the ONE Legacy Initiative! The final stretch of the three year pledge period was set to conclude in November, however we have extended it to through to the end of December.

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 9/13/20 Amount pledged.....\$3,526,723.00
As of 9/13/20 Amount received.....\$2,562,594.95

FINANCIAL UPDATE: HOW ARE WE DOING?

These are difficult times and we know some of our families are struggling while others are holding steady. Through ongoing up and down weeks of offering levels, as a family we continue to have much to be grateful for! Thank you so much for your faithful giving!

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS

Offerings for week ending September 13.....\$42,285.25

As of 9/13/20 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings : \$ 440,000.00

As of 9/13/20 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 471,366.91

As of 9/13/20 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ 31,366.91

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

Budget to Actual (Week of September 13) = 88.1%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 107.1%

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!

PLEASE KEEP RESPONDING WITH YOUR GIFTS!

Your continued financial support and partnership is critically needed and appreciated now more than ever in the present new reality we all face together. The opportunities to share the eternal love of Jesus through ongoing ministry within our community are only increasing in these days. We know times are difficult for many, but if you are prayerfully able to step forward for those who can't, please do so.



There are 3 simple ways to continue giving to the Lord's ongoing work through the ministry of St. John Lutheran Church & School.

- Give through your bank.
- Give with your St. John offering envelope.
- Give electronically.

For details and further information on the various ways to give, visit our website at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/celebrate/giving-options/>.



CROSSROADS CARE CENTER, one of our St. John mission partners, invites you to be a Hero for Life. Have you discovered different ways to exercise this year because gyms are closed? Have you been wanting to get off the couch and get moving? Whatever you have been doing or wanting to do, you can make it matter...for LIFE! Celebrate life a

little differently this fall. From now through October 3, make your movement count to protect the unborn. To find out more, visit crossroadscarecenter.org and click on Hero for Life 2020.

Your participation is needed now more than ever. Due to the pandemic, Crossroads' Walk for Life at the Detroit Zoo was postponed, resulting in a \$50,000 shortfall. You can help stop the disruption/reduction of services offered to the mothers and babies in our community. Your movement, whatever it may be, will make a difference. You will save lives from everywhere and anywhere!

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 and plan on being a witness for Christ to our community and our mission partners. This year, in conjunction with our Bible study, PRAYER, the church will leave the building through prayer walks. Pray for good weather and perfect opportunities to serve and give witness to our Lord's goodness. If you are willing to lead a team in our local community, please contact Jennie Eller, Mission & Ministry Coordinator, at Jeller@stjohnrochester.org. Thank you for continuing to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

SERVE OPPORTUNITY- HAPPY FACES AND JOYFUL HEARTS NEEDED

Even behind a mask, you can share the love of Jesus and welcome guests safely. With the reopening of church and the excitement of going back to a full worship schedule, a wonderful need is evident. We are in need of additional greeters! Please prayerfully consider serving in this area on a rotation basis prior to the service you normally attend. Contact Jennie Eller at Jeller@stjohnrochester.org for details.

RELATIONAL WITNESS

CLICK TO SHARE THE ETERNAL LOVE OF JESUS! Did you know it's actually really easy to pass along sermon messages to family, friends, neighbors and coworkers? Simply visit our St. John website and visit the sermon message archive. From there, click to share video or audio of any message via email, Facebook, Messenger, etc.

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 fill out a Prayer Request Card and hand to an usher during worship. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along when requested to be included in the weekly prayer list that is sent out to our prayer warriors and included in weekend worship.



THIS WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Ella Grace Balent, daughter of Bill and Bailee / Ginny Schmidt's birthday

Hope & Guidance: Cindy Barnett & Hayse Bradley (daughter & grandson of Judy Bradley) – protection from wildfires & hurricanes / Nancy – calm & strength / Jacob Rose - direction

Healing & Peace: Tom Dameron (Tim's uncle) – heart attack / Roger Miller – recovering from procedure / John – cancer treatment / Julie – broken hand / Dave – recovering from back surgery / Ryan Jankovich – pain management / Debra Jankovich – broken toes / Morgan Jankovich – high risk pregnancy

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of:” Robert Miller

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Fred and Lois Duerk – 46th wedding anniversary / Baptism of Madelyn Mae Ohlsson, daughter of Michael and Erin

Hope & Guidance: Our new series on Prayer – blessings on readings – online groups – our leading as a people in a strengthened prayer life – impact of the Gospel / Upcoming One Class

Healing & Peace: Joan Lucas – recovery from knee replacement surgery / Steve Walter – upcoming neck surgery / Sharon Hardy – for favorable test results / Paul Briggs (brother of Michele Moss) – COVID / Lisa Johnston (daughter of Carol) – COVID / Chris Kerstein (friend of Hagers) – heart ablation / Chris Madigan (sister of Sue Gorentz) – cancer surgery / Frank Kunz – leg stent procedure

Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Richard Hoehner (brother-in-law of Sharon)

Community – Nation – World: Those impacted by wildfires / Continued resources for COVID pandemic

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Birth of Jace Michael Mann to Laura (Heinrich) and Jason Mann (proud grandparents Mark and Donna) / Pastor Jon’s birthday this week

Hope & Guidance: Start of Preschool this week

Healing & Peace: Wanda Haught (cousin of Karen Hager) – cancer / Virginia Vance (friend of Karen Hager) – physical limitations / Rev. Glenn Sattelmeier – eye healing / Megan Hover – breast cancer / Scott LaBeau (brother of Suzette Wellhousen) - recovering from a fall and broken pelvis surgery / Rick Bellinger - stage 4 cancer / Rob Griffith – surgery / Rick Benedict (friend of Karen Hager) – thanksgiving for successful heart surgery / Karl Petersen (nephew of Pat Gonser) - healing from heart attack / Jo Romano (friend of Pat Gonser) - diagnosis and total healing / Wes Griffith – upcoming surgery / Diane Kleino – heart issues / Katie Reppenhagen – recovery from recent surgeries / Terri Turner – recovering from knee replacement / Jim Campbell – in need of surgery / Fred Duerk – upcoming knee surgery

Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Tom (brother of Ruth Kulikowski) / Greg Welty (son-in-law of Doug and Gloria Heussner)



Weekend 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