

October 24-25, 2020

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: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

GOSPLE READING: Matthew 11:12-19

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

"To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: "We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of October 25, 2020

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



REFORMATION – This weekend we will be looking closely at Matthew 11, examining our expectations of what being a follower of Jesus looks like and what happens in reality. Our faith journeys have not always gone the way we wanted. Perhaps at our confirmation we may have stood before God and expected our faith walk to go just how we planned, but it doesn't. Our faith journey has many different and difficult roads. God's plan for our salvation likely doesn't go like we plan, but we can be assured He is always with us.

CONFIRMATION THIS AFTERNOON – We praise God for the 28 young people who will confirm their faith given to them in their baptism, at a 1:00 PM special worship celebration today (Sunday). Their confession of faith follows two years of instruction in the Scripture. Special thanks to parents, godparents and family members who were responsible for encouraging, mentoring and praying for our students to this point in their faith. God's richest blessings to all of them as they commit their way to Him and continue to share their witness in Jesus through His eternal love!

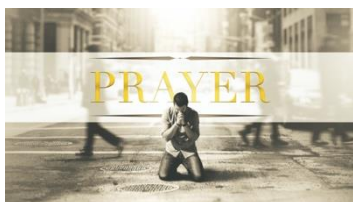
Drew Brown
Nathaniel Cummins
Benjamin Drummelsmith
Savannah Drummelsmith
Steven Fett
Julia Gerdes
Thomas Goleski
Anna Goodall
Addison Grabaum
Maxwell Hamilton
Jack Hehl
Tommy Johnson
Parker Jones
Connor Lee

Emily Meyers
McKenna Pehlke
Mia Plewa
Christian Poesch
Isabella Poesch
Brandon Raikes
Abigail Rice
Seamus Rinnan
Elena Schaaf
Tripp Scharrer
Will Sheldon
Keira VanWagoner
Ava Wernis
Kendall Zaliwski



HOLY BAPTISM – This weekend at the 9:30 AM service we celebrate the baptism of Madelyn Grace Carlton, daughter of Steve and Jennifer. This past Thursday, October 22, we celebrated the baptism of Cameron Marcus Hill, son of Gene and Brittany. May God richly bless Madelyn and Cameron and their families.

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1 – God’s Word is clear that anyone who is a child of God through faith in Jesus is in fact by definition “a saint” through the righteousness of Jesus. What an amazing thought! As saints we have the promise of eternal life in Christ even in the face of death. Next weekend, October 31-November 1, at all worship celebrations, we will remember saints who are dear to us and who have over the last year gone to be with Jesus, entering the church triumphant in heaven. As part of our worship time next weekend, those names will be read and a candle will be lit in their memory as we share prayers of thanks to the Lord for eternal life in Christ. If you have lost a loved one recently, next weekend will be a very special time to find hope and healing.



PRAYER WORSHIP & STUDY SERIES FOLLOW-UP

We truly pray the PRAYER series was helpful in deepening your relationship with the Lord. Resources from the series including weekend messages, midweek devotion videos, and study guides will continue to be available on our website at stjohnrochester.org/prayer-series

OUR FULL WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues with many options, both onsite and online. We invite you to find the option that works best for your family in these days, and join in worshipping and growing closer to your Savior Jesus.

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.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS CONTINUES at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall on the lower level. Class is limited to 32 people, wearing masks and at tables with social distancing. The class is resuming The Truth Project study, which was the topic pre-COVID. All are welcome!

FALL BACK – Daylight Savings Time ends next Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 AM. Don't forget to set your clock back one hour!



GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY - We are now preparing our 2021 Guide Book & Directory for St. John Church. The booklet provides contact information for members of our church family – names, address, phone and email. It is mailed to each family at no cost and is subsidized by local businesses that advertise in it. You can help in two ways:

Please make sure we have your current personal contact information. You may refer to your 2020 Directory and submit any changes in your personal information to **Lynette Novack** at lnovack@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8020 by November 9.

If you own or manage a business and would like to find out how you might advertise in our book (due to be published in early 2021), please contact **Bev Koch** at 248-402-8056 or bkoch@stjohnrochester.org. With your consent, Bev will then submit your contact information to our Guidebook rep, and a sales rep will contact you (likely in mid-to-late November) with specific information on advertising costs, placement in the book, etc. Thank you for your help!



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.

GRIEF SHARE – 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 meeting 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

Congratulations to the St. John Cross Country Team on an impressive turnout at the Michigan District State Cross Country Meet held this past Sunday, October 18 at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. 5th grader Ava placed 2nd in the 4th – 6th grade girls division, the St. John boys' team earned 3rd place out of 13 teams, and the boys would have qualified to compete at Nationals had they been held. To God be the Glory!



8th graders are great helpers! Students earn “Grotbucks” in economics class with Mr. Grothaus by working various jobs in class and throughout the school. They can use this currency to “purchase” items such as a preferred seat in class.



St. John is currently enrolling for Preschool 3's, 4's and Young 5's, based on session availability. For more information visit stjohnrochester.org/school or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions, bdameron@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8012.

LIGHTHOUSE, our Middle School Youth Ministry, will begin meeting in the gym for fellowship, fun, and time in the Word, next Sunday, November 1, 6:00-8:00 PM. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

November will be a "working" time together. We will be meeting at St. John with a time of prayer and devo. We will then be putting together and working on decorations for Christmas Eve! Mr. Trevor will be teaching us how to wire stars and we will be painting window panes. There will be something to do for everyone. Watch for details coming soon.

On Sunday, December 13, 6:00-8:00 PM, we will be hosting a **Winter Snow Globe Dance** outside on the south church end of our campus. This will be a formal attire or a Christmas clothes wearing party. The cost of entry will be a pack of socks that we will donate to the Hope Warming Center. We will have a DJ, a giant snow globe for photos, and hot chocolate. We will need some parents to make homemade Christmas cookies to go with our hot chocolate. If you have an outdoor heater and wouldn't mind letting us borrow it for the evening, that would be amazing. Parent volunteers are also needed to stay and help with the dance. Please email or text Mrs. Hammett if you can help with anything. Thank you!

Parents, Mrs. Hammett is looking for a donation of the “9 Square in the Air” game/set up for the Youth program. If you are interested in donating, please email or text her.

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

TRUNK OR TREAT - DRIVE THRU! Thank you to those who were able to help host trunks and participate by bringing their children to our Drive Thru Trunk or Treat last Sunday. We had about 82 cars come along with about 175 kids. It was a great day to share the joy we have in Jesus through this fun event for families.



NEWS FROM LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST - Thinking ahead to high school for your son or daughter and interested in learning more about **Lutheran Northwest**? Sign up for our Admissions Email Newsletter at www.LutheranNorthwest.com/admissions-newsletter and you'll get the latest information on school events (such as our upcoming Virtual Crusader Day), future Open House and shadow day opportunities, and updates on the application process for Fall 2021. Each month we'll be drawing an email and rewarding a lucky subscriber with free Crusader spirit wear! Of course, if you have specific questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our Admissions Director, Mrs. Mary Gutenkunst, at 248-852-6677 or mgutenkunst@lhsa.com. We'd love to hear from you!

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Have you noticed? Things are really happening! Over the past few weeks a lot has been occurring on campus as Phase I work is continuing! Beyond the completed school roof and gutter replacement, campus landscaping and irrigation system installation is in full motion. The landscaping work has included the building of the south lot line retaining wall and planting of trees, the addition of parking lot island river rock, as well as final grading and sod installation occurring through the weekend. Apologies as this work required closing off a portion of our parking lot this weekend. **Starting this coming week crews will be onsite for follow-up concrete curb and sidewalk work. As a result, specific traffic flow and parking this week will be day to day. For starters, the north Atrium entrance will be closed through Wednesday this week.**

Final north side landscaping and final parking lot paving will be done next year when conditions are optimal. Phase 2 construction plans continue to be on hold; however, please continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all of this as we seek to be wise and responsible with the blessings of God.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Many thanks for the recent surge in 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 this 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. Now is the time! Please prayerfully consider fulfilling the remainder your pledge or making a gift in the coming weeks.

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS

Offerings for week ending October 18.....\$29,978.00

As of 10/18/20 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$	684,500.00
As of 10/18/20 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	\$	<u>672,707.51</u>
As of 10/18/20 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$	(11,792.49)

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

Budget to Actual (Week of October 18) = 60.6%
Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 98.3%

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 10/18/20 Amount pledged.....\$3,526,723.00
As of 10/18/20 Amount received.....\$2,671,827.95

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/>.

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRO-LIFE MINISTRY – Crossroads Care Center in Auburn Hills, one of our St. John mission partners, is looking for pregnant women to assist in the final training phase of their new ultrasonographers. Women who are interested in volunteering and are 6 - 20 weeks along in their pregnancy should call Tracey or Kirstie at (248)293-0070, ext 113 for more information or to schedule a time to help meet this need. Thank you in advance for considering this special request.

RELATIONAL WITNESS

HOPE (House Of Prayer Everywhere)

If you missed hearing Pastor Marc's concluding PRAYER series message last weekend, please be sure to watch it this week on our website at stjohnrochester.org/prayer-series. May the Lord continue to raise each of us up to establish HOPE (House Of Prayer Everywhere) in our community to share the eternal love of Jesus. Please be sure to share stories of impact in the coming days, of answered prayer for your neighbors and friends in coming to know the Lord!

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 click on one of the prayer request links on our Online Worship Resources webpage. 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 Madelyn Grace Carlton - daughter of Steve & Jennifer / Baptism of Cameron Marcus Hill - son of Gene & Brittany

Hope & Guidance: For those being confirmed in the faith of their Baptism this weekend

Healing & Peace: Vernetta Wendler – hospice / Karen Snodgrass – sinus surgery / Paul Kienman – knee replacement surgery

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of:” Roger Deierlein

Community – Nation – World: Those suffering with COVID – especially St. John staff

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Birth of Artemis Lucia Osinski (granddaughter of Mark & Margaret Hall)

Hope & Guidance: Return of K-8 students onsite / Conclusion of our Prayer Series

Healing & Peace: Kathy (sister of Beth Johnson) – knee replacement / Bev Lange (aunt of Beth Johnson) – painful recovery from broken pelvis & tailbone from a fall / David Lick (brother of Myron) - recovering from heart surgery / Melissa Hammett – knee surgery / Melanie Schaaf – hospitalized / Tom Schwartz - surgery

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of:” Lois Reed / Jerry Schilke (brother of Arnold Schilke) / Sister of Joe McGivern / Daughter of Londa Youngblood (sister of Donna Brown)

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Birth of Colson Jankovich to Morgan & Ryan Jankovich after high-risk pregnancy (great grandson to Marie Schwartz) / Baptisms of Chloe Jo Borra - daughter of Chelsea & Jeff Borra / Alexandra Isabel Koerber - daughter of Sean & Kristina Koerber

Hope & Guidance: Return of Preschool students onsite / Those enrolled in our One Class

Healing & Peace: Rob Griffith – recovering from surgery / Heidi Batt – heart procedure / Ethel (grandmother of Scott Mattox) – hospitalized / Joel Neumeyer – hospitalized / Joann Juhl – recovery from a fall

Bereavement: – “for the family & friends of:” Patrick Mullin (husband of Shirley)

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Adult Bible Study (Truth Project) – Concordia Hall
10:45 AM	Modern Praise Worship – Gymnasium
11:00 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
1:00 PM	Confirmation Service – Church Sanctuary

Monday

5:30 PM	MOPS – Luther Hall
7:00 PM	The ONE Class – Online

Tuesday

Wednesday

8:45 AM	School Chapel – Live Streamed on Facebook Live
1:00 PM	Book of James, Leader Study – Church Library

Thursday

Friday

8:00 AM	Half Day of School LCEF Savings Stamp Sales – Atrium
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Saturday

5:00 PM	Modern Praise Worship – Gymnasium
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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)

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