



January 16-17, 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 17, 2021

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



REBOOT WORSHIP SERIES CONTINUES

In follow-up to a very long and challenging year (and very rough beginning to this new one), we all could use a restart. A new beginning. A systematic reboot. As we begin a new year, join us onsite or online in worship at St. John as we continue with a new message and worship series we've entitled REBOOT. Come find what you are really hoping for in the New Year ahead from a renewed and deepened relationship with the Lord who brings a whole new way of being, of thinking, of living.

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.

WEEKEND WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Modern Praise (gymnasium)

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

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

Traditional Praise (sanctuary)

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

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

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 before attending worship onsite, as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND! At all worship services we will be welcoming forward families that experienced the blessing of God's calling to faith through baptism at St. John over the past year! Candles will be lit, and a special time of prayer and thanksgiving will be given over this amazing affirmation of calling in Jesus' love for us!

We are thankful for all those baptized in 2020: Devereux Malinowski, Camilla Grube, Madison Hutton, Raymond Brown, Daniel Brown, Rosemary Heeg, Olivia Serrels, Andrew Adams, Madelyn Adams, Ella Boyd, Olivia Boyd, Nico Tierno, Nino Tierno, Landon Krafft, Robert Krafft, Lyla Miehke, Landry Wagner, Lawson Wagner, Clayton Heinrich, Collins Garwood, Madelyn Ohlsson, Ella Balent, Wesley Kidder, Brinley Klida, Elise Beauregard, Chloe Borra, Alexandra Koerber, Cameron Hill, Madelyn Carlton, Keegan Bauer, Amelia Kidder, Karina Novack, and Weston Kiehl.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

ALL ONSITE BIBLE CLASSES have been temporarily suspended, along with anything not related to K-12 education and support during the extended state-wide pandemic pause order. Please keep checking the Connection and announcements for updates on campus in-person activity in the coming days. In the meantime, let's keep praying for the all-clear to begin meeting again!



ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? IF SO, JOIN US STARTING JANUARY 25! 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!

This winter session will be held via Zoom. The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30PM. Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. Look for the email sent this week announcing the start of the class and a link to register or register through our website. For more information, contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. We hope you can join us!

SHARED LIFE

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ABOUT ISRAEL TRIP JANUARY 2022 - Steve Wilson, our Director of Child and Family Ministry, is planning a trip to the Holy Land in January 2022. If you have ever wanted to walk in the footsteps of God's chosen people and most importantly in the places our Savior walked, consider this opportunity. This trip will be geared toward individuals and families (age 12 and up) who are in good health, as we will do a lot of walking. If you are interested in hearing about the trip and possibly joining us on an amazing pilgrimage, please come join us for a Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 24 at 9:30

AM. Email Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org to receive the Zoom link. A video of the meeting will be produced for those who cannot be present.

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. GriefShare is a Bible based support group offering videos, workbooks and discussion. While this ministry is not currently meeting on the St. John campus, there are many resources available 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. 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.



ARE YOU STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY AND NEED SOME HELP? Maybe you are out of work and behind on some bills, or are your available resources for necessities like groceries currently a struggle? Maybe you are in need of professional counseling to save your marriage but have no insurance to assist in covering the unaffordable cost. If so, our St. John family may be able to help you through our Love For Others family assistance fund. All requests are confidential. For more information, simply reach out to either of our pastors.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

SEEKING CLASSROOM TEACHING CANDIDATE: St. John is beginning the call process for a middle school English/Language Arts and Librarian teacher. 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. The St. John congregation is invited to submit recommendations for candidates, to be considered along with recommendations from the LCMS-Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Recommendation forms and a sample job description are available at the St. John Main Office. All recommendations must be received by January 25, 2021.

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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Enrollment for 2021-2022 begins soon!

You are invited to attend our upcoming enrollment events to see how St. John Lutheran School is the right choice for your child!

Preschool & Young 5's Preview: Tuesday, January 19, 6:30-7:30 PM: Meet our Preschool and Young 5's teachers, get an overview of the program and learn all about getting your child started on the right education path! Please sign up on our website at stjohnrochester.org/school.

School Open House: Sunday, January 24, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Meet the teachers, visit the classrooms and learn all about our Preschool to 8th grade through guided individual family tours. Please register on our website at stjohnrochester.org/school.

Kindergarten Preview: If you missed the online Kindergarten presentation this past Tuesday, you can still view it on our website at stjohnrochester.org/school.

Current student re-enrollment is January 19-24, St. John congregation enrollment is January 25-29, and Open Enrollment starts February 1. For more information or to schedule a personal campus tour, visit stjohnrochester.org/school or call 248-402-8012.

Staff Announcement: Mrs. Pat Klein, our Media Specialist and Middle School Language Arts teacher, has announced her retirement for the end of the 2020-2021 school year. We give thanks to God for her years of faithful service and dedication to St. John. Information will be shared later in the school year regarding recognition of her retirement.

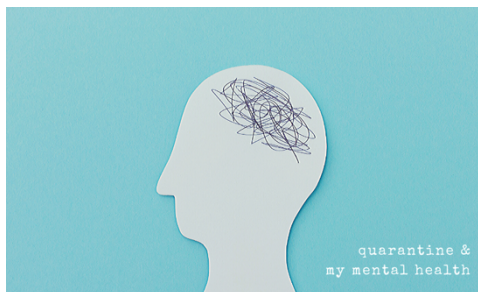


LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

Lighthouse is a place where Middle School students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Middle school youth is not currently being held. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director,

swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS - The sacrament of communion is an important part of a Christian's walk with Jesus. First Communion class is offered for those families interested in having their child (6th grade and older) take communion. Parents will need to attend class sessions with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. For more information, please contact Director of Child and Family Ministry Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006. Please sign up for the class at www.stjohnrochester.org/discover/middle-school. Classes are scheduled for March 7, 14, 21, 28.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – Sunday, Jan. 17 - We are hosting a Mental Health Workshop for the FAMILY via Zoom. This is in partnership with Christie Hansard, our mental health resource manager with the LCMS. We will talk openly about some ways to help support your family during this global pandemic along with praying together. The workshop will run from 6:00-7:00 PM. If interested in participating, please contact Mrs. Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org for the Zoom link.

We are looking to go sledding on a Sunday afternoon when we get snow along with a tailgate of chili and hot chocolate. Stay tuned!! 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.

LUTHERAN NORTHWEST NEWS – Looking for an outstanding Christian high school option for your son or daughter or know someone who is? **LUTHERAN NORTHWEST in Rochester Hills is now accepting applications for new students for Fall 2021!** Learn more about the school and apply online at www.lutherannorthwest.com. Our application fee will increase by \$50 on February 1 so now is an ideal time to complete this step and join our Crusader family. Questions? Call our Admissions Office at 248-852-6677. We'd love to hear from you!

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



HAT, SCARF, MITTEN AND GLOVE COLLECTION CONCLUDED last Sunday. It was a true blessing for our Mission Partners - Hope Warming Center, Family of God and Rochester Area Neighborhood House. Donations totaled 368 hats, scarves, and gloves as well as 50 pairs of socks. St. John also helped to meet the immediate additional need of paper products, coffee, sugar and creamer for Hope Warming Center.

Our Savior has instructed us to "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 NIV. We are thankful for the promises of the Lord and the obedient hearts that have honored our Mission Partners. Thank you for your overwhelming response to help those in need.

IMPORTANT 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

This is a very unusual time, and our budgetary planning did not account for another stay-at-home directive to come into effect at year’s end. As a result of this, and the need for required reduced capacity for onsite worship over Christmas, our offerings are significantly down from what was budgeted. While church and school ministry continues, please prayerfully consider how you might be led to respond as we seek to catch up in the coming weeks.

Offerings for week ending January 10..... \$56,110.00

As of 1/10/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 1,371,400.00
As of 1/10/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	<u>\$ 1,311,762.26</u>
As of 1/10/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$ (59,637.74)

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

Budget to Actual (Week of January 10) = 134.6%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 95.7%

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

The final stretch of the three-year pledge period of our capital improvement initiative was set to conclude at the end of November; however, we have extended it through to this coming February 21—in alignment with the culmination of our 100th anniversary year. All to say, now is the time! The need is still very real! Please continue to pray for the Lord’s leading in all of this as we seek to be wise and responsible with the financial blessings of God and respond boldly as ONE, in an ongoing legacy of faith to finish our current capital initiative strong as we build spiritual foundations for the future.

As of 1/10/20 Amount pledged.....	\$ 3,526,723
As of 1/10/20 Amount received.....	\$ 2,880,790

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



SERVICE PROJECT: 5th Grade Blankets of Hope – For many years, Ms. Sara Jung and her 5th grade students have done a service project in lieu of a Christmas gift exchange. This year they took donations of tie blanket kits, as well as of funds to purchase more kits. The class received so many donations that they had to do not one but three days of blanket tying, for a total of 61 blankets! These blankets will be prayed over and taken to the Hope Warming Center in Pontiac. What a blessing to be a blessing to others, as we are One in Jesus... Reaching Many!

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 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:

Healing & Peace: Melvin Balzer (father of Pat Hofmeister) – hospice / Karen Habte (daughter of Pat & Dave Hofmeister) / Tony and Dwayne Barton / Debbie Bertetti (sister of Toni Kampsen) – cancer treatment / Marilyn Petersen (mother of Pat Gonser) – broken hip from fall & subsequent surgery / Matthew (nephew of Donna Ritter) – thanksgiving for successful surgery and good long term prognosis / Cheryl Grover (daughter of Reva Grover and sister of Lori Carver) – hospice / Jerry Bantin - hospitalized
Community – Nation – World: Wisdom & guidance for all newly elected leaders

LAST WEEK:

Guidance and Strength: Mason Vires (grandson of Ron & Ruth Finch) – new job in Paola, Malta as a basketball player / Ginny Schmidt – strength & hope resulting from the long isolation of this pandemic

Healing & Peace: Tony Chila – thanksgiving for successful surgery / Taylor Culver – COVID / Grayson Both – COVID / Connie Ulrich – rehab / Bob Danielson – recovering from accident / Debra & Ryan Jankovich / Nancy Salmela (relative of Standfest's) – recovering from injuries sustained in a carjacking / Katie (friend of Jennifer DuBois) - thyroid cancer / Father of Jennifer DuBois – emergency treatment / Alison Peck – thanksgiving for successful surgery / Mariana Barron / Mike Handley (friend of Beth Johnson) - COVID

Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Bill Woodhull / Herb von Rusten / Richard Utley / Julian Guevara (brother of Cathy Beck)

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Our Lord's continued blessings in this New Year! / Helen Lind's 96th birthday

Guidance and Strength: Thomas Norton (Brother of Will Norton) and their three young children (Joshua, Caleb and Ellie) – loss of their wife/mother Aichan

Healing & Peace: Sue Gorentz – upcoming surgery / Colin Jones – hospitalized during the holidays / Vernetta Wendler – hospice / Opal Rafdal (mother of Mark) – COVID

Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Aichan Norton (sister-in-law to Will) / Earl Kraft / Calvin Bentley

Community – Nation – World: Continued safety and health for all receiving vaccines for COVID and those still waiting

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday – Closed

Tuesday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM

Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary

9:30 AM

Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary

10:45 AM

Modern Praise Worship – Gymnasium

11:00 AM

Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary

Monday

No School

7:00 PM

St. John Foundation Meeting

7:00 PM

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday

6:30 PM

Preschool Preview Night

Wednesday

8:45 AM

School Chapel – Facebook Live

Saturday

5:00 PM

Modern Praise Worship - Gymnasium



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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