



*The*  
**CHURCH**  
*has left the*  
**BUILDING**  
WORSHIP SERIES & SERVE EVENT

September 22-23, 2018



# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

**ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!**

**Week of September 23, 2018**

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION



In the first two weeks of our worship series, we have been reminded through God's Word that the Church is not and never has been the building...or the steeple...or the doors. The reason is simple: Jesus didn't come to suffer, die and rise again for drywall, carpet and stained glass...He came for people like you and me as well as for people beyond the walls. (If you missed previous messages in the series, be sure to visit our website sermon message archive.)

**This is why...**we're thinking it's time to get back to the basics (especially as we prepare to renovate and expand our campus facilities) and picture Church as so much more than an hour or two every weekend. What if we all started to see Church as a 24/7 thing with words and actions in response to time spent in Jesus' presence through worship? What if the Church left the building? Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 6 and The Church Has Left The Building Serve Event!** Immediately following the ONE Legacy Initiative campus Groundbreaking that morning at 9:00 AM, we will go out together into our community to be the Church by serving with the love of Jesus! We are working with our area mission partners and have secured over fifteen different project sites in Rochester, Pontiac and Detroit. There truly is something for everyone! Read the article in the Compassionate Service section to learn more and get signed up today!

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE UPDATE** “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”—Hebrews 10:24-25

Attendance for the weekend of September 15-16..... 913

## BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23,** there is no Sunday School or Bible Class as we participate in outreach opportunities on Brookside Way weekend.

**GET INTO THE WORD** – Our “everything you needed to know about Bible studies on and off our campus” brochure is now available! The fall schedule is just getting started. We have studies for all age groups, studies for specific groups, studies for beginners, and advanced studies for those that like word by word examination. Some of the



All articles submitted to *The Weekly Connection* will be subject to approval and editing by the staff. Articles may be sent via email to [connection@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:connection@stjohnrochester.org) and must be received no later than Wednesday at noon the week of publication.

titles being offered in this session are: *Let's Study Together* – a class that employs different resources to study a variety of Biblical topics / *Visual Faith* – a journaling based course that lets you see as well as hear the Word / *Deep Dive* – an early morning men's study that digs deep into the text / *Experiencing God* and *Psalms 23: The Shepherd with Me* - video based women's studies that bring you together with others to discuss everyday life lessons. In addition, there are Confirmation, Sunday School, Middle School and High School Youth studies, College Age study, International study, and of course many more! Look for information on our St. John website. Hard copy brochures are also available outside Luther Hall and in the Atrium!



**STILL TIME TO JOIN IN!** 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 worshiping 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 a nine 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! (Plus, you'll get a chance to meet other amazing people like you who also want to grow in relationship with Jesus!) The class meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall (near the church sanctuary). Class just started on September 17, but you're still welcome to get started at the next session. Childcare is provided in the nursery. 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](mailto:church@stjohnrochester.org). We hope to see you there!

## SHARED LIFE



**GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND INVITE A NEW FRIEND.** Following all our Sunday morning services, coffee and refreshments are served in Luther Hall. What a wonderful opportunity it is to get to know someone in worship with us. What a great way to be the church by encouraging each other in Jesus' name!

**GRIEFSHARE** is a caring ministry that provides support to those who are grieving. Our fall session will begin on Saturday, October 13 and continue through January 12. We will meet in the Church Library on Saturday mornings, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. For more information about our GriefShare ministry, please visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or contact one of our leaders - Linda Baroli 248-895-0310; Joanne Curran 248-877-7309; Marlene Leinberger 586-365-8870.



## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE – AN INVITATION TO THE CONGREGATION**

Please join us for a special presentation by Deaconess Linda Nobili this Monday, September 24 at 7:00 PM in Concordia Hall on the lower level. We are all in a spiritual battle that threatens our lives as Christians. Deaconess Linda will provide valuable insight on how to prepare ourselves to fight the good fight and stay focused on the will of God in our lives. Join us for the discussion and see how Scripture helps us in the battle. Sponsored by the St. John Stephen Ministers. For more information, please contact our Stephen

Leaders, Lori Horton and Tom Rowe at [sjstephenministry@gmail.com](mailto:sjstephenministry@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at this very relevant presentation.

**OWLS DUTTON FARM TOUR** - You are invited to join the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans In Service) sponsored tour to Dutton Farm on Friday, October 12, 1:00-2:00 PM. Dutton Farm is a day vocation and learning center that serves individuals with mental, physical, and emotional impairments. One of its programs is a working farm staffed by “special needs” farmers who grow produce, care for animals, and manufacture all natural products. A gift shop is on the premises where seasonal produce and locally produced products are available for sale. Dutton Farm is located at 2270 Dutton Road (just east of Brewster Road) in Rochester Hills. Please have lunch prior to attending as lunch will not be provided for this event. If you are interested in attending or have questions, contact Roger Guetzkow (248-377-9048 or e-mail [rjguetzkow@comcast.net](mailto:rjguetzkow@comcast.net)). We can also assist with transportation if necessary. RSVP deadline is Wednesday, October 10.



## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – There is no Sunday School today, September 23. We will resume classes next Sunday, September 30. Thank you for your continued patience as we register and check in the students. Please note that Preschool through Kindergarten will check in, and then proceed to their designated classrooms. 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will check in and then proceed to the Media Center for large group. At pick up, all students will be picked up in their classrooms, and then come down to the check in/check out station with their parent. We need to verify the code on the child’s name tag and parent’s tag and check them out in our system. Please make sure to check out your child. We look forward to seeing you next Sunday morning!

**Our Preschool 3 year old class is still in need of 1 or 2 teachers.** If you have a heart for Jesus and for little ones and would like to join our team, please contact Dawne Gazal at [dmherzog@msn.com](mailto:dmherzog@msn.com) or Steve Wilson at [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org) for more information.

### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

**Thank you to** all the families who donated towards, attended and helped with our recent Back to School BBQ. Thanks be to God for the great weather, wonderful food and fun fellowship in celebration of the first full week of school!

**For enrollment information Preschool 3’s to 8<sup>th</sup> grade** for the 2018-2019 school year, contact Beth Dameron, Director of School Admissions at 248-402-8012 or [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org).



### LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

happens on most Sundays 6:00-8:00 PM for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and friends. Look online or check out our Facebook page for dates and times. For questions about Middle School ministry, contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or

[swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org).



**TRUNK OR TREAT: SAVE THE DATE!** - Trunk or Treat this year will be Sunday, October 21, 3:00-5:00 PM. This is a free event open to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors! Volunteers are needed to help with games and refreshments to make the event a success! Donations of bags of individually wrapped assorted candy and gallons of cider are needed as well. 'Trunks' (cars, trucks, SUV's)

decorated in a family-friendly theme are also needed. Last year more than 600 people attended the event and a large turnout is expected again this year! For more information, or to sign up to help, please contact Steve Wilson at 248-402-8006 or [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org) or Beth Dameron at 248-402-8012 or [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org).

### **ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL DINNER AUCTION NOVEMBER 9**

St. John Lutheran Church & School will host the 2018 School Dinner & Auction, "**Let the Little Children Come to Me**", based on Luke 18:16 on November 9 at Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township. Gather your friends for an evening of fellowship, great food and fun. Proceeds will go toward St. John Lutheran School for program upgrades. The evening includes a reception and dinner, along with silent and live auction items, including class projects from each grade level, exclusive travel packages, sports packages, and much more! New this year – dueling pianos to add to the evening's entertainment.

**Tickets are currently available for purchase at the Main Office and through our St. John website.** Ticket prices: Now through September 30: \$80; Starting October 1: \$85. Teacher tickets may be donated for \$75 each.

**Silent and live auction donations** are now being accepted. Ticket packages, sports memorabilia, or items to group into a larger package, are all welcome! Please submit items along with a completed donation item. Forms are available at the Main Office or on the St. John website.

**Volunteers are needed** to help make the event a success! To find out more about the volunteer opportunities available to help prepare for the event and to help on-site, contact the Auction Committee via email at [auction@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:auction@stjohnrochester.org).



**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** - What a weekend we had while serving as the main gate greeters for the Art & Apples Festival last weekend! What a privilege it was to greet and welcome over 20,000 people just at our gate! We were blessed with \$1,832.00 from the donations over the weekend. This money will help fund our trip to Knoxville, TN for Workcamp 2019. Many thanks to the 42 amazing volunteers it took to

make this happen.

**TONIGHT, Sept. 23**, we will meet in the Youth Room for a devotion and game night from 6:00-8:00 PM. We would love to see you all there! Bring a friend and come join us! For more information, please contact Director of High School Youth Ministry Melissa Hammett at 248-818-0861 or [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).



**LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST INVITES EVERYONE** to join in Homecoming events and festivities this Friday, September 28. There will be a Punt, Kick & Pass competition for gr. K-8 students at 5:00 PM on the baseball diamond. All participants will receive a free Crusader t-shirt and a ticket to the football game, which begins at 7:00 PM. Be sure to visit the Future Crusader tent, where you will find gifts and activities. Stick around for a post-game reception with desserts and refreshments. Come and enjoy a great family evening at Lutheran High Northwest, and cheer on the Crusader football team!



**LUTHERAN  
NORTHWEST**

**ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!** We have an amazing, FREE event on Sunday, October 14 at 6:00 PM that you won't want to miss. It's called FUSION and it's happening right here in Rochester Hills at Lutheran High Northwest! The FUSION event uses music and fun activities to bring together teens from all over southeast Michigan. The event will feature live music from The School of Rock and the concert choir from Lutheran High Northwest. Pastor Ryan Peterson will be our guest speaker. FREE FOOD will be provided by 2941 Mediterranean Street Food, Buffalo Wild Wings, and more! Mark your calendar! Bring your friends and have an awesome time! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at 248-818-0861 or [mhammett@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:mhammett@stjohnrochester.org).



## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



### IMPORTANT ONE LEGACY UPDATE AND CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING EVENT!

Set your calendar and save the date for **Saturday, October 6 at 9:00 AM!** That morning we will gather together as a St. John church and school family to give thanks for all the Lord's faithfulness throughout the years, and break ground on all that is ahead! Immediately after this special service of prayer and celebration, we will go out together as God's people to serve our community as His Church! See the related article in the Compassionate Service section.

At the same time, praise the Lord that contributions in follow-up to \$3.5 million in pledges continue to be strong! In fact, as anticipated this past week, **we have officially surpassed the \$1 million milestone in gifts received!** Thank you, St. John family, for your ongoing generosity!

The project itself is very extensive and while we are making great progress, developments in the last couple weeks have unfortunately led to an anticipated slower construction timeline than we had initially hoped for and communicated this summer. While this is disappointing, we've been reminded that delays are not unusual for a project of this scope, and our leadership is committed to proceeding in the best way possible as we carefully steward the blessings the Lord has provided. Watch for a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) email update and Congregation Forum date coming soon. May the Lord continue to

bless these efforts for the future! Please keep for the Lord's guidance and provision for all that is ahead. These are truly exciting times!

### **EXCITING ONE LEGACY MISSION TITHE UPDATE!**

While we wait with anticipation for all that is ahead with new construction and renovation work on our campus in the coming year, the mission tithe (10%) portion of our ONE Legacy Initiative is on the verge of making a huge global impact!

As shared with our congregation this past spring, one of the chosen grant recipients of this tithe is St. Peter Church and School in Middelburg, South Africa. It was just over a year ago that our Michigan District President, David Maier contacted us to ask if our church and school family could prayerfully consider hosting Pastor Mandla Khumalo as a guest preacher on Reformation weekend.

If you were there, you know the powerful impact he had on us that day... and a new partnership was formed!

This fall our St. John family was privileged to assist in funding \$20,000 (half the total installation cost) of a solar energy project on the St. Peter campus that will assist in alleviating 80% of costs and freeing up more financial resources for educating over 850 students - many of whom live below the poverty level. This grant partnership is in addition to other capital improvements being made in Middelburg by *Here We Stand* funding through our Michigan District. **Last weekend in worship, we were pleased to welcome representatives from St. Peter Lutheran Church and School/Christian Outreach For Africa (COFA) including Pastor Khumalo's son Muzi, who came to receive this grant!**



In tandem with this effort, as was also announced this spring, Pastor Marc has been working with a district initiated task group that has been finalizing details to bring Mandla Khumalo to Michigan beginning as early as November for a period of two years as a missionary-at-large. His focus will be cross-cultural evangelism, as well as helping our church body develop a clear vision for racial reconciliation in Jesus.

In mid-October, representatives from our district will be traveling to South Africa to celebrate Pastor Khumalo's ministry and mission partnership with our district. Pastor Marc was recently invited to take part in this mission relationship building trip. After several days of prayer and consultation with our Vestry, he along with our Vestry Chair, Dave Halverson have decided to go and represent our St. John family. Trip costs will be offset by a separate designated International Missions Fund, not the ONE Legacy tithe. **Please** keep all of this in prayer as we praise the Lord for this incredible opportunity to make a difference in Jesus' name.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God!” - 2 Corinthians 9:11. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity that allows us to make an eternal impact in Jesus’ name!

**GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY** Offerings for September 15-16.....\$30,893.48

Special Contributions for September 15-16.....\$100.00

As of 9/16/18 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 458,947.47

As of 9/16/18 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 464,552.01

As of 9/16/18 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ 5,604.54

As of 9/16/18 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$4,526

(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/18 through 6/30/19.)

**ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE**

As of 9/18/18 Amount pledged..... \$3,455,994.79

As of 9/18/18 Amount received.....\$1,015,227.62

**COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**



**Imagine the impact...**of hundreds of people of all ages and abilities going out to serve those in need with compassion in Jesus' name! Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, October 6** and The Church Has Left The Building Serve Event! The ONE Legacy Initiative campus Groundbreaking ceremony begins at 9:00 AM that morning and will conclude with a Serve Event prayer send-off. At that time, participants will receive a box lunch and t-shirt, and

immediately go out together into our community to serve with the love of Jesus! Working with our area mission partners, we have secured over fifteen different sites in Rochester, Pontiac and Detroit. There truly is something for everyone and for all ability levels! Most serve projects will last 2-4 hours of time and conclude no later than 3:00 PM. **To sign up to serve, visit [www.stjohnrochester.org](http://www.stjohnrochester.org) and click on The Church Has Left The Building rotator link to choose what is best for you and your family.**

**RELATIONAL WITNESS**

**GOD HAS GIVEN US AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY** to share His amazing love with those in our community and beyond. The **Brooksie Way** 5K, 10K and Half Marathon Walk/Run is going on here in Rochester TODAY, September 23! We thank the 20 intergenerational volunteers who are providing relational presence at the race event this year by **hosting a water station at Walton and Brewster**, the second water station of the half marathon course. As they encourage runners and serve with the love of Jesus at the water station, may the Lord bless their relational witness in His name!



## 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 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:**

**Guidance & Strength:** *The Church Has Left the Building* series awareness and serve event, *One Legacy* on-going plans and schedules

**Hope & Healing:** Ryan Jankovich - hospitalized for more testing, Frank Kunz – heart valve replacement, Wes Griffith – pain, Jane (mother of Becky Boyd) – complications from broken hip, Kaye – shoulder surgery, Terri Turner – kidney cancer, Vic Ulrich – hospitalized for pain...Continued healing for: Steve Krystoff, Jim Boldt, Sharon Hudson, Jerry Bantin, Al Lucas, Hailey Noonan, Helen Wiley, Sarah Leinberger and Linda Madson

**Bereavement:** – “For the family of:” Charles Whetstone

**Nation & World:** *Those in the wake of Hurricane Florence*

### **LAST WEEK:**

**Thanksgiving:** *Celebration of our mission partnership with St. Peter Lutheran in Middelburg, South Africa and COFA, Celebration of \$1 million dollar level in One Legacy funds received*

**Guidance & Strength:** *St. John student body to grow academically & spiritually*

**Hope & Healing:** Marilyn Miller – recovering from surgery, Russ Schmidt – continued healing & progress from his stroke, Pastor Jim Van Dellen – successful heart procedure, Linda Harrington – recovering from a heart attack, Ron Doll – health issues, Lanette – cancer, Linda Glisman – chemo treatment, Adam Kezzel – nerve pain, Marty Collins – brain injury

### **PRIOR WEEK:**

**Thanksgiving:** *Baptism of Joshua Noland Blatt, son of Adam & Lisa, Clare & Kathie Wirsing's 57th wedding anniversary, Frank Hayes 90th Birthday*

**Guidance & Strength:** *3rd grade Bible Blessing, Mike Carson – business trip to Poland*

**Hope & Healing:** John (son-in-law of Ruth Schlecht) – cancer surgery, Carol Harrell –recovering from knee surgery, Raymond Pauli – stroke after surgery, Sue (sister-in-law of Steve Wilson) – failure of liver & kidney function in need of transplant, Brita Birney – chemo, Judy Evans – healing from back surgery, Edward Koch – entering nursing home, Larry Walsh – shoulder surgery, Kristyn & Taya Recchia

**Bereavement:** – “For the family of:” Ryer Hagen (29 yo cousin of Bev Koch & Marian Grothaus) killed in ATV accident, Christina Johnston (niece of Carol)

**Nation & World:** *Remembering 9/11*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

### OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### FACILITY HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

\* The facility may be closed on Saturdays when no daytime events are scheduled.

#### Sunday

6:00 PM High School Youth Night – Youth Room  
6:00 PM Lighthouse – Room 101

#### Monday

9:00 AM MOPS – Luther Hall  
1:30 PM LifeLight (Jeremiah/Lamentations) – Mary Martha Room  
7:00 PM The ONE Class – Luther Hall  
7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Presentation – Concordia Hall \*Cong. is invited

#### Tuesday

11:30 AM International Bible Class – Room 128  
1:00 PM ESL Class – Concordia Hall  
6:30 PM Casual College – Atrium  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study (Experiencing God) – Concordia Hall  
7:00 PM LifeLight (Jeremiah/Lamentations) – Mary Martha Room

#### Wednesday

8:45 AM School Chapel – Church Sanctuary  
9:15 AM LifeLight (Jeremiah/Lamentations) – Concordia Hall  
1:00 PM Women's Bible Study (The Shepherd With Me) – Concordia Hall

#### Thursday

9:00 AM MOPS – Luther Hall  
4:30 PM Skit & Drama Ministry for Kids – Luther Hall  
6:00 PM Jubilate Bell Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room  
7:15 PM Mixed Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room  
8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall

#### Friday

8:00 AM LCEF Savings Stamp Sales – Atrium  
9:00 AM ESL Class – Concordia Hall  
4:00 PM Confirmation Retreat (Camp Arcadia) Departure  
5:00 PM LHNW Homecoming Activities Begin– Lutheran Northwest

#### Saturday

5:00 PM Modern Praise - Gymnasium



**Worship Celebration Schedule**

Traditional Praise: Sundays @ 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM

Modern Praise: Saturdays @ 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM

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