

February 23-24, 2019

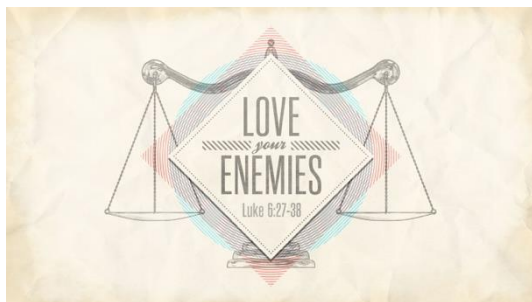


# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

## ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of February 24, 2019

### WORSHIP CELEBRATION



Someone randomly gives you a gift and suddenly there's a double feeling inside you. There's joy that comes from receiving it, but there's also this nagging feeling that you need to do something in kind. We call it a feeling of obligation, and that word obligation carries with it all sorts of baggage. Duty bound, requirement, burden, liability, and debt owed are just a few of the ideas that come to mind. That's the way it works in our world, but Jesus would say to us as His followers – not so with you! Don't reciprocate –

initiate! *“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* These are Jesus' words to us in the Gospel of Luke. We hope you will join us this weekend as we hear Jesus give new understanding to seeing the need and acting first.



#### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: March 6 @ 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days preceding Holy Week called Lent. It is a time to turn toward God in repentant openness toward His will in transforming us into His likeness. In addition to the Lord's Supper, our contemplative Ash Wednesday services will feature the “imposition of Ashes” as a reminder of our mortality apart from Christ. Dinner will be served between services (approx. 5:30-6:45

PM) in the gymnasium. Watch the Connection next week for details about the dinner.

**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 February 9-10.....807

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.

## BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER** – There are many opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! From children to seniors, internationals to parenting, Bible basics to more in-depth studies—there is truly something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstances or schedule! Make this the year that you take a big step in your faith walk with Jesus! The *Get Into the Word* brochure with a full listing of Bible Class selections is available on our St. John website. Look for the homepage rotator that matches the graphic shown here. Printed copies of the brochure are also available in the Atrium and just outside Luther Hall. Let's get into the Word together!



**BIBLES & BASKETBALL – A SECOND SESSION IS STARTING!** Bibles & Basketball is an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. In addition to the weekly sessions on Saturdays at 8:00 AM, there is now Bibles & Basketball on **Tuesday evenings**, 8:00-10:00 PM. This is open to men young and older alike – the more the merrier! Whether you come regularly or occasionally, all are welcome. For more information, please contact Jim Janetzke at [biblesbasketball.sjr@gmail.com](mailto:biblesbasketball.sjr@gmail.com).

## 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!

**ST. JOHN MOPS ANNUAL MOM TO MOM SALE IS THIS WEEK** on Saturday, March 2, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the gymnasium. Clean out your closets and basement of used baby and kids items, birth through size 16! We do have a big item room for outdoor toys, strollers, bikes, high chairs, beds, etc. For last minute table rental information, please email [stjohnmopsm2m@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnmopsm2m@gmail.com). **Shoppers** – We look forward to seeing you! Be sure to spread the word to your friends and neighbors.



**OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service)** – Our next meeting will be March 8 at noon in Concordia Hall. Pastor Jon Trinklein will be our guest speaker. Please bring your own sandwich. We will provide coffee, water and dessert. Hope to see you then!



**GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP** – If you have lost a loved one and wonder if the feelings, frustrations, hurts, and loneliness you are experiencing are just you or whether others are going through the same things, then this study is a journey you need to be a part of. Using video, discussion, and prayer you will meet others with the same emotions and hardships who are trying to work through the grieving process. The next session of

GriefShare is now underway and is meeting Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Church Library. Join us any time, as all are welcome! For more information, please contact Linda Baroli at 248-895-0310.

**FAMILY PRAISE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 25** - At its February 11 meeting, the Rochester City Council approved of the request from St. John for use of the Rochester Municipal Park for the annual Family Praise and Picnic in the Park celebration to be held Sunday, August 25. The initial Planning Meeting for this community worship, fellowship, and outreach event will be scheduled in May. If you would like to assist with this year's event, please contact Roger Guetzkow at 248-377-9048 or [rjguetzkow@comcast.net](mailto:rjguetzkow@comcast.net).

**WEBSITE NEWS** – We are so pleased to make available the memoirs of Roy Kaiser, dearly loved St. John principal from 1961 to 1995. The memoirs are specific to Roy's years of service at St. John and are filled with interesting history and stories from those years. You may find a link to this document on our website. Click on Church/About Us/Church History/Detailed Church History OR School/About Us/School History/Detailed School History. Thank you, Roy, for sharing your St. John memories with us!

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



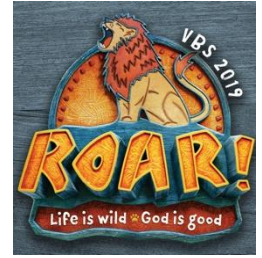
### ST. JOHN SCHOOL:

**St. John Future City Team At The National Competition:** Congratulations to the St. John Future City team for an impressive performance at the National Competition in Washington, DC this past week. The team earned Best Essay Award, sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories, and Best Virtual Design Award sponsored by Electronic Arts, the SIM City software company. The team took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Michigan Regional Competition in January, earning the opportunity to compete at Nationals. Great job by this hard working and talented team!

**Day Time School Open House:** Perhaps you missed the Open House and enrollment events in January or you would like one more visit to determine your enrollment plans. The Day Time Open House is for you! On Thursday, February 28, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, personal tours will be provided. All guests will be required to check-in at the Main Atrium and will be accompanied by a staff representative while in the school wing. Enrollment information and light refreshments will be available. Your prospective students are welcome to join you!

**Now Enrolling:** St. John Lutheran School is now enrolling for the 2019-2020 school year for Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For more information, please contact Beth Dameron, Director of School Admissions, [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org) or visit [www.stjohnrochester.org/school](http://www.stjohnrochester.org/school).

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR VBS 2019:** This year's Vacation Bible School will be June 24-28, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. We are currently at 100 students. We will be capping our numbers at 500 this year. If you have a child who is 4 years old through entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade please register them today. VBS is an amazing week of fun and joy. \*\*Please note that this year's VBS will be led by St. John as always, but will be hosted at Lutheran High Northwest due to the building and renovation project on the St. John campus this summer. Many thanks to Lutheran High for hosting us this year! To register for VBS, visit [www.stjohnrochester.org/VBS](http://www.stjohnrochester.org/VBS).



**SPRINGHILL DAY CAMP:** Due to construction plans on the St. John campus this summer, we will not be hosting a SpringHill Day Camp. If you are interested in your child attending a Springhill Day Camp, visit [www.springhillcamps.com](http://www.springhillcamps.com) for a list of available options.



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

Lighthouse is a place where Middle School students can feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Our activities include students in grades 6-8, and all are welcome! Lighthouse meetings are on Sundays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Steve

Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org).

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY** - 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 the class sessions with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. Please sign up for the class on the St. John website. Click on Discover/Middle School. Classes are scheduled for March 3, 10, 17, 24. For more information, please contact Director of Child and Family Ministry Steve Wilson at [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org) or 248-402-8006.

**THE SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT** will be Friday-Sunday, March 15-17 at Cran-Hill Ranch. The cost of the event is \$100. The group will leave that Friday at 4:00 PM and return on Sunday at 4:00 PM. This retreat is a great opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship together through Scripture, as well as by enjoying ax-throwing, archery tag, and other fun activities. Go to <https://rebrand.ly/MSR> to register.







## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH –

**Wow, what a weekend!** Thank you, Jesus, for the time together as a team to visit the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY. Thank you to our friends at Royal Redeemer Lutheran in Liberty Twp, OH for allowing us to sleep there and worship with them last Sunday. We will never forget the time spent on this trip, all in the name of Jesus!

**Today** we have a Mexicali meeting from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

**Tonight** all high school youth will be meeting from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We will spend some time in fellowship, devotion and nachos! Looking forward to seeing you there!

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).

**THESPIAN TROUPE #4216 OF LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST** invites you to an evening of One-Act Plays! “This is a Test” directed by Senior Student CJ Johnstone, “Why Do We Laugh?” directed by Mr. David Kusch and “Oz” directed by Senior Student Jenna Sturges will be presented Friday and Saturday, March 1 and 2, at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be available at the door (\$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors). Lutheran Northwest is located at 1000 Bagley Avenue in Rochester Hills. For more information, visit [www.lutherannorthwest.com](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com).

## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

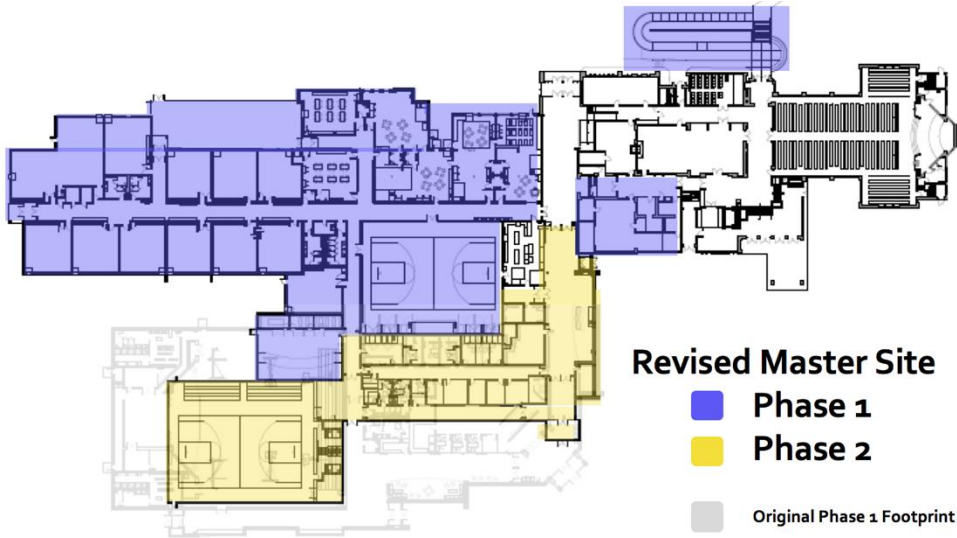


### ONE LEGACY BRAND NEW UPDATE!

### SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING | MARCH 17

Please save the date and plan to attend an important Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, March 17 at 12:30 PM. As we excitedly prepare to officially begin ONE Legacy construction in

May/June, we are seeking final voter's approval to move forward with the Phase I renovation work at the current budgeted costs and scope. Secondly, we will be sharing further details while seeking important direction on our updated Phase 2 new construction costs and timing. Watch for further information about this important meeting in the coming days.



**Phase 1 | Beginning Spring/Summer 2019**

- Campus Site Work (utilities, parking lot expansion, water retention, front sanctuary plaza, etc. beyond what is shown in the illustration)
- Full Renovation of School and Lower Level Administration Office Area

**Phase 2 | Beginning Fall/Winter 2019**

- New Construction of Gymnasium, School Administration Offices, and extended Atrium spaces.



**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO DIRECT YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!** Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about... like St. John Lutheran Church & School! If you are a Thrivent Financial member, please don't let your Choice Dollars expire! Make a difference in Jesus' name by directing points toward our shared mission and ministry. Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31, 2019 to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars. Thousands and thousands of dollars for ministry are currently available but must be directed. Simply go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

**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 February 16-17... ..\$46,946.20  
Special Contributions for February 16-17... ..\$100.00

As of 2/17/18 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 1,512,678.50  
As of 2/17/18 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ ~~1,567,223.85~~  
As of 2/17/18 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ 54,545.35  
As of 2/17/18 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$14,536  
(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/18 through 6/30/19.)

**ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE**

As of 2/19/19 Amount pledged..... \$3,463,734.79  
As of 2/19/19 Amount received.....\$1,601,697.04

**COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**



**THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING - SPRING EDITION! SAVE THE DATE!** As hundreds from the St. John family had the amazing privilege and joy of serving our community last fall on October 6, we are excited to announce our next opportunity to serve on **Saturday, May 4!** Details will follow, but for now mark your calendar and start anticipating the excitement of serving and impacting the lives of others!

**THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS** - Want to do something positive to strengthen our presence in the community? Think you can organize a team or group to make it happen in 90 days or less? If your answer is “yes” to both, simply submit an application to Thrivent and once your idea is approved you'll receive up to \$250 in “seed money” to help cover expenses. Need inspiration? Here are some ideas for a valuable service, fundraiser, or educational activity: Deliver/serve meals to the needy/homebound, Conduct a food/toy/clothing drive, Clean up a river/park/roadway, Clean up after a disaster, Build a wheelchair ramp for the handicapped, Assist with landscaping for the elderly, Organize fundraisers such as a Lenten Dinner/Youth Breakfast, or Conduct an educational workshop on a subject such as identity theft. Applications for funding Thrivent Action Teams are available at Thrivent.com. Thrivent members are eligible to submit two applications each calendar year.



## RELATIONAL WITNESS



### PASTOR MANDLA KHUMALO OFFICIALLY BEGINS MISSION WORK IN THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

As we've shared in previous months, Pastor Khumalo from our mission partner, St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church and School in Middleburg, South Africa has been preparing to spend two years living and serving in the Michigan District as a missionary-at-large. Pastor Marc has been serving on the District task group

preparing for his arrival and the time has finally come! A few weeks ago Pastor Khumalo, along with his wife and grandson, arrived safely to settle into a home that has been provided in the Lansing area. Next Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 PM Pastor Khumalo will be officially installed by President David Maier in a special service at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing. Our Michigan District and the Khumalos are greatly appreciative of all the support they have received through our St. John family, making this move a possibility. Please pray for them and their transition over the coming months.

**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](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:**

**Thanksgiving:** *Future City team doing well at Nationals*

**Guidance & Strength:** *John and Jacob Rose / For abused women and children / Upcoming Congregation meeting*

**Hope & Healing:** *Debra Jankovich - serious injury to ankle...Continued healing for: Marilyn Miller / Jerry Bantin / Hailey Noonan / Sarah Leinberger / Linda Madson / Jim Madson / Raymond Pauli / Linda Glisman*

**LAST WEEK:**

**Thanksgiving:** Birth of baby boy to Ashleigh & Shane McCatty / 62th Wedding Anniversary of Doug & Gloria Heussner

**Guidance & Strength:** Future City National Competition / Missionary Michelle overseas / Jacob / John

**Hope & Healing:** Lois Timm – hospitalized with multiple injuries / Jack Parish (father of Stacey Zagrodzki & Ruth Parish) – upcoming lung surgery / Ryan Jankovich / Gary Miller (father of Lori Hehl) – inoperable cancer / Elisabet Standfest (granddaughter of Lynn & Bob) – 3mo old at Mayo for possible cancer / Lorraine Calleja (mother of Vicki Wright) – struggling after surgery / Roger Guetzkow – surgery on Friday / Janelle / Grace Gotham (Scott Sievers’ mother) – hospice / Ellen Hohnstadt – broken pelvis / Rick Tate – nearing end of life / Rodney – cancer / Freda – cancer / Becky Hooper (wife of Pastor Will Hooper – Chapel of the Lakes) – hospice / Judi - cancer

**Bereavement:** – “For the family of:” Marty Simmonds (brother-in-law of Cynthia)

**Nation & World:** For those in the wake of mass shooting in Illinois

**PRIOR WEEK:**

**Thanksgiving:** Great men’s breakfast & devotion by Pastor Jon

**Guidance & Strength:** Sharon Barton / Next weekend’s High School Youth ARK trip / Julie (sister of Angie Wornson)

**Hope & Healing:** Jason Myers / Florence Raetzel / Darlene Schwartz – cancer treatment / David Center

**Bereavement:** – “For the family of:” Shirley Heins (funeral Tuesday morning at St. John)

**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**

9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study– Concordia Hall

9:30 AM

Sunday School – School Classrooms

12:00 PM

Mexicali Mission Trip Planning Meeting – Youth Room

6:00 PM

Lighthouse – Room 101

6:00 PM

High School Youth Night – Youth Room

**Monday**

9:00 AM

MOPS – Luther Hall

7:00 PM

“The ONE” New Member Class – Luther Hall

**Tuesday**

9:30 AM Bible Basics Class – Mary Martha Room  
11:30 AM International Bible Class – Room 128  
1:00 PM ESL Class – Concordia Hall  
7:00 PM LifeLight (Hebrews) – Mary Martha Room  
8:30 PM Bibles & Basketball – Gymnasium \*note the start time this week

**Wednesday**

8:45 AM School Chapel – Church Sanctuary  
9:15 AM LifeLight (Hebrews) – Concordia Hall  
1:00 PM Women’s Bible Study (The Shepherd With Me) – Concordia Hall  
1:00 PM Women’s Bible Study (The Faithful) – Church Library  
6:30 PM Casual College – Oakland University Kresge Library

**Thursday**

9:00 AM Gleaners Quilting – Concordia Hall  
9:00 AM MOPS – Luther Hall  
9:00 AM School Daytime Open House – School Wing  
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

**Saturday**

9:00 AM Mom to Mom Sale – Gymnasium  
10:00 AM GriefShare – Church Library  
3:00 PM Saturday Afternoon Bible Class – Luther Hall  
5:00 PM Modern Praise Worship - 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

**1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | [www.stjohnrochester.org](http://www.stjohnrochester.org)**