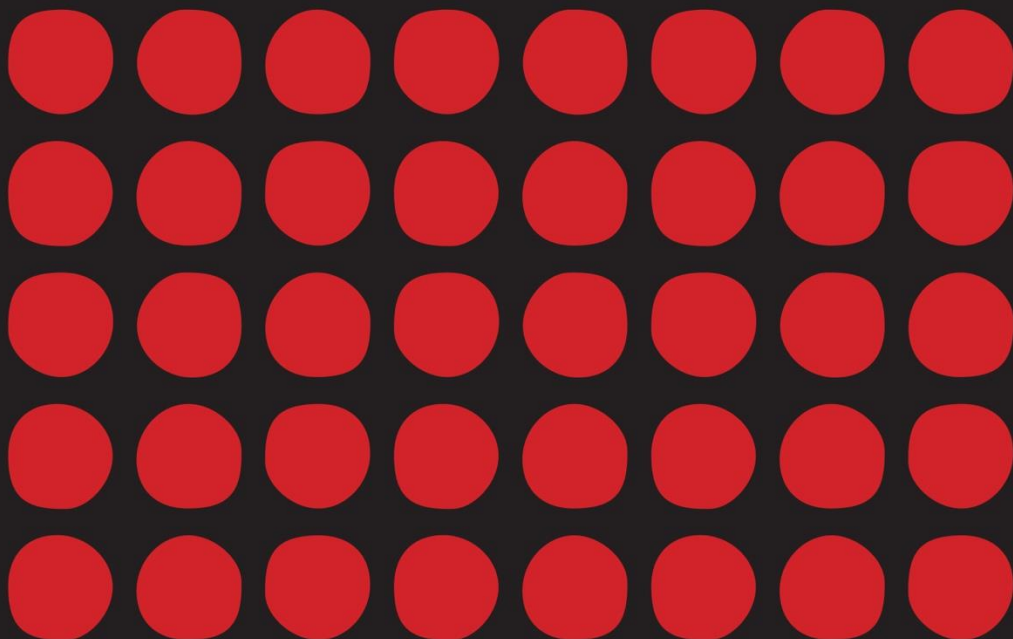


RED LETTER

CHALLENGE



September 14-15, 2019



THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of September 15, 2019

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



If you are tired of just checking religious boxes, if you know that you were made for something more, and if you want to make a greater difference in the world, the Red Letter Challenge is for you!

The Red Letter Challenge is an inter-generational 40-day discipleship challenge, that began with worship last weekend! In the Red Letter Challenge

our St. John church and school family is being introduced, through time spent with Jesus in His Word, to the main principles of being a disciple.

To experience the maximum impact from the challenge we encourage each of you to:

WORSHIP

We are planning powerful worship, music and transformational sermon messages each weekend as the theme of the week is introduced. To watch Pastor Jon's introductory message to the Red Letter Challenge shared last weekend, visit our website at stjohnrochester.org/resources/sermons.

READ

If you haven't already done so, pick up your copy of *The Red Letter Challenge* by Zach Zehnder in the sanctuary lobby and school Atrium. A suggested donation of \$10 per book is greatly appreciated. Daily readings (3-4 pages) in the book are the basis of the study that focuses on the words of Jesus and on applying them to our lives. A kid's version of The Red Letter Challenge is also being utilized among our children's ministries, including Sunday School, Lighthouse, Day School chapels and classroom devotion time.

CONNECT

It's not too late to join with hundreds of others who are meeting in small or large groups during the week to go deeper with the study. If you are not already in a current study group, this is your chance to go deeper in your faith, get connected and be encouraged. To sign up for a Red Letter Challenge group, please visit our website at stjohnrochester.org/RLC or call the Pastoral Office at 248-402-8020.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE ON BROOKSIE WAY WEEKEND - Next weekend, September 21-22, we will follow our full weekend worship schedule. Please note, on Sunday morning of that weekend, access to our campus will become challenging from multiple directions during the Brooksie Way 5k, 10k, and Half

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 and must be received no later than Wednesday at noon the week of publication.

Marathon...primarily between 9:00-10:00 AM. While it can be an inconvenience, the event does draw close to 10,000 people into our community to raise funding for many local charities. In addition, we have an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community that weekend. For more information on getting involved in the Brooksie Way event next Sunday, check out the article in the Relational Witness section.

WORSHIP PARKING - As extensive construction work will continue through October, parking will be an ongoing challenge on our campus. The plan is to make as much parking available as possible, but this will change weekly based on construction progress. **The paved southeast parking area (closest to the church sanctuary) is being reserved for special needs only.**



only. The southeast drive-through canopy will continue to be available for those who wish to drop off family and friends before parking in our overflow lots across the street. Thankfully we are surrounded by multiple neighboring parking lots within a very short walk of our campus. Please see illustration above for available parking across Helen Street and University Drive. If you are at all able, please utilize these spaces, saving as much room as possible on campus for our guests and those with limited mobility.

CHURCH CHOIRS ARE FORMING! St. John Traditional Music groups just began meeting this past week. These groups are excited to welcome new participants and are open to anyone high school age and older who desire to use their time and talents to praise the Lord through music. Commitment is very flexible in nature. Those who are interested should email Nick Kwapis (nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org) for further information. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, as follows:

- Brass Ensemble:** 5:30-6:30 PM
- Jubilate Bell Choir:** 6:30-7:30 PM
- Mixed Choir:** 7:30-8:30 PM
- Men's Chorus:** 1-2 rehearsals a month; also 7:30-8:30 PM

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 September 7-8.....925

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDIES are starting up in September, in addition to the congregation-wide Red Letter Challenge. These are studies that do not meet weekly, so studying the Red Letter Challenge, which is a 40 day undertaking, would not be workable. All interested in these studies are invited to watch the weekly calendar printed in the Connection for exact dates when they are meeting, or contact the leader of each one for further information.

Men's Small Group – select Monday mornings, 7:00-9:00 AM. Leader - Dan McCallum (dmccallum@sbcglobal.net)

Saturday Afternoon Bible Class – select Saturday afternoons, 3:00-4:30 PM. Leader – Pete Grund (pkgrund@gmail.com or 810-334-7777)



VISUAL FAITH - Metro Detroit Fellowship – Sept. 21

The Visual Faith Community - Metro Detroit, led by Candi Schwark, will begin again this Saturday, September 21, 1:00-4:00 PM in Concordia Hall. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month. New participants are always welcome. You will learn how to alter an old book with techniques for Bible Journaling. Feel free to bring a friend, but please RSVP at candice@mac.com or 248-652-9449 in order to have enough supplies and to receive an

email with more details. Our time together includes fellowship, a devotion and a project or two. We will begin this year looking at our Shepherd and the 23rd Psalm.

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!

CONGREGATION FORUM TODAY, SEPTEMBER 15! We are holding a very important Congregation Forum at 12:30 PM in the church sanctuary TODAY. A full update will be presented on construction progress, budget, and important next steps in the ONE Legacy Initiative. Please plan to be there! Be sure to get lunch beforehand at the youth-sponsored cookout (see related article in the Shared Generosity section).

MONDAY – FRIDAY BUILDING ACCESS & PARKING UPDATE

Building Access - With the opening of our day school this past week, we have resumed our full security procedures. Entry doors will not be left open while school is in session. Please plan to enter the building via the north or south Atrium doors, by buzzing to request entry. Once inside, please proceed to the Main Office and sign in at the counter. After school, the south Atrium door (or north Atrium door if the south parking lot is ever unavailable) will be unlocked so that people may enter for athletic events, evening meetings, etc.

Parking - As construction continues on our site, fencing and possibly cones will be utilized to signal which parking areas may be unavailable as people arrive for daytime events or other needs. This may change from day to day, so we thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility. We are happy to report that additional parking is available during the week at the two lots across University that are indicated in yellow on the worship parking map in the Worship section of this issue. **Please do not utilize the parking lot across Helen Street during the week** (Sundays are fine) as it is limited in size and is needed for employees and clients of the businesses in the building there. On our campus, **the paved southeast parking area (closest to the church sanctuary) is being reserved for special needs only.**

During this period of temporary inconvenience, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that all the dirt piles, big machines, and interruptions of normal traffic flow on our campus are direct reminders of God's hand of blessing on our St. John family, as we continue to grow and reach more and more people with the love of Jesus. Praise God for those opportunities before us!

THE ST. JOHN LIFE TEAM will be meeting on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 PM in the Church Library. New participants are always welcome! For more information, please contact Dave Leinberger at 586-781-5434.



STARTING SEPTEMBER 23! 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, Pastor Steve,

and Pastor Jon 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 will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall (near the church sanctuary), starting September 23. 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. We hope to see you there!



INTERESTING PRESENTATION OPEN TO EVERYONE! Have you ever wondered about the history of our beautiful stained glass windows here at St. John? Deaconess Linda Nobili will return to St. John to share this incredible story and explain the symbolism of each window in a color presentation that looks at the life of Christ portrayed on each window. Everyone is invited to attend on Monday evening, September 23 at 7:00 PM in Concordia Hall. This event is sponsored by your Stephen Ministers, and refreshments will be served.

GRIEF SHARE is presenting a one time session devoted to those who have lost a husband or wife. It is always hard to lose someone you love, and the loss of a spouse is not only losing your loved one but your lifestyle as well. Whether you are recently widowed or it has been several years, you are invited to join us on **Saturday, September 28** from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Church Library. For more information, please contact Linda Baroli at 248-895-0310.

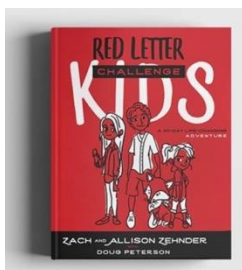


The fall session of GriefShare will begin on October 12 and continue through January 11.



REPRESENTING ST. JOHN at the 74th Annual Lutheran Laymen's League Retreat at Camp Arcadia last weekend were (from left) Dave Hofmeister, Paul Kienman, Dennis Evans, Jonathan Koschmann, Roger Guetzkow, and Dave Leinberger. Former Lutheran Hour Speaker and current Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz was the Retreat Speaker. The Center is an LCMS organization that provides encouraging support to our elected representatives in Washington, D.C. in the areas of religious liberty, sanctity of life, Biblical marriage, and private/parochial education. LCRL is also a resource for preparing our Churches, Schools, Pastors, and Laypersons to engage public issues for the sake of the community and the Gospel. For more information, visit www.LCRLFreedom.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered weekly at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms at St. John. Sunday School classes are offered for all children age 3 (toilet trained) through 6th grade. No registration is required and there are no attendance requirements. We break for holidays throughout the year, as announced in the weekly Connection. We are excited to welcome your children and share with them the love of Jesus! **Sunday School is also doing a children's version of the Red Letter Challenge!



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Back to School - We welcome the more than 300 new and returning students and their families for the 2019-2020 school year! K-8 as well as all Preschool and Young 5's sessions started this week. Most Preschool sessions are full with a few spaces in the afternoon program, and some K-8 grade levels are full or approaching capacity. There is still time to enroll but don't delay! To learn more about the school, or for an enrollment packet, please contact Beth Dameron, Director of School Admissions, at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

1st quarter weekly chapel offerings and Casual for a Cause donations will benefit HOPE Hospitality and Warming Center in Pontiac. To learn more about this

program, visit www.hopewarmingpontiac.org. The first regular weekly chapel is this Wednesday and the first Casual for a Cause dress day is this Friday.

Shop with Scrip to support Tuition Assistance: Scrip cards can be purchased at face value for various retailers, restaurants, etc. with a discount portion going directly into a family's tuition account as a credit towards the next school year. Preschool 4's parents may purchase these to help towards St. John Kindergarten. St. John families and friends without a student in the school may designate a specific family or select to benefit the general school support. Scrip is now available for purchase EVERY DAY in the Main Office, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM or online at www.shopwithscrip.com with the St. John code, B93L8FE326L3. Thank you for your support!



LIGHTHOUSE is underway again! This is our Middle School ministry for students in grades 6-8 and meets most Sundays, 6:00-8:00 PM. Look online or check out our Facebook page for dates and times. All students in 6th – 8th grades are welcome! For more information on Middle School Ministry, contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child & Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

SKIT AND DRAMA MINISTRY - Starting Thursday, September 19 (new start date), our skit and drama team for kids in 3rd-8th grades will meet on Thursday afternoons, 4:30-5:30 PM in Luther Hall. If you are interested in having your child join us, please come to our first meeting of the year. We play drama games, and work on skits for Sunday School, Chapel, and Advent services. This activity is available to all 3rd-8th graders of St. John and is designed to use the creativity of drama to share the love of Christ with our community and world. For more information, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - Today, September 15, we are hosting our back-to-school cookout for the congregation after the 9:30, 10:45, and 11:00 AM services. All proceeds will go toward our upcoming mission trips this year! We thank our St. John family for supporting us while enjoying some delicious food before the congregation forum today!

For more information, contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

TEEN SMALL GROUPS FOR MEN AND WOMEN!: On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, at 7:00 PM, 9th-12th grade men are invited to be a part of a small group in the Youth Room. On the same evenings, 9th-12th grade women are also invited to be part of a small group in the Atrium. This is a great opportunity for each small group to get in the Word and talk about life together. These groups are for young men and young women wanting to grow in faith and life with other teens. For information on the men's small group, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org. For information on the women's small group, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST NEWS - Are you weighing options for high school for your son or daughter? Get the scoop on Lutheran Northwest at our **Open House for Prospective Families on Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-8:30PM**. Stop in, tour the school, enjoy some **free ice cream** and meet our awesome staff! Hear firsthand about the life-changing difference of a Lutheran Northwest education from some of our amazing students. Think you already know Lutheran Northwest? Find out about exciting new programs including Interim and Leadership Development! This event is open to families of all grade levels, so please join us and discover how the Crusaders are **Learning For Life! Leading In Truth!** Visit us online at www.lutherannorthwest.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @LuthNorthwest.

Lutheran Northwest invites grade school families to HOMECOMING 2019 on Friday, Sept. 27! Our Crusaders football team will play Southfield Christian at 7:00 PM, but that's just part of the fun! Come for the Tail Gate starting at 5:00 PM and for the K-8 Punt, Pass & Kick Competition from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. (Every participant gets a free t-shirt; top 3 in each age category will be awarded trophies during the game's 1st quarter break). Visit the Future Crusader tent for freebies and fun activities. Watch the teams warm up starting at 6:00 PM. Share in the halftime excitement as the King and Queen are crowned and elementary age children are allowed on the field with footballs. Later, enjoy a post-game reception with cider & donuts. ALL K-8 students get in free to this fun, family event! Check out the details of this and other upcoming events at www.lutherannorthwest.com/events and follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @LuthNorthwest.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



JOIN US FOR LUNCH TODAY! Join the High School Youth who are grilling burgers and hot dogs after the 9:30, 10:45, and 11:00 AM services. They will be serving a burger or hot dog meal (burger/hot dog, chips, water) or a Greek salad meal (salad, pita, water) for only \$5.00! All proceeds will support upcoming Youth trips. This is a great opportunity for those attending the Congregation Forum at 12:30 PM

TODAY to grab a tasty lunch beforehand right here at St. John. Bring your appetite and help support our Youth. See you there!

CAMPUS RENOVATION AND EXPANSION UPDATE

It's really been happening! After over three years of ongoing prayer, extensive planning, some unforeseen delays, and continued sacrificial generosity in response to the blessings of God, the long-awaited first wave of construction work on our Campus Master Site Plan has been underway all summer!



As has been announced in worship in recent weeks, the first wave of Master Site Plan construction work on our St. John campus has experienced some unfortunate delays. Basically, our city-approved parking lot water retention plan was revisited by city engineers and after further evaluation, required a slight redesign and resubmittal for approval. **This unfortunately set the timeline back five weeks on an already tight summer construction schedule.** While disappointing, we've been reminded this isn't unusual with construction projects as extensive as ours. **While not at all insurmountable, this delay does mean that continued flexibility and adjustments will be needed as our new ministry year begins.** Please watch for occasional emails and Connection articles for information on parking, building access, or other pertinent details that may need to be shared. Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and cooperation!



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 7-8.....	\$55,222.00
Special Contributions for September 7-8.....	\$225.00
As of 9/8/19 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 449,271.87
As of 9/8/19 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	\$ 357,449.51
As of 9/8/19 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$ (91,822.36)
As of 9/8/19 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$4,429	
(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/19 through 6/30/20.)	

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 9/8/19 Amount pledged.....	\$3,526,723.49
As of 9/8/19 Amount received.....	\$2,002,370.74

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: SIGN-UP BEGINS THIS WEEK

On October 4 & 5 our St. John Church & School family will come together to pack over 100,000 nutritious meals for starving children around the world. This is an intergenerational serve event for everyone from age 5 to 105! Our St. John K-8 students will be participating in packing sessions on Friday during school hours. There will be two additional packing sessions for all ages in our gymnasium: Friday, October 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. **Look for an email next week with the link to sign up** for either session (160 volunteers are needed for each session.). Volunteers are also needed for set-up on Thursday, October 3 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM and clean-up on Saturday, October 5 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We serve so others will know that Jesus loves them!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HELP WITH PLANNING! We are pulling together individuals who would be willing to serve as team leaders during the planning process for Feed My Starving Children. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Jon Trinklein at jtrinklein@stjohnrochester.org, or Jennie Eller at jeller@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8087.

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 will once again occur in Rochester next Sunday morning, September 22! That weekend we will again have a relational presence at the race event by **hosting a water station at Walton and Brewster**, the second water station of the half marathon course. **We will need 20 volunteers of all ages** to encourage runners and serve with the love of Jesus at the water station from 7:00-9:00 AM that Sunday morning. If you are interested in serving, please contact team captain Jason Brainer at 231-409-0219 or goaliebrainer@gmail.com.

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: Marriage of Lisa Rafdal to Adam Legler in Chicago this weekend

Guidance & Strength: Sunday's congregational forum / Red Letter Challenge – small & large group studies - Lord's leading throughout the 40 days / One Legacy construction plans & timing

Hope & Healing: Herman Borst / Ryan Jankovich / Phyllis Johnson / Pastor Marc's father – cancer treatment / Deacon Leon – recovering at home from neck surgery / Norma Heins – hospice / Continued healing for: Bob Hobson / Jim Boldt / Jack Parish / Marilyn Miller / Hailey Noonan / Sarah Leinberger / Linda Madson / Jim Madson / Linda Glisman / Leah Appold / Tommy Schomaker

Nation & World: Those in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Mackenzie Dee White - daughter of Stephen & Kristen Olex

Hope & Healing: Florance & Glenn Raetzel – recovering at home / David Derouin's mother / Michael B. / Mary Richards – back surgery / Gregg Barton – diagnosed with MS / Helga Olsen

Bereavement: (For the family of...) Rev. Richard Kruegler / Lucas Petersen (friend of Kristen Janetzke)

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Helen & Henry Lind's 69th wedding anniversary / Erv Bauer's 99th birthday / Family Praise & Picnic in the Park – all who worked to make it possible!

Hope & Healing: Karl Barton – recovering from surgery / Linda Glisman – recovering from broken arm & other health issues

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

8:00 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Red Letter Challenge – Concordia Hall
9:30 AM	Confirmation Class – Music Room
9:30 AM	Sunday School – School Classrooms
9:30 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Youth Sponsored Cookout – South Parking Lot
10:45 AM	Modern Praise Worship – Gymnasium
11:00 AM	Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
12:30 PM	Congregation Meeting – Church Sanctuary
6:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Mary Martha Room
6:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Youth Room
6:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Offsite
6:00 PM	Lighthouse – Gymnasium
6:30 PM	Red Letter Challenge - Offsite

Monday

9:00 AM	MOPS – Luther Hall
4:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Room 101
6:30 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Offsite
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Chapel
7:00 PM	St. John Foundation Meeting – Church Library
7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting – Catherine Luther Room

Tuesday

11:30 AM	Red Letter Challenge (International) – Room 128
1:00 PM	ESL Class – Concordia Hall
4:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Chapel
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Concordia Hall
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Mary Martha Room
7:00 PM	St. John Life Team – Church Library

Wednesday

8:45 AM	School Chapel – Church Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Red Letter Challenge – Concordia Hall
5:30 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Offsite
6:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Church Library
6:30 PM	LHNW Open House for Prospective Families – LHNW Campus
7:00 PM	High School Women’s Small Group – Atrium
7:00 PM	High School Men’s Small Group – Youth Room

Thursday

10:00 AM	Red Letter Challenge – Church Library
10:30 AM	Hannah Circle Meeting – Mary Martha Room
4:30 PM	Skit & Drama Ministry – Luther Hall
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Church Library
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Offsite
7:00 PM	Red Letter Challenge – Youth Room
8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall

Friday

9:00 AM	ESL Class – Concordia Hall
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Saturday

1:00 PM	Visual Faith – Concordia Hall
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 @ 11:00 AM

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | www.stjohnrochester.org