



WE HAVE
THIS HOPE

November 16-17, 2019



THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of November 17, 2019

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



This is our third week in our series “We Have This Hope”. Last week we were given a glimpse of what heaven will be like as described in Scripture, and the surpassing hope of being in the presence of Jesus! This week we will talk about real hope vs. counterfeit hope, and what Jesus tells us is real and lasting and not a knock-off.

NEW FAMILY MEMBER WELCOME! It is a great weekend as we officially welcome these wonderful new people (33 adults, 15 kids and 18 families) into membership as part of the St. John family! May the Lord bless us as we continue to walk together through His Word in mission to reach more and more people with His eternal love! We are so very blessed!

Eric & Kristen Clark
Kevin Danielson, Vaughn (c)
David, Kathy & Dale Davis
Ryan Edwards
Joe & Shauna Fulgenzi, Nora (c), Joey (c)
Brandon & Samantha Heeg
Lynda Hubar
Jeff & Erin Jurand, Grant (c), Riley (c), Austin (c),
Caroline (c)
Mark & Ruth Kulikowski
Deri & Beth Mick

Tim Miscovich II
Greg & Nancy Monson
Hugh & Barbara Muellenhagen
Jennifer Rauscher, Anastasia (c), Akhillies (c)
Bob & Judi Richards
Aaron & Grace Roggow
Eric Rogner
Jeff & Deana Stevens, Nicolas (c), Dominic (c),
Gianna (c)
Ryan & Jamie Vollmert, Aurora (c), Riley (c)

LESSONS & CAROLS - Please join us on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 PM and 4:30 PM in the church sanctuary for our annual St. John Christmas Concert, featuring many of our St. John music ensembles and instrumentalists. This year’s concert will once again follow the format of the traditional English Lessons and Carols service. Festive orchestral and brass music will begin 15 minutes prior to each service. “O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”



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.

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 November 9-10.....967

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



GET INTO THE WORD – Our “everything you needed to know about Bible studies on and off our campus” brochure is now available. The late fall schedule is underway. We have studies for all age groups, studies for specific groups, studies for beginners, and studies for those who enjoy word-by-word examination of Scripture. Some of the titles being offered in this session are: *The Truth Project* – a video based study of the Biblical worldview

/ 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 / *Advent by She Reads Truth* – a women’s study that will help prepare hearts for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. In addition, there are Confirmation, Sunday School, Middle School, and High School Youth studies, 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!

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!



THIS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, a One Legacy renovation and expansion work project will take place that involves a water shut-off to our building during the daytime hours. Please make note of these adjustments to our building schedule:

- School at St. John is cancelled for that day.
- All daytime events and activities are cancelled.
- The offices will be closed and most staff will be out of the building.
- Beginning at 4:00 PM, the building will be open so that all extra-curricular and evening events and activities may take place as scheduled.

ADDITIONAL PARKING ON CAMPUS IS NOW AVAILABLE! We are happy to announce that 114 additional parking spaces are now available in the expanded parking lots on the west and southwest portions of our campus! We look forward to the time when additional parking will also open up to the south of the building. Many thanks to everyone for your patience and flexibility during the construction process!

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE - Now is the time to order or renew your subscription of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS for 2020! The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. It also includes the *Michigan in Touch* supplement. The new subscription year begins March 2020 and **orders need to be turned in to the pastoral office by Monday, December 9** to take advantage of a discounted rate of \$11.60/year. Checks should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church” with “Lutheran Witness” written on the memo line. Our Church Library has recent issues of this magazine available if you would like to check it out first. Please contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org for more information.

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!

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Young 5's hosted some special visitors this week... Owls! The students have been learning about Owls, and along with the Kindergarten students they enjoyed a presentation from Michigan Avian Experience.

Preschool and Young 5's Family Nights were held last week. Mrs. Neumeyer provided a devotion, followed by a delicious meal, and then families were able to make a thanksgiving wreath together. Thank you to all the students and families who attended!

The 7th Grade This is My Country Night originally scheduled for this past Tuesday will be rescheduled soon.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be this week, Monday – Thursday, in the Atrium. All proceeds go towards helping purchase new books for the Media Center. Teacher wish lists will be available as well if you would like to thank a favorite teacher.

Chapel Offerings and Casual for a Cause Donations benefit a designated mission and ministry partner. For the second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year, the ministry is Gifts for All Gift's Children, helping provide gifts for children at Christmas, as well as providing a wealth of year-round services to children and families in need. For more information, visit giftsforallgodschildren.org.

Monday, December 2 - Save the Date! Enjoy a break from cooking and help support the St. John Parent Network. Dine at Buffalo Wild Wings (Rochester location) between 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM. Get dinner,



dessert or a fun appetizer. A percentage of dine-in, carry-out and catering orders apply to St. John! At BWW, be sure to put in an entry for a BWW gift basket and gift card (no purchase necessary to enter).

LIGHTHOUSE 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.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Today, Sunday, November 17 at about 12:00 PM, there will be a Mexicali mission trip informational meeting in the Youth Room, led by Pastor Marc and Nick Oleskie. If you are thinking about going on the trip, this is the perfect time and place to come and hear details of the mission! Parents and students are all welcome! The trip will be April 2-10, 2020. (see related article below)



We as a youth group will be serving Advent Supper on Wed. December 11! Our menu will be cheeseburgers, mac 'n' cheese, salads and desserts! Please arrive after school to help with set up and cooking. We will also need a team for clean up. This is such a great night to serve dinner to our congregation!!

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



MEXICALI MISSION TRIP INFORMATION MEETING

Are you ready to take your gifts that God has given you on a mission trip that will give you the opportunity to do ministry and explore your faith far away from home? Join with St. John High School Youth and experience a mission trip in the dirt of Mexicali, Mexico this coming spring: **April 2-10, 2020!**

We are looking for students and parents to join us! Our desire for long term relationships has been formed beginning years ago between Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Birmingham (also sending a team again this year) and the churches in Mexicali, Mexico. We are looking to continue growing the mission and serving the people there. We will do this by teaching children and families the love of Jesus through skits, Bible story activities, and service projects, all while getting to know the hundreds of other youth from around the country who will also be part of the Mexicali Mission Tent Camp this year!

We are hosting a **brief information meeting TODAY, Sunday, November 17 at 12:00 PM in the Youth Room**. Please come hear about the details of the trip and bring your questions, as Pastor Marc and Nick Oleskie will be there to share trip details and to field any questions you may have. See you there!

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Of all the years for the most snow and coldest temperatures to arrive at the earliest point of the season! Clearly the Lord is teaching us some ongoing patience in the midst of the many blessings of the ONE Legacy project! Without a doubt the weather this past week slowed some of the progress made on Phase I construction of the Master Site Plan... but not completely! Underground utility and storm drain work on the south parking lot continued through the week and was completed.

Weather permitting, this coming week scraping and base layer stone prep work will occur for the pouring of curbs and paving to be accomplished in the next couple weeks. Our paving contractor is a very large company and has encouraged us with their determination to complete base course paving on our entire site yet this fall, making our entire campus parking lot usable once again. The initial plan all along has been for the final finish layer to be completed in combination with Phase 2 work next year. Thankfully over a week ago paving was completed on the expanded west and southwest lot of our campus, adding 114 parking spots onsite. This coming Friday the water will be shut off to our facility as the new water main is connected (see related article in Shared Life section).

Please keep praying for continued progress through this exciting first phase of the ONE Legacy Initiative Campus Master Plan, and for God's leading for all that is ahead! More detailed information on next steps

for Phase 2 will be coming soon, as those plans continue to evolve through ongoing conversations with our city planning team, construction managers and architect.



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR FOOD DRIVE UPDATE – Have you visited the Church Lobby lately and seen the giant cornucopia and all the food bags and boxes mounting up? It is so exciting to see the food flowing in, as we know that each and every food item will bless a neighbor in need in our community. We are so grateful for your loving generosity and the great impact it will have on others! Grocery bags with a list of non-perishable canned goods are still available. After you go shopping for items on the list, bring your filled bag back to add it to the growing mountain in the Church Lobby (near the overhang in back)! Donations will be welcomed **through November 24**, after which they will be delivered to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House and God’s Helping Hands food pantries. Thank you for showing the love of Jesus to our neighbors!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER GENEROUS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES to bring Jesus’ love to our Community!

In addition to our current Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive (see related article above), our St. John church and school family is coming together in other ways to help children, families and adults in need this holiday season! Together we can make a big difference!

- **Gifts for All God’s Children** – We are once again partnering with GFAGC by purchasing Christmas gifts for at-risk children in local urban areas. You can sponsor a child by picking up a gift tag in Luther Hall with the child’s clothing and toy gift information **beginning THIS WEEKEND, November 16-17. New this year** - You may pick up a tag to purchase just one gift item for a child. In addition, sign-up will be available for volunteers who can help on December 8 after the 11:00 AM worship service to sort and pack up the donated gifts.
- **Hat, Scarf, Mitten and Glove Collection** to benefit our mission partner, Family of God in Detroit. Watch for the big empty Christmas tree to appear in the Atrium after Thanksgiving weekend, and let’s help fill it up with new warm items to bless those in need this winter.

DID YOU KNOW that we have a St. John **Love for Others Fund** to assist people inside our church home and outside in our community who are in immediate need of emergency help? Last year, over \$14,000 was distributed to assist with food, gas, hospital visits, medical expenses and more. The Love for Others Fund has helped those who have lost income and are in need of a one-time mortgage or rent payment, or funds to avoid utility shut-offs, and the list goes on.

Having this fund available offers us the opportunity to pray with people, talk about their individual needs, and share God’s love while helping with the necessary tangible care that can ease their worry.

Please consider making a donation to the Love for Others Fund. This fund is completely separate from our Annual Ministry Budget. **Donations are tax deductible and checks can be made out to: St. John Love for Others Fund, or to St. John, with Love for Others in the memo line. The blue envelopes included with your bimonthly offering packets may be used for these donations.** Thank you!

CAN YOU NAME THE ST. JOHN FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS? As detailed in a previous article, your St. John Church & School Foundation is an organization established to support the mission and

ministry of St. John through grants generated by endowments. The Foundation Board of Governors are members of St. John who are elected for a three year term. The current Board Members are **Lesley Scharfenberg** (Chairperson), **Charlie Jones** (Secretary), **Matt Hiler** (Treasurer), and members-at-large **Brian Fitzgibbon**, **Lisa Hill** and **Nick Oleskie**. The purpose of the Foundation Board is to manage the endowments and investments to make sure they stay within set guidelines, disburse available grants when requested, and grow the Foundation by educating our congregation about the benefits of contributing to something that will provide ongoing support to St. John Lutheran Church & School. If you have any questions about the Foundation, please email foundation@stjohnrochester.org and a Board member will respond.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL UPDATES

As many of you know, while being off campus for worship this summer during construction was a blessing in many ways, our attendance and offerings fell behind for the start of our fiscal year (beginning July 1). Since returning to campus in September (still in the midst of ongoing construction and parking challenges), we haven't yet made up for that lost ground over the summer and actually fell a little further behind in October. While offerings have now begun to improve in November, our ministry team has also worked very hard to pull back and delay some expenses while successfully eliminating others (total of \$83,000 eliminated to date). This brings the total current shortfall to a more manageable \$45k; this remaining shortfall, however, has been affecting our operations. **As we enter this special season of thanksgiving, please prayerfully consider how you might help close this financial gap in the midst of the many blessings we are sharing in these exciting days of ministry.** Also if you haven't done so, be sure to read the important update email for more details that went out to member families this weekend from Pastor Marc.

GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS

Offerings for November 9-10.....\$50,637.00

Special Contributions for November 9-10.....\$1,110.00

As of 11/10/19 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 899,468.05

As of 11/10/19 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 755,837.04

As of 11/10/19 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ (143,631.01)

As of 11/10/19 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$8,349.00

(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/19 through 6/30/20.)

Meanwhile, Phase 1 of the ONE Legacy initiative project is getting closer to being completed in the next few weeks. Per our presented plan at the recent Congregation Forum, we are preparing to borrow funds from Church Extension Fund on our construction line of credit. As we continue to receive ONE Legacy gifts, we will be paying off final invoices and directing all additional collections to pay down the line of credit. We'd like to share some encouraging news. We had an excellent One Legacy collection recently! Thank you! This influx of cash helped us avoid future borrowing by close to \$130,000. Notably- several families have gone above and beyond their original pledge allocation. Thank you for your continued generosity! To God be the Glory, and may we continue to serve Him with our time, treasures, and talents!
- Dave Scharrer, Vestry Financial Officer

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 11/10/19 Amount pledged..... \$3,526,723.49

As of 11/10/19 Amount received.....\$2,194,581.15

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

DO YOU LOVE SPORTS AND KIDS? St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **Cheerleading** coach for the 5th-8th Grade Cheerleading team. This is a volunteer role where you can really make a positive impact on the young ladies on the team. Experience cheerleading and/or coaching cheerleading is desired. Tryouts will be in mid-December right before Christmas break, and the cheering season is early January to early March. The commitment consists of 3-4 practices/games per week (typically Tuesday and Thursday games at 4:15 PM). The team will be cheering in 6 regular season games as well as 2 or 3 weekend tournaments.

For more information or to express interest in coaching, please contact Todd Bauer, St. John Athletic Director, at tbauer@stjohnrochester.org.

RELATIONAL WITNESS

CHRISTMAS PARADE WALKERS – COME JOIN THE FUN! - St. John Lutheran Church & School will be sharing the love of Jesus with the community by participating in the 2019 Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 PM. The St. John parade coordinators are looking for volunteers of all ages to participate by walking/strolling/wheeling in the parade. Come dressed as your favorite nativity person or animal (think shepherd, sheep, etc.). You may also opt to wear St. John Spirit Wear or Christmas colors (green and red). Help sing Christmas carols along the parade route! Children under 10 will need to be accompanied by a parent. To sign up, please contact Sheree Cluff (shereedeluca33@hotmail.com) or Andrea Christensen (alchrist16@gmail.com) by November 30. Additional details will be provided to those volunteering.

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 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: New members of our St. John family

Guidance & Strength: Completion of One Legacy Phase I projects & continued generous giving

Hope & Healing: Kristen White (daughter of Mark & Karen Olex & granddaughter of Herb & Lillian Von Rusten) – recovering from cancer surgery / Jacob Rose / Ryan Jankovich / Herman Borst / Matthew Stewart / Continued healing for: Pastor Marc’s father Jon / Jack Parish / Marilyn Miller / Hailey Noonan / Sarah Leinberger / Linda Madson / Jim Madson / Leah Appold / Tommy Schomaker

Bereavement: Loraine Frobel (mother of Dave)

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: The 64th wedding anniversary of Jerry & Mary Bantin / Baptisms of Louise Jean Horstman - daughter of Jackee and Jonathan / Luke Robert Berlin - son of Lauren and Robert / Alex Holzke (brother of Irmgard Flemming) – thanksgiving for completed military service / For last Saturday’s prayer breakfast hosted by our mission partner Crossroads Care Center lifting up life and care in our community

Guidance & Strength: Mission partner: Rochester Neighborhood House

Hope & Healing: Bill (son-in-law of Irv Becker) – cancer / Laura Mastrangelo - recovering from broken femur / Janie Ortleib – recovering from surgery / Tracy Ortleib – cancer / Anne Marie Kuntzman - MRI of her brain on Friday

Bereavement: (for the family of...) Ann Geister / Jimmy Wawrzyniak (son of Iris) / Sal Cuomo (uncle of Jim Schultz)

Nation & World: Thanksgiving for all our Veterans and their service to our country

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Completion of the playground

Hope & Healing: Edna Gangwisch (mother of Bob) – hospice / Florence Raetzel – battling ongoing illness / Claire – healthy pregnancy / Jim – awaiting test results / Darren Jacks / Tom Kollmorgen (brother of Ann Danielson) – heart attack

Bereavement: (for the family of...) Lynsey McEvoy / Dean Jones (cousin of Candy Bartley)

Nation & World: Those battling and dealing with fires in California

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Friday: CLOSED

FACILITY HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Friday: 4:00 PM – 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 Adult Bible Study (Truth Project) – Concordia Hall
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (Life By His Word) – Room 101
9:30 AM Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
9:30 AM Sunday School – School Classrooms

10:45 AM Modern Praise Worship – Gymnasium
11:00 AM Traditional Praise Worship – Church Sanctuary
12:00 PM Mexicali Trip Meeting – Youth Room
6:00 PM Lighthouse – Gymnasium

Monday

7:00 AM Men’s Small Group (McCallum) – Revelation – Church Library
8:00 AM Book Fair - Atrium
7:00 PM The ONE New Member Class – Luther Hall
7:00 PM St. John Foundation Meeting – Church Library
7:00 PM Vestry Meeting – Media Center

Tuesday

8:00 AM Book Fair - Atrium
11:30 AM International Bible Class – Room 128
1:00 PM ESL Class – Concordia Hall
7:00 PM LifeLight – Mary Martha Room
7:00 PM Women’s Bible Study (Advent) – Church Library
8:30 PM Bibles & Basketball – Gymnasium *note the start time

Wednesday

8:00 AM Book Fair - Atrium
8:45 AM School Chapel – Church Sanctuary
9:15 AM LifeLight – Concordia Hall
12:45 PM Women’s Bible Study (Nehemiah) – Concordia Hall
7:00 PM High School Women’s Small Group – Chapel
7:00 PM High School Men’s Small Group – Youth Room

Thursday

8:00 AM Book Fair - Atrium
9:00 AM Gleaners Quilting – Concordia Hall
10:00 AM Men’s Small Group (Fedototszkin) – Church Library
4:30 PM Skit & Drama Ministry – Luther Hall
7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall

Friday

7:00 PM **Facility Closed Until 4:00 PM (see related article in Shared Life)**
Confirmation Onsite Retreat – Gymnasium

Saturday

8:00 AM Bibles & Basketball – Gymnasium
9:00 AM Confirmation Onsite Retreat – Music Room
10:00 AM GriefShare – Church Library
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

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