THE WORD

JANUARY - APRIL

GET INTO THE WORD! Winter 2023 Schedule

It's almost a New Year and with it come many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word!

As a part of the St. John family, please take a moment to see what follows in our GET INTO THE WORD guide as we seek to make studying and experiencing God's presence through Word as accessible as possible! From children to seniors, ESL to parenting, men and women, Bible basics to more in-depth studies, there truly is something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstance or schedule!

Many classes and groups start in the coming days and weeks. Take a big step this winter as a family in your faith walk with Jesus: Get into the Word!

CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITES

Please note, this is not a complete list of classes as some classes do not meet on a regular basis. Please check the individual descriptions for more details and stand alone opportunities.

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Lutner's Small Catechism	9:30 AM	Concordia Hall
Genesis Part II	9:30 AM	Room 128
Sunday School	9:30 AM	Various Classrooms
Youth Confirmation Class	9:30 AM	Youth Room
Lighthouse	6:00 PM	Gym
High School Youth	6:00 PM	Youth Room or Off-site

MONDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Group Study: Proverbs	9:00 AM	Church Library
The ONE Class	7:00 PM	Luther Hall
Healing Hearts Support Group	7:00 PM	Off-site

TUESDAY OPPORTUNITIES

International Bible Study / ESL	11:00 AM	Room 128
Women's Group Study: Focus: How One Word Can Transform Your Life	7:00 PM	Church Library

Following Jesus LIFEgroup (Katona) 7:00 PM Various

WEDNESDAY OPPORTUNITIES

LifeLight Bible Study: Isaiah Part 2	9:30 AM	Concordia Hall
Following Jesus LIFEgroup (Sliter)	12:00 PM	Mary Martha Room
Ladies Wednesday Bible Study	1:00 PM	Concordia Hall
Women of Faith, Friendship and Fun LIFEgroup	7:00 PM	Church Library
Not Just a Week in the Summer (Begins 2/16)	7:00 PM	Youth Room
Men's LIFEgroup (RMB)	7:00 PM	Rochester Mills Brewery

THURSDAY OPPORTUNITIES

St. John Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)	9:00 AM	Luther Hall
Men's Group Study: Ephesians	10:00 AM	Church Library
Women in Christ LIFEgroup	6:30 PM	Various Homes
Intentional Marriage Class	7:00 PM	Church Library
SCARS (Begins in March)	7:00 PM	Concordia Hall

SATURDAY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bibles & Basketball	8:00 AM	Gymnasium
GriefShare (begins March 4)	10:00 AM	Church Library
Lingering in His Word Fellowship (LIHW)	1:00 PM	Concordia Hall

SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

Sunday: 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Pastor Gil McDonald

This study is a continuation of an in-depth study of the 2017 edition of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Last year our study completed the first of the six chief parts of Christian doctrine – The Ten Commandments. This class will continue with the second of the chief parts – The Apostles Creed. Participants may want to purchase their own copy of this book; it is available on Amazon. All are welcome to learn for the first time or dust off the cobwebs about this important statement of belief. For more information, please contact Pastor Gil McDonald at **g47mcd@hotmail.com**.

GENESIS PART II

Sunday: 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Room 128

Leader: Dianna Swenson

This study looks at the four stages of Jacob's life from birth to death. Jacob is the third link in God's plan to start a nation from Abraham. We can learn from Jacob how to place our desires and plans before God. This is an interactive class with weekly handouts of the scripture and questions. We are always open to new people and no preparation required. For more information, please contact Dianna Swenson at diannaswenson@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday: 9:30 - 10:30 AM | School Classrooms

Leader: Various

St. John Lutheran Church offers a weekly Sunday School that meets at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms of our building. All children ages 3 (if potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome. Parents and guardians check children in at the welcome desk, located in the school hallway. Check-in is required for safety and security purposes. After check-in, preschoolers and kindergartners then go to their classrooms to hear about Jesus through song and lesson time. 1st - 6th grade students meet in the Media Center for an opening devotion, followed by grade divided classroom time for teaching, small group discussion, crafts, and other activities depending on the week. There are no attendance requirements. We look forward to seeing your children and sharing with them the love of Jesus! For more information, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday: 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Youth Room

Leader: Steve Wilson

Our 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will continue participating in Sunday confirmation instruction which includes the study of the Old Testament, the Book of Mark, and other topics. Small group discussion and specific parental involvement at home are key parts of the class. All 7th and 8th grade students and parents are welcome! For more information, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006.

LIGHTHOUSE - MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY (GRADES 6-8)

Sunday: 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Gym

Leader: Steve Wilson

Lighthouse is a place where Middle School students (grades 6-8) can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus and have fun together. All middle school students are welcome! For more information, please contact Steve Wilson at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday: 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Youth Room or Off-site

Leader: Melissa Hammett

High School is a defining part of a person's life as students often begin to really settle into their beliefs about the world, God, their purpose, etc. During this influential time, we want students to be immersed in God's defining Word while surrounded by people who know and love Jesus! We also want to give them the skills and the support they need to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives. Our youth group is open to students from all high schools in our amazing community. We talk, laugh, pray, work through hard stuff, do fun stuff and learn to serve it up! Join us! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

WEEKDAYS

THE ONE CLASS

Monday: 7:00 - 8:30 PM | Luther Hall

Leaders: Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg, Pastor Steve Grafe, and Pastor Jon Trinklein

Are you ready to make St. John your home? If so, join us starting January 30! 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 an 8-week, action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! They'll also introduce you to our St. John mission and vision!

The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30PM. Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. Look for an email and more information on our website in January, including a link to register for the class. If you have any questions, contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. We hope you can join us!

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDY / ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Room 128

Leader: Peter Harris

The focus of this study is the powerful words of Jesus in what is known as The Beatitudes in Matthew 5. ESL classes follow at 1:00 - 3:00 PM where participants learn to improve their English and life skills in an American setting. Interested individuals join together to learn more about the love of Jesus in a loving and caring environment. For more information, please contact Peter Harris at 248-651-7532.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY: ISAIAH Part 2

Wednesday: 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Various

LIFELIGHT is a series of deep-dive 9-week Bible studies. The classes involve home-study, lectures, and small group participation led by Carol Kahler and Ginny Schmidt. This class, which begins on January 11, is the study of Isaiah, chapters 34-66 that include poignant and powerful promises of God to bring comfort and hope to Israel and to all people through the sending of the Savior of the world. New participants are welcome. Study Guides will be available for \$10. For more information or if you are new to this class, please contact Carol Kahler at carol5666@att.net.

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP BIBLE STUDY: NOT JUST A WEEK IN THE SUMMER

Wednesday: 7:00 - 8:00 PM | Youth Room Leaders: Steve Wilson & Melissa Hammett

High School students (grades 9-12) are invited to be a part of an 8-week small group Bible study starting February 16. This is a great opportunity to get in the Word and talk about life together. This group is for young men and women wanting to grow in faith and life with other teens. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

SCARS Lenten Book Study

Thursdays in March: 7:00 PM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Pastor Jon Trinklein

SCARS is an acronym for Sin | Confession | Absolution | Reconciliation | Sanctification. This is a 40-day journey to experience freedom through Gospel-empowered forgiving. The book "Forgiving Challenge: A 40 Day Life-Changing Journey to Freedom" written by Lutheran Pastor Zach Zehnder is the basis for this Lent Journey. For more information, please contact Pastor Jon Trinklein at trinklein@stjohnrochester.org.

LINGERING IN HIS WORD FELLOWSHIP (LIHW)

3rd Saturday/Month: 1:00 - 4:00 PM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Candice Schwark

We will linger in His Word using the Visual Faith® Ministry Lectio Divina format for Scripture study - an ancient practice of listening, with our mouths closed and our hearts open as we study His Word. An optional creative project or two will be completed after each study. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Candice Schwark at candice@mac.com or 248-652-9449.

COUPLES OPPORTUNITIES

INTENTIONAL MARRIAGE CLASS

2nd & 4th Thursday/Month: 7:00 PM | Luther Hall

Leaders: Joe and Kerry Kaiser

Marriage is the primary relationship on earth in which we experience God's love and grace. We are excited to pursue His love by intentionally pursuing the oneness He designed in marriage. If you want to elevate your marriage to the level God intended, this class is for you. The class is based on practical Biblical principles and is not "fluffy". It is for couples who want to do the hard work of intentional change. Each meeting will have a specific topic with the goal of working together to establish beneficial thinking, understanding, and intentional habits. This class begins on Thursday, January 26. For more information, please contact Joe and Kerry Kaiser at kerrygremel@gmail.com or 248-330-1699.

WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

FOCUS: HOW ONE WORD CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

Tuesday: 7:00 - 9:00 PM | Church Library Leaders: Sue Stingu and Kerry Albertson

This is a 5-week FOCUS series for women. This study is taken from a devotion book by Cleere Cherry Reaves, titled "FOCUS - How One Word a Week Will Transform Your Life" and uses a selected and meditative Word study to allow us to hone-in on a deeper walk in faith. Some of the words we might use include Alert, Worship, and Anchored. Bibles will be used during this class. For more information, please contact Sue Stingu at suestingu@gmail.com or via text at 248-321-9572.

MEN'S OPPORTUNITIES

MEN'S GROUP STUDY: PROVERBS

1st & 3rd Monday/Month: 9:00 - 10:30 AM | Church Library

Leader: Dan McCallum

This men's group takes an in-depth look at various books of the Bible. Participants will receive an email before each session with discussion/meditation questions and commentary. Each session begins with a brief time of fellowship (coffee and light refreshments) and opening prayer, followed by reading and discussing Bible verses. The emphasis is on reading, understanding, and discussing the application of God's Word to our lives, the community, and the world. Men of all ages are welcome, and no prior Bible study experience is required. For more information, please contact Dan McCallum at d.mccallum@sbcalobal.net.

MEN'S GROUP STUDY: EPHESIANS

1st & 3rd Thursday/Month: 10:00 - 11:30 AM | Church Library

Leader: John Fedototszkin

This group takes an in-depth look at Paul's letter to the Ephesians and how they apply to our current day topics. Each session begins with a brief time of fellowship (coffee and light refreshments) and opening prayer, followed by reading and discussing Bible verses. Men of all ages are welcome, and no prior Bible study experience is required. For more information, please contact John Fedototszkin at 248-375-0832 or sherryjohnf559940@gmail.com.

MEN'S BIBLES & BASKETBALL

Saturday: 8:00 - 10:00 AM | Gymnasium

Leader: Eric Garland

This an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. Men of all ages and ability levels are welcome! Whether you come regularly or occasionally, all are welcome. For more information, please contact Eric Garland at egarlan10@gmail.com.

LIFEgroups

What is a LIFEgroup?

A LIFEgroup is where you can make new friends, grow in your faith, serve in new and enriching ways, and just plain have more fun. These are not specifically "Bible Studies."

How do I get started?

St. John offers LIFEgroups of a variety of ages, stages, and stations in life. Find one that best fits you and contact the leader to check it out. There's no better time than now to start a journey of faith, friendship, and following Jesus!

ALL ADULTS

FOLLOWING JESUS LIFEgroups

Following Jesus LIFEgroups help you connect with Christ in his Word and others in friendship in an ongoing adventure the Bible calls discipleship. These groups rotate meeting in various homes of participants or as table groups in a Bible Study offered on campus. Our two Following Jesus LIFEgroups are:

Tuesday: 7:00 PM | Various Homes Leaders: John and Marsha Katona

This LIFEgroup is continuing a study of the classic writing about the Christian journey of faith and growth in the book "The Pilgrim's Process" by John Bunyon. In this book, Christian leaves the City Of Destruction on a spiritual journey. On his journey he meets many of the same people all of us have met. There are those of faith looking for reasons to believe, and the skeptics living only by what their temporal eyes see. This is mostly a prayer group sharing one another's burdens and praise reports. We meet about twice a month and communicate daily by text. For more information, please contact John Katona at johnbkatona@aol.com.

1st Wednesday: 12:00 PM | Mary Martha Room Leaders: Karl and Donna Sliter

Members of this LIFEgroup will participate in a variety of Bible Studies in early 2023, but will also meet once per month to discuss what we've learned and/or share a meal together. We are committed to try to serve together once per month at St. John, Neighborhood House, or Oxford/Orion FISH. For more information, please contact Donna Sliter at dkasvolks@att.net.

YOUNG ADULTS

ADULT-ISH LIFEgroups

Various Meeting Times | Various Places

Leaders: Nate and Cassie Benter & Aaron and Grace Roggow

This LIFEgroup is for individuals and couples (twenty-ish/thirty-ish) who are interested in making friends, growing in faith, serving others in new and enriching ways and just plain having more fun together. During the month of March, our Adult-ish group will participate in the Lent Sermon and Small Group study SCARS (Sin, Confession, Absolution, Restoration, Sanctification) 40-day journey to experience freedom through Gospel-empowered forgiving using the book "Forgiving Challenge: A 40 Day Life-Changing Journey to Freedom" written by Lutheran Pastor Zach Zehnder. For more information, please contact Aaron Roggow at aaroggow@gmail.com.

WOMEN

WOMEN OF FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, AND FUN LIFEgroup 1st & 3rd Wednesday/Month: 7:00 PM | Church Library Leaders: Shelly Morales

Women of Faith, Friendship, and Fun is for women single or married of any age who want to form lasting friendships that will support and lift each other up in and outside of church while growing in God's Word. This group meets for study and discussion in a "book club" style both at church and at outside locations. This group also engages in acts of service. For more information, please contact Shelly Morales at shellymorales86@amail.com.

WOMEN IN CHRIST LIFEgroup

Thursday: 6:30 PM | Various Homes

Leader: Beth Helmer

Women in Christ LIFEgroup invites women of all ages to come and enjoy a time of prayer, reading scripture, fellowship, sharing life's joys and struggles, and personal encounters with Jesus. We seek to know the Lord in a deeper way through sharing our personal walk with Him and being strengthened by one another's faith. We also partner for mission opportunities to serve St. John Church and the surrounding communities. For more information, please contact Beth Helmer at helmerdb25@comcast.net or 248-928-4129.

LADIES WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday: 1:00 PM | Concordia Hall

Leader: Jennie Eller

All ladies are invited to come around the table for a time of fellowship and connection. Each week we will share in a time of lesson, devotion, and table talk as we build relationships and equip one another in living with faith, hope, and love as we walk through life's up and downs. A key component to our group is our time of prayer and lifting one another up to the Lord as we chase after His will. For more information, please contact Jennie Eller at <u>jeller@stjohnrochester.org</u>.

MEN

MEN'S LIFEgroup AT ROCHESTER MILLS BREWERY (RMB) 2nd Wednesday/Month: 7:00 PM | Rochester Mills Brewery

Leader: Pastor Jon Trinklein

Please note the January meeting will take place on January 18.

RMB LIFEgroup is an informal gathering for men to connect with other men for great conversation about faith, life, and following Jesus - along with a cold brew if you so desire. Take the time to be with others for helpful insights, good laughter, and an occasional outreach serve project. Before you know it, God shows up in ways you didn't see coming. Bring a friend and tell the restaurant host you looking for the St John group. For more information, please contact Pastor Jon Trinklein at itrinklein@stjohnrochester.org.

Don't See A LIFEgroup That Works For You?

There are many other LIFEgroups not listed here that are currently at capacity, but maybe the Lord is calling you to the adventure of starting your own!? If you have questions and want to know more, reach out to Pastor Jon Trinklein at jtrinklein@stjohnrochester.org.

SPECIAL SUPPORT GROUPS

ST. JOHN MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)

2nd & 4th Thursday/Month: 9:00 - 11:00 AM | Luther Hall
Leaders: Elizabeth Olsen and Samantha Passalacqua

Are you a mom of a newborn, toddler, or preschooler and looking for a supportive group of women going through what you are? St. John Lutheran MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is accepting registrations for the 2023 year for MOPS. We offer free loving childcare, breakfast, speakers, devotion, play dates, and Mom's Night Out. You can find out more information about MOPS at MOPS.org. Or come and join us for a free meeting to see if we are the right fit for you! For more information, please contact Elizabeth Olsen at stiphnthursdaymops@gmail.com.

GRIEFSHARE

Saturday: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Church Library Leaders: Linda Baroli and Cindy Richardson

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. Our group is designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the days ahead. Weekly sessions will begin on March 4. For more information, please contact Linda Baroli at 248-895-0310.

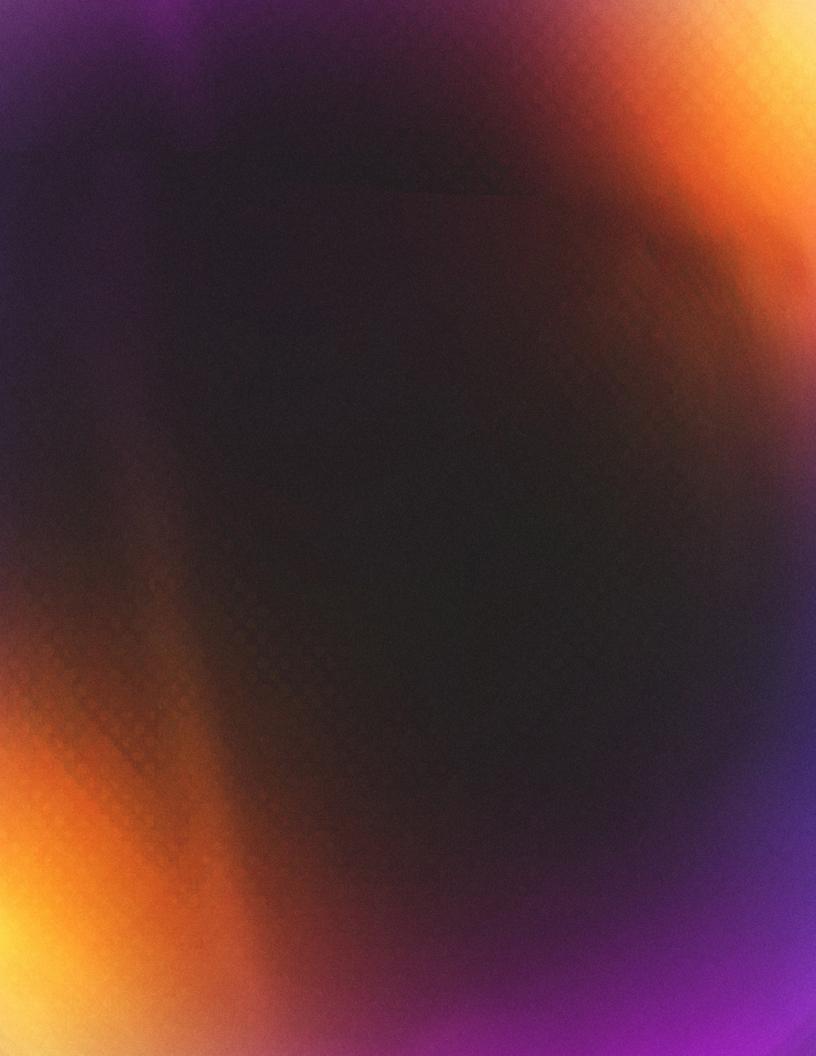
HEALING HEARTS SUPPORT GROUP 1st Monday/Month: 7:00 PM | Meets Off-site Leader: Suzanne Preuss

Have you recently or are you currently experiencing a broken heart in your marriage? Have you gone through or are you going through an unwanted divorce? Healing Hearts is a support group for those who have or are experiencing heart break in their marriage. This can be a lonely and isolating time; we are here to listen and encourage. God has a plan for your life, and you can enjoy His plan and His blessings when you are the best version of yourself. This group is a safe place to share your hurts and disappointments, but it is also a place for encouragement to heal and grow. Healing Hearts typically meets the first Monday of the month off-site. For more information, please contact Suzanne Preuss at suzannep1227@gmail.com.

ONE DAY BIBLICAL DISCOVERY EVENTS

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER (G.A.P.)
Saturday, February 18: 9:00 –11:30 AM | Concordia Hall
Leaders: Jon and Sue Trinklein

This one-day seminar is open to anyone who wants to learn how to biblically pray with Pastor confidence. Discover why prayer is the first priority for every believer and how God graciously calls us to partner with Him in what He is doing in our world as we pray. Whether your prayer life is strong and vibrant or negligible, this class provides an encouraging and affirming atmosphere for you to both learn and practice prayer. This seminar also serves as training for those desiring to pray for others at our worship services as a member of our St. John Prayer Team. For more information, and to sign up, please email Pastor Jon Trinklein at itrinklein@stjohnrochester.org.





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