

February 17-18, 2018

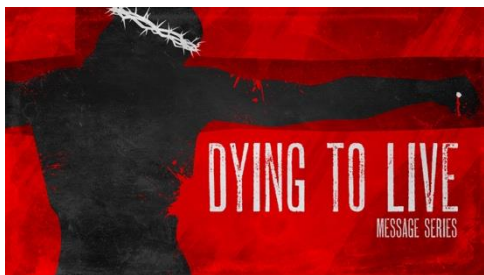


# THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

## ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of February 18, 2018

### WORSHIP CELEBRATION



**MESSAGE SERIES STARTS THIS WEEKEND** - There was no short cut to the empty tomb. Rather the path to Jesus' resurrection

came only by way of His willing and purposeful death for us. There was no other way.

Sometimes we forget the same is actually true of us. We too are called by our Savior to first die that we might live in and through Him:

Die to sinful pleasures and pursuits  
Die to ungodly desires and attitudes  
Die to our need for power and control

Join us during the forty days of Lent through [weekend and midweek worship](#) as we spend intentional time together...Dying to Live.

There was and is no other or better way to find life through our Savior Jesus.

**NEW FESTIVAL CHORUS OPPORTUNITY** - Please consider joining our St. John choirs as they perform Theodore Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ" at our Good Friday Tenebrae (7:00 PM) service. This beautiful, dramatic work will feature a Festival Chorus accompanied by organ and soloists. To join the St. John Festival Chorus, no prior experience or audition is required. Simply email Nick Kwapis at [nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org) with interest or for more information by March 1. Rehearsals for this event will be:

Sunday, March 4 (12:30-2:00 PM in the Choir Loft)

Sunday, March 18 (12:30-2:00 PM in the Choir Loft)

Thursday, March 29 (8:00-9:30 PM in the Balcony)

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

Attendance for the weekend of February 10-11.....821

Attendance for February 14 (Ash Wednesday).....477

### BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be held this TODAY, February 18 as our leaders and volunteers take a little break over Presidents' Day weekend. Adult Bible Class will be held as usual. Sunday School will resume next Sunday, February 25.

**GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER** – It's a New Year and with it come many new 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 truly will be something for everyone no matter your age, life circumstances or schedule! Make this the year that you take a big step as a family in your faith walk with Jesus! Many classes and groups just kicked off this past week. Our Get Into the Word brochure with a full listing of Bible Class selections for Sundays as well as Sunday School and all classes held during the week is available in easel racks outside Luther Hall and in the Atrium, as well as on our St. John website. Let's get into the Word together this winter!



## 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!

**CAMPUS SECURITY TASK FORCE** - With all of the ongoing news of tragedies playing out in schools and churches across our nation, we want our St. John family to know we are working diligently to explore immediate options to ensure we are as prepared as possible for the unexpected. In consult with area law enforcement agencies and other area churches and schools, a task group has been formed in recent months. Together they are working through action plans and potential training for the immediate future. We are also anticipating making some very important changes to our weekday campus security procedures. More information on this will be coming very soon. In the meantime may we continue to pray for those affected by recent tragedies and for God's protection around circumstances into the future that are sure to come.

**DELICIOUS LENTEN DINNER THIS WEEK!** The Group Mission Trip team invites you to come and enjoy a tasty supper featuring baked potato bar, salad, and dessert on Wednesday, February 21 between the 4:30 and 7:00 PM Lenten services. Serving will begin about 5:15 PM and continue until 6:45 PM in the gymnasium. Free will donations will support the team as they travel to Breckinridge, MN this summer to share the love of Jesus while serving in a variety of ways.

**GRIEFSHARE** is a group of caring people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer comfort, support and hope. Each session includes a video, workbook and discussion time. You may share as much or as little as you like. GriefShare is open to everyone and you may join us for any session. Each session focuses on a different aspect of grieving. We meet on Saturday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Church Library. Meetings will begin again on Saturday, February 24 and run through Saturday, May 19. The group is facilitated by Linda Baroli, Marlene Leinberger, Cindy Richardson and Joanne Curran. For more information, please contact Linda at 248-895-0310.

**CAREGIVER CARE SUPPORT GROUP** will meet on February 27! Do you assist a family member or friend with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks? If you answered yes, you are a caregiver. There are about 2 million unpaid family caregivers in Michigan. Caregiving is rewarding, but can also be stressful, overwhelming, and exhausting. We are happy to offer Caregiver Care, a support group for the loving caregivers of St John. Join fellow caregivers to learn problem-solving strategies and receive validation

and encouragement from others who understand what you may be going through. The meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 PM in Concordia Hall downstairs. You do not need to sign up for this support group. For more information, please contact Laura Tom, RN, Faith Community Nurse at 586-201-9162 or [laurajtom@comcast.net](mailto:laurajtom@comcast.net).

**ST. JOHN MOPS ANNUAL MOM TO MOM SALE** is just around the corner on Saturday, March 3, 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 table rental information, please email [stjohnmopsm2m@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnmopsm2m@gmail.com).

**VISUAL FAITH OPPORTUNITY** – Many who took part in the Visual Faith retreat here this past fall may be looking for another opportunity to grow in creativity through the study of God's Word. Join our own Candice Schwark as she will be guest speaker at the "Pray in Color" Women's Retreat at Guardian Lutheran in Dearborn on March 9-10. Candice will be discussing and demonstrating Visual Faith, with a focus on prayer – prayer for others and meditation at Lent. Friday evening (optional) will include devotion, dinner, fellowship and fun. Saturday will include breakfast and lunch, morning and afternoon workshops, and worship with communion. Please send \$40 registration (made payable to Guardian Guild), to Guardian Guild, Guardian Lutheran Church, 24544 Cherry Hill Rd., Dearborn, MI 48124. Please register by February 25. Questions may be directed to Guardian Lutheran Church at 313-274-1414.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - There will be no Sunday School classes TODAY, February 18, due to mid winter break. Classes will resume on Sunday, February 25. Our Sunday School welcomes children from PreK-3 year old through 6th grade and meets in the school classrooms 9:30-10:30 AM each Sunday morning. Please have your children join us as we walk through the Bible and learn of God's love for each of us! No registration is required. Just show up!



### ST. JOHN DAY SCHOOL NEWS:

**Hearts for Jesus:** During the month of February, day school students are gathering their chapel offerings and Casual for a Cause donations to benefit Hearts for Jesus, a program of the LCMS Lutheran Schools in Michigan. This year's designated ministry is Lutheran Special Education Ministries ([luthsped.org](http://luthsped.org)). The real life stories of four Lutheran School students and the blessings of the LSEM program are shared, and **one of the students featured is our very own middle school student Ethan!** St. John Lutheran School is thankful to have a fully staffed LSEM program,

with a full time and a part time instructor, providing individual and group instruction. To learn more and to see the Team Ethan video, visit [www.stjohnrochester.org/school](http://www.stjohnrochester.org/school).

**Future City Team in Washington, DC this weekend!** After earning 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Regionals in January, the St. John Future City team has advanced to the National Competition in Washington, D.C. this weekend, February 17-20. Presenters Ethan Dodson, Reagan Rutkowski and Sloane Kerska have made the trip along with teacher mentor Mr. Tim Grothaus and engineer mentor Dr. Linda Gerhardt as well as several parent chaperones. Please join in wishing God's blessings to the team! To learn more about the program, visit [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org).

**St. John Lutheran School offers Preschool to 8<sup>th</sup> grade** in a Christ-centered setting firmly rooted in God's Word. The K - 8 program includes daily religion with weekly chapel, challenging academics, fine



arts opportunities, and a variety of extra-curricular programs. Students entering Preschool must be 3 by September 1 for the 3's session and 4 by September 1 for the 4's session. Students entering Kindergarten need to be 5 by September 1.

**New student applications are currently being accepted** for the 2018-2019 school year. Application packets are available in the Admissions office, and an online application is available on our website. A completed application form and a non-refundable \$100 fee (cash or check) are required to start the enrollment process. Some sessions are full and others are filling quickly. If you missed the Open House last weekend, join us for a **Daytime School Open House on Wednesday, February 28, 9:00 AM -1:00 PM**. For more information or to schedule a personal tour, please contact Beth Dameron, Director of School Admissions at [bdameron@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:bdameron@stjohnrochester.org) or 248-402-8012, or visit [stjohnrochester.org](http://stjohnrochester.org).

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** - 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. 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. Please sign up for the class on the St. John website. Click on Discover/Middle School. Classes are scheduled for March 4, 11, 18 and 25.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE TOOL TIME RETREAT** will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 11: 00 AM until Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 PM. The cost of the event is \$60 per person. This is an overnight retreat at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. Concordia puts on an amazing retreat with musicians, speakers, games, food, a service project, and breakout sessions. It is a great event for Middle School students to hear about Jesus and grow in faith. To register, visit our St. John website and click on Discover/Middle School. For more information, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry at [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org).



#### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 18-22, 2018**

Adults and teens who are interested in helping to plan for our 2018 VBS, please plan to come to our first team meeting TODAY, Feb. 18, 12:00-1:00 PM in the Church Library. For more information about this year's VBS, visit our website and look for the VBS rotator on the homepage!

#### **GROUP MISSION TRIP: JULY 21-28, 2018**

If you have not registered for our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade mission trip in Breckinridge, MN this summer, please consider it today! A \$50 deposit is due by Feb. 28 in order to attend this summer. Group Mission Trip is a service project where students go to share the love of Jesus with people who are less fortunate. They will spend time during the week serving through building wheel chair ramps, painting, and other construction projects. You don't need to be an expert - just a servant! Contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, or Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Ministry, for more information.





**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – THANK YOU** to the St. John congregation who supported us in a big way last week at the pancake breakfast. You blessed us with over \$600 that will go toward our trips this year - Mexicali, Group Mission Trip and Camping, to name just a few. We are so thankful for your support!

TONIGHT we will meet at Emagine Theater in Rochester Hills for a 6:00 PM showing of *The Greatest Showman*. Tickets are \$11.00 and can be purchased at the theater.

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).



### THE HEART OF MARRIAGE SEMINAR

**Saturday, March 17, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM | Online Registration is open!**

What is the heart condition of your marriage? Is it vibrant but you know it can be stronger? Is it "okay" but lacking passion? Is it apathetic or hardened? Whatever the condition, we invite you to come join us to develop a healthier "heart" for a more satisfying marriage. In this seminar, marriage counselor Les Morrison and his wife Rhonda will

present five key elements to a vibrant, meaningful marriage. Drawing from experiences in their 32 years of marriage and the countless couples they have counseled, the Morrisons are passionate about helping couples develop a Christ-centered marriage to be enjoyed for a lifetime. What a perfect gift for your Valentine! The cost is \$40 per couple to help cover a catered lunch and materials. To register, visit our St. John website and look for the homepage rotator with the graphic you see with this article. Space is limited, so register today!

## SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

**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 with them in Jesus' name by directing them toward our shared mission and ministry together! Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018 to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars. Please understand 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. If you need assistance, our local Thrivent representatives will be onsite in a few weeks to walk you through the easy process in person.

**SCHOOL FUNDRAISER** - On Sunday, February 25 the Buffalo Wild Wings location across from Crittenton Hospital will be holding a fundraiser for St John Lutheran School. 20% of your entire bill (alcohol included) will be returned to St John. The fundraiser will be all day, both dine in or carry out! You must have a special certificate with you, either hard copy or on your phone. Hard copies of the certificate are available at the Atrium kiosk. Electronic copies will be emailed out closer to the date. Please share copies of the certificate with your friends, family and co-workers! All funds raised will directly benefit our school ministry. Enjoy a delicious meal or snack at Buffalo Wild Wings on February 25 as you support the school. Hope to see you there!



## CAMPUS MASTER SITE PLAN & ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE UPDATE

Be sure to stop by the ONE Legacy display today to see the brand new architectural renderings of Phase I of the Master Site Plan! This updated 3D fly around shows actual materials and colors with greater detail than previous conceptual renderings.



Recently we hosted two important neighborhood gatherings to give our neighbors opportunity to weigh in on the proposed Phase I Master Site Plan. Invitations to these gatherings were made by going door to door to homes within a one to two block radius of our campus. The response from our neighbors so far has been very positive and conversations have focused on ensuring traffic flow on school drop off and pick up times is well thought out for the future - something we are already working on with the plans. We have great neighbors and we are thankful for dialogue as we work together for the future.

After a very positive preliminary hearing at the Rochester City Planning Council in early January, we are currently preparing to go back for site approval for all of Phase I in early March (a month later than anticipated). We have every reason to believe this will go very well based on the input we have received so far. Please note that we are seeking approval for the entire Phase I plan from the city in order to give our congregation an opportunity to make the final decision on the level of construction scope (up to the full Phase I construction) later this spring as was promised and voted on in the December meeting. Having full approval from the city ahead of time will allow us to also have more accurate cost estimates based on an actual approved plan prior to a final decision by our congregation, leveraging how much we are willing to finance to complete the project. While it is nothing short of amazing to realize the response to God's faithfulness as so far we have received pledges totaling over \$3,451,000 toward the ONE Legacy initiative, we are still prayerfully hopeful the Lord may continue to provide further pledges. Meanwhile multiple teams are working through projected future cost assessment and financial feasibility of the project—all in order to prepare us to best discern how to move forward in meeting the exciting growing ministry needs the Lord is bringing about! Please keep this exciting process in prayer.

Want to learn more? Visit the *ONE Legacy* display in the church and school Atrium or [stjohnrochester.org/one-legacy](http://stjohnrochester.org/one-legacy).



**WEEKLY 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 10-11....\$29,785.76  
Special Contributions for February 10-11.....\$0

As of 2/11/18 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings:	\$ 1,337,340.73
As of 2/11/18 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings:	<u>\$ 1,361,894.66</u>
As of 2/11/18 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget:	\$ 24,553.93
As of 2/11/18 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$62,521	
(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/17 through 6/30/18 .)	

**ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE**

As of 2/15/18 Y.T.D. Amount pledged.....	\$3,451,814.79
As of 2/15/18 Y.T.D. Amount received.....	\$665,261.02

**COMPASSIONATE SERVICE**



**MEXICALI MISSION TRIP TRAINING CONTINUES!** Excitement is building as our Mexicali student mission teams continue to gather in preparation for their upcoming Mexico mission trip that will occur over spring break. Please keep these amazing students and leaders in prayer, as well as the hearts of those they will go to serve in Jesus' name.

**THE ROCHESTER AREA NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE** (one of our primary mission partners) welcomes and needs your assistance. Volunteers share their time and talents on a regular basis at the Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, and at their Main Office.

- **Main Office:** Reception, client assistance, and administrative help are needed in the office.
- **Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is always in need of new volunteers to greet and assist clients with their food orders.



- **Clothes Closet Volunteers:** The Clothes Closet volunteers assist in maintaining the Clothes Closet inventory and serve clients.

Please contact [Volunteer@ranh.org](mailto:Volunteer@ranh.org) or call 248-651-5826 x15 to learn more about these opportunities. You may also visit [www.ranh.org](http://www.ranh.org) to learn more about Neighborhood House.

## RELATIONAL WITNESS

**TAKE HEART, TAKE ACTION** – Everywhere we go, we go as a witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to be a witness? Can my witness be used to help someone believe? How can I be a witness to people who really don't seem to care about church or the faith? **Take Heart, Take Action** is a conference for laypeople and church workers, sponsored by the LCMS Michigan District. Featured speakers will share Biblical insight into our calling as witnesses of the Gospel, as well as practical advice on how to do so. Join us Saturday, February 24, 8:30 AM–3:00 PM, at Our Savior Lutheran in Lansing. Cost is \$25 (\$20 for students). To register, visit [michigandistrict.org/theological18](http://michigandistrict.org/theological18).

## CONSTANT PRAYER

**FRIDAY FAMILY PRAYER:** On Fridays during Lent, we will meet in the Chapel to pray for all the families of St. John Lutheran Church & School. Cards with the name of families of St. John will be available for anyone who comes to pray. Prayer time will begin at 7:30 AM and end at about 8:00 AM. You can pray with a friend, with your family before school, or by yourself. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry at [swilson@stjohnrochester.org](mailto:swilson@stjohnrochester.org)

**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:

**Hope & Healing:** Judy Bradley, Hugo Hermann

**Guidance:** ONE Legacy Initiative decision process

**Bereavement:** Jan Cherne (former St. John preschool teacher)

### LAST WEEK:

**Thanksgiving:** Baptisms of Shane Michael Danielson, son of Bob & Lisa, and Rowan Marie Gurecki, daughter of Michael & Elizabeth (Heinrich)

**Hope & Healing:** Tom Borst, Elsie McGorman

### PRIOR WEEK:

**Hope & Healing:** Al Lucas – recovering from a fall, Ryan Jankovich, Zak, Don Pfund (father of Jon) - hospice, McCabe family – missing daughter, Dennis Evans

**Bereavement:** Ron Gaynor (father of Melanie – new member)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### FACILITY HOURS

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 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 (Book of Romans) – Concordia Hall  
9:30 AM Confirmation Class – School Music Room  
12:00 PM VBS Planning Meeting – Church Library  
6:00 PM Lighthouse – Room 101  
6:00 PM High School Youth Night – Offsite

**Monday**

**NO SCHOOL** – President's Day  
7:00 AM Men's Small Group (McCallum) – Church Library  
9:00 AM Gleaners Quilting – Concordia Hall  
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**

9:00 AM Bible Basics Class – Church Library  
11:30 AM International Bible Study – Room 128  
1:00 PM ESL Class – Concordia Hall  
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study – Atrium  
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study (Mercy Triumphs) – Church Library  
7:00 PM LifeLight – Mary Martha Room  
7:00 PM Women Seeking Wisdom Book Club – Offsite

**Wednesday**

8:45 AM School Chapel – Sanctuary  
9:00 AM LifeLight – Church Library  
9:30 AM Special Needs Support Group – Mary Martha Room  
1:00 PM Women's Bible Study (The Quest) – Concordia Hall  
4:30 PM Lenten Worship – Church Sanctuary  
5:15 PM Lenten Supper – Gymnasium  
7:00 PM Lenten Worship – Church Sanctuary

**Thursday**

9:00 AM MOPS – Luther Hall  
4:30 PM Skit & Drama Ministry for Kids – Luther Hall  
8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall

**Friday**

8:00 AM LCEF Stamp Sales – Atrium  
9:00 AM ESL Class – Concordia Hall  
9:00 PM Mexicali Team Lock-in – Gymnasium

**Saturday**

8:00 AM Bibles & Basketball – Gymnasium  
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

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