

March 3-4, 2018



THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of March 4, 2018

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



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 to self that we might live in and through Him.

Join us during the forty days of Lent through weekend and midweek worship (see full schedule on back cover) 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.



ALTAR FLOWERS were placed by Ron & Joan Guyett in honor of their 61st wedding anniversary on March 2. We pray God's continued blessings on them!

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 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 24-25......912
Attendance for February 28......314

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER – We are well into a New Year, and with it come many opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! From children to seniors, internationals to parenting, Bible basics to more in-depth studies—there truly is 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! 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, and on our St. John website. Let's get into the Word together this winter!

APPLES OF GOLD COOKING/MENTORING CLASS - The class includes six Bible lessons taken from Titus 2 and six cooking demonstrations, including recipes, and lunch. This is an inter-generational class centered around God's Word. Classes start Tuesday, April 11 through May 22 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the home of the cooking instructor. The cost is \$40 for the Book and food served. Child care is provided in the St. John nursery. For more information or to sign up, contact Jan Boldt at inantenance.com.

SHARED LIFE



GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND INVITE A NEW FRIEND. Following all our Sunday morning services, coffee and refreshments are served in Luther Hall. What a wonderful opportunity it is to get to know someone in worship with us. What a great way to be the church by encouraging each other in Jesus' name!

CAMPUS SECURITY TASK GROUP - 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.



SPRING FORWARD - NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11, it's time to "spring forward" and turn your clocks ahead one hour!

DELICIOUS LENTEN DINNER THIS WEEK! The High School Youth invite you to come and enjoy a tasty supper of grilled burgers, homemade mac & cheese, salad, and dessert on Wednesday, March 7 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 2018 Youth mission trips.

ESTHER CIRCLE - Our March meeting will be on Thursday the 8th at 1:00 PM in the Mary Martha Room. The devotion from Chapter 46 of "Your Invitation..." considers sharing communion. Look over this short chapter and share your thoughts. Business meeting and fellowship time follow. See you there!

GAMES NIGHT - We will meet downstairs in Concordia Hall on Friday, March 9. The group will meet at 6:30 and end about 9:00 PM. Bring a game to play, as well as drink and a snack to share. For more information contact Ginny Schmidt at 248-651-5125.



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 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.



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans In Service) - For the next OWLS event on Friday, March 9 at 12:00 PM in Concordia Hall, the group will be viewing a DVD on the story of Joseph. The OWLS will provide chicken noodle soup, dessert and beverages. If you wish, please bring your own sandwich. See you there!

FAMILY PRAISE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK-- AUGUST 26 - The Rochester City Council recently approved St. John's request for use of the Rochester Municipal Park for our 20th Family Praise and Picnic in the Park celebration on Sunday, August 26. Please place this date on your calendar and consider volunteering to help with this year's community worship, fellowship, and outreach event. Our first Planning Meeting will be held in early June. If you would like to assist with this community event or have questions, please contact Roger Guetzkow at 248-377-9048 or riguetzkow@comcast.net.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



ST. JOHN DAY SCHOOL NEWS:

This week at St. John Lutheran School is Special Person's Day for Preschool 4's to 2nd grade. Students have the opportunities to host a guest in the morning. Also on Monday, 4th and 5th grade students will enjoy activities at the LHNW Junior Crusader Day. On Thursday, St. John will host area Lutheran Schools during the school day for the Lutheran Schools Music Festival.

New student applications are currently being accepted for Preschool to 8th grade for the 2018-2019 school year. Morning and Full Day Preschool sessions are full with afternoon availability and some grades are approaching capacity. For a personal tour or enrollment information, contact Beth Dameron, Director of Schools Admisisons

at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS BEGINS THIS SUNDAY - The sacrament of communion is an important part of a Christian's walk with Jesus. First Communion class is offered for those families interested in having their child (6th grade and older) take communion. Parents will need to attend the class sessions with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. For more information, please contact Director of Child and Family Ministry Steve Wilson at 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.

7th & 8th GRADE TOOL TIME RETREAT will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 11: 00 AM until Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 PM. Cost 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.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - Last week the youth started a new 4-week devotion series entitled: Finding your identity in Christ. This week's focus is: What's True About You? Students often compare the labels the world places on them with biblical truths. This topic will help students celebrate their true identity in Christ by creatively expressing who they are. The group will also share in a game and enjoy an ice cream social!

The Mexicali Mission team held a lock-in last Friday. Nearly 70 people attended from the mission teams from Our Shepherd, Birmingham and St. John, Rochester!

The St. John high school youth will host the Lenten dinner this Wednesday, March 7 to raise funds for the 2018 youth mission trips. All high school students are needed to help prep and serve from 4:00 – 7:00 PM! For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST'S THESPIAN TROUPE 4216 presents its annual Senior Directed One-Act Play Festival this weekend! Performances are on Saturday, March 3 at 7:00 PM or Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 PM for "Accused of Comedy," "Fire Exit," "The Tell-Tale Heart," and "The _urloined Letter." The plays are directed by five LHNW seniors under the supervision of St. John family member Mr. David Kusch. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and may be purchased at the door.

LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST BOOSTERS are hosting their annual Euchre Tournament & Auction on Saturday, March 24 at the Concorde Inn/Days Inn in Rochester Hills (1919 Star-Batt Drive, near Crooks and Hall Road). Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door. In addition to euchre and both silent and live auctions, this 21-and-over event also includes dinner and dessert, door prizes and a cash bar. Checkin is at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. Space is limited! To reserve your spot, bring cash or check to the LHNW school office on weekdays between 7:30 AM and 3:30 PM (on 3/23, 7:30 AM -12:00 PM). Advertising and table sponsorship opportunities are available. For questions or more information call call 248-852-6677.



EASTER EVENT FOR FAMILIES - You are invited to attend the St. John Easter Egg-stravaganza, on Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM here at St. John in the school wing of our campus. This family-friendly event is to help prepare for Easter, as we celebrate our risen Savior Jesus. Children from age 2 years old through 5th grade will participate in arts and crafts, cookie decorating, games, activities, refreshments and more. Families can

spend as much or as little time as they like at each activity. An egg hunt will be held at 11:00 AM. Bring your egg basket! Parents are asked to stay with or near their children. Invite a friend or neighbor and join in on the fun! No registration will be necessary.

Help is needed to make the event a success! Individually wrapped/single packets of Easter candy are needed. Volunteers are also needed to help with games, crafts, activities, and monitoring the egg hunt. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Steve Wilson, swilson@stjohnrochester.org or Beth Dameron, bdameron@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. 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. Register today!

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

MITE BOXES – Pick one up TODAY in Luther Hall! We hope you will take the small bank home, drop your change into it, and then return it again to the display table in Luther Hall (first Sunday of each month) and pick up a new box. The "mites" gathered from many people add up to powerful ministry dollars for worldwide missions supported by the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Let's help spread the wonderful gospel!

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 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.

SAVE YOUR EASTER STAMPS: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) collects postmarked postage stamps to support LWML mission programs. Please take your postmarked postage stamps to the collection container located in Room 100 and help support mission work! Many thanks to those who provided stamps from Christmas cards and please plan to save stamps from Easter cards! Thank you! ~Your St. John LWML.





A MESSAGE OF THANKS to St. John Lutheran Church & School for ongoing support was recently received from Hope Adult Shelter in Pontiac, one of our primary mission partners. Excerpts are shared here: What a difference you've made to all of us at Hope! On behalf of those we serve, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your incredibly generous gift... to support Hope's work in sheltering those

in our community who are homeless and helping them secure the resources necessary to help them gain supportive, independent housing. We could not do this without you... Again, thank you for your support, and for being our partner in sheltering those in need. ~Elizabeth Kelly, Executive Director



CAMPUS MASTER SITE PLAN & ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE UPDATE

Be sure to stop by the ONE Legacy display today to see the most recent 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.



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 on Monday, March 5. We have every reason to believe this will go very well based on the input we have received so far and action items requested from the city planning office as we prepare for this important meeting. 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 once city approval occurs, multiple teams will be 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.

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 24-25....\$34,163.00 Special Contributions for February 24-25.....\$193.00

As of 2/25/18 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 1,415,455.54 As of 2/25/18 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 1,465,761,66 As of 2/25/18 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ 50,306.12

As of 2/25/18 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$62,814 (St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/17 through 6/30/18.)

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 3/1/18 Y.T.D. Amount pledged	\$3,451,814.79
As of 3/1/18 Y.T.D. Amount received	

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

TIME TO PRAY AND SERVE! NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED! "The greatest among you is the one who serves." These humble words of Jesus set the tone for what it means to be great in the Kingdom of God. Taking on a leadership role at St. John as a member of the Vestry, Elders and Foundation is about humble service to Jesus and others. Nominations are now being accepted for individuals to serve on Vestry, Elders and Foundation. Please pray for those whom you know that may be a blessing to Christ's ministry at St. John and if He leads you to do so, complete a nomination form (found in church lobby by the tract rack or in the pastoral office) and submit to the church office by April 9. What an incredible opportunity at a very exciting time to use the talents that the Lord has blessed us with, to make a difference in furthering His work!

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Has the Lord gifted you with a financially sound mind and heart to serve? Our St. John Vestry is seeking two or three church family members with a gift for accounting and/or bookkeeping to assist the Financial Officer in periodically conducting internal reviews of the church and school financials per Vestry Policy. For more information or to express interest please email: Dave Scharrer@askmonroe.com



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.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIP FOR EMILY STOLL: St. John family member and high schooler, Emily Stoll will be traveling with Adventures in Mission to Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica for a month long mission trip this summer. While there, Emily will be helping to run a Vacation Bible School, teach English, work with youth ministry, do work projects and community outreach. As Emily prepares for this trip in Jesus' name, she needs your prayers, and if the Lord would lead you, your financial support as well. If you are able and willing to assist her financially, you can email her at Emilystoll3@gmail.com and she will forward you the information for sending checks and also the link to the donation site. Praise to God for working through our youth to share His love with others!

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

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART. To submit a prayer request, please text or email it to <u>prayer@stjohnrochester.org</u> 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: 61st wedding anniversary of Ron & Joan Guyett

Guidance & Strength: Karen Lee – life changes

Hope & Healing: Russ Schmidt – successful treatment, Vic Ulrich – recovering from surgery, Sarah – upcoming surgery, Laina (granddaughter of Dale Griffith) – emergency C section, Chris Klein - hospitalized

Bereavement: (Family of...) Tim Dameron's grandmother

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Birth of Eve Marie Danielson to John & Elyse (and proud grandparents Bob & Ann, Future City Team taking 2nd place in the nation, Linda & Allen

Guidance & Strength: One Legacy Initiative – ongoing decision process, Matt – job & finances, Don – in need of a job

Hope & Healing: Ryan Jankovich – proper diagnosis

Bereavement: (Family of...) Grandmother of staff member Brian Nowakowski, Dimericurio Family

Nation-World: Those suffering from recent storms & flooding

PRIOR WEEK:

Guidance & Strength: One Legacy Initiative – ongoing decision process, Future City team in Washington DC, Craig – success in business, Mackenzie Hill – safety for abroad studies in Prague

Hope & Healing: Marilyn Miller – cancer treatment, Tim (Roger Miller's nephew) – battling cancer, Judy Bradley

Hugo Hermann, Jim Madaus – recovering from bike/car injuries, Bob Sadler, Russ Schmidt – testing & good outcome, Corine & Dick, Davi Stein – broken hip

Bereavement: (Family of...) Mildred O'Keefe (sister of Deacon Leon Grabaum), Euel Carter (friend of the Wetzel's)

Nation-World: Those mourning & injured wake of Florida School shooting and effective and wise decisions/outcomes.

ON GOING:

Church-Work Students: Alex Irwin, Brianna Neumeyer, Austin Wellhousen, Michael Hansen, Jack Crandall **Those in Military Service:** Madyson Aman, Erich Mammen, Devin Deck, Bethany (Grothaus) Tessmann, Matthew Neumeyer, Earle IV Leighton, Alex Holzke, Mark Anderson, Jon Taykowski, Troy Glover, Christian Petty, Tyler Doebler, AJ Sampson, Jonah Toy, Alex Lindsay, Brad Haller, Ryan Jankovich, Brad Ziegler, John Paulson, Vance Kernes, Adam & Tina Novack

Pregnancy: Claire

Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents: Dan Albertson, Sharon Brink, Hazel Van Tiflin, Henry & Helen Lind, Gloria & Gordon Trudeau, Wanda DeLorme, Frances Schuessler, Willi Jed, Roy & Joann Juhl, Fred Meinberg

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	First Communion Class – Gymnasium
9:30 AM	Sunday School – School Classrooms
6:00 PM	Lighthouse – Room 101
6:00 PM	High School Youth Night – Youth Room
Monday	
7:00 AM	Men's Small Group (McCallum) – Church Library
9:00 AM	Gleaners Quilting – Concordia Hall
7:00 PM	Elder's Meeting – Concordia Hall *note the location
7:00 PM	The ONE New Member Class – Luther Hall
Tuesday	
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
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	
1:00 PM	Esther Circle – Mary Martha Room
4:30 PM	Skit & Drama Ministry for Kids – Luther Hall
6:00 PM	Jubilate Bell Choir Rehearsal – Church Sanctuary
7:15 PM	Mixed Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room
8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall
8:15 PM	Men's Chorus Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room
Friday	
8:00 AM	LCEF Stamp Sales – Atrium
9:00 AM	ESL Class – Concordia Hall

8:00 AM	LCEF Stamp Sales – Atrium
9:00 AM	ESL Class – Concordia Hall
12:00 PM	OWLS – Concordia Hall
6:30 PM	Games Night – Concordia Hall
7:00 PM	Friday Night Bible Study – Luther Hall

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

Lent Midweek: Wednesdays @ 4:30 PM | 7:00 PM

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