NOT FROM WITHIN BUT FROM HIM Corinthians 4:7





THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY!

Week of June 3, 2018

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



What is your source of strength? Some people claim strength comes from a supportive family or spouse, a naturally calm demeanor under pressure, or even a stubborn resolve to persevere. Others point to an uncanny ability to push through any circumstance with learned focus and grit. While all of these are certainly helpful, if we're honest they only get us so far when compared with a deeper power source we've been created to rely on. Our

God reminds us in His Word that ultimate strength and power to face each challenging day does not come from within but rather from Him. As we join together in worship this weekend, we will explore this truth and what fragile clay jars have to do with it.



HOLY BAPTISM – This Sunday, during the 10:45 AM Modern Praise worship service, we celebrate the baptism of Alyssa Josephine Dominiak, son of Rachel & Jason. May God richly bless Alyssa and her family!

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 May 26-27......737

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

SUMMER BIBLE CLASS BEGINS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 17! The Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will soon begin a 9-week summer series on St. Paul's "Letters to the Churches of Asia Minor". These lessons are from Dr. Bruce Wurdeman's knowledgeable and entertaining series "Stuff They Never Taught You in Sunday School". The presenter chooses stories that you probably never studied before, taken from the 13 Epistles of St. Paul. Enjoy the wit and humor, yet sound Biblical teaching by Dr. Wurdeman via these DVD presentations. Join us in Concordia Hall on the lower level at 9:30 AM, beginning on June 17!

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!

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.

NEW SECURITY PROCEDURES – As a part of our ongoing process of implementing tighter building security in an ever changing world, there has been a major shift in daytime building access, **as of this past Thursday, May 31.** Please make note of these key points:

- All building entrances will be locked during daytime hours.
- For building entry, please go to the South Atrium door (Door 9) and press the intercom button. A staff member will respond to assist you.
- Upon entry, please sign in at the Main Office. This is important for all to do, whether frequent guests well known by the staff, or first time guests.
- For the time being, building access for evening meetings will continue as before, without the need to press the intercom for entry or to sign in.

We are still in the process of fine tuning our daytime and evening procedures, but this gives us a good start. While these new procedures may cause some inconvenience, we are very grateful for your understanding and cooperation as we seek to provide a secure yet welcoming church and school home. If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office at 248-402-8050. Thank you!

OWLS (**Older Wiser Lutherans in Service**) - The OWLS Planning Committee has scheduled a special presentation on Friday, June 8 at 12:00 PM in Concordia Hall. Terry Gonser, a St. John family member, will be discussing the Veterans Tribute of Oakland Township project. The site for this tribute is on Adams Road, south of Silverbell Road. Lunch that day will be a potluck picnic lunch, so come and join us! The OWLS will be providing hot dogs with buns, and sodas. We will need you to provide the rest of the meal. Last name A-N, please provide salad or veggies, last name O-Z, please provide a dessert. Be sure to provide a serving spoon or fork. We would like to recognize all of the veterans of our congregation at this luncheon. We hope you can attend to get more information on this important community project. Please RSVP to Connie Ulrich (248-652-6159). See you there!

GRIEFSHARE concluded the final week of our spring session on May 19. We will begin another session in the fall, so watch for future dates and times in the Connection. If you have need of support before then, please contact one of our GriefShare leaders: Linda Baroli 248-895-0310, Joanne Curran 248-623-7309 or Marlene Leinberger 586-781-5434.



MICHAEL HANSEN ORDINATION UPDATE – As previously shared, upon completing his seminary training this spring, Michael Hansen (son of our congregation) received a Divine Call to serve as Associate Pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church & School in Walled Lake/Wixom, MI. Please continue to keep Michael in your prayers as he prepares to begin his pastoral ministry at St. Matthew soon. Also, mark your calendar for Sunday, July 1 at 3:00 PM and plan to attend his ordination celebration here at St. John, followed by an appetizer reception! If you are interested in helping plan the reception, please contact

Lynette Novack in the Pastoral Office at lnovack@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8020.

WALK, RUN OR BIKE WITH THE ST. JOHN RUNNERS GROUP

This group is for all new and accomplished runners and bikers looking for fellowship, fitness and fun. Lace up your running shoes or grab your bike and join us every Saturday at 7:30 AM. We meet and start with prayer at Rochester Park off Ludlow St. before heading to the Paint Creek Trail. Hope to see you there! Please contact Julie Schmidt at 586-864-4768 or salye1ja@gmail.com or Nicole Buday at 248-520-3383 or quadlevel@gmail.com if you have any questions.





ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING was held on Sunday, May 20 in the Sanctuary. The three key agenda items were (1) the Annual Election of Elders, Foundation Governors and Vestry (2) the approval of the 2018-2019 Annual Ministry Budget, and (3) the ONE Legacy Future Direction.

ELECTION: Those elected to lay leader positions (beginning on 7-1-18) were:

Elders: Paul Charen, Tom Chmiel, Tim Dameron, Bob Danielson, Jeff Kadzielewski, Dave

Schulz, Larry Wroza

Foundation: Matt Hiler, Nick Oleskie

Vestry: Scott Mattox, Mark Rafdal, Dave Scharrer

Many thanks to all who agreed to run for office and to those who have now completed their terms as elected lay leaders - <u>Elders</u>: Jerry Best, George Flemming, Joel Neumeyer, Mark Rafdal, Russ Schmidt; <u>Foundation Governors</u>: Dave Hofmeister, Tom Vitu; <u>Vestry</u>: Kathy Davis, Wayne Kunze. We are all blessed by your willingness to serve!

BUDGET: Additionally, the Congregation voted unanimously to approve the 2018-19 ministry year budget of \$3,817,060 as presented. These are exciting times and the Lord is working among us to respond with increasing generosity to make an eternal difference in Jesus' name!

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN: Exciting news! In follow-up to over two years of preparation, planning and praying, "Lord, what would you have us do?", our St. John family officially voted to move forward with proposed campus renovation and expansion plans! Groundbreaking is anticipated to occur early next spring! Beyond



adding greater excellence and needed space to expanding onsite church and school ministry, a significant portion of all funds raised for the project (\$3.5 million pledged so far) will also benefit area inner cities (Pontiac and Detroit) as well as global mission partners to make an eternal difference in Jesus' name! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

ATTENTION 1988 LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH GRADUATES! A 30 year reunion will be held Saturday, July 21 in Sterling Heights, MI. If you have not yet received an email regarding this event, please contact Mickey York at myork@foxsports.net or Michelle (Zayti) Joliet at jmjoliet@yahoo.com for details.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

8th GRADE GRADUATION – St. John congregation is warmly invited to attend the graduation service for our St. John Lutheran School 8th graders on Wednesday, June 6 at 7:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary. A reception follows in the gym. For more information, please contact the Main Office at 248-402-8000.

ST. JOHN DAY SCHOOL NEWS:

8th grade awards: Congratulations to this year's Valedictorian Helga Denes and Salutatorian Prisca Yim for their outstanding academic achievements, and to the following 8th grade students for their achievements: Art – Ella Hamilton; Music – Reagan Rutkowski; Service – Maddee Tarrance, Ethan Dodson; Athletics – Alyssa Edwards, Jacob Griswold; Academic Scholar – Clare Buday, Jacob Griswold; Drama – Jimmy Wilson. Congratulations to the many students who received academic, athletic and fine arts awards as well as recognition for outstanding worship, perfect attendance and Accelerated Reader achievements.

Join us for closing chapel: This Friday, June 8 at 11:00 AM will be our closing chapel in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us as we give thanks to God for the 2017-2018 school year, our 75th year of school. **Enrollment for 2018-2019:** Applications are currently being accepted for Kindergarten (half and full day options) to 8th grade, as well as for a limited number of remaining spaces for the Preschool afternoon session. Flyers are available in the information kiosks in the Atrium. For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.stjohnrochester.org/school or contact Beth Dameron, Director of School Admissions at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE! LIMITED SPACES LEFT! Mark your calendar for June 18-22, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM as *Shipwrecked*; *Rescued by Jesus* comes to St. John! Students age 4 through those entering 6th grade are welcome to join us. Kids will discover that Jesus rescues them when life gets stormy. *Shipwrecked* is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible

songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something we call God Sightings. Come one, come all to an amazing week of VBS! T-shirts for the kids will be available for \$10 each during the week of VBS. To register for VBS, visit our St. John website and look for the colorful VBS rotator on the homepage! **PLEASE NOTE** – We are excited that about 370 children have already been registered for VBS! That only leaves about 30 spots still available, since we will need to cap our number at 400 children. Praise God for this amazing opportunity to touch so many young lives with the love of Jesus!

SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP AT ST. JOHN OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY: The annual St. John Eagles Basketball Camp will be held Monday, June 25 to Thursday, June 28. The girls camp will be from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and the boys camp will be from 2:00 -5:00 PM. The cost is \$60 per participant. Students will learn and hone basketball skills in a fun, Christian environment. The camp will be taught by Mr. Todd Bauer, St. John Athletic Director/6th grade homeroom teacher, along with several St. John alumni assisting. The camp is open to the community so invite your friends and neighbors! Registration is now available on our website at stjohnrochester.org/school (look for the basketball camp rotator).Register now while space is available!

SPRINGHILL DAY CAMP is returning to St. John on July 9-13! Day camp is five full days of summer fun for children entering grades 1-6 in the fall. Camp includes small group Bible teaching, high-energy large group



sessions, and high-adventure activities including archery, bungee trampoline, camp songs, climbing wall, crafts, and so much more – all right here at St. John! For more information and to register, check out the SpringHill website at www.springhilldaycamp.com.

CAMP CONCORDIA - If you are looking for a great camp experience this summer for your kids, please consider a great resident camp opportunity for kids in 1st-8th grade. This Lutheran summer camp is an awesome outdoor camp for kids. Mr. Steve Wilson will be helping Camp Concordia the week of June 24-29 for 3rd-6th graders. If you send your child that week, make sure they say hi to Steve! Visit www.campconcordia.org for more information or to register your child for camp.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS AT LUTHERAN HIGH NORTHWEST! Do you have a 4th-8th grader who enjoys sports? Lutheran High Northwest is hosting a number of summer sports camps this year! Girls & Boys Basketball Camps will be June 11-14, Soccer Camp will be June 25-28, and Football and Volleyball Camps are on July 9-12. Register now at www.lhnw.lhsa.com.

ATTENTION MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS! You are all invited to join the High School Youth TODAY at 6:00 PM on the athletic field for a great evening together. Check out the High School Youth article below to see what's up. What a great way to celebrate the end of the school year! See you there!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – TODAY we will meet on the baseball diamond from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for a *fierce* game of Shaving Cream Wiffleball! This will be middle school vs high school students. We will finish the evening with an ice cream social and devotion. Bring a friend and join in the fun! See you there! For more information, contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY



VBS DONATIONS: In addition to many volunteers, VBS is in need of many items for that week, including snacks, decorating items, etc. Please stop by the table in Luther Hall to find out what snack items are needed. Also, if you have any of the following items you can donate to be used (or borrowed for the week), please contact Steve Wilson (swilson@stjohnrochester.org) or Jamie Rawcliffe (jamie.rawcliffe@gmail.com):

brown paper grocery bags, cardboard boxes, pool noodles, empty water bottles, wooden pallets. The following are items we would like to borrow and return to you after VBS: wooden oars, vintage luggage, fake palm trees, a wooden ship's wheel, tiki torches, & wooden barrels.



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 verful ministry dollars for worldwide missions supported by the LWML (Lutheran Women's

up to powerful ministry dollars for worldwide missions supported by the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Let's help spread the wonderful gospel!

CAN DIAPERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN JESUS' NAME?! When it comes to helping local moms and babies in need, the answer is a huge yes! Please join your St. John family in making a huge difference by bringing in packages of diapers over the next several weeks (up until Father's Day weekend) as we create a mountain of diapers in the church and school Atrium! Diapers of all sizes are appreciated! This annual diaper shower will directly



benefit our awesome mission partner, Crossroads Care Center in Auburn Hills. For more information, please contact Dale Griffith at 248-894-8423.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS to St. John congregation was recently received from the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for ongoing financial support. Excerpts are shared here: "Thank you for your faithful donation given in support of the Here We Stand Thank Offering of the Michigan District, LCMS, and celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Your generous gift...was received and allocated to the campaign initiatives as indicated: Professional Church Worker Scholarships, Innovative Missional Ministry, Michigan District Endowment, International Ministry... Thank you again dear brothers and sisters in Christ for continuing to make a difference for the Kingdom through your continuing support of the Here We Stand campaign. We thank God for your faithful willingness to impact the Church for Christ. Blessings to all, Ray Zavada, Vice President of Development."

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 May 26-27.......\$36,326.01 Special Contributions for May 26-27.....\$100.00

> As of 5/27/18 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 2,021,825.83 As of 5/27/18 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 2,066,958.88 As of 5/27/18 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: 45,133.05

As of 5/27/18 Y.T.D. Special Contributions: \$70,564

(St. John's fiscal year is 7/1/17 through 6/30/18.)

ONE LEGACY INITIATIVE

As of 5/30/18 Y.T.D. Amount pledged......\$3,455,994.79 As of 5/30/18 Y.T.D. Amount received......\$830,989.96

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR VBS JUNE 18-22 - VBS is coming quickly! We still need volunteers to help serve as crew leaders, snack helpers, and Imagination Station helpers. We need people all week but if you can make it 2 days or more we can really use your help. This year we are planning to have 400+ students and we need help to keep them safe and share the love of Jesus. Almost 50% of these students probably

don't have a church home, and this is a great opportunity to reach many with the love of Christ. Sign up today to volunteer for VBS at www.stjohnrochester.org/VBS.

SPRINGHILL DAY CAMP – MAKE A DIFFERENCE! We are in need of helpers for Spring Hill Day Camp. We host camp here at St. John July 9-13. We need host homes, CIT's (Counselors in Training) and food helpers. Host homes



provide a bed for the counselors for the week and breakfast each morning. It is a great opportunity to

serve the counselors for the week. Counselors in Training are people in Grades 9-12 who want to help the counselors for the week. They play games with kids, and serve alongside SpringHill staff. Lastly, food helpers help prepare meals for our camp staff for the week. If you have the gift of service and are available during the day for these positions, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE (a primary mission partner of St. John), where they welcome and need your assistance. Volunteers share their time and talents on a regular basis at the Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, and at their Main Office. They also have opportunities for volunteers to help with special projects and events from home or from one of their locations. Their volunteer program is very organized and offers volunteers maximum flexibility. To learn more about volunteering, contact Neighborhood House at volunteer@ranh.org or 248-651-5836.

CONSTANT PRAYER

PRAYER WALL - During a recent School Chapel, we spent time taking prayer requests. With those requests, we have put together a prayer wall just outside of the gymnasium. If you are interested, we welcome you to add your prayers to the wall. Students, staff, parents, and others will be praying for those things during the next two weeks. We encourage you to be in prayers with us.

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: Baptism of Alyssa Josephine Dominiak - daughter of Rachel & Jason

Hope & Healing: Shara Barrett (school parent) – recovering from head injury, Al Lucas – recovering from another fall, Virginia Pretznow (school parent) – hospitalized for pregnancy, Robert Miller – hospitalized for testing, Dave Gillis – cancer, Roger Guetzkow – recovering from surgery, Pat Gonser – recovering from surgery, Vernette Wendler - recovering

LAST WEEK:

Thanksgiving: All newly elected St. John leaders, All able to attend congregational meeting and their participation in the process, Mark & Margaret Hall's 35th wedding anniversary, Baptism of Timothy Joseph Miscovich III - son of Tim and Danielle, Mark and Cheryl Rafdal's 37th wedding anniversary

Guidance & Strength: Continued blessings as we move forward with Phase One of the One Legacy Initiative, Kierstin and Dana 15y olds currently incarcerated

Hope & Healing: Safe pregnancy for Liz (Runey)Rhoda, Craig Juleff – esophageal cancer, Tracy Smith – hospice, Linda Madson, Barb Roy – stroke, Russ Schmidt – thanksgiving for all the prayers!, Brita Birney – cancer, Judy Evans – decisions for surgery

Bereavement: (Family of...) Pastor Derrick Bonn

Nation & World: For all who gave their lives to insure the freedoms we are blessed with

PRIOR WEEK:

Thanksgiving: Don and Jean Susewitt 60th wedding anniversary, Baptism of Carter Erwin Venglar, son of Brian & Ashley, Joan Sebastian's 90th birthday

Hope & Healing: Becky Mancier – continued recovery from cancer surgery, Kenneth Brown – thanksgiving for continued healing, Marilyn Miller, Russ Schmidt, Hailey Noonan, Clyoe Kamm – recovering from surgery, Vanessa – chemotherapy, Karl Barton – upcoming back surgery, Sonja Marr - surgery

Bereavement: (Family of...) *Jack Holloway (father of Jeff)*

Nation & World: Victims & Families in the Santa Fe, Texas school shootings

ON GOING:

Church-Work Students: Jack Crandall, Alex Irwin, Austin Wellhousen

Those in Military Service: Madyson Aman, Mark Anderson, Aaron Byers, Devin Deck, Tyler Doebler, Troy Glover, Brad Haller, Alex Holzke, Ryan Jankovich, Vance Kernes, Earle IV Leighton, Alex Lindsay, Erich Mammen, Matthew Neumeyer, Adam & Tina Novack, John Paulson, Michael Pesamoska, Christian Petty, AJ Sampson, Jon Taykowski, Bethany (Grothaus) Tessmann, Jonah Toy, Brad Ziegler

Pregnancy: Laura (Heinrich) Mann, Elizabeth Olsen, Liz (Runey) Rhoda

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 THIS WEEK

FACILITY HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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.

Sund	ay
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9:30 AM Adult Bible Study (Romans) – Concordia Hall

6:00 PM High School and Middle School Youth – Athletic Field

Monday

7:00 AM Men's Small Group (McCallum) – Church Library

9:00 AM Gleaners Quilting – Concordia Hall 7:00 PM Elders Meeting – Martin Luther Room

Tuesday

11:30 AM International Bible Class – Room 128

1:00 PM ESL Class – Concordia Hall

7:00 PM LHNW Graduation – Faith Lutheran Church in Troy

Wednesday

9:30 AM Special Needs Support Group – Mary Martha Room

7:00 PM Eighth Grade Graduation – Church Sanctuary

8:00 PM Eighth Grade Reception – Gymnasium

Thursday

10:00 AM Men's Small Group (Fedototszkin) – Church Library 7:00 PM Kindergarten Closing Service – Church Sanctuary

8:00 PM Kindergarten Reception – Gymnasium 8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous – Concordia Hall

Friday Final Half Day of School 9:00 AM ESL Class – Concordia Hall

11:00 AM School Closing Chapel – Church Sanctuary

12:00 PM OWLS – Concordia Hall

Saturday

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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