



May 22-23, 2021

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Bible teaches that along with the bread and wine of Holy Communion we also receive the true body and blood of our Savior. Jesus' own words, "this is my body" and "this is my blood for the forgiveness of sins" reveal His Real Presence in the sacrament (Luke 22, 1 Cor. 10:15-16). The Bible also teaches (1 Cor. 11:23-32) the Lord's Supper, properly received brings great blessings, but improperly received without understanding can actually incur God's judgment. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the Biblical teaching of communion, please feel free to commune today. However, if you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of May 23, 2021

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



PENTECOST - They were bewildered, sad, stalled. No, not the way we feel today from the pandemic, but the disciples of Jesus after He had ascended in glory to heaven. They needed a kick-start. Jesus said *"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."* (Jn 16:7) It is for our good too that the Holy Spirit was sent on Pentecost! This weekend we celebrate the day of

Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit and hear just how good it is!

TRINITY – It makes sense that learning, knowing, and calling on someone by their actual name is essential to developing a relationship with them. The One who called us by name from all eternity reveals His name as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Knowing Him by name is only the start as our God welcomes us to experience even deeper relationship with Him as we also learn what His Name means. Next weekend come experience a restored and deepened relationship with God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!



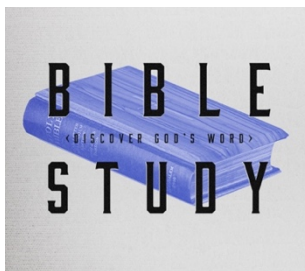
HOLY BAPTISM – This weekend we celebrate the baptisms of Claire Alexandra Lucas, daughter of Anna and John at the 8:00 AM Traditional Praise service and Brett Miller at the 11:00 AM Traditional Praise service. May God richly bless Claire and Brett and their families!

ALTAR FLOWERS were generously given this weekend by Mark and Cheryl Rafdal in thanksgiving of their 40th wedding anniversary on May 23.

IMPORTANT COVID PROCEDURE UPDATE

The CDC released very encouraging news late last week concerning the effectiveness of vaccines and lifted the mask mandate for vaccinated individuals at most outdoor and indoor gatherings, subject to local recommendations. In follow-up, Gov. Whitmer announced the same shift in requirements were being made for all local vaccinated Michiganders effective May 15. Over this past year we have sought at every turn as a church and school to honor national and local mandates and recommendations. In keeping with this intent, beginning this weekend: Any person who has been fully vaccinated may choose to wear or not wear a mask on our St. John campus, with the exception of any school functions or during school hours. At this time, our communion serving protocols will remain in effect along with full sanitizing procedures between worship services. During school hours Monday through Friday anyone entering our campus facilities **MUST** continue to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) in compliance with current local school requirements. We appreciate your cooperation with these changes.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY @ 9:30AM in Concordia Hall – all are welcome! This week, May 23, Steve Wilson leads the study on the Bible and Holy Land locations. Come see and hear how the geography of the Holy Land impacted the people of God.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS - As we gradually move to regathering again in small groups for bible study onsite, there are other men's and women's bible study groups meeting on weekdays. This week's bible studies are:

Women's Small Group Bible Study – Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 PM, in Concordia Hall. This is the last week of the study of Ruth led by Sue Stingu, suestingu@gmail.com.

SHARED LIFE



CONGREGATION MEETING

In spite of the ongoing swirling circumstances of our current pandemic world, we have so many amazing reasons to give thanks to the Lord for His continued faithfulness in ongoing church and school ministry among us, as well as incredible excitement over the developing plans for the year ahead. As a vital part of the St. John family please join us Sunday as we prayerfully come together to share

in those plans and together make decisions of impact.

CONGREGATION MEETING—SUNDAY, May 23 @ 12:30PM – Church Sanctuary

This important annual meeting will include the election of lay leadership (Vestry, Elders and St. John Foundation) as well as a presentation of the annual budget including proposed new staffing, and vote for approval. A ONE Legacy initiative project update will also be given at that time.

Following are the candidates for the respective elected offices:

ELDERS: 8 Openings - Gordon Carr*, Tom Chmiel*, Tim Dameron*, Jeff Kadzielewski*, Dave Schulz*, Larry Wroza*

FOUNDATION: 2 Openings – Nick Oleskie*

VESTRY: 3 Openings – Bob Danielson, Mark Rafdal*, Sarah Taykowski*, Tom Vitu

**incumbent*

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 will take place on our campus **June 21-25** from 9:00 AM – Noon for children age 4 through those entering 6th grade. Registration is open on the website.



VBS – SET UP SERVE OPPORTUNITY

Come join the fun in transforming our St. John campus into an amazing Rocky Railway for Vacation Bible School week! Set up will take place on June 15, 17 & 18 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Come ready to paint and decorate! Email Steve Wilson to help any of those days, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

VBS – CREW LEADERS NEEDED

Crew leaders lead a small group of children through daily VBS stations while station leaders will direct the activities. If you would like to serve as a crew leader the week of June 21-25, from 9:00 AM – noon, email Steve swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

FAMILY SUMMER READING PROGRAM | June 6 – August 12

Families with children entering Preschool to 2nd grade are invited to join us for a Family Summer Reading Program as families read bible verses together throughout the summer. Starting Sunday June 6, you can pick up a Reading Booklet and Reading Buddy in the Main Atrium, while supplies last. (Currently enrolled St. John Preschool to 2nd grade students will received their items on the last day of school). Share pictures of us with your Bible buddy using #SJR BibleBuddy21. On August 12 from 10:00-11:30 AM, we will meet on the St. John playground, with play time as well as prizes and certificates of completion. This will be a great way to encourage summer reading and to get into God's word as a family! (note: this is designed for children up to 2nd grade but older children are welcome to participate!)



SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our newest members of the **National Junior Honor Society**, inducted this week in chapel. Mr. Pehlke shared a message about leadership as one of the character pillars of NJHS. Watch the full chapel on our Facebook page!

Track and Field: The St. John Eagles Track Team is in the heart of their season. They just participated in the NSLAA League Championship meet

this past weekend with St. John earning 2nd place (just a few points behind first!). This weekend was the Regional Championship, and the State Championship meet is on Saturday, June 5th, both at Lutheran North. Go Eagles!

Authors in April (this year scheduled in May): This year's authors will be on our campus for K-5 and via zoom for gr. 6-8 this week. We are thankful to participate in this wonderful Rochester area community program. To learn more about the program or to view the AIA's silent auction items, visit authorsinapril.org.

School is out on June 4, but tours are available throughout the summer! If you would like enrollment information for next year, please contact Beth Dameron, bdameron@stjohnrocheser.org or visit our website at stjohnrochester.org/school.

LIGHTHOUSE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY GRADES 6-8

Lighthouse will be meeting this Sunday, May 23 at 6:00 PM. For more information, contact Steve Wilson, Child & Family Ministry Director, swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEETING – Sunday, June 6 after late services (~12:00 PM) - Luther Hall

Confirmation is a practice in the Lutheran Church where young people prepare to make a statement of faith to CONFIRM the faith given to them in their baptism. St. John offers a 2-year confirmation program for students typically starting their 7th grade year. If your son or daughter is entering the 7th grade in the fall, please plan to attend this meeting. An overview of this preparation process and registration information will be shared. Contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, for more information – swilson@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY GRADES 9-12

Sunday we will meet and end at St. John (6:00-8:00 PM) for a Bike Night. We will hit the trail, stop at Dairy Queen (bring some cash) and then have a devotion at the park before returning to St. John.

SENIORS - please email your graduation pictures to Mhammett@stjohnrochester.org. On June 13, we will gather for a special blessing over our graduates at the 11:00 AM service. Please meet in Luther Hall with your cap and gown at 10:30 AM.

For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, Director of High School Youth Ministry, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

FINANCIAL UPDATES

You may have noticed that our offerings since late December have been slowly losing pace with our annual budget, most significantly over Christmas and Easter due in part to continued reduced attendance as we together navigate the current COVID reality. If you are able, please prayerfully consider how you might help make up this difference in the remaining fiscal year. As in all things we need to continue praying, “Lord, what would you have us do” and “cheerfully” respond. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)



GENERAL MISSION & MINISTRY OFFERINGS (as of 5/16/21)

Offerings for week ending May 16..... \$46,266

As of 5/16/21 Y.T.D. Budgeted Offerings: \$ 2,347,100

As of 5/16/21 Y.T.D. Actual Offerings: \$ 2,229,855

As of 5/16/21 Y.T.D. Variance to Budget: \$ (117,245)

(St. John’s fiscal year is 7/1/20 through 6/30/21.)

Budget to Actual (Week of May 16) = 96.0%

Year-to-Date Offering Budget to Actual = 95.0%

DIAPER DRIVE continues through June 20. Drop off in Atrium or Tuesdays & Thursday from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM under the church portico.

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

GARDEN MINISTRY – Do you have a green thumb? Do you mind getting your hands dirty for Jesus? We are blessed to have a fresh, newly landscaped campus that is awaiting some final touches of annual flower plantings, etc. as part of the beautiful landscape design over the next couple weeks. If you are willing to serve in this way, contact Mission & Ministry Coordinator, Jennie Eller at jeller@stjohnrochester.org to learn more and get specific details about the project.

THE CHURCH LEFT THE BUILDING! AND IN AN IMPACTFUL WAY!

What joy it has been to receive some ‘thank yous’ and hear the wonderful reports of God’s goodness to others because of The Church Has Left the Building Serve event in early May!

- Our Mission Partner, HOPE - Pontiac, shared how thankful they were for all that was accomplished that day and especially for the work done around their ventilation system.
- Our new friend, Howard, sent a wonderful card expressing his gratitude to the team (shown in picture) that helped him. He shared how he asked the Lord how he was going to get things done. The Lord answered him by sending the church (God’s people) to bless him.
- Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) sent in thanks for the work done at their facility and the Older Persons Commission (OPC) was thankful for the service and care given to the local residents they recommended to us who needed assistance.



The testimony of the love of Jesus was displayed in a living way through your volunteering. We are One in Jesus ... Reaching Many!

CONSTANT PRAYER

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART. To submit a prayer request, please text or email it to prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or submit a prayer request on our website.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Healing & Peace: –Colin Jones / Judy Bradley – recovering from procedure / Karen Davison - back surgery / Elsie Quitmeyer – hospitalized / Joan Kunze – recovering from a mini-stroke / Kelly Mudel / Jodi Simms – cancer treatment / Jien Le Gree / Gary Boedecker / Sharon Boedecker / Ruby Schalk (mother of Sharon Barton) – health & life issues / Kent Bogdan (Tanya Hamilton's brother) Dick Schlecht – hospitalized / John Twork (Devlin Clark's uncle) – congestive heart failure / Lenore Caruso - COVID



Bereavement: – *“for the family & friends of:”* Matt Hiler (for Heather, Nolan, Garrett & Grant) / Joan Brandt (mother of Dawn Weber) / Family of Ben (a young husband & father)

Strength & Guidance: Staffing Needs & Call deliberations / Upcoming congregational meeting

Thanksgiving: Baptism of Claire Alexandra Lucas - daughter of Anna and John / Baptism of Mr. Brett Miller / Glenn and Lorraine Sattelmeier's 55th wedding anniversary / Mark & Cheryl Rafdal's 40th wedding Anniversary



Worship Celebration Schedule

Traditional Praise: Sundays @ 8:00 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE),
9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Modern Praise: Saturdays @ 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (ALSO LIVE STREAMED AND POSTED ONLINE)

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