

the connection

one in Jesus... reaching many

Week of July 5, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



HAPPY IN DEPENDENCE

This weekend will acknowledge our 250th Anniversary as a nation with a focus on celebrating the freedom we have in Jesus and the freedom we have been blessed with to worship in that freedom. Our ultimate freedom as a follower of Jesus is not in the “pursuit of happiness”, but rather in the ongoing awareness of our dependence on Christ and His death, resurrection, and promised Holy Spirit.



If you missed any of the UNHURRIED Series messages, you can find them on our Online Resources webpage.

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/>

U.S.A. 250th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TODAY

Don't forget to stay after the service for birthday cake!

Join us in Luther Hall after 9:00 AM Traditional Praise.

Join us in the Atrium after 10:30 AM Modern Praise.



TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 7

Many service elements are taken from the Pew Hymnal.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: *God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand*

Screen | Choir sings stz. 2

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation/Confession

Screen

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Exodus 14:21-31

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1-6

Alleluia

LSB #952

Gospel Reading: John 8:31-36

THE NICENE CREED

Screen

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

LSB #717 | Choir sings stz. 1

MESSAGE

Pastor Tyler Cronkright

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Screen

ANTHEM

HYMN: Before You, Lord We Bow

LSB #966

CANTICLE: Sent Forth By God's Blessing

LSB #643

PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *God Bless Our Native Land*

LSB #965

COMMUNION - THE LORD'S SUPPER - WHAT WE BELIEVE

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. If you have any questions, please first speak to a pastor.



As you come forward, gluten free wafers are available by request, as well as individual cup choice of wine or lighter colored non-alcoholic grape juice (located in the center of the trays). Common cup is also offered during Traditional Praise services at the altar only. **During regular worship weekends, the Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first and third weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month. On months with a fifth Sunday, Communion will be served at both Traditional and Modern Praise services.**

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

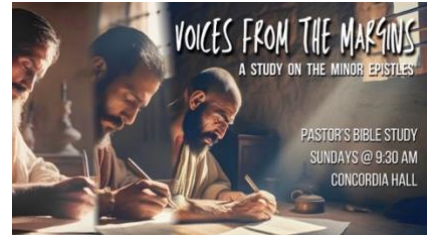
SUMMER INSTRUCTION & MEETINGS

Please note that many of our Bible Studies and small groups pause their meetings during the summer months. Be sure to check our **Week At A Glance**, and contact the group leader for timing and location changes!

VOICES FROM THE MARGINS: A STUDY ON THE “MINOR” EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Pastor’s Bible Study | Sundays at 9:30 AM | Concordia Hall (Off July 5. Resumes July 12)

Join our Pastors on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in Concordia Hall. We are familiar with Romans, Philippians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, but what about the smaller Epistles? John’s letters, Peter’s letters, or even Philemon? We are covering these three, chapter by chapter, and hearing from the “margins”, the lesser known letters. We can’t wait to see you! For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



DAD’S BIBLE STUDY | Wednesdays at 6:00 AM | Luther Hall

This group will continue to meet through the summer! Join dads of all ages and walks of faith as we grow in God's Word together, learn what it means to lead our families well, and receive encouragement in the highest calling God has for men. This group meets on Wednesday mornings (even if you have to leave early) and picks a book of the Bible to read through and discuss. Coffee and bagels/donuts are provided, so that no one misses out on breakfast before work! For more information, contact Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.

SHARED LIFE



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The main office is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Phones and doors will not be answered after 1:00 PM. If you need to meet with a staff member outside of these hours, please schedule an appointment.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE: WHAT ABOUT A PASTOR?

Our call team has made great progress over the last few months working through numerous candidate bios and ongoing attempts at interviewing potential DCE and DFM candidates. At the same time, this process has not been an easy one, as the clear message across the synod is Director of Youth and Family candidates are difficult to come by and not as numerous as they once were. While we may eventually still land on extending a call to a DCE, at Pastor Marc’s request, the recently Vestry approved expanding the search to include potential pastoral candidates as a further option toward filling this very important role on our Ministry Leadership Team. Over the next few weeks, pastoral candidate recommendations (rostered LCMS) will be received from the congregation. Qualified candidates will have experience and leadership gifts in the areas of confirmation, high school youth and family ministry, and may be submitted by email to church@stjohnrochester.org. Please keep praying for the Lord’s leading!

ESL (English as a Second Language) UPDATED SUMMER HOURS

Please note that our some of our ESL groups have adjusted their meeting hours for the summer. Beginning this week, the Tuesday ESL group, led by Audrey Kiehl, (audrey.kiehl@hotmail.com) will meet from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Thursday ESL group, led by Peter Harris (harris1964@wowway.com) will meet from Noon to 2:00 PM. Both groups meet in Mary Martha. If you have any questions, please reach out to the group leaders.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES MINISTRY

These days it can be difficult for single people to meet one another, especially someone who shares your faith. Trinity Utica is looking to start a ministry for LCMS (and other denominations) singles in the Metro-Detroit area. The goal is to create a safe place for people to meet and mingle within a Christian community. This is directed toward anyone who is single or knows of someone who is single. If you are interested, please **scan the QR code and fill out the survey.**



ST. JOHN FOUNDATION UPDATE | THE LARGEST SINGLE GRANT EVER – YOUR GIFTS AT WORK!



Sometimes the best projects are hard to notice! In May, the Foundation was blessed to support an upgrade to the sanctuary video and audio systems, enhancing both worship experiences and online ministry outreach. The completed project replaced the previous video system, which had become outdated and limited in its ability to support current technology, with a new high-definition solution featuring upgraded cameras, updated cabling, and a new video production system. The sanctuary microphone system was also replaced, improving sound quality and reliability.

These improvements provide clearer video, better audio, and expanded capabilities for live production and streaming. The new system gives the AV team greater flexibility today while creating opportunities for future growth.

Through this investment, St. John continues to strengthen its ability to share the Gospel both within the sanctuary and with those worshipping from wherever they may be!

Thank you from the Foundation team. If you ever have any questions about how the Foundation works, please reach out at Foundation@stjohnrochester.org

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Wonder what our teachers do in the summer? Several of them helped at VBS last week! What a blessing for these teachers to share Jesus to children from all areas of our community! Want to have these experienced, educated, Christ-centered mentors as a part of your children's lives?



Enrollment is ongoing this summer based on available space, with applications currently being accepted for 1st - 8th grade and Young 5's. Visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions to start!



SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE

Your continued financial support and partnership in the ministry and mission of St. John Lutheran Church & School is so important and is making a huge difference in changing lives for eternity in Jesus' name! If you are worshipping onsite, offerings can be placed in the designated areas outside the sanctuary. You can also scan the provided QR code to give online or visit our website stjohnrochester.org/give/. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



END OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 OFFERING NEEDS

As it was shared at the Congregational Meeting on May 17, the projected Offering Income increase of 14% is based on the projected shortfall for June 30. Thanks to YOU, our faithful and generous St John family, we have avoided this projected shortfall and the next fiscal year increase will be 9%. The numbers below outline our Offering Income received through June 30, 2026.



Offering Income as of June 30, 2026	\$3,396,954
Total Offering Income budgeted for FY 2026	\$3,384,076
Average weekly Offering Received	\$65,326
Weekly Offering Income needed to meet budget	\$65,078



Christmas in July
THE HEART OF GIVING



CHRISTMAS IN JULY | The Heart of Giving | July 14 | Petruzzello's Banquet and Conference Center

Christmas in July is the largest fundraiser of the year for our Mission Partner Gifts For All God's Children, blessing thousands of children in need. Please join GFAGC in 2026 for a wonderful night out including a delicious dinner and an exciting silent auction, all while making a difference!

VIP Admission: 5:30 PM | General Admission: 6:30 PM | **Scan the QR code for all the details.**

CONSTANT PRAYER

LET US PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or visit our website and click on the prayer link toward the bottom of the homepage. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along (or kept confidential when requested) to our prayer warriors and are also included in our weekend worship.



Healing & Peace: Jerry & Mary Bantin - failing health (Jerry in hospice) / Lori Kulczycki - upcoming surgery

Strength & Guidance: Call Team seeking a Youth & Family ministry director or Pastor

Thanksgiving: Birth of Henrik Donald Novack born to Justin & Mikayla (proud grandparents Lynette & Bob)

Community/Nation/World: Celebrating 250 years of religious freedom on our country's birthday this week

RELATIONAL WITNESS

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Another great way to stay connected to your St. John family and ongoing news and events is follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Find us on Facebook at [@StJohnLutheranChurch&School](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnLutheranChurch&School) and on Instagram at [@StJohnRochester](https://www.instagram.com/StJohnRochester).



WATCH & SHARE PREVIOUS SERMONS

While nothing replaces the experience of gathering in the same space with others in worship, prayer, and praise, we sincerely hope our online worship resources help you connect wherever you are with the loving promises of your Savior Jesus. Previous sermons can be found on our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/@stjohnrochester810> or scan the QR Code. Make sure to Like and Subscribe!

ONGOING SERVICE

If you are interested in upcoming and ongoing service opportunities, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator Jennie Eller at jeller@stjohnrochester.org, or sign up for People Helping People emails to receive regular updates by scanning the QR code.



COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED



St. Paul and Gifts for All God's Children share a vision - Connecting Kids to Christ (CKC) and assisting them with reading, English, and math skills. Tutoring is a one-on-one program (never more than one volunteer per two students) that follows the easy-to-use IXL platform, which is an all-inclusive, interactive, online curriculum for pre-K to 8th grade used in 95 of the top 100 U.S. school districts. Tutoring sessions will also include prayer, engaging Bible lessons, and other learning activities. If you have two to four hours a week to volunteer please contact Pastor Jerry Corbett at 586-662-7094.

- Pontiac Public School calendar Sept 21 through May
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- St. Paul Community Lutheran Church
- 1133 Joslyn Avenue, Pontiac, MI. 48340



CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED

Mission partner "Special Friends" is in need of additional camp counselors from July 13 - July 17. They are looking for people to help with daily activities and join in creating a fun environment for all of the campers. This could include participating in some of the daily activities, assisting with crafts, Jesus time, swim time, evening activities, meal times, etc. We can be flexible with people's schedules and incorporate them into whatever aspects they are interested in. Special Friends is a ministry to Special Needs individuals. If interested please contact Josh Pieper at sfcrep@specialfriendsministries.org



FAMILY OF GOD | August 2

Your love, faithfulness, and generosity are what allow us to continue to support our Mission Partner, Family of God. Please consider signing up for one of our monthly serve events to help continue blessing our friends in Detroit. This is a great opportunity for Bible Study groups, LIFEgroups, Book Clubs, and Families to serve together! Individuals are always welcome to join too!!

The August sign-up for donations and serving is available at www.stjohnrochester.org/FOG2026



For more information, please contact our Mission Liaison Coordinator, Jennie Eller, at jeller@stjohnrochester.org.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: JUNE 29 - JULY 5

Here is a highlight of activities happening on campus this week.

Monday, July 6

9:00 AM - (Church Library) The Five Books of Moses - Men's Bible Study

6

Tuesday, July 7

10:00 AM - (Mary Martha) ESL

7

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 AM - (Luther Hall) Dad's Bible Study

7:00 PM - (Offsite) RMB at Rochester Mills Brewery

8

Thursday, July 9

12:00 PM - (Mary Martha) International Bible Study

9

Friday, July 10

7:00 PM - (Luther Hall) Drummelsmith 242 Group

10

Saturday, July 11

11

Sunday, July 12

9:30 AM - (Concordia Hall) Pastor's Bible Study

12

SUMMER



Worship Schedule

Traditional Praise: Sundays at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM (also online), and 11:00 AM

Modern Praise: Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays at 10:45 AM (also online)

1011 W. University Dr. | Rochester, MI 48307 | 248.402.8000 | stjohnrochester.org