

the connection

one in Jesus... reaching many

Week of October 4, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



WEEK 1 — THE CALL | Get Off the Sidelines
Jesus calls every one of us into His mission.

WEEK 2 — THE ROSTER | Find Your Position
God has uniquely gifted you.

WEEK 3 — THE PLAY | Get In The Game
Don't just discover your gifts—use them.

WEEK 4 — THE SACRIFICE | Leave It All On The Field
He gave Himself for us; we give ourselves to Him.

WEEK 5 — THE TEAM | Play For Something Bigger
Together, God can accomplish more through us

GETTING IN THE GAME - Week 4 | The Sacrifice: Leave It All On The Field

Faith Isn't a Spectator Sport. Have you ever found yourself sitting on the sidelines, watching the action but wondering where you fit in? God has something more for each of us! In this five-week fall worship series, **Getting In The Game**, we'll discover how God has uniquely gifted every one of us with abilities, passions, resources, and opportunities to make an eternal difference. Together, we'll move from the sidelines to the field—discovering our place, putting our faith into action, serving sacrificially, and joining with others to advance the mission of our Savior Jesus. And it all begins with the good news that **Jesus didn't sit on the sidelines for us—He gave Himself completely for us.** So come discover your place, find your position, and **GET IN THE GAME!**



If you missed any previous messages, you can find them on the Online Resources webpage. <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/worship/church-online/>

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

Pentecost 19

Many service elements are taken from the Pew Hymnal.

PRELUDE: <i>God of Grace</i> (9:30/11:00)	Choir
OPENING HYMN: <i>Thy Strong Word</i>	LSB #578 Choir sings stz. 2 & 4 (8:00)
SERVICE OF THE WORD	
Invocation/Confession	Screen
Gloria	
Prayer of the Day	
First Reading: 1 Chronicles 29:9-14	
Anthem: Offertory (8:00) Seek Ye First, Rejoice in the Lord Always (11:00)	Choirs
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9	
Alleluia	LSB #952
Gospel Reading: Mark 12:41-44	
THE NICENE CREED	Screen
HYMN OF THE DAY: <i>Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us</i>	LSB #851
MESSAGE	Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER	
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT	Screen
ANTHEM: <i>How Can I Keep from Singing</i> (9:30) <i>Be Thou My Vision</i> (11:00)	Jubilate Bell Choir Violin and Piano
DIST. HYMNS: <i>Take My Life and Let It Be</i> <i>We Give Thee But Thine Own</i>	LSB #783 LSB #781
NUNC DIMIITIS	Screen
BENEDICTION	
CLOSING HYMN: <i>We Praise You, O God</i>	LSB #785

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

GET INTO THE WORD!

September – December 2026

Our Fall Bible studies and LIFEgroups are underway! Check out the full listing of classes and events by scanning the QR Code or visiting our website. A printed copy of the *Get Into The Word* guide can also be found in the narthex and atrium. Whether you are looking for a small class or a large group, there is something for everyone - no matter your age, schedule, or life circumstances! Be sure to make the most of growing in your faith walk with Jesus through His Word this Fall.



FROM DARKNESS TO GRACE

FACING MENTAL HEALTH
& ADDICTION IN CHRIST

WITH DONAVON RILEY



DONAVON RILEY: FROM DARKNESS TO GRACE | Saturday, November 21, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

On November 21, St. John Lutheran Church & School invites you to a special event featuring **Rev. Donavon Riley** as he addresses the deeply personal challenges of mental health and addiction. Drawing from nearly two years of parish ministry as well as his own powerful journey as a former addict and convert from atheism, Rev. Riley brings a raw, unflinching perspective to these modern struggles.

Grounded in a rich Lutheran theology of grace, his message and gift for storytelling moves beyond self-made solutions to shine a light on the true rest, healing, and hope found in Christ alone.

Whether you are personally struggling, supporting a loved one, or seeking to care for your community, come be encouraged by the daily reality that we do not have to carry our heaviest burdens alone. Join us for an inspiring, honest conversation on moving from shame, guilt, or heartache to the promises of the Gospel. RSVP by November 7 at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/darknesstograce>

Registration for our St. John family is open now. Get your tickets before registration opens to the public on October 4. We expect this event to sell out, so act quickly! \$50 per person | lunch included



WOMEN OF GOSPELS | Thursdays, October 8 – November 5 at 1:00 PM | Church Library

Join us for a 5-week Bible Study series: "Tapestry, Women in the Gospels!" The time together will include videos and discussions. Registration is necessary. For more information contact Candi Schwark at candice@mac.com or [248-652-9449](tel:248-652-9449), by October 5.

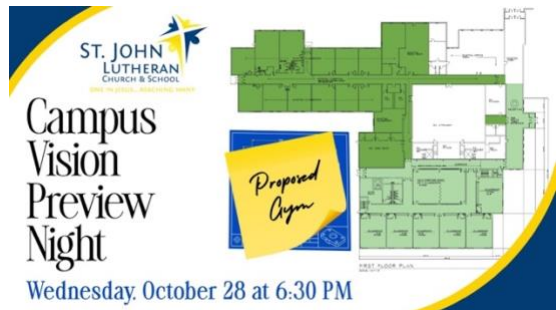
ESTHER CIRCLE | Thursday, October 8 at 1:00 PM | Mary Martha

Join the ladies of Esther Circle as they begin a new book study! The group will be reading "Promised Hope" by Michele Diercks. (A copy of the book can be purchased on Amazon <https://a.co/d/o8POCZVT>). This week's devotion will focus on the introduction and chapter one. Following the meeting the ladies will be assembling personal care kits in Concordia Hall. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Ruth Leucht at [248-651-3584](tel:248-651-3584).

ST. JOHN CAMPUS VISION PREVIEW NIGHT

Save The Date: Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 PM

Praise the Lord as we have been blessed to officially begin our third school year in a newly expanded and renovated facility! As we reflect on the incredible blessing of this \$9 million dollar project, it's time to share a financial update and dream together about what's next! With that prayerful dream comes the importance of understanding the opportunities and challenges involved—along with clarity on how to walk boldly in faith together as a St. John family toward it. Specifics of the Campus Vision Preview Night will include a financial update on our All2Jesus Capital Initiative, as well as an advanced preview of the exciting plans for a second gymnasium! Join us on Wednesday, October 28 beginning with refreshments at 6:30 PM in the Main Atrium followed immediately by a presentation in the gymnasium. **Please RSVP with this link or QR code so we know you are coming!**



See you there! <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/campus-vision-preview-night>



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY CALL PROCESS UPDATE

As announced this summer, the Call Committee has shifted from seeking a Director of Youth and Family Ministry (DCE) to seeking an Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministry to serve in this very important role. Last week our Call Team received an official list of ten potential pastor candidates from our Michigan District—including several that were recommended by our St. John family when names were requested over the summer. These ten candidates have been contacted by our team with a request to pray about next steps, including a video interview with our Call Team. Please continue to pray for this important process and for the Lord's guidance toward His will!

BIBLES & BASKETBALL | Saturdays at 8:00 AM starting October 3 | Gymnasium

Bibles & Basketball is an opportunity to get into God's Word, play some basketball, and promote the ideals of Christian brotherhood. This group of men meets almost every Saturday morning from 8:00 to 10:00 AM and is open to men of all ages – the more the merrier! Whether you come regularly or occasionally, all are welcome. For more information and to get on the mailing list, please contact Eric Garland at egarlan10@gmail.com.



GRIEF SHARE | Begins October 10 at 10:00 AM | Church Library

Grief Share is a special weekly support group offering comfort, answers, and hope. It is designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one and is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the days ahead. This group meets Saturdays at 10:00 AM in the Church Library, starting October 10, 2026 and running through January 9, 2027. For more information, please contact Deaconess Terry Priestley at priestley@stjohnrochester.org. Scan the green QR to register. <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/299490>





OWLS Luncheon | Friday, October 16 at Noon | Concordia Hall

Our October OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) Luncheon/Fellowship event will feature a presentation by Eric Elloie, Oakland County Coordinator for Citizens for Traditional Values. Voting Guides for the November 4th Election will also be available for your use. Lasagna and beverages will be provided by our volunteer ministry team while salads and desserts will be gifted by Waltonwood University.

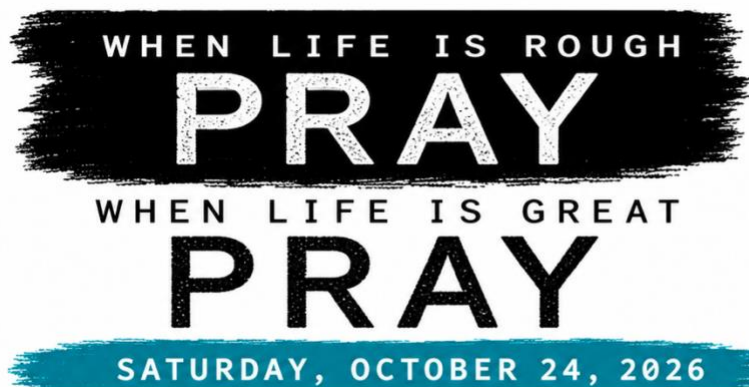
Invite a friend - all ages welcome! Folks wishing to attend the presentation only may join us at 12:45 PM. If anyone requires transportation, please let us know, and we will try to make arrangements. To assist with planning, please pre-register with Roger Guetzkow at [248-622-1606](tel:248-622-1606) or email rjguetzkow@comcast.net by Tuesday, October 13.

CROSSROADS ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST | Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 AM | Concordia Hall

What a privilege it is for St. John Lutheran Church & School to host this year's Crossroads Prayer Breakfast. The morning gathering will include a time of prayer seeking the Lord for His favor and direction, a time to socialize, and a wonderful breakfast prepared and served by the St. John Men's team. If you would like to attend, please register with the QR code below or follow this link:

<https://v4app.fundeasy.com/events/attendance/1274/event>

If you have questions please contact Dale Griffith, Crossroads Liaison at daleegriffith@gmail.com.



Crossroads Care Center
3205 South Boulevard
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Prayer is an integral part of our ministry and a vital way to make an impact. God gives more than just answers to our prayers, He gives Himself. Please join us as we thank God for another year of blessings and ask direction for our 2027 programs.

Annual Prayer Breakfast



Saturday, October 24, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



St. John Lutheran Church
1011 W. University Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Breakfast provided by St. John Lutheran Church

RSVP:



Scan the QR code to the right,
visit
Friends.CrossroadsCareCenter.org/events
and click the Prayer Breakfast 2026 tile.



or call Jon at 248.293.0070 x107
by October 10th.



Everyone welcome.
No charge to attend.
Casual dress attire.



OPEN POSITIONS

PART-TIME SCHOOL KITCHEN ASSISTANT

We have an immediate opportunity for a part-time School Kitchen Assistant. This important team member provides assistance in the school kitchen preparing and serving lunch to our students and staff. This is a part-time hourly position serving Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM during school days only. Benefits include paid time off, holidays, and a tuition discount for St. John Lutheran School. Interested candidates should contact our School Kitchen Manager, Amanda Lorenzen at alorenzen@stjohnrochester.org or our School Principal, Elizabeth Leinberger at eleinberger@stjohnrochester.org.

PART-TIME CAREROOM AIDE

We have an immediate opportunity for a part-time Preschool Carerom Aide. This important team member provides before-school care to our preschool students. This is a part-time hourly position serving Monday - Friday from 6:45 AM until 8:45 AM during school days only. Interested candidates should contact our Childcare Licensing Director, Melissa Kauppila mkauppila@stjohnrochester.org. Candidates must pass a background check and complete online licensing courses (paid training).

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

PRESCHOOL FIELD TRIP

It's Fall Field Trip season! Preschool 3's enjoyed a Field Trip with parent chaperones and teachers to Blake's Orchard recently. They learned about apple cider production, explored the orchard, and picked their own apples! We love these opportunities for family connection and learning about nature as we explore the local community.



CROSS COUNTRY

What a meet for the St. John Eagles this past weekend! Almost all the runners had personal best or season best times! With over 35 Middle School teams competing at the Hanson's Invitational, St. John took first in the JV Boys Division, third in the Varsity Girls Division, seventh in the JV Girls Division, and eighth in the Varsity Boys Division! Grady Mae smashed the 23-year-old St. John 4-6th grade girls school record by 18 seconds with a time of 12:41 for the two-mile race. Way to go Eagles!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Middle School Youth meets most Sundays at 12:30 PM in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays at 6:00 - 8:00 PM

High School Youth meet most Sundays at 6:00 PM. Check your weekly emails for meeting locations and details. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



2027 MISSION WORKCAMP REVEAL | THIS SUNDAY at 12:00 PM | Luther Hall

We are thrilled to announce plans for our 2027 Mission Workcamp Trip! This amazing opportunity is open to students (6th - 12th grade) and adults who want to serve, grow in faith, and make lasting memories.

Join us for the reveal! A short presentation will take place on Sunday, October 4 following the 10:45 AM and 11:00 AM services in Luther Hall. That's where we'll share all the details about the next trip, including where we're going and how you can join!

LHNW



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 worshiping 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.



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: Donna Ritter - thanksgiving for successful surgery / Bill Olson (Don & Sandy's son) - hospice / Lorraine Hayes - hospice / Dave Leinberger - recent hospitalization / Joanne Wright - chemotherapy

Bereavement (for the families of): Lindsay Papke / Elio Petrovich (father of Daniela Scholl)

Strength & Guidance: Linda Glisman and others traveling to Israel

Gospel Impact: Food Drive / Crossroads Care Breakfast

Thanksgiving: Brad & Lori Hehl's 25th anniversary

Long-Term Healing & Recovery: Linda Baroli - undergoing testing / Bob Standfest - rehab for leg infection / Rev. Michael Standfest - continued hand reconstruction / Chuck & Candy Bartley / Tony Chila - cancer treatment / Jeffery Oliver (cousin of Sharon Barton) - colon cancer / Diane Krueger / Mike Jankovich - stroke / Noel - long-term leukemia treatments / Elizabeth Pederson - leukemia treatments / D'Anne Garrett / Jim Holste (brother of Sarah Grafe - son of Barb Holste) - stage 4 cancer / Lucas Tate / Ann Neilson - Bell's palsy / Mary Lou Schwartz - leukemia / Able Beyer - treatment of Leukemia / Layla Loverses 6y - autoimmune disease / Gerald Walters (brother of Pam Peck) - long term care for kidney failure / Lauren Gonser (brother of Terry) - cancer / Gary Kwapis - cancer / Nancy Egloff - continuing eyesight treatments / Lorri Heins - cancer / Brian Thornberry (father of staff member Erin Morgante) - cancer / Brent Zoellner / Leanne Stevens / Allison - Huntington's disease

Church-Work & Seminary Students: Ethan Dodson / Steve Kuiper / Nicolas Stevens

Pregnancy: Mady DeMiro / Anne Jankovich / Emma Schumann (Weber) / Natalie / Lauren Brown (Neumeyer)

Those in Military Service: Paul Batt / Lukas Olto / Kendall Masters-Palmerlee / Mark Anderson / Aaron Byers / Devin Deck / Troy Glover / Alex Holzke / Alex Lindsay / Erich Mammen / David Metcalf / Matthew Neumeyer / John Paulson / Michael Pesamoska / Christian Petty / Jon Taykowski / Brad Ziegler / Kayla Pfund / Tim Pfund / Bryan Mullins / Tyler Wetzell / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin / Courtney Sharbaugh / Victor Martin / David Lyons / Austin Taylor / Drew McBrien & Miguela McBrien / Zachary Browne / Cameron Dork / Jon Rubin / Brendan Standfest / Luke Standfest / Brian Standfest

Home Bound or Nursing Home Residents: Judy L'Esperance / Ginny & Russ Schmidt / Jerry & Mary Bantin / Kathy Bentley / Karen & Richard Brooks / Bob Hobson / Ruth Parish / Rob Plewa / Jerry Ruff / Chuck Schroeder / Gloria Trudeau / Connie Ulrich / Iris Wawrzyniak / Karen Wright / Joan Sebastian / Lucy Moerer

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE DONATIONS

This is a unique opportunity to uplift the hearts & spirits of our college students! The care packages we send aren't just boxes of snacks; they're tangible expressions of God's love and our unwavering prayers, designed to offer comfort, remind them of their faith, and encourage their walk with Christ amidst academic demands.

Please prayerfully consider **donating an item from our Amazon Wishlist** and help us send a powerful message of faith, hope, and love directly to students' dorm rooms. Scan the QR code or visit <https://a.co/b9naiR1> to contribute and have items sent directly to St. John!



NURSERY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Part-time / on-demand nursery help is needed for occasional evenings and Sunday mornings. Volunteers can be 8th grade and up and a variety of days and times are available. Parents are allowed to bring their own children with them. Volunteers must love kids and be able to pass a background check.

If you are interested please contact Candace Buckenberger at (734) 674-2315 or cbuckenberger@stjohnrochester.org.

- **Sundays 9:30 - 11:00 AM**
- **Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 PM**
- **Fridays 2:00 - 3:15 PM**



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

What a blessing and meeting of an immediate need that allows our team to continue to meet the needs of our community. Please feel free to save your paper grocery bags and drop off anytime throughout the year. Thank you again for your generosity in meeting this need.



ST. PAUL PONTIAC FOOD PANTRY

Get into the game with us and share the Love of Jesus by serving others at our Mission Partner, St. Paul, Pontiac. Join our current St. John team by helping pack and distribute groceries to those less fortunate. The pantry is open every Tuesday & Thursday from 12:00 - 2:00PM. Training will be provided on the day you are available to serve. Scan the QR to view upcoming dates and sign up!

This is a year round opportunity to serve. Sign up here to serve, or for further information please contact the Mission Liaison to St. Paul, Mike McColeman, at 248-568-2354 or mmpn99@sbcglobal.net.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B44A5A72FA5FA7-66312812-pantry>



Neighbor-2-Neighbor Food Drive

OCTOBER 3 - NOVEMBER 1
2026



As you grocery shop for your family, help us restock our local Mission Partner Pantries with **non-perishable items**.

- ☐ CEREAL
- ☐ PASTA
- ☐ OATMEAL (INSTANT & ORIGINAL)
- ☐ BROWN RICE (1 LB. BAGS)
- ☐ WHITE RICE (1 LB. BAGS)
- ☐ FLOUR
- ☐ WHITE SUGAR
- ☐ BROWN SUGAR
- ☐ APPLESAUCE
- ☐ PEANUT BUTTER
- ☐ JELLY
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ GRANOLA BARS
- ☐ SNACK PACKS
- ☐ FRUIT SNACKS
- ☐ CRACKERS (SALTINE, RITZ ETC...)
- ☐ _____

- ☐ CANNED CHICKEN
- ☐ CANNED TUNA
- ☐ CANNED TOMATO PRODUCTS
- ☐ CANNED FRUIT
- ☐ CANNED VEGETABLES
- ☐ CANNED BEANS (KIDNEY)
- ☐ SOUP
- ☐ PASTA SAUCE
- ☐ _____
- ☐ BIRTHDAY CAKE MIX
- ☐ FROSTING
- ☐ CANDLES

THANKSGIVING MEAL ITEMS

Help provide Thanksgiving dinner for 10-20 families at St. Paul Pontiac.

- ☐ CANNED HAM
- ☐ BOXED SCALLOPED POTATOES
- ☐ CANNED GREEN BEANS
- ☐ BOXED STUFFING

Donations can be dropped off at the designated areas in the Atrium and Church Lobby during school and worship hours.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: OCTOBER 5 - 11

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

Monday, October 5, 2026

9:00 AM - The Five Books of Moses - Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
4:15 PM - Varsity Soccer - St. John Fraser (LHNW)
7:00 PM - Healing Hearts (Church Library)

5

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

1:00 PM - ESL (Mary Martha)
4:15 PM - JV Volleyball - B Team vs. St. Peter Macomb (Gym)
5:15 PM - Varsity Volleyball - B Team vs. St. Peter Macomb (Gym)
6:30 PM - AHG Meeting (Concordia)

6

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

6:00 AM - Dad's Bible Study (Luther Hall)
8:40 AM - Mom's Morning Prayer Group (Nursery)
8:50 AM - Chapel (Sanctuary)
6:00 PM - Adult Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
6:30 PM - Bell Choir (Choir Loft)

7

Thursday, October 8, 2026

1:00 PM - Esther Circle (Concordia)
1:00 PM - Lingering in His Word - Schwark (Luther Hall)
1:00 PM - International Bible Study (Mary Martha)
4:15 PM - JV Volleyball - A Team vs. Immanuel (Gym)
5:00 PM - Brass Choir (Choir Loft)
5:15 PM - Varsity Volleyball - A Team vs. Immanuel (Gym)
6:30 PM - Mixed/Men's Choir (Choir Loft)
7:00 PM - Psalm 143 Study (Luther Hall)

8

Friday, October 9, 2026

9:00 AM - Prayer and Service: Women's Bible Study (Off-Site)
2:00 PM - Rooted: SJR Mom's Bible Study (Luther Hall)

9

Saturday, October 10, 2026

8:00 AM - Bibles and Basketball (Gym)
10:00 AM - GriefShare (Church Library)

10

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:30 AM - Pastor's Bible Study (Concordia Hall)
9:30 AM - Sunday School (Preschool Wing)
12:30 PM - MSY (Youth Room)
6:30 PM - HSY (Youth Room)

11

GET IN THE GAME

JOIN A SERVE TEAM



STJOHNROCHESTER.ORG/SERVE



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