

**27th
Annual**



PRAISE IN THE PARK

FAMILY WORSHIP & PICNIC

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 AT 11:00 AM
ROCHESTER MUNICIPAL PARK**



FAMILY PRAISE & PICNIC IN THE PARK - ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE: MEN'S CHORUS

Come, Ye Sinners | King of Love and Grace | We Shall Walk | Rise Up!

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

PRAYER OF INVOCATION / OPENING SONGS

O PRAISE THE NAME (ANÁSTASIS)

Verse 1

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

Verse 2

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Verse 3

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

Chorus

Verse 4

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Chorus(X2)

HOLY HOLY HOLY (SAVIOR & KING)

Verse 1

Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

Verse 2

Holy holy holy all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee
Which wert and art and evermore shall be

Chorus

You are Lord You are Lord
You reign eternally
You are Lord God Almighty
My Savior and my King

Verse 3

Holy holy holy man hath fallen from Thee
Through the blood of Christ Thy Son
This soul can be redeemed
Justice truth and mercy join with love to crown Thee
Savior of sinners soon returning King

Chorus (X2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REMINDER OF FORGIVENESS IN JESUS

Pastor Steve Grafe

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:15–24

When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

MESSAGE*Pastor Tyler Cronkright***SONG OF RESPONSE: COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING****Verse 1**

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I'm come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Ending

Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

FACULTY AND STAFF BLESSING / INSTALLATION / PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE *Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENDING SONG: RAISE A HALLELUJAH

Verse 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

Chorus

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive

Verse 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

Bridge

Sing a little louder in the presence of my enemies
Sing a little louder louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder my weapon is a melody
Sing a little louder Heaven comes to fight for me
(REPEAT)

Chorus

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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THANK YOU!

A huge Thank You to all who made our 27th Annual Family Praise & Picnic in the Park celebration a reality including over 150 volunteers and our following partners:

City of Rochester

Rochester City Council, Karl Maier (Parks Superintendent) and Staff, Scott Demoff (Fire Chief) and Rochester Fire Department, and George Rouhib (Police Chief) & the Rochester Police Department

Parking Lots

Rochester Medical Center/Atallah Heart Center, Michigan Eye Center, Pixley Funeral Home, University Dental Associates, and Lambert Law

Other Support

Ameriprise Representative Jerry Kulcycki (funding), Thrivent Action Team (funding), Gordon Food Service

Major Funding provided by The St. John Foundation & the faithful ongoing Mission and Ministry giving of our St. John family

the connection

one in Jesus... reaching many

Week of August 23, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



AT THE TABLE: Feasting with Jesus in His Word | Week 7 – Welcomed: The Great Banquet

Summer often becomes a season of gathering around tables - backyard cookouts, family vacations, celebrations, and shared meals. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus continually meets people at tables. Around food and fellowship, He forgives sinners, restores the broken, teaches disciples, welcomes outsiders, and reveals the kingdom of God. In these remaining weeks of summer we will journey through various table encounters with Jesus and discover that He still invites us to come hungry and leave filled by His grace.



HOLY BAPTISM

Jingwei Shen, daughter of
Xin Shen and Runmei Lu

Previous Messages & Online Resources

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



Traditional Praise (sanctuary)

Sunday at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM (also online at 9:30 AM)

A traditional, liturgical Lutheran worship celebration led by a pipe organ and enhanced by choirs, hand bells, brass, strings, and other classical instrumentation. All services feature Bible focused teachings, and the life-changing love of Jesus is shared through His Word. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month.



Modern Praise (gymnasium)

Saturday at 5:00 PM | Sunday at 10:45 AM (also online at 10:45 AM)

A relaxed, modern Lutheran worship celebration led by guitars, keyboard, and drums. All services feature Bible focused teachings, and the life-changing love of Jesus is shared through His Word. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the second, fourth, and fifth weekends of the month.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

GET INTO THE WORD | Fall Bible Studies and LIFEgroups Starting Soon

We are just a couple weeks away from our launch of over 25 different Bible studies, LIFEgroups, and one-day events happening this fall! Be watching our website, Facebook, and email for a full listing in the next couple days! Whether you are looking for a small class or large group, there will be 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!



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Students entering 7th grade are encouraged to sign up now for Confirmation Class! **This class is for students who are not enrolled in St. John Lutheran School.** Students and at least one parent/guardian are required to classes along throughout the school year. Classes meet from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on September 26, November 7, January 16, February 20, April 10, and May 22. **Students must register for the class by visiting https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/26-27_confirmation.** Full details can also be found on the website, or you can email questions to Pastor Tyler at pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org.



JOIN THE ST. JOHN FAMILY

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS STARTING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**

Are you ready to make St. John Lutheran Church & School your home? Have you or someone you know been looking for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about? Join us in a relaxed and welcoming environment where your questions can be answered.

This is a great class for anyone new to St. John or returning after being away for some time, or for those who have been worshipping with us as a guest and feel led to make St. John their church home. Whether transferring from another church or brand new to the Christian faith, the ONE Class is for you... and now is the time to enroll!

Come join Pastors Marc, Steve, and Tyler on this engaging and interactive eight-week journey through God's Word! This is an opportunity to discover the Christian Lutheran faith and understand how our church and school mission and vision are rooted in its teachings. This is also a great opportunity to meet new friends and share your faith journey with others!

This class meets Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, beginning on September 21. The last day to register for this class is September 28. Childcare is available for those who need it! Upon completion of the class, participants are welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family.

If you have any questions, please contact our St. John Ministry Engagement Coordinator, Deana Stevens, at 248-402-8004 or dstevens@stjohnrochester.org.

**TO REGISTER FOR
THIS CLASS SCAN
THE QR CODE
OR VISIT:**

<https://www.stjohnrochester.org/event/one-class/>





GRIEF SHARE Loss of Spouse Session | Saturday, September 19 | Church Library

GriefShare is hosting a one-time session devoted to those who have lost a spouse. It is always hard to lose someone you love, and the loss of a spouse is not only losing your loved one, but your lifestyle as well. Whether you are recently widowed, or it has been several years, you are invited to join us on Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Church Library. For planning purposes, please email Deaconess Terry Priestley at tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org and register on the website <https://find.griefshare.org/events/299483> or scan the brown QR.



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 tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org. Scan the green QR to register. <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/299490>



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Are you lonely, grieving, worried, recently divorced, out of work, behind on bills, needing groceries, other necessities, or counseling? You don't have to journey through this difficult time alone. St. John has ministries, support, assistance funds, and references available for you. For more information and to learn more about how we can care for you, simply reach out to one of our Pastors at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. All requests are confidential.

3rd GRADE BIBLE BLESSING | Tuesday, September 1 | 6:30 PM

All 3rd graders from our church, school & community are invited for a fun & engaging night where they will receive an age-appropriate Bible & learn how to use it! Join Pastor Tyler and our 3rd grade teachers as we will discuss how it works, including teaching time with the parent(s) and student, and fun Bible games. **This event is free and does not require a sign-up.** For more information, please contact our Pastoral Office at 248-402-8020.



LUTHERAN LAYMENS LEAGUE MEN'S RETREAT | September 10-13

The men of St. John are invited to attend this year's Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat scheduled for September 10-13 at beautiful Camp Arcadia on Lake Michigan. This year's guest presenter is Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, current Lutheran Hour Speaker. The cost is \$310, and registration can be completed online at <https://camp-arcadia.com/attend-arcadia/register/>. If you have questions, please contact Roger Guetzkow (248-622-1606) or Paul Kienman (248-890-4405).



MUSICAL TALENT | CHOIR ENSEMBLES

Make a joyful noise! Volunteer choirs for the upcoming church year will begin the week of Labor Day. St. John is blessed to offer several ensembles with a variety of meeting/rehearsal schedules. If you are a singer, ringer, or instrumentalist interested in joining, and are high school age or older, please contact Nick Kwapis, Director of Music at nkwapis@stjohnrochester.org

Mixed Choir: Meets weekly on Thursday evenings (6:30 – 8:00 PM)

Men's Chorus: Meets 1-2 times monthly on Thursday evenings (Time TBA)

Jubilate Bell Choir: Meets weekly on Wednesday evenings (6:00 – 7:00 PM)

Instrumentalists: Rehearse as needed (inquire for more information)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN STAFF & FACULTY

Please keep our entire St. John church and school ministry team in your ongoing prayers as we begin a new ministry year together with the start of school tomorrow! We also welcome the newest members to the team as well as those with new roles this year!



New staff/faculty:

- Mr. Kyle Chuhuran – Assistant Principal
- Miss Skylar Croft – 4th Grade Teacher
- Miss Hannah Ethridge – 6th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Eunjung Lee – Preschool Aide
- Mrs. Elizabeth Leinberger – Principal
- Mrs. Amanda Lorenzen – Kitchen Manager
- Mrs. Lyn Kramer – Kindergarten Teacher
- Ms. Terry Priestley – Deaconess
- Ms. Jennifer Schlaud – Care Room
- Miss Kelsey Schrade – Building Sub
- Mrs. Carla Wiercigroch - Kindergarten Aide

Current staff moving to new positions:

- Mr. Matt Wallace - Moving from 4th Grade Teacher to 8th Grade Teacher



GET CONNECTED!

Every week we send out email worship updates, seasonal devotional thoughts, opportunities to serve, children's ministry news, youth ministry news, and more. These emails are intended to help you stay connected and keep growing in your faith and to experience a better sense of community with our St. John family. If you don't already receive these emails and would like to begin receiving them, please sign up our website at <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/stayconnected/> or scan the QR code. When you do, you can also designate what you are most interested in receiving.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a great week of all the Back-to-School Activities – classroom visits, Kindergarten Playdate, Student and Parent Orientation meetings, Welcome Day, and more! K-8 starts tomorrow and Preschool starts August 31 & September 1. For more information about our Christ-centered Preschool to 8th grade education, visit school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions.



**Sunday
School!**
**Teachers
Needed**

MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD! TRAINING PROVIDED

Our weekly Sunday School ministry kicks off on Sunday, **September 20 at 9:30 AM** for age 4 through 5th grade. If you have been searching for a way to use your God-given gifts in a special way that will make a huge difference, look no further! There are several opportunities to serve as a teacher, assistant, or part of the administrative team. **We still need 4 regular teachers and would like to have 4 substitutes.** Sunday School is not possible without volunteers like you!

Training for all involved will be **Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM in Luther Hall.** To sign up to serve or learn more, email Deaconess Terry Priestley tpriestley@stjohnrochester.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM starting September 20 | Youth Room

High School is a defining part of a person's life. Students begin to settle into their beliefs about the world, God & their purpose. During this influential time, students should be surrounded by people who know and love Jesus. We give them the skills and support groups needed to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives. High School Youth typically meets on Sundays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, in the Youth Room or offsite. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship!



HSY KICK-OFF EVENT | September 13, 5:00 – 7:00 PM | Hammett House

We can't wait to kick off the year together at our first gathering September 13 at 5:00 PM at the Hammett house. We will start the night off right - with dinner and a nacho bar! There will be beef, chicken, and all the delicious sides. After that, we'll jump into large group games and a devotional you won't want to miss! It's going to be an amazing way to start the year together. For more information, please contact Melissa Hammett, at mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH | Sundays, 12:30 – 2:30 PM starting September 20 | Youth Room

Middle School Youth is a place where students can come and feel safe and at home. It is also a place for students to bring their friends to share Jesus. Our activities are for students in 6th-8th grade, and all are welcome! For more information, please contact, Melissa Hammit at 248.818.0861 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org



MSY KICK-OFF EVENT | September 13, 12:30 – 2:30 PM | Youth Room

To kick off the new season, we'll be hosting a welcome back nacho party for Middle School students! Join us on our St. John campus on Sunday, September 13, in the St. John Youth Room from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. We'll enjoy a nacho bar, spend time getting to know one another, share in a short devotion, and wrap things up with a fun group game. This is a great chance for returning students to reconnect and for new faces to feel welcomed. All students in grades 6-8 are invited - we can't wait to see you there! Bring a friend!



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 <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/give/>. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



GIVE NOW

SPECIAL MISSIONAL GENEROSITY FOCUS TODAY

All loose bill and change offerings (non-enveloped gifts) today will go toward assisting with needed resources for the new after-school tutoring program at our mission partner, St. Paul Community Lutheran in Pontiac. Close to 20 individuals (including several from our St. John family) are preparing to share their passion for education and children to help improve literacy levels and bring Christ-centered encouragement. May the Lord bless these efforts beyond measure!

CONSTANT PRAYER



NEED PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request or have a need for someone to pray over you with encouragement for whatever you are facing, stop by the Prayer Tent today, or look for a team member with a prayer badge.

We would love to 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.

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

What a blessing to know that when you need help you can call on your St. John family! Our "People Helping People" communication shares the needs of our St. John family, Mission Partners, and local community needs that we try to fulfill. To receive emails about these serve opportunities you can sign up by scanning the QR Code.

You will receive occasional communications with areas of needs that you may be able to help with and be a witness of the Lord's love. There is no requirement to serve! Respond to emails when you are able, and stay connected to the outreach that is continuing to happen behind the scenes of church & school. If you have additional questions or need more information contact Jennie Eller, Director of Missions & Outreach at jeller@stjohnrochester.org



WEEK AT A GLANCE: AUGUST 24-30

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

Monday, August 24

First Day of School K-8 (Half Day)

9:00 AM - Quilters Guild (Room 128)

24

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 AM - ESL (Mary Martha)

25

Wednesday, August 26

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

26

Thursday, August 27

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

27

Friday, August 28

28

Saturday, August 29

29

Sunday, August 30

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

30

**PRAISE
IN THE PARK**
FAMILY WORSHIP & PICNIC



**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**



ONE IN JESUS...REACHING MANY

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)

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