

# the connection

one in Jesus... reaching many

Week of June 28, 2026

WORSHIP CELEBRATION



## UNHURRIED: The Pace of Grace

### Week 4: *The Sabbath is a Gift*

In a world driven by noise, pressure, busyness, and constant distraction, Jesus offers something radically different: rest for weary souls. This summer, join us for UNHURRIED: The Pace of Grace, a sermon series inspired by themes from *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer and rooted deeply in God's Word. Together we'll explore how the grace of Jesus reshapes not only our hearts, but also the pace of our lives. Through Scripture, we'll discover Christ's invitation to slow down, abide in Him, practice Sabbath rest, and live with greater peace, purpose, and presence. This isn't about escaping life or earning God's favor through spiritual performance—it's about receiving the rest and renewal already given to us through Jesus. Come learn what it means to live at the unhurried pace of grace.



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/>

## HOLY BAPTISM

This weekend we give thanks for the baptism of:  
Joel Benjamin Fanning, Jr., son of Joel and Sabrina Fanning



# TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

## Pentecost 6

Many service elements are taken from the Pew Hymnal.

### PRELUDE

**OPENING HYMN:** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LSB #807

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation/Confession

Screen

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Exodus 20:8-11

Second Reading: 1 Colossians 2:8-17

Alleluia

LSB #952

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:23-28

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Screen

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

LSB #906

### MESSAGE

*Pastor Steve Grafe*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN:** *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

LSB #718

## 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.**

# 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY



During our nation's **250th** birthday weekend St. John will only be hosting services on **Sunday, July 5.**

**Sunday, July 5** *Both Services include the Lord's Supper*

**9:00 AM - TRADITIONAL PRAISE (SANCTUARY)**

*Join us for cake afterward in Luther Hall!*

**10:30 AM - MODERN PRAISE (GYMNASIUM)**

*Join us for cake afterward in the Atrium!*

**NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**



## BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

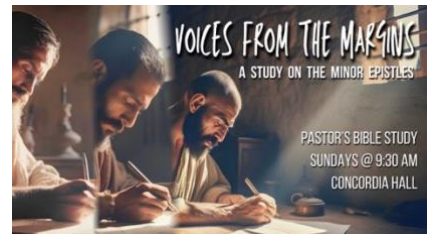
### SUMMER INSTRUCTION & MEETINGS

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](mailto: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](mailto:pastortyler@stjohnrochester.org).



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:audrey.kiehl@hotmail.com)) will meet from 10:00 AM to Noon. The Thursday ESL group, led by Peter Harris ([harris1964@wowway.com](mailto: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**.



## OWLS JUNE LUNCHEON/FELLOWSHIP RECAP

St. John's OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans in Service) presentation at the June 19 Luncheon featured "Lutheran Education - Power of the Cloud" by Paul Looker, Superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association of Detroit. The Luncheon concluded with a devotion commemorating our country's upcoming 250th anniversary, followed by the singing of several patriotic Christian hymns. 62 St. John members and guests were in attendance. **OWLS Luncheons will break for the summer and resume on Friday, September 18.**



## 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 worshiping 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](mailto:Foundation@stjohnrochester.org)

## ANNUAL DIAPER SHOWER SUCCESS | RECORD BREAKING DONATION!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual Diaper Drive to support and bless our Mission Partner, Crossroads Care Center and their families! Through your generosity, St. John was able to donate over **32,000 diapers (more than double last year's amount!)** along with numerous canisters of baby formula and countless wipes!

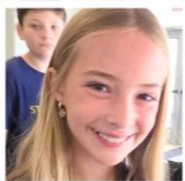
We also want to give a **special thanks to Eric and the team from Bella-scape** who came to pick-up and deliver the donations to Crossroads Care Center. We appreciate the time his team took from their busy schedule to honor God and our Mission Partner.



# Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God!



# 450 children - 180 volunteers - WOW GOD!



## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

### FROM VBS TO THE CLASSROOM: CONTINUE YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY AT ST. JOHN!

What an incredible week of Vacation Bible School! We had a wonderful time sharing God's Word and learning about Jesus! If you are looking to continue that spiritual growth throughout the school year, we invite you to discover St. John Lutheran School! We offer a nurturing, Christ-centered environment where students are grounded in God's Word, challenged by rigorous academics, and enriched by diverse extracurricular opportunities—all designed to prepare them for the future. **Enrollment is Open!** Spaces are filling up, and ongoing enrollment is available throughout the summer based on current capacity. **Learn more and apply:** [school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions](https://school.stjohnrochester.org/admissions). Welcome day is August 18, and school starts August 24! We would love to welcome your family this fall!

St. John Lutheran School  
**NOW ENROLLING**  
Preschool - 8th Grade

**2026 - 2027**  
[school.stjohnrochester.org](https://school.stjohnrochester.org)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
ONE IN JESUS. REACHING MANY

## 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/](https://stjohnrochester.org/give/). If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Operations, Steve Gauss, at [sgauss@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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 current projected shortfall for June 30. If we as a faith family meet the current fiscal year Offering Income as budgeted, and avoid the projected shortfall, the next fiscal year increase would be 9%. The numbers below outline our Offering Income received through June 17, 2026 and the weekly Offering Income needed by June 30 to meet the current fiscal year budgeted Offering Income.



Offering Income as of June 17, 2026	\$3,231,423
Total Offering Income budgeted for FY 2026	\$3,384,076
Average weekly Offering Income year-to-date	\$64,628
<b>Weekly Offering Income needed to meet budget</b>	<b>\$76,326</b>



**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.

**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).



# CONSTANT PRAYER

## LET US PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email [prayer@stjohnrochester.org](mailto: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:** Debra Jankovich - Biopsy / Mike Jankovich - Stroke / Jerry Bantin - hospice

**Bereavement (for the families of):** Walt Brown / Henry Hoogenboom

**Strength & Guidance:** Youth attending District Youth gathering / Call Team seeking a Youth & Family ministry director or Pastor / Wendy - seeking employment

**Thanksgiving:** Baptism of Joel Benjamin Fanning, Jr. - son of Joel and Sabrina Fanning / Henry and Marilyn Meyer's 68th anniversary / Outstanding VBS week / Generosity of Crossroads Care Center collection

**Long-Term Healing & Recovery:** 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 / RuthAnn Sadler - ongoing treatments after auto accident/ / Sharon Cronkright (Grandmother of Pastor Tyler) / Lucas Tate / Ann Neilson - Bell's palsy / Mary Lou Schwartz - leukemia / Abel Beyer 3y (friend of Cronkright's) - daughter of missionaries in Central Asia now back for Abel's treatment of Leukemia / Layla Loveres 6y - autoimmune disease / Jim Genova (in-law of Pastor Steve & Sarah) - Parkinson's & leukemia / 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 / Crystal Mischley – cancer / Leanne Stevens / Allison - Huntington's disease / Pastor Michael Standfest

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

**Pregnancy:** Emma Schumann (Weber) / Lana Smudski / Stephanie Tunis (Siewert) / Natalie / Samantha Egloff / Lauren Brown (Neumeyer)

**Those in Military Service:** Paul Batt / Lukas Olto / Kendall Masters-Palmerlee / Mark Anderson / Aaron Byers / Devin Deck / Troy Glover / Alex Holzke / Earle IV Leighton / 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 Wetzel / Jack Sinko / Stephen Rusanchin / Courtney Sharbaugh / Paul Batt / Victor Martin / David Lyons / Austin Taylor / Tyler Doebler / Drew McBrien & Miguela McBrien / Zachary Browne / Cameron Dork / Jon Rubin / Brendan Standfest / Luke Standfest

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

## WEEK AT A GLANCE: JUNE 29 - JULY 5

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

**Monday**

1:00 PM - OWLS Planning Meeting (Church Library)

**29**

**Tuesday**

10:00 AM - ESL (Mary Martha)

**30**

**Wednesday**

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

6:30 PM - 242 Large Group Meeting (Luther Hall)

**1**

**Thursday**

CAMPUS CLOSED

**2**

**Friday**

CAMPUS CLOSED

**3**

**Saturday, July 4**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

*No Worship Today*

*Happy  
Birthday  
America*

**4**

**Sunday - Special Schedule**

9:00 AM - Traditional Praise (Sanctuary)

10:30 AM - Modern Praise (Gymnasium)

**5**

**250**



# 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](mailto: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



### 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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