



Songs of the Savior

Christmas Worship Series

December 31, 2022 – January 1, 2023

TRADITIONAL PRAISE WORSHIP OUTLINE

First Sunday after Christmas | January 1, 2023

Service Elements taken from: Divine Service, Setting 4, Pew Hymnal (LSB) p. 203

For your convenience, all hymn lyrics will also be displayed on the screens at the front of the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

LSB #366

SERVICE OF THE WORD

LSB p. 203

Confession/Gloria

LSB p. 203-204

Prayer of the Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Worship Bible p. 620

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Worship Bible p. 974

Responsory

Screen

Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 2:21-40

Worship Bible p. 857

NICENE CREED

(On Screen)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

LSB #733

MESSAGE

Pastor Steve Grafe

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH/LORD'S PRAYER

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB p. 208-210

Hymn: *Let All Together Praise Our God*

LSB #389

Nunc Dimittis

LSB p. 211

POST COMMUNION PRAYER/BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

LSB #390

IMPORTANT NOTES 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. 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.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in Traditional Praise on the first, third, and fifth weekends of the month; and in Modern Praise on the second and fourth weekends of the month.

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION

ONE IN JESUS... REACHING MANY!

Week of January 1, 2023

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR | CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERIES

Songs have long marked the season of anticipation surrounding the Messiah's birth from the very beginning. This is the final week of our meditation on songs of anticipation and Biblical fulfillment of the season.



The weekend of January 8/9 we resume our regular worship schedule:

Traditional Praise:

Sundays at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM (Online at 8:00AM)

Modern Praise:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (Online at 10:45AM)



MODERN PRAISE

A relaxed, come-as-you-are, band led worship celebration with guitars, keyboards, and drums. Through a relational family approach, passionately led worship and Bible focused teachings, the life-changing love of Jesus is shared through His Word. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the second and fourth weekends of the month.



TRADITIONAL PRAISE

An ageless worship celebration designed to draw you and your family into the majestic presence of Christ through the rich heritage of Lutheran liturgy and hymnody led by a traditional pipe organ and enhanced by choirs, hand bells, brass, strings and other sacred instrumentation. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month.

BIBLICAL DISCOVERY

GET INTO THE WORD THIS WINTER | Classes start January 8

It's almost a New Year and with it come many new opportunities at St. John to grow in your faith through God's Word! Bible study groups will start meeting the week of January 8. Check out the new Get Into the Word Bible study listing, available in print and on our website!



SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays at 9:30 AM

Sunday School will not meet on January 1 or January 8.

Sunday School is offered weekly at 9:30 AM in the school classrooms. All children ages 3 (toilet trained) through 6th grade are welcome to attend. No registration is required and there are no attendance requirements. We look forward to seeing your children and sharing with them the love of Jesus!

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ST. JOHN YOUR HOME? | Class starts January 30

Have you or someone you know been searching for an opportunity to learn or rediscover what real faith in Jesus is all about in a non-threatening environment where your real questions can be answered? Maybe you're new to St. John School or maybe you have been worshipping as a guest and finally feel led to make St. John in Rochester your official 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! Come join Pastor Marc, Pastor Steve, and Pastor Jon on an 8-week, action-packed journey through God's Word as they help you discover what Christian Lutheran faith is all about! They'll also introduce you to our St. John mission and vision!

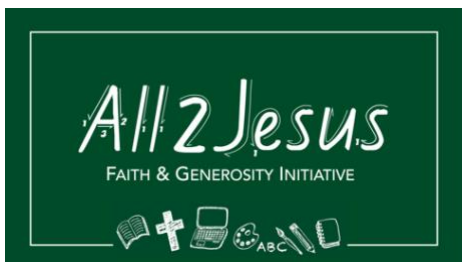


The class will meet Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Upon completion of the classes, participants will be welcomed to prayerfully consider official membership as part of the St. John family. Look for an email and more information on our website in January, including a link to register for the class. If you have any questions, contact the pastoral office at 248-402-8020 or church@stjohnrochester.org. We hope you can join us!



SHARED LIFE

MAIN OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Monday, Jan. 2 – Office Closed | Tuesday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00



IMPORTANT ALL2JESUS UPDATE

As we've been reminded throughout the weeks of the All2Jesus Faith & Generosity Initiative, the Lord has truly given each of us a divine opportunity to fully engage in growing in our faith and respond boldly in generosity to make an eternal difference in His name by expanding our school ministry to reach more and more children and families!

So far almost 400 households have responded for a pledged commitment of more than \$4.2 million, over the next two years! This amount is above and beyond ongoing regular giving!! We are humbled and grateful to all of those who have responded in faith and generosity to make an eternal impact! We are truly blessed!



Meanwhile, our Building Expansion Team is currently obtaining and finalizing construction bids on the proposed project to bring final costs and recommendations back for congregation approval. Praise the Lord, so far these costs have been coming in more favorably than expected!



A Congregational Forum will be held on January 11 at 7:00 PM to discuss plans and costs, and a Special Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 12:30 PM seeking final approval. Please make plans to attend these important gatherings. In the meantime, let's all continue to pray for the Lord's leading as we walk together seeking His will in these important and exciting days!

POSITION OPENING | TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT ASSOCIATE

St. John is actively looking for a Technology Support Associate to support the mission of St. John Lutheran Church & School: *One in Jesus... Reaching Many*, by proactively managing and maintaining the technology on campus. This individual is responsible for managing the IT systems, network, hardware, and software utilized by St. John, including but not limited to staff and student devices, software, workspace platforms, promethium boards, printers, copiers, and servers. If interested, please email your resume to Steve Gauss at sgauss@stjohnrochester.org.



POSITION OPENING | MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

As we begin the important call process of a middle school teacher, more specifically a sixth-grade teacher, the congregation is invited to submit recommendations for candidates to be considered, along with recommendations from our LCMS Michigan District and the Concordia University System. Qualified candidates for this position must have a bachelor's degree, a love for Jesus our Savior, a love for children, and a strong knowledge in the subjects of science and reading. Recommendation forms and a sample job description are available at the school office. All recommendations must be received by January 15.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE WISE MEN MOVING AROUND THE CAMPUS?

This is being done to share the importance of Christmas, and the truth about the coming of the Wise Men. Our Director of Child & Family Ministry, Steve Wilson, has been moving the Wise Men, with the help of friends, to show them actually travel to see the Christ Child. To read more about the Wise Guys in motion, visit our website and click on the rotator. The Wise Men will continue to slowly move until they arrive at the manger scene on Epiphany (January 6).



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Are you walking through a desert time of life? 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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Are you seeking a Christ-centered school for your child, with a challenging curriculum and a variety of fine arts and extra-curricular opportunities, all while learning God's word, serving His people, and growing closer to Jesus?

St. John Lutheran School provides an excellent Preschool through 8th grade, sharing Jesus with the community since 1943! St. John Lutheran School is fully accredited by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and by National Lutheran Schools Accreditation.

2023-2024 Enrollment:

You are invited to our upcoming enrollment events for the 2023-2024 school year. Enrollment information will be available at each of the events.

- **Kindergarten Preview** – Thursday, January 12, 6:30-7:30 PM. You will be able to learn more about our Kindergarten objectives, hear about a day in Kindergarten and visit the Kindergarten classrooms. This evening is for parents only.
- **Preschool & Young 5's Preview** - Tuesday, January 17, 6:30-7:30 PM. Meet our Preschool and Young 5's teachers, get an overview of the session goals and objectives, and visit the Preschool classrooms. This evening is for parents only.
- **School Open House**, Sunday, January 22, 12:00-1:30 PM: Meet the teachers, visit the classrooms, and learn all about our Preschool to 8th grade. *This event is for the whole family!*

St. John congregation early enrollment/current student re-enrollment is January 17 – 27, and Community Open Enrollment starts February 1. For more information, or to schedule a personal campus tour, visit stjohnrochester.org/school, or contact Beth Dameron, Director of Admissions at 248-402-8012 or bdameron@stjohnrochester.org. We welcome your visit!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS | Starting March 2023

The sacrament of communion is an important part of a Christian's walk with Jesus. First Communion classes will be offered in March (Sunday mornings at 9:30AM) for those families interested in having their child (6th grade and older) take communion. Parents attend the classes with their child and work together to decide if their child is ready to receive the sacrament. For more information, please contact Steve Wilson at swilson@stjohnrochester.org or 248-402-8006.

LIGHTHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY | Grades 6-8

Lighthouse is a place where Middle School 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 include students in grades 6-8, and all are welcome! Lighthouse meetings are on Sundays between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. For more information, please contact Steve Wilson, Director of Child and Family Ministry, at 248-402-8006 or swilson@stjohnrochester.org.



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY | Grades 9-12

High School is a defining part of a person's life. Students begin to really settle into their beliefs about the world, God, their purpose, etc. During this influential time, we want students to be surrounded by people who know and love Jesus. We also give them the skills and the support groups they need to make wise decisions at this critical time in their lives.

The High School Youth usually meet on Sundays between 6:00 and 8:00 PM, in the Youth Room or offsite. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship! For more information, please contact our Director of High School Youth Ministry, Melissa Hammett, at 248-402-8008 or mhammett@stjohnrochester.org.



SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

HAT, SCARF, MITTEN, AND GLOVE COLLECTION | December 21 – January 15

Join us in helping our mission partners, Hope Warming Center, Family of God, St. Paul Lutheran Pontiac, and Rochester Area Neighborhood House, by donating winter items for those in need. Collections will take place December 21 through January 15. Please place donations in the gift boxes in the Atrium or in the collection bins in the church lobby. With cold weather now upon us, let's fill up the boxes with new warm items to bless others this winter!



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 Jesus' name! If you are worshipping onsite, offerings can be made in person. Many people have switched to faithful giving electronically, either through their own bank (as recurring automatic transactions) or through our secure website. For more information, visit <https://www.stjohnrochester.org/celebrate/giving-options/>.



COMPASSIONATE SERVICE

THANK YOU FOR BEING A BLESSING! The St. John family has shown such kindness through compassionate service this year, many with simple items and acts of service that have made a real difference in Jesus' name. What a true blessing you all are as we share the love of Jesus through compassionate witness and service. The Mission Advisory Team has been able to accomplish much and to add 4 new mission partner's for the upcoming year because of your faithfulness. As we continue to support our mission partners and our community, we thank you for continuing to be ONE in Jesus, Reaching Many!



Students help load donated grocery items for our local food pantries.



Volunteers serve dinner between the midweek Advent services.



First grade students visited our local neighbors to sing and deliver cookies for Christmas.

RELATIONAL WITNESS

CLICK TO SHARE THE ETERNAL LOVE OF JESUS!

Did you know it's actually really easy to pass along sermon messages to family, friends, neighbors and coworkers? Simply visit stjohnrochester.org and go to the sermon message archive page. From there, click to share video or audio of any message via email, Facebook, Messenger, etc.

CONSTANT PRAYER

WE WOULD LOVE TO PRAY FOR WHATEVER IS ON YOUR HEART

To submit a prayer request, please email it to prayer@stjohnrochester.org at any time or click on one of the prayer request links on our Online Worship Resources webpage. These requests are received by our pastors and are passed along when requested to be included in the weekly prayer list that is sent out to our prayer warriors and included in weekend worship.



Healing & Peace: Ana Molina – cancer / Fred Duerk - thanksgiving for successful surgery & recovery / Ginny Schmidt / Virginia Siewert – broken wrist and other injuries from a fall / Sheila Rice (sister-in-law of Paul) - battling cancer and having brain surgery / Katie Gibbs (mother of Terry Priestly) – COVID / Dave Ehlen – recovering from brain surgery / Larry Wagner - Thanksgiving for successful surgery / Miles Miehlke (SJ student) – persistent fever / Debra Jankovich – thanksgiving for successful surgery / Don Kleckner – recovering from a fall / Lindsay Papke – shoulder surgery / Ron Alstead (uncle of Jeff) - lung cancer in ICU / Elaina and Olivia (premature granddaughters of Scott & Vicki Wright) – thanksgiving for being discharged from the hospital this week / Kyler (family friend of Dan & Janet Chapman) - reoccurring abdominal hospitalization / Cassandra Kuntzman - lupus / Vivian (5 y/o daughter of friend of Adrienne Jankens) – hospitalized with pneumonia / Dale & Susan McGorman – COVID / Dave Foraker (uncle of Erin Morgante) – hospitalized / Jo (friend of Pat Gonzer) – Myasthenia Gravis

Bereavement: – *For the family & friends of:* Mother of Gordon Carr / Rev. Mark Heuser / Larry Carroll (Laraine Garman's father)

Strength & Guidance: Jim – looking for employment / For safety and blessing for all traveling to Israel

All2Jesus: (member prayer) – *“May the Lord allow us to be able to accommodate any and every family that He brings here in order that the Word of God may transform their hearts and lives for eternity. May the sweet Gospel of Jesus be heard by children, Jesus’ Kingdom advance, and lives reflect His love and grace by what has been learned in our school through our dear staff. May we be able to welcome others into this community of faith, be empowered to be generous beyond our imaginations, and see this good work done for future generations.”*



Regular Worship Celebration Schedule (resumes January 7/8):

Traditional Praise: Sundays at 8:00 AM | 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM (Online at 8:00AM)

Modern Praise: Saturdays at 5:00 PM | Sundays @ 10:45 AM (Online at 10:45AM)

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