

St. John's Lutheran Ministries
see - believe - receive - serve



850 ARMSTRONG STREET
PORTAGE, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CORNERSTONE

January 2019

Worship and Weekly Events

Sunday:

8:00am Service of Word and Sacrament
9:15am Christian Ed Hour, Christian Life Center
9:15am Sunday School, School Cafeteria
10:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

Monday:

5:30pm Walkie Talkies, Divine Savior Hospital Tunnel

Tuesday:

6:30pm *Men's Bible Class, Christian Life Center
9:15am **Tuesday Morning Bible Study,
Christian Life Center
6:30pm ***Sisters in Christ,
Child Development Center Lower Level

Wednesday:

10:00am Chapel
12:00pm Weekly Announcements Deadline
5:00pm Youth Group, School Gym
5:00pm ****Handbell Choir, Balcony
6:30pm Confirmation Class, Christian Life Center
and All Purpose Room
6:30pm Adult Choir, Balcony

Thursday:

8:00am Esther Bible Class, Christian Life Center
7:00am Walkie Talkies, Divine Savior Hospital Tunnel
9:30am Rachel Bible Class, Christian Life Center

Saturday:

7:00am Men's Bible Class, Dino's
5:30pm Service of Word and Sacrament

*No Men's Bible Class on January 1, 2019
**No Tuesday Morning Bible Class on January 1, 2019.
***Sisters in Christ will meet again on January 8, 2019.
****Handbells will resume practices on January 23, 2019.





You likely have seen a GPS in action. Before it can tell you how to get somewhere, the

GPS first must figure out where you currently are.

Where are we now as a church? How are we doing? Sometimes those are difficult questions to ask - especially when approximately 78 percent of LCMS congregations (over 4,500) have reached a plateau or are declining. St. John's intends to find out where we really are, make a plan, and continue the journey of being the Church.

As we enter into the new year, St. John's will be participating in the re:Vitality program offered by our church body, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We know from Scripture that wherever the Word of God is proclaimed in purity and God's Sacraments are rightly administered there is spiritual life - vitality. Re:Vitality is based on the understanding, that revitalization is amplifying the current life of the church; being the Church we currently are in new ways; and doing what we do, because we are the Church following Christ's mission.



Will you help us figure out where we are? Re:Vitality builds upon spiritual vitality and guides the church in positive action for sustainable, adaptable, focused, and healthy ministry for years to come.

The first step in the re:Vitality process is to submit

honest feedback about our congregation from everyone involved. We encourage every adult (18 years and older) to fill out this simple online questionnaire. We want input from every one of you. It makes no difference if you have been a churchgoer all your life, or whether you just started coming this week; whether you are a member, guest, or regular attendee, we want to hear from each one of you.

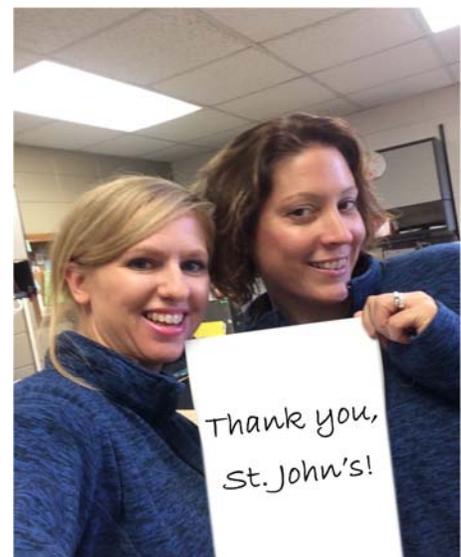
From January 13 to January 31, we are asking everyone to go online and fill out a simple questionnaire about our church. For those that don't do the online thing, we will have paper copies available January 13 through the January 21. Paper versions will be available at the back of the church, and we will have a place to drop off your responses. Someone from our congregation will need to enter those paper versions manually, so please use the online assessment if you are able.

To complete the survey (after January 13), you will need to go to the following link when you are ready to begin: www.lcms.org/survey/revitality and then enter our congregation code: **C736808**. All responses are completely anonymous. Please help us find the answer to "Where are we... really?" For those that have shared your email with us, watch for a reminder around January 13. We will also have reminders in worship and in the printed weekly bulletins.

We hope to share the results and begin charting a course for the future by the end of February. Hopefully, you will want to join us on the journey!

Thank You St. John's from the Church Office.

By the time you read this, December 25th will have come and gone. We hope your day was filled with good food, laughs, family, friends and faith. As we close out 2018 and look ahead to 2019, we want to thank all of the amazing volunteers at St. John's. From all the board members to the church mice, from the offering counters and bulletin stuffers to the painters and handy folk, from the musicians to the luncheon crew we want to thank you all for everything you do. There are too many volunteers to name but your work doesn't go unnoticed! So thank you for Jenni & Catharine and we look forward to seeing you all in 2019!





1
Thomas Daugherty
Jean Gavinski
Cory Thompson

2
Catharine Daily
Tracey Kuhn
Rachel Manthey
Coltan Myers
Sadie Nummerdor

3
Maralyn Coffman
Steven Dittman
Carol Gisiner
Dolores Milton
Theresa Smith

4
James Sohl

5
Henry Schroeder

6
Linda Koch

7
William Haase
Deanna Isakson
Wyatt Tomaszewski

8
John McMahon
Sally Moe
Eloise Sokolowski

9
Linda Loomans
Jodi Steele

13
John Lauth
Hallie Schoppenhorst
Lilyian Schwantz
George Snyder

14
Katherine Hovland
Allison Mittlesteadt

16
Kyle Bernander
Teagan Schumann
Hunter Witt

17
Gracelynn Chvojicek

18
Jennifer Chvojicek
Cecile Paske
Anthony Willis

19
Sassha Coullard
James Reick
Sabryna Schumann

21
Ryan Schroeder
Gretchen Willis

22
Donna Johnson
Janice Mittelstaedt

23
Rick Crawford
Gary Herwig
Kenneth Hutler
Susan Schesny

24
Marvin Hasse
Geraldine Kerl
Lorelee Sienkowski

25
Annabelle Snyder

26
Amanda Kohn

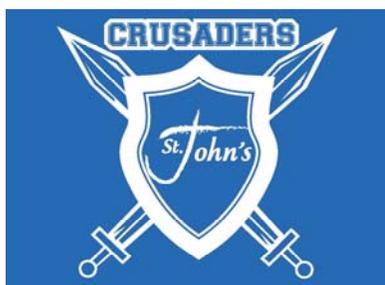
27
Elizabeth Mootz

28
Gary Zastrow

29
Randall Anderson
David J. Fritz
Sara Kassner
Dale Megown
Alex Swanson
Mark Witt

30
Robert Griepentrog
Shanon Smith

31
Connor Hunkel



St. John's Crusaders News

For we are God's Masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
-Ephesians 2:10

As you read this month's newsletter, we here at St John's Lutheran School have made it through one of our busiest times of the year, Christmas! We have had a Christmas concert, Advent worship services, Advent dinners, and the school Christmas program. I hope you were able to join us for some of these special events. The students, staff, and families put a lot of time into all of these, and we sincerely hope they helped you celebrate the season.

This year we also had a little extra business as well. We hosted the first basketball tournament we have had here in over 10 years. Our athletic director, Jenny Krueger, did a fantastic job with the help of parents, teachers, coaches, and the kids to make our B Boy's Tournament a success! You may have also noticed our kids hosting coffee hour at church a few times as well. We are now into the girls basketball season. Please check the weekly announcements for game times and location. I hope you can join us.

We will also be celebrating National Lutheran schools Week in January. You may hear and see a few interesting activities and events happening over here at school and also at church. We do this every year to recognize the critically important work we do here at St Johns and at Lutheran Schools all over the world as we train disciples. It is also a time when we THANK YOU! for all the ways you support our school with your offerings, prayers, and volunteering. Anytime you'd like to learn more, give us a call!

God's Blessings,
Sincerely His-Luke E Beck

Crusaders 2018-2019 Calendar:	
1/01	New Years Day, no school
1/18	End of 2nd quarter
1/20-1/25	National Lutheran Schools' Week
1/20	All students sing in church at 8:00am
2/04	No school
2/16	Lower Choir sings in church at 5:30pm
3/09	Upper Choir sings in church at 5:30pm
3/18-3/22	Spring Break, no school
3/29	End of 3rd quarter
4/14	Lower Choir sings in church at 10:30am
4/19-4/22	Easter Break, no school
4/28	Upper Choir sings in church at 8:00am
5/15-5/17	6th-8th grade class trips
5/27	Memorial Day, no school
6/05	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! NOON DISMISSAL! -End of 4th quarter
6/10-6/14	Vacation Bible School, 9:00am—12:00pm

Crusaders January Calendar:	
Tu 01	Happy New Year! No School
Th 03	Fitness Club, 3:15pm in the gym
Th 10	Art Club, 3:15pm in the Ms. Kosmala's Classroom
Th 17	Lego Club, 3:15pm in Ms. Winkelmann's Classroom
F 18	End of 2nd Quarter and Pajama Day!
Su 20	Lutheran Schools Week! All students sing at 8:00am service, 8:00am in the church sanctuary
*Lutheran School Week, January 20th—25th	
*MAP Testing, January 28th—February 1st	



'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the school, not a pupil was loud. Well isn't that cool! The teachers' stockings were hung precisely and neat, filled with Christmas blessings for those whom they teach.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten had the opportunity to sing at the nursing home and spread Jesus' love along with Christmas cheer to all the residents. They sang *Silent Night* and *Away in a Manger* with their 3rd grade Book Buddies, and they really enjoyed meeting everyone at Tivoli. The Kindergarten students and Miss Quade want to say thank you to all the people who brought in items off the caring tree. All the gifts were very much appreciated.



-Ms. Quade

3rd Grade

3rd grade has had a busy December that included singing at the nursing home, singing at the Christmas concert, and our Christmas program. We have enjoyed learning about different names for Jesus in Religion and coloring in our Advent wreath each week.

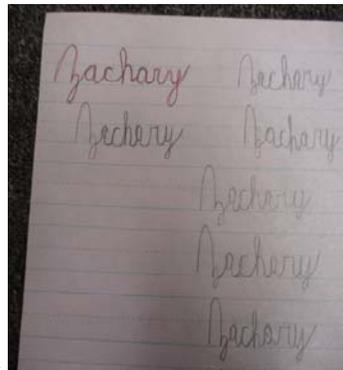


Thank you so much to everyone that bought things from the giving tree for our classroom!

-Ms. Kosmala

2nd Grade

2nd grade is very excited to begin learning cursive handwriting. Our first step is learning how to write our name in cursive. We are putting our name on every paper in print and cursive, as we learn how to read and write cursive.

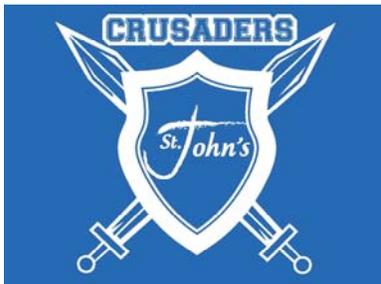


-Ms. Winkelmann

Thank you for your support!

Stephenie, Catharine, & Katie organized and sold Concordia Publishing House books as a mission project and fundraiser. We raised approximately \$300.00 for the school library. Our goals were to introduce great Christian books to parents & grandparents in our church and school and raise some funds to buy Christian books to place in our school library for all the students to check out. Thank you to all of you who bought books or donated time/money. We felt the event was a success! Thank you for your support.

-St. John's School Library



From St. John's Child Development Center



Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!



7 - ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH CORNERSTONE

This piece was inspired by the chapel service at our local nursing home. A friend of mine is now a resident there and I was able to attend with her and her daughter. The guest preacher was Pastor Armon from the Portage and Westfield Lutheran churches. He has a comfort dog that goes with him and his sermon came from a story of Candice, his dog and a recent adventure they had shared. It was tied in very well to how Christ cares for us and inspired the attached piece.

-Vickie L. Detert



THE STORY OF CANDICE

Vickie L. Detert (11/12/18)

Her master took her for a walk on crisp autumn day.
When they entered the field, he released her leash and said to her, "Go out and play."
She jumped and ran, but never too far. Her master, she kept in her sight.
Oh, how she loved freedom. How she loved fun.
Mostly, she simply loved life.

Unknown to both Candice and master, there were thorns in a nearby ravine.
She was running so fast, she didn't notice in time. She was caught and entangled by dangers unseen.
Her master came quickly and fought his way through. No time to think about pain.
His bare hands he used to pull off the thorns. Yet dangers did still there remain.

She could not run out of the thicket. The thorns would engulf her once more.
He lifted her up in his loving arms and carried her out of the thorns.
She was free once again but remembered that freedom at times has a price.
By her master's side, she would now walk with pride as
they returned to their own paradise.

How often have we, as God's children, run free, with no boundaries or cares,
until trouble confronts us and we are brought down? Afraid: What if He is not there?
It is then the blessed Holy Spirit reminds us, in faith, "Do not fear."
Christ will sacrifice all to release us from sin and will gently wipe away all our tears.

He lifts us above all our burdens. He carries us through trials and snares.
He loves us beyond understanding, and our heavenly home, He prepares.
It's so wonderful walking with Jesus, trusting we're never alone.
Give praise and rejoice for the freedom He gives, but even more,
in the knowledge that He calls us His own.

Rejoice and give praise to the Father, to the Son and the Spirit, for they
are the ones who protect and defend us, day after day after day.
Rejoice with the saints and the angels who are singing such heavenly songs.
And remember the story of Candice.
Keep the master in sight and you cannot go wrong.

Happy Anniversary



January 1
John & Sue
Hamel

January 8
Timothy & Linda
Loomans

January 9
James & Judy
Mountford

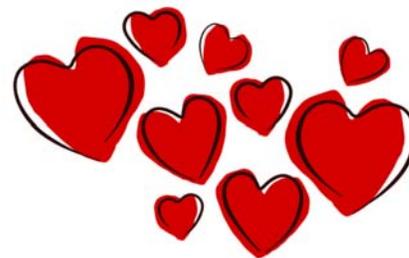
January 10
Bryan & Mary
Schumann

January 12
John & Lorna
McMahon

January 14
Kevin & Lauren
Jonas

January 18
Gregory & Phyllis
Zimmerman

January 29
Eugene & Heidi
Thompson



NEWS FROM YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Group starts the new year on January 2nd from 5:00pm to 7:30pm in the school gym and Youth Group room. Hope to see you there!



Consider it pure joy, my
brothers and sisters, whenever
you face trials of many kinds

JAMES 1:2

Sunday School starts the new year on January 6th from 9:15am to 10:15am in the school cafeteria. Hope to see you there!



Meet Youth Group!

Here are a couple of the Youth Group members sharing about themselves:

Youth Group starts the new year on January 2nd from 5:00pm to 7:30pm in the school gym and Youth Group room. Hope to see you there!



Hi, my name is Daphne. I like to play volleyball. I am in 8th grade, and I like to read. I like Youth Group because I get to be with all my friends and get to learn more about God. I also want to go to the National Youth Gathering, because I want to spend time with God and my friends.



Hi, I am Landon and in 9th grade. I like tacos, so obviously, Taco Bell is near the top of my favorites list. I like things like hamsters. My favorite classes are FACS, English and History. I like to learn German also.

Youth Group is a fun thing to do. It gives me a break from all the tough stuff of this world thrown at me. I really like doing fundraisers, like the Brat Hut, along with events like the Sweet Hearts Dinner, Tea Parties, and Easter Egg Hunts. I also love all the devotions, which have lots of interesting stories about God, Jesus Christ and all the other people. I really enjoy my time at Youth Group.



Thank you to all those who supported the Youth Group by having us wrap your presents and purchasing cookies. We would also like to thank you to all those who invested in the Youth Group by purchasing Youth Group Stock.



Youth Ministries **Fun**draiser at Cascade Mountain Tube Town

Enjoy Snowtubing, Friendships, Prayer, and Free Pizza Dinner!

Wednesday, January 30, 2019



Youth Group Fundraiser

- Let us watch your children Valentine's Day!
- 2/14/2019
- 5pm to 9pm
- St. John's School Gym
- Suggested Donation \$5/hour each child.
- Email youth@stjohnsportage.com to RSVP
- Movies, Games, Crafts, Food & Fun!



Invest in the Youth

There is no better time to invest in our St. John's Youth Group. Nine Youth Group members will be attending the 2019 National Youth Gathering (NYG) and need your support!

Purchase Stocks \$10 per share.

- To show our appreciation you receive:
- a special stock certificate,
 - a letter from our youth group teens,
 - a stock holders brunch with NYG presentation



NYG 2019 Bound!

Stock Order Forms with Youth.

(also in church office)

St. John's Ministries Monthly Calendar

January Events

- Tu 01 Happy New Year!**
Church office is closed
- Th 03 Our House Monthly Worship,**
10:00am at Our House
Heritage House Monthly Worship
10:00am at Heritage House
- Su 06 Lutherans For Life,**
10:30am in the Christian Life Center
- M 07 Board of Stewardship,**
5:00pm in the Christian Life Center
- Tu 08 Columbia Healthcare Center Monthly Worship,**
2:00pm at Columbia Healthcare Center, Wyocena
Executive Committee,
6:00pm in the Christian Life Center
- W 09 Music Meeting,**
4:00pm, place TBD
- F 11 Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline**
12:00pm, churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- Su 13 Blood Pressure Screening,**
9:00am in the Nursery
- M 14 Tivoli Monthly Worship,**
10:00am at Tivoli
Altar Guild,
1:30pm in the Christian life Center
- Th 17 Grief Ministry,**
6:30pm in the Christian Life Center
- Sa 19 Pledge Cards,**
Handed out at 5:30pm Service
- Su 20 Pledge Cards,**
Handed out at 8:00am and 10:30 Services
- Tu 22 Board of Christian Education,**
5:30pm in the Science Room
- W 30 Snow Tubing,**
4:00pm to 8:00pm at Cascade Mountain Tube Town

January 20th through the 25th we will be celebrating National Lutherans Schools' Week

January 26th and 27th we will be celebrating Life Sunday

Meals on Wheels:

January, 28-February 1

Contact: Judy Raimer 608-742-0541

Altar Guild:

Judy Kerr 635-4062/235-8186

Rita Haase 698-9773

Karen Tessendorf 865-776-0022

Bread of Life Delivery:

01/06 Don & Jan Weideman

01/13 Robin Herrick

01/20 Deb Rohrbeck

01/27 Lora Foster

February (proposed) Events

- M 04 No School**
Board of Stewardship
5:00pm in the Christian Life Center
Health and Wellness
6:30pm in the Christian Life Center
- Th 07 Our House Monthly Worship,**
10:00am at Our House
Heritage House Monthly Worship,
11:00am at Heritage House
- F 08 Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline**
12:00pm, churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- Su 10 Blood Pressure Screening,**
9:00am in the Nursery
Sweet Heart Dinner,
TBD
- M 11 Tivoli Monthly Worship,**
10:00am at Tivoli
- Tu 12 Columbia Healthcare Center Monthly Worship,**
2:00pm at Columbia Healthcare Center, Wyocena
Executive Committee,
6:00pm in the Christian Life Center
- Tu 19 Women's Guild,**
1:30pm in the Christian Life Center
- Tu 26 Board of Elders,**
6:00pm in the Christian Life Center
Prayer Shawls,
6:00pm in the All Purpose Room

Meals on Wheels:

January, 28-February 1

Contact: Judy Raimer 608-742-0541

Altar Guild:

Carol Pribnow 742-4446

Jean Smith 742-6348

Bread of Life Delivery:

2/03 Ken and Beth Manthey

2/10 Elaine Hull

2/17 Jon and Sara Jakeman

2/24 Don and Jan Weidean

Stewards Need You!

The Board of Stewards is looking for new members. The purpose of the Stewards is to help the congregation use the gifts that they have been blessed with to spread His glory. Our gifts include our talents, time, careers, knowledge, and money. We do things like host the new members dinner, organize pledge week, promote Financial Peace University, among others. Our meetings are at 5:00pm the first Monday of each month in the CLC. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Amanda Bell at 608-572-0731.

-Board of Stewardship



Thanks to everyone who participated in any way for another successful send off of five boxes to our men and women in the military, so they may enjoy a little Christmas cheer from all of us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with God's blessings

St. John's Military Ministry



Please join us in welcoming Nikki Maas as St. John's Treasurer. Nikki is an accountant for a metal fabrication company in Poynette. With her accounting background, she will be a great asset to St. John's and the executive committee.

JANUARY 2019— 11

Offerings for November	
Unified Fund	\$54,956.93
Debt Fund	\$0.00
Capital Improvements	\$1,835.00
Missions	\$170.00
Almoners Fund	\$710.00
Orphanages	\$115.00
School Tuition Relief	\$825.00
Organ Fund	\$0.00
Pennies for Preachers	\$15.30
Playground	\$10.00
Total Contributions	\$58,637.23

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE LOW-INCOME CAMPERS AT CAMP LUWISOMO \$20,000

Camp LuWiSoMo has received many requests in the past summer to allow funding for low income campers to attend camp. The current budget for 2018-2020 does not allow for extra funding for discounting camper rates. Families of many campers are not able to financially afford the full cost of camp, estimated at \$400 per camper. Camp LuWiSoMo provides a safe environment for youth to expand their faith in a beautiful outdoor setting.

The \$20,000 Mission Grant will fund scholarships for two years for children to attend summer camp in Wild Rose, Wisconsin.

If you would like to support this grant please place your donation in the large Mite Box or pick up a small Mite Box found on the table in the CLC. Thank you for your prayers and monetary support.



Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries

Steve and Ellen Peck from Monona Lutheran Church have joined a MOST Ministries team that will travel to Tanzania January 5-17, 2019. The purpose of the trip is to teach a group of Tanzanians how to make feminine hygiene pads that they will use to start a micro enterprise to sell these. The team will also provide education on human trafficking prevention and education about female issues. There is also a need for construction work on the property. MOST Ministries is a service organization of LCMS that sends teams out on short term mission trips.

There are two ways to donate:

Send a check payable to Steve and Ellen Peck or MOST Ministries to:

3375 Bugger Place
McFarland, WI 53558

-or-

Donate online at www.mostministries.org and click the red "DONATE NOW" button in the top right corner. Select "Team Payments" then "Donate for a Team Member's Trip", select Ellen and Steve Peck.



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