



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

850 ARMSTRONG STREET  
PORTAGE, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# CORNERSTONE

## JANUARY 2021

[www.stjohnsportage.com](http://www.stjohnsportage.com)

### ***Resource Links***

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:**  
<http://www.lcms.org/>

**South Wisconsin District of LCMS:**  
<http://swd.lcms.org/>

**South Wisconsin District of LWML:**  
<http://www.swd-lwml.org/>

**Lutheran Hour Ministries:**  
<http://www.lhm.org/>

**Concordia University – Wisconsin:**  
<http://www.cuw.edu/>

**Lutheran Counseling and Family Services:**  
<http://www.lcfswi.org>

**Lutherans for Life:**  
<http://www.lutheransforlife.org/>

**Camp LuWiSoMo:**  
<http://www.luwisomo.org/>

**Concordia Publishing House:**  
<http://www.cph.org/>

**Northwestern Publishing House:**  
<http://www.cph.org/>

+ Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.  
\*with online reservations

+ Saturdays 5:30 p.m.

+ Sundays 8:00 a.m.

+ Sundays 9:15 a.m.  
\*with online reservations

+ Sundays 10:30 a.m.

\*The link for reservations is on the church website at [stjohnsportage.com](http://www.stjohnsportage.com).

[www.stjohnsportage.com](http://www.stjohnsportage.com)

## St. John's Voters Meeting

Due to Covid 19, we were not able to hold a voters' meeting in May or June to vote on the congregational budget for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020. The Executive Committee approved a working budget to keep the church running smoothly. We now have a plan to keep members safe and would like to provide an opportunity for the Congregation to vote on this budget and to place a Call for a principal for the Day School.

The plan is to hold a Congregational Meeting simultaneously in-person in the church and online via Zoom. The voters' meeting will be on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at noon. In-person participants will need to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines in the church. We will have the church sanitized after the last service that Sunday. Online participants will be able to vote on motions on the budget and the principal Call via the Polling feature of Zoom. A meeting registration link will be sent out to congregational members via email in early January.

For anyone who wishes to preview the current budget, please contact the church office to receive an electronic copy or ask one to be printed for you. You will need to make arrangements to pick it up in the back of the church or from the church office.

## St. John's Ministries Voter's Meeting Agenda 12:00 PM, Sunday, January 24, 2021

Opening Prayer Devotion – Pastor Greg  
Debbie Rohrbeck - Approval of January 14, 2020 Minutes  
Amanda Bell – Treasurer's Report  
Pastor Greg – Church and School Update Highlights  
Debbie Drew – CDC Director Update  
Jenni See – Business Manager Updates  
New Business  
Vote on July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 Budget  
Call a Principal for St. John's School  
Board Q and A – In the interest of time we will not give individual board reports, but will offer a Short Q & A opportunity  
Education  
Finance  
Evangelism  
Stewardship  
Parish Life  
Trustees  
Elders  
Lord's Prayer

-St. John's Executive Committee



### Crosses Dedicated to Our Savior

The cross on the left side of the chancel depicts the Good Friday story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, giving His life as a ransom sacrifice once and for all of mankind who believe in Him. By grace alone, we are saved.

The cross on the right side of the chancel is the Crown of Life. It denotes who is the King of Kings, the Lord of Glory who victoriously and triumphantly overcame death and the devil. Thus the promise of everlasting life to all believers. "Well done good, and faithful servant. Enter into everlasting life with me."

These crosses were given by the Shanks family in memory of their parents, Merlin and Eunice. Merlin and Eunice were very active life-long members who passed to glory in 2019.

Merlin was a woodworker, so it seemed fitting to make

the base crosses out of wood. Having also been a farmer in the Caledonia Hills, I felt it fitting the wood be of barn board. The Lord is so faithful and always provides! After much searching, I asked George Koepp one Sunday if he had any barn boards. He replied that he had some pieces left over from the doors from Merlin's barn given to him long ago by Merlin's son, Steve. I call that a little miracle.

The black wrought iron crosses overlaid on the wood were made by Art Breant of Prairie Beads in downtown Portage. Art had also, sometime in the late 90s or early 2000s (Dan Brockopp era), made the two chancel sticks and processional cross with the liturgical colors stained glass crucifix. These were given in memory of Doris Allen by her husband, Don.

If you take a closer look, you will notice the red in each of the wood of the crosses depicting our Lord's blood, "given and shed for you so that your sins are gone!" Amen.

This project took the entire year to complete for various reasons. Securing the three "ruby" matching stones, which I believe came from Europe, is one reason. Now, the crosses hang before us.

Thanks be to God

Submitted by Irma Brockley  
The Altar Guild

Abortion acts like some persons are invisible.  
Assisted suicide treats some persons as invisible.

It says they don't have enough size to matter.  
It says they don't have adequate skills to matter.  
It says they don't have the right circumstances to matter.  
It tempts us to use death as a solution.  
It tells us we shouldn't have to look at them anymore.

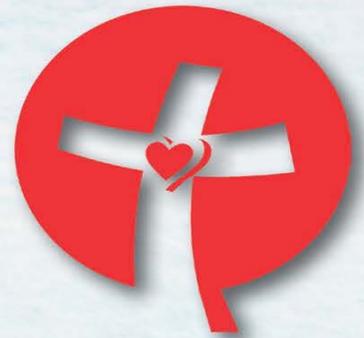
If our unborn neighbor or the elderly one seems invisible,  
if the persons with disabilities feel invisible,  
doesn't anyone wonder why?

Their ages don't make them invisible.  
Their appearances don't make their humanity invisible.  
Their inabilities don't make their sanctity invisible.  
Pretty and popular are just comparisons.  
Productive and profitable are only perceptions.  
None of these can impart humanity,  
and none of them can deprive someone of it.

Humanity comes from what we are and not from what we do.  
And just because it sometimes goes unnoticed doesn't mean it's absent.  
No person's preciousness depends on us detecting it.  
It isn't that the worth and purpose of the least of these are so little we cannot  
calculate them.  
It's that human worth and purpose are too great for us to comprehend.

It's not just her body, her choice.  
It's not just his problem, his fault.  
Your body belongs to the Almighty Father who made it.  
Their body belongs also to the Incarnate Son who redeemed it.  
Each body belongs also to the Holy Spirit who calls it His temple and treasure.  
This is My body, says the Savior Jesus Christ.  
This is My beloved son and My beloved daughter, says the Lord our God.  
This life, embryo or aged, dying or disabled, is also your privilege and my  
responsibility.

Humanity isn't made up of individuals but of indispensables.  
We are connected. We are community. We are one body.  
We need each other. We have each other.  
None lives to himself alone, and none dies to himself alone.  
If one member suffers, all suffer together.  
We can do this, and we will rejoice!



**Equipping Lutherans to be  
Gospel-motivated voices For Life**

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) • [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)

888.364.LIFE (5433) • Item LFL1641BI

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## Life Sunday 2021

St. John's Lutherans For Life chapter is honoring Life Sunday on the weekend of January 23/24. The theme "From Invisible to Indispensable" is based on 1 Corinthians 12:22: **"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable . . ."** (ESV)

Please join us!

- ◆ Take a baby bottle from the table at the back of church and fill it with change to help fund our local pregnancy care center: Pregnancy Resource Center (306 W Cook St.) Thank you, Liesa Zastrow, for coordinating this fundraiser.
- ◆ Get free resources from the table. (Take as many as you like and share them.)
- ◆ Consider joining Lutherans For Life. Talk to Elaine Hull, [elaine.hull48@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.hull48@gmail.com), for more information.
- ◆ Think about joining a free, online Life Week with the same theme. Watch for more news about this on the website, [Lutheransforlife.org](http://Lutheransforlife.org) or contact Stephenie Hovland, [stephenie@hovlandfamily.net](mailto:stephenie@hovlandfamily.net).
- ◆ Celebrate life by enjoying God's blessings every day.
- ◆ Celebrate our new life in Christ by remembering your baptism every time we have the invocation during a church service.
- ◆ Pray for people struggling with life issues such as abortion, terminal illnesses, suicide, and fertility.
- ◆ Advocate for those who are weaker and more vulnerable than yourself, including the unborn, the very ill, dementia patients, the disabled, and those with mental illness.

Though we should celebrate and respect life every day, we set aside one weekend every year to show how special that life is. We honor Life, as God intended.



## From Invisible to Indispensable: A Bible Study

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Abortion and physician-assisted suicide pull quite a sleight-of-hand trick. With the smoke of "quality of life" and the mirrors of "personal choice," they pretend to relieve pain and resolve problems. But beneath these illusions, they really just remove persons. And then they persuade bystanders to "pay no attention to that life murdered behind the curtain." While we're not looking, they filch from us more than merely wallet and watch. These evils steal humanity and sanctity from us all.

It doesn't take a wizard or magician to make a person disappear. We all have that ability. You just have to close your eyes. Someone's invisibility to us reveals more about our ignoring than it does about their importance. The first-century Corinthian Christians of

the Scriptures appear to have mastered the art. Several individuals among them seemed to sort of vanish. St. Paul the Apostle diagnoses a vision deficiency that actually continues to affect us today. The Word of the Lord in his epistle pulls back the kerchief on some pretty serious consequences of it. But he also unveils a different and better superpower – invisible but invaluable, and available to everyone.

1. Paul compares community to a person's body in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. What differentiates one part of a person's body from another? What characteristics do all the parts of a body have in common?

**Different body parts have different shapes and sizes. They perform diverse operations in various locations. And they consist of separate cells and tissue types. However, they all live and move. They connect to each other and have the same DNA. And they work toward the well-being of a single organism.**

2. Which people are the Corinthians ignoring and treating as invisible (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:1; 7:4; 8:10-11; 11:20-21)? Which persons do assisted suicide and abortion treat as though invisible?

*5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.*

*6:1 When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?*

*7:4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.*

*8:10-11 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.*

*11:20-21 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk.*

**5:1 The son is turning his back on his relationship to his father and his vocation to his stepmother. The entire congregation is ignoring him by dismissing his sin. 6:1 The aggrieved parishioners, plaintiff and defendant, are failing to see the other as brother and sister. 7:4 Husbands and wives are overlooking one another to pursue celibacy. 8:10-11 The ones who openly eat the idol sacrifices are closing their eyes to their fellow saints who have sensitive consciences. 11:20-21 The communicants are taking no notice of either the Lord Himself present in the sacrament or the people around them as partakers of His body and blood.**

**In the same way, abortion treats embryos and unborn children as invisible, along with the real needs and feelings of their fathers and mothers and the effects on the wider society. Assisted suicide deals with elderly persons, those with disabilities, and those with terminal diagnoses as if they don't qualify as real people or whole lives. And it likewise marginalizes other sufferers in similar situations as well as their loved ones and caregivers.**

3. What justification are the Corinthians offering for it (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23)? What justifications does our culture offer for abortion and for assisted suicide?

*6:12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.*

*10:23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.*

**It seems that the Corinthians are appealing to independence, liberty, and personal autonomy to justify their conduct toward their neighbors. They apparently assert that the Gospel's grace and forgiveness excuses and covers for evil (1 Peter 2:16).**

**Common excuses for abortion and assisted suicide in our context include "my body, my choice," maintain separation of church and state," "embryos or incapacitated patients aren't entirely human," "Scripture stays silent about abortion and assisted suicide," "abortion and assisted suicide represent the best solutions to certain sufferings," and, "for-life folks lack credibility."**

4. What is really motivating the Corinthians to behave this way (1 Corinthians 4:6-7; 5:6; 1:29; 3:21)? What real reasons for abortion and assisted suicide lie behind our culture's excuses for them?

*4:6-7 I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.*

*5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*

*1:29 ... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*

*3:21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours.*

**They're locating their worth as persons in their superiority to others. They're trying to justify themselves by comparing their decisions, accomplishments, and lifestyles against those around them. This causes them to puff up with pride for themselves and spite for one another.**

**Our culture similarly uses abortion and assisted suicide to find a kind of salvation. It deceives our people into seeking fulfillment in sexual license and gratification, or in economic equality at the expense of all else, or in escaping from pain by eliminating sufferers, or in competing according to age or appearance or abilities.**

5. What harms does Paul warn are resulting from this blindness (1 Corinthians 6:9; 8:11-12; 11:29-30)? What constitutes the ultimate threat to humanity (1 Corinthians 15:56; 3:17)? Who brings this risk to the body (1 Corinthians 2:14; 15:22)?

*6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?*

*8:11-12 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.*

*11:29-30 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.*

*15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

*3:17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

*2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

*15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Paul cautions the Corinthians that the consequences of their conduct include damaging each other's hearts and destroying one another's faith, as well as rendering themselves spiritually weakened and physically sickened and risking rejection of everlasting life in the heavenly kingdom of Almighty God.

The greatest threat comes not from temporary inconvenience or bodily discomfort or even missing out on earthly opportunities and pleasures. Rather, eternal condemnation and destruction outside of God's grace in the new creation bring about the most severe and comprehensive harm, as the Law of God convicts them of sin, and sin delivers to death and hell.

6. Tumors also attach to a body, and parasites also occupy the body's space. Yet neither of these belongs to the body. What makes a tumor or a parasite different from a body part? What identifies an embryo or unborn baby as unlike a tumor? What defines a person of advanced age, a person with a disability, or a person suffering from a terminal diagnosis as unlike a parasite?

A parasite invades its host as a different species and sustains itself as an independent organism. It also often causes harm or at least competes for resources with the host. A tumor does not develop toward a defined form and function or coordinate with other body parts to serve the well-being of the whole organism.

An unborn baby or embryo, however, has its own DNA from the moment of fertilization. She (or he) does not just grow or enlarge but develops toward maturity and adulthood. She coordinates all her own processes and functions, collaborating rather than competing with her mother's body.

A person of any size, with whatever skills, and in all circumstances, still constitutes a person. He (or she) belongs to the same human race as the rest. His existence may depend on others around him, but even this represents a fully human quality, and he does not inflict direct harm on the body of anyone else.

7. How is assisted suicide like a foot saying, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body?" How is abortion similar to the eye saying to the hand, "I have no need of you?" How does foot amputation or a hand injury affect and endanger the rest of the body?

Physician-assisted suicide tempts (and even pressures) a person to believe, "Because I am not young, or because I am not independent, or because I am not comfortable, I do not belong or matter to my community."

Abortion amounts to a father and/or a mother saying to their child, "I have no need of you," and a community saying to their little ones, "I have no need of you," and humankind saying to our Lord, "I have no need of your wisdom and gifts."

A foot amputation or hand injury causes pain to the rest of the body and compromises it. The body cannot carry out its functions as well or defend as effectively against danger. The recovery and healing strains every other part, and blood loss or secondary infection can lead to

death.

8. What proves that invisible doesn't mean unvaluable (1 Corinthians 1:27-30)? What superpower saves us and heals humanity even from each other (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)? What about this is hidden, invisible, and mysterious?

*1:27-30 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

*1:23-24 But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

**God Himself proves that invisible doesn't mean unvaluable. He has created and sustains the whole universe with the unseen power of His Word.**

**He also came into our world as an embryo hidden within the womb. And He conceals His might behind sacrifice and forgiveness.**

**The unrestrained grace of belonging to Him and believing in Him saves with a force our sinful selves do not deserve and our senses cannot perceive.**

9. To whom do our bodies and our lives belong (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 12:12)? How does this give comfort to our sufferings and afflictions (1 Corinthians 12:25-26; 15:20-22, 49)?

*6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

*12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

*12:25-26 ... that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

*15:20-22, 49 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*

Our lives, our selves, and our bodies belong not simply to ourselves but to the God who gave them—and to one another as both neighbors in the human race and as fellow brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

This means we never have to suffer alone, nor do we have to rejoice alone. And since Jesus has united Himself to our flesh and nature, we will heal from every affliction and arise to everlasting life in the body just as He already has. This promise and delight enable us to endure and overcome surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses.

10. Which invisible parts of our bodies can we not exist without? What about an unborn child makes him indispensable to humankind (1 Corinthians 8:11)?

*8:11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.*

Some of the most invisible members of our body matter the most to our survival. These include many of our internal organs, and some of their components are very small indeed. In addition, each of us has a mind, memories, and personality that animate us, and they don't occupy any space at all.

In the same way, every unborn child, however large and for however long, brings to us gifts and privileges as a unique individual created, redeemed, and called by Almighty God as a precious treasure. We cannot endanger this little one without undermining our own worth and purpose and endangering the humanity of us all.

11. What about a person of advanced age, a person with a disability, and a person suffering from a terminal diagnosis makes them indispensable (1 Corinthians 12:7)? What blessings do we receive from each (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)?

*12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

*12:4-6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

Neither age nor appearances nor abilities can either impair or improve any person's humanity, dignity, or sanctity. God Himself comes to us in our relationships to the least of these and our experiences with them to affect and improve us in unduplicated and irreplaceable ways.

(Leader may invite participants to remember someone they have known of advanced age, with a disability, or suffering from a terminal diagnosis, and share how these individuals made their lives better.)

12. In what places and what ways do they need us to speak of them as gift and privilege? What actions may we take to treat them as brother and sister?

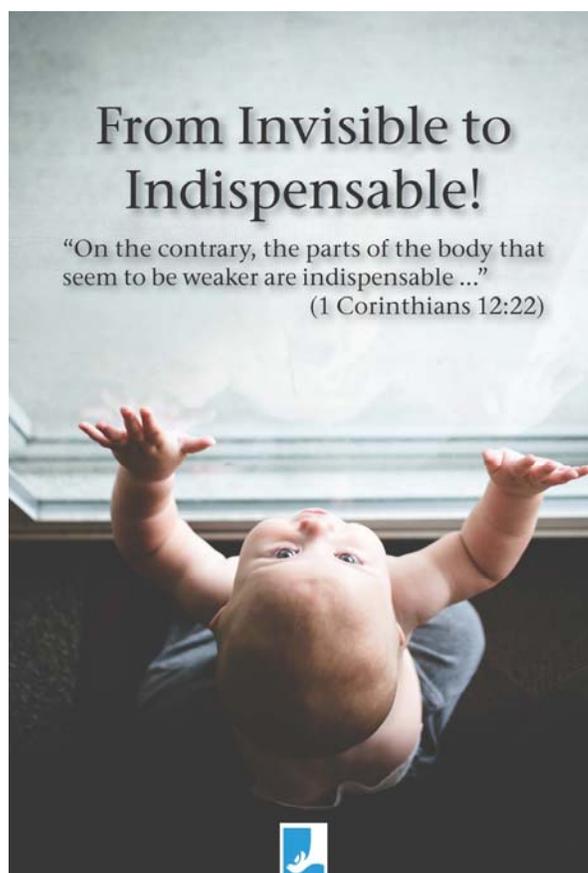
We advocate for the respect and protection of anyone endangered by death viewed as a solution to difficulties. We proclaim it in church and culture, in public and government, and in our conversations and interactions with them and with other neighbors.

We notice them, accompany them, listen and assist, embrace and celebrate them. And we identify and receive with appreciation the blessings they deliver to us from God as He ministers to us through them. This also means sacrificing of our pride, our priorities, and our possessions to secure their civil rights and serve their material needs.

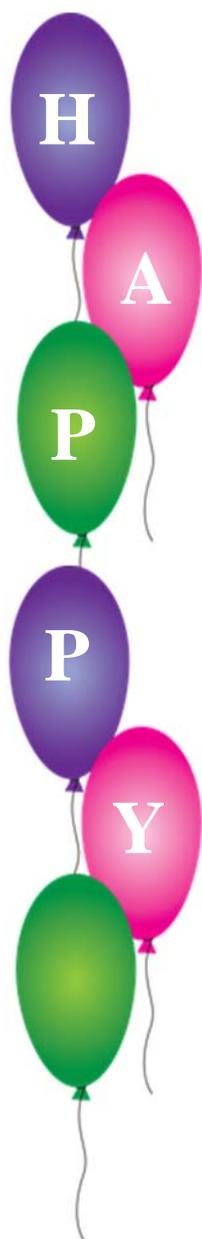
13. How does this courage and compassion extend even to those who permit, promote, or participate in abortions and assisted suicides? What alternatives can we provide to abortion and assisted suicide?

God's redeeming grace and forgiveness value the lives of those who take part in abortion and assisted suicide just as much as the lives that have been lost in them. He died also for that, and He loves them too.

We bring the joy and the hope of the Gospel's abundant and everlasting life into the complicated situations. We offer our emotional support and our material resources. We help facilitate parenting, marriage, or placing for adoption in the case of surprise pregnancy. And we arrange presence, palliative care, and purpose in the case of terminal diagnosis.



[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



**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  
Brooklynn Krebs  
Dolores Milton  
Theresa Smith

**4**  
James Sohl

**5**  
Henry Schroeder

**6**  
Hazel Gudgeon  
Linda Koch

**7**  
William Haase  
Deanna Isakson  
Wyatt Tomaszewski

**8**  
Emberlyn Krueger

**9**  
Linda Loomans  
Jodi Steele

**11**  
Thomas Paiser

**13**  
John Lauth  
Hallie Schoppenhorst  
George Snyder

**14**  
Katherine Hovland  
Allison Mittlesteadt

**16**  
Kyle Bernander  
Teagan Olson  
Hunter Witt

**17**  
Gracelynn Chvojicek

**18**  
Jennifer Chvojicek  
Anthony Willis

**19**  
Sassha Coullard  
James Reick  
Sabryna Schumann

**20**  
Nicole Brockway  
Timothy Burrow

**21**  
Ryan Schroeder  
Gretchen Willis

**22**  
Donna Johnson

**23**  
Rick Crawford  
Gary Herwig  
Kenneth Hutler  
Susan Schesny

**24**  
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 Hope for 2021

2020 was a year like no other. Many of us are ready for it to end. There are many hopes for 2021. So many of us want the new year to be full of wellness. We hope for corona to be done, face masks to be gone, and for peace throughout the world. We asked some of our students what their hope is for the new year. Many of them hope for the same health, no masks, and peace, but here are a few other hopes:

I hope it to be the best year of all time.

Play outside, Easter bunny, visit a farm.

For the Easter bunny to come and for us to go on vacation.

To spend more time with my family and friends.

I hope to learn more about Jesus.

I hope to go roller-skating.

I hope to go to Florida.

To see my friends.

I hope for longer recess.



I hope for the pandemic to be over.

To be a great year and everyone to be healthy. And a good winter. I want everyone to be together.

I would like Candace to visit. I hope we have a good school year.

I hope that the mask rules go away and I have a normal rest of my last year.

I hope to go on vacation and see Papa and Granny.

I hope we have relief of Corona, less cuckoo things happen, I hope to learn to weld/trades.

I hope my family and friends are not sick. I hope I can go to grandpa's house. I like to play with them.

I hope I can draw more and go to a signing class, I'm pretty bad :). Hahaha! I also hope I can learn more about Jesus.

I hope we do not have to wear masks. And I hope we do not have to go home and stay at school.

Calendar events are subject to change.  
For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit  
<http://www.stjohnsportage.com/st-johns-calendar>

## Happy Anniversary

**January 1**  
John & Sue  
Hamel

**January 9**  
James & Judy  
Mountford

**January 18**  
Gregory & Phyllis  
Zimmerman

**January 8**  
Timothy & Linda  
Loomans

**January 10**  
Bryan & Mary  
Schumann

**January 29**  
Eugene & Heidi  
Thompson

**January 14**  
Kevin & Lauren  
Jonas



### One Day or Day One

*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24 (ESV)*

When I have time . . .  
Someday I will . . .  
I can't . . .

My stash of craft supplies is a pretty good example of those excuses. I believe we can all relate to the procrastination list we tell ourselves for one reason or another.

The Bible tells us to rejoice in today as it is a precious gift from God. Encouragement also comes along with that gift of time, to stop postponing anything which we have put off doing.

Perhaps our New Year's resolution could be summed up in two words, "Yes, Lord." and go beyond our usual self-imposed limitations of someday or later.

to encourage His disciples, Jesus used the parable of the

widow begging for justice to demonstrate the persistence and diligence of prayer (Luke 18:1–8). We can encourage one another as well. Not only can we encourage others, but we can also let others know how they encouraged you. This encouragement is not only for the physical doing of something, but also in our walk of faith. As we encourage others, perhaps we are helping develop a stronger relationship with Jesus.

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today."  
Hebrews 3:13 (NASB1995)*

Each "today" that we are blessed with can be a new Day One. Dale Carnegie wrote "Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." My version is "Today is the tomorrow you thought about yesterday."

One of my favorite quotes is from an Indian poet, "For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision; but today well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow, a vision of hope."

With our "Yes, Lord" in hand, may all our tomorrows as visions of hope, be strengthened by the today's well-lived to the glory, honor, and praise of our triune God.

Blessings in the New Year!

Connie Streich,  
Author

# More St. John's Crusaders Hope for 2021

- ♥ My hope for the new year is that Corona will end or my dog to grow to be like my auntie's dog, Billie. She's a girl, also one of my favorite dog ever!
- ♥ My hope for the new year is to get super good grades, and lean new things.
- ♥ My hope is that coronavirus will be over and our lives can go back to normal.
- ♥ I hope the pandemic ends, politics to be decent, and to sing again.
- ♥ I hope to make a cake with my mom.
- ♥ My hope for the new year is that it doesn't end up like 2020.
- ♥ I hope to eat at restaurants again and shop with my friends again.
- ♥ To make more friends and to hope more people in need.
- ♥ I want to lean my favorite things to do and to survive 2021.
- ♥ I hope we can stay in school the whole year.
- ♥ My hope for the new year is that my family could spend more time together
- ♥ I hope that everyone could play football, and that we can play more video games, and everyone could get along
- ♥ I hope everyone is nicer. I hope for a new classmate. I hope I can get a trampoline.
- ♥ I hope nobody gets sick. I hope I see my friends that do homeschooling. I hope more people believe in Jesus.
- ♥ I want everybody to be happy, and God to have a good birthday.
- ♥ I want their to be more believers in Jesus. I don't want to see the poor on the side of the road, I want to see them in a nice warm home. I don't want to see anyone fighting.
- ♥ I hope I get more reasonable and mature. I hope that I become a better artist. I also hope I get smarter.

*Faith* IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
*who holds the future.*

November Memorials	School	Offering for November	
<b>Undesignated Fund</b> \$100.00	\$125.00	Unified Fund	\$64,624.19
In memory of <i>Helen and Alorizo Schumann</i>	In Memory of <i>Esther Mueller</i>	Capital Improvements	\$2,340.00
<b>Organ Fund</b> \$200.00	<b>Choir</b> \$100.00	Missions	\$135.00
In memory of <i>Jon Jakeman</i>	In Memory of <i>Jon Jakeman</i>	Almoners Fund	\$70.00
		Orphanages	\$188.00
		School Tuition Relief	\$2000.00
		Pennies for Preachers	\$0.00
		Organ	\$1,600.00
		<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$69,157.19</b>

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Senior Pastor  
(c) 608-571-3360  
ghovland@stjohnsportage.com  
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rarmon@stjohnsportage.com  
Jenni See,  
Business Manager  
jsee@stjohnsportage.com  
Catharine Daily,  
Ministries Coordinator  
cdaily@stjohnsportage.com  
**Office Hours: M—Th / 8:00a-3:30p**

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Amanda Kohn,  
Ministries Coordinator -School  
akohn@stjohnsportage.com  
**School Office Hours: M—F / 7:30am – 3:15pm**

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phone (608)742-9000  
Debra Drew,  
Director  
ddrew@stjohnsportage.com  
cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
**Center Office Hours: M—F / 6:00a-5:30p**

**St. John's Elder Directory**  
The elders listed below are available to talk and pray with you. Feel free to contact us wherever you are, with whatever you may be going through. We CARE and are here for you:  
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Robert Griepentrog 566-9810  
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Mark Witt 697-0224  
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