

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



850 ARMSTRONG STREET
PORTAGE, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CORNERSTONE

MARCH 2021

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.nph.org/>

Join us for worship!

+ Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
*Lent worship

+ 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



Join us for midweek Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

March 3: Hands of Misguided Zeal (Peter)
John 18:4-11

March 10: Hands of Hypocrisy (Caiaphas)
Mark 14:55-65

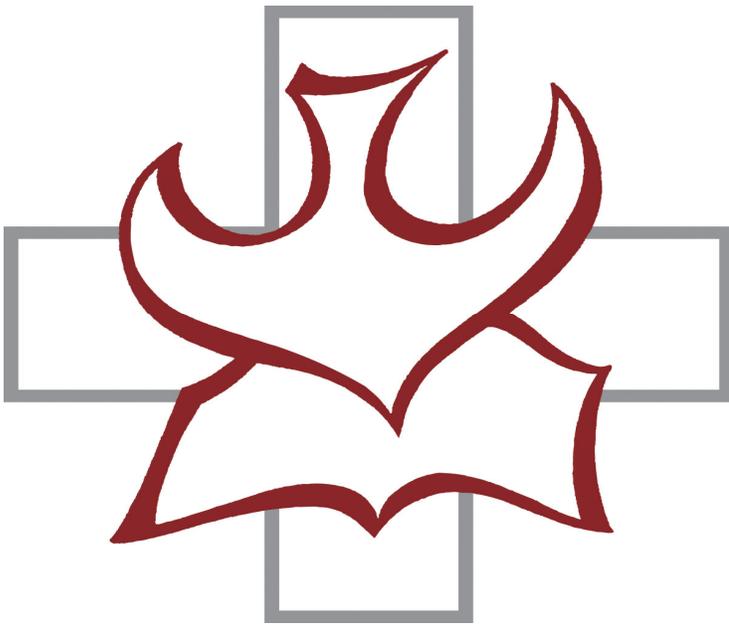
March 17: Hands of Brutality (Soldiers)
Matthew 27:27-31

March 24: Hands of Self-Preservation (Pilate)
Matthew 27:15-26

Lent Wordsearch

E P D C S R L S L I A M B J U C J F I T S Z M J O F V A O X
 O P R K J K P C Y M U P C T D O I G O O D F R I D A Y G E T
 I R Q E C B B I H T P B L N I F S G V W Q A O J X R C M O R
 Z A G F D B E T R A Y A L J X S W U U P U S D T L O E D L J
 R Y K S O E A R J F J V N P W N W X A F Q T E M J V N N Y D
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 R E M L N E M Z J E I Q E L A S T S U P P E R C Y J H D L Z
 P X P C Z K O N Q C R U C I F I X I O N V N G T W U Q L Q G
 A I Z T H E P A S S I O N L S G T G O O L S H M A R K O J L
 S J W E T Z J J E S U S C H R I S T K S N C T W E A G C H W
 S L E P Y W O Z U R G G D B O E M P T Y T O M B S S A B G E
 O Q J Y N I H U T Z W N D L B R O D H Y M T R B R N I Z M V
 V R N C U P N U U K V J N O S O B Z W G A R D E N Y L X N K
 E Z Z I A H F P E N A N C E R P H O L Y W E E K J F K X O O
 R K M A U N D Y T H U R S D A Y A V V C O N R B J Y P Z P A
 N I U D U J D B M Z I N F A Q G A S H W E D N E S D A Y E A
 G O X I B W W A V K X N M C W X Z J K K L Y S F G R F T T K
 M R M S K O C B K T T W H I T F O R G I V E N E S S M G E Z
 Z X D G B O Z Z G K V R U C R O S S I O U Y L L H L A N R S
 A C Y A A Q K P C F Z X X A R S F P P U U S I M F E N Q V E
 I E D E T X N J U U Q N A B X G H N M Z R I S F T N G G U T
 F O R T Y D A Y S R C Y N F P U S G G B T H X K C T R A K A
 O H I A V Y L A N C P E W R Z E B M S Q K Z O A N V X H Y X
 W T H X B P F C Q N U L Y B V M A I W M B Y T M C F U D Z H
 R D R Z N O L J U D A S E W L G G P A L M S U N D A Y U A S

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| Maundy Thursday | Ash Wednesday | Resurrection | Crucifixion |
| Jesus Christ | Forgiveness | Redemption | Palm Sunday |
| The Passion | Last Supper | Good Friday | Rejection |
| Empty tomb | Passover | Holy Week | Penance |
| Betrayal | Purple | Fasting | Prayer |
| Forty Days | Easter | Arrest | Denial |
| Garden | Cross | Mark | Judas |
| Peter | Lent | John | |



Catechism Series: The Two Greatest Commandments

Because God loved us before he made the world (Ephesians 1:3-4), we love God and want to keep his commandments. But where do we start? The Rabbis count 613 commands in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible, written by Moses) alone! While they kept track of each one in great detail and invented traditions to be sure and keep them, they found it helpful to ask

each Rabbi for his opinion. “Which commandment is the greatest of them all?” became a common question for disciples to ask their teacher. So it is not a surprise that people discussed with Jesus this question several times. (Matthew 22:36, Mark 12:28, Luke 10:25-28)

Jesus taught that two commandments summarize the whole of God’s Law — “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:45 ESV) and “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18) In a sense, the second of the two commandments is contained in the first. Every command in the whole of the Scripture will be kept if you love God with your whole heart.

As sinners, we cannot do this perfectly, of course. But because God loved us first, sending Jesus to die so that we might be forgiven. By his Holy Spirit God has created faith in our hearts, so that we can truly love him. So, then, because God loves us, we also love our neighbor as ourselves and in the same way that we have been loved by God. (1 John 4:7-12)

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LWML South Wisconsin District Grant A Place of Refuge Ministries \$20,000

A Place of Refuge Ministries exists to reach out with the love of Christ to women and their families who are experiencing crisis pregnancy. This mission grant would be used to replace the current vehicle at Refuge House which is used to transport women to doctor visits, job interviews, weekly worship, and the like. The grant of \$20,000 would be used to purchase a low-mile (used) vehicle which will be safer and more reliable. This will be the greatly assist A Place of Refuge Ministries of South Wisconsin, Inc. and the Refuge House. This grant will help fulfil our mission to assist women in need to carry their babies to term by

providing a shelter in a Christ-centered, supportive and loving atmosphere.

Mission grant prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the ministry of A Place of Refuge. Thank you for blessing the women who are impacted by this ministry. Continue to bless this ministry by sending necessary funds to purchase a newer vehicle to make it possible to support these families. Thank you providing for the families, volunteers and workers at A Place of Refuge. In Jesus we receive continued grace and mercy. It is in His name we pray. Amen

If you would like to help support this grant place your donation in the large Mite Box or pick up a small Mite Box found in the back of the narthex.

Pick up a LWML Quarterly magazine and see what other Lutheran mission minded women are doing in Jesus’ name Thank you for your prayers and monetary support.

SPRING 2021 LLL VIRTUAL EVENT



Join us on **March 13, 2021** from your home on your computer or internet device
Online presentations begin at 11:00 a.m.
Register online at lhm.org/III2021
Hosted by the South Wisconsin LLL District

Did you know the daily routines of Christians and how they interact with relatives and housemates has a great impact on each other's faith formation? Last chance to register for the Spring 2021 LLL Virtual Event held Saturday, March 13. This new virtual opportunity includes presentations and training featuring LHM leaders:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour®**,

Kurt Buchholz, President & CEO,

Rev. Dr. Jason Broge, Director, Design and Development,

Deaconess Ashley Bayless, Curriculum Development Manager,

Hosted by Jennifer Prophete, Director, Community Programming.

The event begins at **11:00 a.m.** and will conclude at **2:00 p.m.**

Register today at lhm.org/LLL2021/ and choose the participate from home option. For further questions or more information contact Tom Beineke, South Wisconsin District LLL President, via telephone at 262-338-9356 (landline), or 414-610-9356 (cell) or via e-mail at thomas.beineke@yahoo.com.

Online registration is open through March 9, 2021.

Youth Group

Who: Grades 6-12

What: Games & Devotion

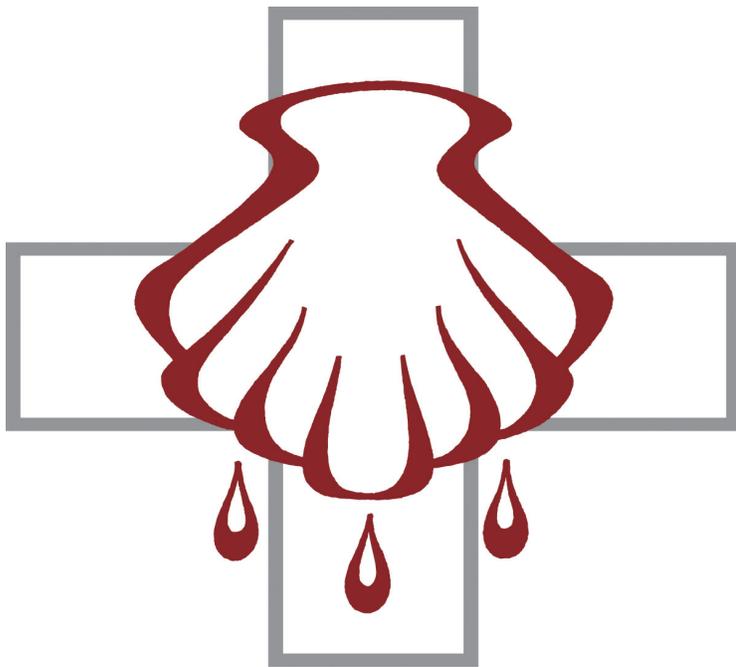
When: Wednesdays from
7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Where: School Gym/Youth
Group Room

Social distancing & masks
required. Sign-in required at the
door.

If you have questions please email
Amanda at
youth@stjohnsportage.com





“The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.” The sign of the cross is not just for the pastor to make, but for the whole congregation to do for themselves.

The sign of the cross is the oldest symbol of Christianity. The cross and specifically the crucifix, that is the cross containing the body of Christ, represent clearly that Jesus Christ and him crucified is the object of our faith and worship. There is no other sign more Christian than the cross, and it is a sign for all the baptized to use in worship and devotional life.

Luther in the Small Catechism makes that explicitly clear. “In the morning when you get up [in the evening when you go to bed], make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The sign of the cross is not just for Sundays. It’s for every day because every day we are to drown the Old Adam and rise to newness of life. Remembering our Baptism into Christ helps us in that fight. Making the sign of the cross then is a physical action in which our body and our brain are engaged in worship, helping us to further meditate on the gifts given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have the desire, make the sign of the cross this Sunday when the hymnal suggests, and may it be an aid to you in your worship and devotional life.

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Walk Through the Liturgy: The Sign of the Cross

I received a question from one of my confirmation students asking about the sign of the cross, and why “we don’t do it.” I responded, that all Christians are encouraged make the sign of the cross for it is their mark, it was given to you all the way back at your baptism (see page 197 of the link). It is by this sign of the cross that you were and are marked as of one of the redeemed by Christ.

The Lutheran Service Book encourages all the baptized to make the sign of the cross at the Invocation and elsewhere throughout the service. There in red, we read,

Altar Guild Easter Flower Fund

*Those interested in donating for Easter flowers, please fill out the following and return to the church office by **April 2**. Make checks payable to St. John’s Altar Guild.*

A Gift in Loving Memory of:



Given By:

St. John's Crusaders News



Be a Crusader!

2021 – 2022 St. John's School Year Enrollment is Open!

It is time to enroll your student for the 2021 – 2022 School Year. It is super easy!

Go to stjohnsportage.com/admissions.

There are videos on how to enroll online in the [Enroll](#) portal.

Our third quarter offerings are going to Mount Olive Lutheran School which will be open in Madison next year. As we know, it takes a lot of supplies to start a school. We would like your help to collect some items to help our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are collecting markers, colored pencils, pencils, erasers, scissors, and glue sticks. Donations can be dropped off in the coat area of the Narthex.



Celebrating our Students Past & Present

St. John's is blessed with many talented students. This month, we would like to introduce you to Isaac. He is dedicated to God. He was recently asked to help with the new school brochure and shared God as our center of all we do here at St. John's. Outside of school, Isaac is an avid racer. His mother recently shared, "Isaac had his District 16 Motocross banquet this weekend at the Kalahari! He received his 4th overall in his 65 class and 7th overall in his 85 open class!" Super job Isaac! May God continue to bless you.



Thank you to our church family, the Kohrts, the Kiefers, and a few other families for helping us recently purchasing new lunch trays! We are so blessed to be able to ask and receive.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!



WE'RE HAVING A BOOK FAIR!

Dear Parents and Families of St. John's Lutheran Ministries:

We are working hard to keep kids reading and raise critical funds for our school with our spring Scholastic Book Fair. We are so excited to be able to offer students a sense of normalcy and joy after they've missed so much this year.

Our Fair will connect your kids to notable books and inspiring characters — helping them become lifelong readers. And all purchases will directly support our school!

Important information for our Fair, held March 3 – 12, 2021:

Safety First: The safety and well-being of your child is our priority. We're taking extra precautions to host a safe, socially distanced Fair at our school, focusing on preventive measures.

Learn more at bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/articles/safety

- **Contactless Checkout:** With Book Fair eWallet, a convenient digital payment account, your child can shop the Fair cash-free. And now grandparents, friends, and others can contribute to the eWallet to help build your home library!
- **Shop Online:** Experience the Book Fair fun by visiting our Book Fair online! You can shop over 6,000 products — and all orders ship direct to your home (with free shipping on book-only orders over \$25*)! All purchases made during the Fair will bring our school 25% in rewards.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stjohnslutherangradeschool>

We look forward to seeing your child at the Fair! Thank you for continuing to support our school.

Happy reading!

SAVE THE
DATE!

St. John's Lutheran School Book Fair

School Gym

Book Fair dates: March 3 – 12, 2021

Shopping hours: Monday – Thursday, 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. until Noon

*Free standard shipping is available on book-only orders of \$25 or more, after all discounts are applied. Free standard shipping (books) must be selected during checkout. Orders containing products other than books are not eligible for this shipping promotion.



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Knowing that the Bible is all about Jesus helps us to understand its message and the place of each verse in that message. On the surface, the Bible is a small library of sixty-six books with different messages. They can seem disconnected and at odds from time to time. By this rule, we come to see the Bible has one story with a beginning, middle, climax and end, all tied to what Jesus did and will do to save us. It helps us to see that we are actually a part of this story. Unlike good fiction, this story is real news, not fake news. It is actually has a two part message for us — which will be discussed in a future article.

How to Read the Bible – Rule Number Two

When you see a good friend reading a book, so taken by it that they shut the whole world out, you ask them, “what’s it all about?” Your friend will sum it up in a few sentences. Of course, there is a lot more detail to the tale, but all of the words, images it creates set the mood and move the plot along. Yet no really good story holds our interest if there is not a single, central story that we care about.

The Bible is the most important book in the world, because it is God telling the story. This story is more than an enjoyable yarn. It is the story about how God saved us and how he will make the creation new again. Theologians call that Salvation History. So, if someone asks, “What is the Bible all about?” The best answer is “It is all about Jesus.” Jesus himself tells us this. (John 5:39)

So, by knowing that the Bible is all about Jesus, or said in more formal language, all theology is Christology, we can unlock the treasures of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is not all about how to live a happy life in this world, although it can help us with that. It is not about predicting the future, like some giant puzzle or math problem. It is not the key to success and riches, or even about what we should do to be good people. In fact, it is not so much about what we do, but what God has done: In Christ, he made the world, sorrowed over its sin, set out to save the world, was made man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, lived a perfect life in our place, suffered, died, rose again, ascended into heaven and one day will return to raise us from the dead to live with God forever. As you read the Bible, then, ask yourself: what does this have to do with Jesus? You’ll be surprised how much it helps to hear what God is saying to you in his word.

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**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Psalm 119:105

March Ministries Calendar

COVID-19 cases have decreased to the level that in-person small group activities can safely resume on St. John's campus. COVID-19 precautions must be maintained (no food/drink, social distancing, masks, etc.) Please contact the church office for information specific precautions and to schedule activities.

W 03 Chapel—Students Only

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Lent Worship

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m., All Purpose Room

Th 04 Thirsty Souls Bible Study

5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center

Sa 06 Service of Word and Sacrament

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Su 07 Service of Word and Sacrament

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Tu 09 Executive Committee

6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center

W 10 Chapel—Students Only

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Lent Worship

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Confirmation Class

6:30 p.m., All Purpose Room

Th 11 Thirsty Souls Bible Study

5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center

F 12 Cornerstone Submission Deadline

12:00 p.m., churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Submission Guidelines can be found on our website, stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines

Sa 13 Service of Word and Sacrament

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Su 14 Service of Word and Sacrament

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

W 17 Lent Worship

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Th 18 Thirsty Souls Bible Study

5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center

Sa 20 Service of Word and Sacrament

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Su 21 Service of Word and Sacrament

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

W 24 Chapel—Students Only

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Lent Worship

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Th 25 Thirsty Souls Bible Study

5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center

Sa 27 Service of Word and Sacrament

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Su 28 Service of Word and Sacrament

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., & 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Joining Jesus on His Mission

11:45 a.m., Christian Life Center

W 31 Chapel—Students Only

10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Lent Worship

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Usage of the Christian Life Center for small group activities will return on Monday, February 15, with the following expectations:

- No more than 36 people may be present in the Christian Life Center
- No food or beverage will be served to the group at this time. Individuals may bring their own drinks in a personal container.
- Use all the tables to promote social distancing.
- Limit the number of people at a table to 2 individuals with no one directly facing another person. (If a household is larger than two people, there would be an exception to the 2 people per table rule.)
- Each group must disinfect all surfaces and bathrooms before and after each event. Two spray bottles of disinfectant will be available in the Christian Life Center.
- Masks are required by the governor's executive order.

To schedule your group activity, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 or churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

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March 1

John Hamel
Beverly Huston

March 2

Wendy Tomlinson

March 3

Orin Jones
Sara Moe
Carol Mueller

March 4

Rebecca Georgeson
Wendy Powers
Paul Wolff

March 5

Marie Moe

March 6

Melissa Belton
Avery Unbehaun
Cindy Zook

March 7

Kathleen Kleist
Kaylee McReath
Alana Neumann
Delaney Popp
Tessa Wilson

March 8

Betty Biech
Marlene Dehmlow
Annetta Lauth
Brody Motsenbocker
Deborah Raimer

March 9

Anthony Bortz III
Dorothy Johnson
Lincoln Kempley
Kim Mravik
Todd Rietmann
Megan Schroeder

March 10

Emmeline Coullard
Zachary Simonson

March 11

Tami Simonson

March 12

Larry Baker
Jenna Biba
Jeanette DeZoute
Jorgia Kempley
Andrew Mittlestaedt
Jessica Mootz
Philecia Pribnow
Crystal Smith

March 13

Amanda Thiede

March 14

Jeanne Baertsch
BJ Summerton

March 15

Gail Koch
Michael Kowalski

March 16

Patricia Baerwolf
Kelly Behnke
Hannah Boeck
Kenneth Jahn
Douglas Mountford
Audrey Roisum
Betty Sekely

March 17

Lucille Bernander
Max Kreuziger

March 18

Martha Anacker
Devin Irmick

March 19

Arthur Anacker
Samantha Jones

March 20

Beverly Baerwolf-Pickle
Jean Simonson

March 21

Andy Arkin
Elizabeth Brozowski
Mark Mueller
June Radke
Alexander Schlinkert
Zander Unbehaun

March 22

Tammy Chapman

March 23

Pamela Barreau
Marie Hoffer
Scottie Jones
Christopher Kiefer
James Mountford
Paisley Olson
Tom Steinhaus
Meghan Witt

March 24

Olen Lang

March 25

Nicholas Helmann
Lindsey Jahn
Marc Welsh
Janice York

March 26

Connor Brown
Gregory Gerstenkorn
Travis Weideman

March 27

Claudia Fairfield
Rebecca Schesny
Sawyer Swearingen
Donald Witt

March 29

Drake Jonas
Kaitlyn Schultz
Bob Sienkowski
Don Soppe

March 30

Kenneth Baars
Justin Rietmann

March 31

Matt Daily
Carol Kohrt
Zachary Summerton

Happy Anniversary

Kenneth and Ruth Chvojick — March 15
 David and Leah Hutchinson — March 17
 Douglas and Carolyn Severson — March 17
 Michael and Joy Witowski — March 18
 Walter and Theresa Smith — March 19
 Troy and Brandie McReath — March 20
 Christopher and Melissa Kiefer — March 27
 Eric and Nicole Moll — March 31



<p>January Memorials</p> <p>Undesignated Fund \$25.00</p> <p>In memory of <i>Josh Armon</i></p>

Offering for		January	
Unified Fund	\$53,532.00	School Tuition Relief	\$380.00
Capital Improvements	\$965.00	Pennies for Preachers	\$0.00
Missions	\$125.00	Organ	\$25.00
Almoners Fund	\$50.00		
Orphanages	\$195.00	Total Contributions	\$55,272.00

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
 850 Armstrong Street
 Portage, Wisconsin 53901
 phone (608) 742-9000
 fax 742-7154
 Rev. Greg Hovland,
 Senior Pastor
 (c) 608-571-3360
 ghovland@stjohnsportage.com
 Rev. Rod Armon,
 Pastoral Care
 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

St. John's Lutheran School
A Nationally Accredited School
 430 West Emmett
 Portage, Wisconsin 53901
 phone (608)742-9000
 Amanda Kohn,
 Ministries Coordinator -School
 akohn@stjohnsportage.com
School Office Hours: M—F / 7:30am – 3:15pm

St. John's Child Development Center
A Five-Star Rated Center
 426 West Emmett
 Portage, Wisconsin 53901
 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:
 Ken Chvojicek 697-2102
 Robert Griepentrog 566-9810
 Gene Thompson 697-4786
 Mark Witt 697-0224
 Bob Fairfield 296-4012
 David Hall 493-2125
 Pete Smith 697-3807
 Ron Mueller 369-1845, Chair



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