

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



850 ARMSTRONG STREET  
PORTAGE, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# CORNERSTONE

## December 2021

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

### Worship and Weekly Events

#### Sundays:

8:00 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesdays:

6:30 a.m.  
9:15 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesdays:

10:00 a.m.  
12:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

#### Thursdays:

8:00 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

#### Saturdays:

5:30 p.m.

**Service of Word and Sacrament**  
**Christian Ed Hour**, Christian Life Center  
**Sunday School**, School Cafeteria  
**Praise Band**, Sanctuary  
**Service of Word and Sacrament**

**Men's Bible Class**, Portage Airport  
**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**,  
Christian Life Center  
**Sisters in Christ Bible Study**,  
All Purpose Room

**Advent Worship**, Sanctuary  
**Weekly Announcements Deadline**  
[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)  
**Handbell Choir**, Balcony  
**Advent Worship**, Sanctuary  
**Youth Group**, School Gym  
**Adult Choir**, Balcony  
**Confirmation Class**,  
Christian Life Center & All Purpose Room

**Esther Bible Study**, Christian Life Center  
**Thirsty Souls Bible Study**,  
Christian Life Center

**Service of Word and Sacrament**

### Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

#### Advent Midweek Worship

Midweek worship will be on Wednesdays at  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. starting on December 1.

#### Advent Dinner

Advent dinners will be served on Wednesdays at  
5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

#### Choral Vespers

Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

#### School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Worship

*Christmas Eve Scripture and Carols*,  
December 24 at 5:30 p.m.  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion*,  
December 24 at 9:00 p.m.  
*Christmas Day Service*,  
December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

\*There will be no 5:30 p.m. service December 25.

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

# Commandment 7 – Beg, Borrow, and Steal



Advertisements are all around us. They call to us: “you can have that bright, shiny, car. If you act now, you can get it for hardly any money at all...” “Buy a lottery ticket and you will win millions of dollars.” The temptation to win something for nothing, to take a shortcut to get what you desire is strong in us. What we may not realize is that at the bottom of it all is taking

something that is not given to us or earned by us. In fact, you could see the first sin as theft — taking the one fruit God did not give.

Stealing is obvious when someone breaks into your house and takes your T.V., when they drive off in your car or hold up a grocery store. Less obvious, but just as real, is when someone steals your identity, charges you way more than an item is worth or sells you a property they know will need major repairs. What is less obvious is how each of us steals. We rob people not only when we take something, but when we do not give others what we owe them. When someone pays us, we owe them our best work. When we do not help them to protect their possessions and improve their business, they are poorer for it. Even when we sue someone for damages and are awarded more than we need to recover from the harm done to us is a form of theft.

Thank God that he is merciful even to thieves. Jesus forgave the thief on the cross and died for his robbery and ours. Not only that, but in Jesus God gives us everything we need — life, salvation and faith to be generous to those in need. With the strength he gives, we can resist the temptation to steal and become, like him, people who give.

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## LCMS WORSHIP



## A Brief Advent Devotion for the Family Table

An Advent wreath may be lighted, adding the lighting of one candle for each week in Advent. If a rose candle is used, it is lit at the beginning of the third week.

### Hymn

#### Week 1

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

#### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee,  
O Israel!

## Week 2

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

## Week 3

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## Week 4 (Sunday only)

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

## Week 4

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*  
*LSB 357:3, 2, 1, 4, 6*

## Behold!

These passages follow the broad story of the Old Testament — mankind's sin, God's long suffering and the prophecies of Christ — through the use of the interjection "behold!" Family members can take turns reading the Scripture for each day.

### *First Week in Advent*

**Nov. 28** — "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (Gen. 1:31).

**Nov. 29** — "And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Gen. 6:12).

**Nov. 30** — "Behold, my covenant is with you, [Abraham,] and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations" (Gen. 17:4).

**Dec. 1** — "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son" (Gen. 22:13).

**Dec. 2** — "And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them" (Ex. 3:9).

**Dec. 3** — "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live" (Deut. 5:24).

**Dec. 4** — "And the LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people'" (Ex. 32:9).

### *Second Week in Advent*

**Dec. 5** — "And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you" (Deut. 9:16).

**Dec. 6** — "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel" (Num. 24:17).

**Dec. 7** — "Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days" (1 Chron. 22:9).

**Dec. 8** — "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!" (2 Chron. 6:18).

**Dec. 9** — "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD" (Amos 9:8).

**Dec. 10** — "Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left," says the LORD" (Isaiah 39:6).

**Dec. 11** — "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings'" (Jer. 30:18).

### *Third Week in Advent*

**Dec. 12** — "O LORD, the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this" (Ezra 9:15).

**Dec. 13** — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jer. 31:31).

**Dec. 14** — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. ... And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness’” (Jer. 23:5–6).

**Dec. 15** — “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

**Dec. 16** — “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out” (Ezek. 34:11).

*The O Antiphons of Advent begin (See LSB 357)*

**Dec. 17** — “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 3:1).

**Dec. 18** — “Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace!” (Nah. 1:15).

#### *Fourth Week in Advent*

**Dec. 19** — “Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him’” (Isaiah 62:11).

**Dec. 20** — “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

**Dec. 21** — “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: “Whoever believes will not be in haste”’” (Isaiah 28:16).

**Dec. 22** — “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1).

**Dec. 23** — “Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us” (Psalm 123:2).

**Dec. 24** — “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10–11).

## Grace

*All pray together:*

**Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*or*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest**

**And let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**

*The Advent candles may be extinguished after these prayers or after the meal.*

*At the conclusion of the meal, the family may return thanks:*

**We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*or*

O give thanks to the Lord for He is good

**And His mercy endures forever.**

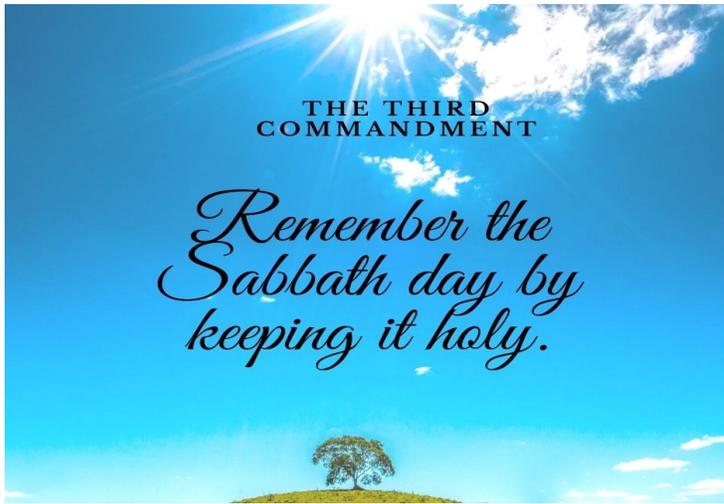
More Advent resources for congregations and families

can be found at [lcms.org/advent](http://lcms.org/advent).



# Luther's Large Catechism

In this edition of the Cornerstone, we continue to publish portions of Luther's Large Catechism for your continued growth in God's Word. The text for this series is taken from the Triglotta, a public domain version of The Book of Concord. For a more up-to-date reading, consider purchasing Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions at [cph.org](http://cph.org).



## The Third Commandment (continued)

Thou shalt sanctify the holy day.  
[Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.]

And, indeed we Christians ought always to keep such a holy day, and be occupied with nothing but holy things, *i.e.*, daily be engaged upon God's Word, and carry it in our hearts and upon our lips. But (as has been said) since we do not at all times have leisure, we must devote several hours a week for the sake of the young, or at least a day for the sake of the entire multitude, to being concerned about this alone, and especially urge the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and thus direct our whole life and being according to God's Word. At whatever time, then, this is being observed and practised, there a true *holy day* is being kept; otherwise it shall not be called a Christians' *holy day*. For, indeed, non-Christians can also cease from work and be idle, just as the entire swarm of our ecclesiastics, who stand daily in the churches, singing, and ringing bells but keeping no holy day holy, because they neither preach nor practise God's Word, but teach and live contrary to it.

For the Word of God is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries, yea, the only one which we Christians know and have. For though we had the bones of all the saints or all holy and consecrated garments upon a heap, still that would help us nothing; for all that is a dead thing

which can sanctify nobody. But God's Word is the treasure which sanctifies everything, and by which even all the saints themselves were sanctified. At whatever hour, then, God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or meditated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all. Therefore I constantly say that all our life and work must be ordered according to God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled.

On the contrary, any observance or work that is practiced without God's Word is unholy before God, no matter how brilliantly it may shine, even though it be covered with relics, such as the fictitious spiritual orders, which know nothing of God's Word and seek holiness in their own works.

Note, therefore, that the force and power of this commandment lies not in the resting, but in the sanctifying, so that to this day belongs a special holy exercise. For other works and occupations are not properly called holy exercises, unless the man himself be first holy. But here a work is to be done by which man is himself made holy, which is done (as we have heard) alone through God's Word. For this, then, fixed places, times, persons, and the entire external order of worship have been created and appointed, so that it may be publicly in operation.

Since, therefore, so much depends upon God's Word that without it no holy day can be sanctified, we must know that God insists upon a strict observance of this commandment, and will punish all who despise His Word and are not willing to hear and learn it, especially at the time appointed for the purpose.

Therefore not only those sin against this commandment who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day, as those who on account of their greed or frivolity neglect to hear God's Word or lie in taverns and are dead drunk like swine; but also that other crowd, who listen to God's Word as to any other trifle, and only from custom come to preaching, and go away again, and at the end of the year know as little of it as at the beginning. For hitherto the opinion prevailed that you had properly hallowed Sunday when you had heard a mass or the Gospel read; but no one cared for God's Word, as also no one taught it. Now, while we have God's Word, we nevertheless do not correct the abuse; we suffer ourselves to be preached to and admonished, but we listen without seriousness and care.

Continued on page 9.

# Crusader News!

## THANK YOU

to all the veterans in our lives  
at St. John's Lutheran Ministries!

Cora's Dad

Amelia & Raelyn's Dad & Uncle Andrew

Rafael's Cousin Victor

Jaxson R's Grandpa

Ms. Winkelmann's Sister Kathy

Miss Bauman's Dad

Kaia's Mom

Leon's Grandpa

Cayson & Cullen's Grandpa Larry &

Grandpa George

Katze, Jesse, Nora, & Annalee's Grandpa Paul

Emma's Grandpa Eicher

Kloe's Grandpa Larry

Austin's Great Grandpa Don

Braydin, Amilia, and Emerie's Grandpa Matt &

Uncle Charlie, & Uncle Razel

Julia & Gabe's Grandpa Ted, & Cousin John

Brody's Grandpa Jeff

Boston's Cousin Nick

Francesca & Winston's mom, dad, Grandpa Jon, Grandpa

Daniels, Great Grandpa, Aunt Jennifer, & Uncle Shawn

Michael's Uncle Brent & Uncle Brian

Alexis & Andrew's Grandpa Neil & Uncle John

Maya & Eva's Great Uncle & Great Grandpa

Emma H's Uncle Joe

Isabella, Alfred, & Roland's Grandpa Alfred

Joshua's Dad

Casey's Grandpa Greg

Debbie Drew, her Sons, & Husband

Jenni's Nephew Tanner & Father-In-Law Bill

Catharine & Owen's Grandpa Mike & Uncle Matthew

Amanda's Dad John & Cousin Dean

**Thank you to all the veterans  
in our families & community!**



## Crusader Calendar — December

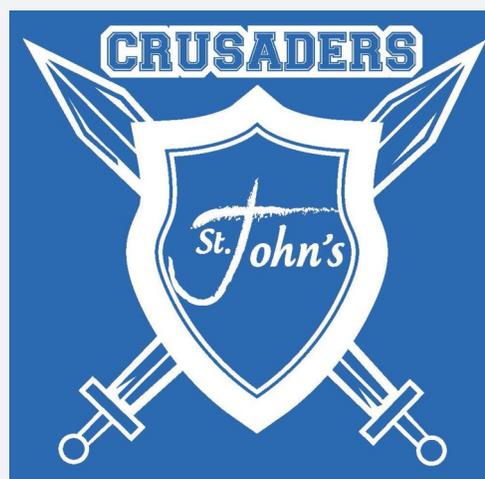
Join us for Chapel

10:00 a.m. Wednesdays in the church sanctuary.

- Th 02 Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's**  
5:00 p.m., 315 W. Cook St. Portage, WI
- Sa 04 Boys Basketball Tournament**  
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., St. John's School Gym
- Tu 07 Boys Basketball @ St. Patrick's**  
5:00 p.m., 325 Mansion St. Mauston, WI
- Th 09 Upper Grade Spelling Bee**  
10:00 a.m., St. John's School Gym  
**Boys Basketball –vs– St. Joe's**  
5:00 p.m., St. John's School Gym
- M 13 Boys Basketball @ St. Peter's**  
5:00 p.m., 345 N. Pine St. Reedsburg, WI
- Tu 14 Boys Basketball –vs– St. John's**  
6:00 p.m., St. John's School Gym
- Tu 21 Boys Basketball @ Sacred Heart**  
5:00 p.m., 545 N. Oak St. Reedsburg, WI
- W 22 School Christmas Program**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Church Sanctuary
- F 24 Merry Christmas!**  
**No school—Christmas break**

**Christmas break:**

December 24, 2021–December 31, 2022



# Happy



# Birthday

2 Adam Bortz  
Evelynne Ross  
Marisa Stark

3 Patrick Kirchenwitz  
Michael Kowalksi  
Aria Raimer  
Judy Rygielwicz  
Jessica Thompson

4 Susan Brown  
Dorothy Lambert  
Brian Smith

5 Randy Haase  
Jane Schwantz

6 Irma Brockley  
Dawn Mueller  
Sumer Simonson

7 Brigid Sutfin  
Ella Wakerhauser

8 Robert Chvojicek  
Tim Konkel

9 Ronald Hull  
Isabelle McReath

10 Carol Beckett

11 Clarence York  
12 Hayden Doremus

Leaghan Miller  
Steven Tikkanen

13 Kay Crawford  
Carol Kraucyk  
Charlene Phillips

14 Connie Eddy  
Kevin Hurd

15 Mirabella Belton  
James Kabele  
Jennifer Krueger  
Andrew Krueger  
Lisa Smith

16 Alice Bernander

17 Weston Koehler  
Charlotte Leeland  
Judy Mountford  
Carol Platt  
Ruth Vadeboncoeur  
Riley Weaver  
Brienna Weideman  
Cassidy Yaddof

18 Lucas Eicher

19 Emma Hoppmann  
Amy Wolff

20 Michael Belton  
Carol Pribnow

Jeremy Schumann

21 Amanda Bell  
Dorothy Scales

23 Nicholas Jahn  
Mary Lehman  
Amy Jo Luebke  
Mark Sutfin

25 Diane Helm

26 Traytin Dittberner  
Tonya Edwards  
Kelly Krueger  
Florence Schultz

28 Stephenie Hovland  
Heather Huston  
Joseph Pogorelec  
Alyssa Yahnke

29 Greg Hovland  
Krista Loomans  
Liesa Zastrow

30 Roland Colucci  
Kenneth Manthey  
Timothy Schmidt

31 Suzanne Erdman  
Leo Fredrick  
Melvin Mravik  
Alexis Parchem  
Mary Schumann  
Carolyn Severson

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, it might be because we don't have the dates in our system. If you do not see your birthday or anniversary in the Cornerstone, please contact the church office, and we will get your information updated in the system.

[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

# Thank you!

Thank you to Evan, Evan’s family, Portage Troop 70, and Portage Troop 7070 for helping finish the playground at St. John’s. Evan is working on his Eagle Scout rank. To receive Eagle Scout Rank, Evan had to plan, coordinate, and execute a service project for a nonprofit group in his community. Thank you Evan, for choosing St. John’s!



Before



After



## Altar Guild Flower Fund

If you are interested in donating toward Christmas poinsettias, please fill out the following and return to the church office by **December 20th**. Checks payable to St. John’s Altar Guild.

*A Gift In Loving Memory of:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Given by:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# A Walk through the Liturgy: The Agnus Dei



The *Agnus Dei* came into the Liturgy around the beginning of the 8th Century. In light of the Sacrament of the Altar which the congregation is preparing to receive we get to actually “look upon the Lamb of God,” Jesus Christ, present in his body and blood on the altar, calling us to eat and drink it for the forgiveness of our sins. The hymn also picks up nearly all the other themes of the Divine Service liturgy.

The title “Lamb of God” comes from the statement by John the Baptist in [John 1:29](#). However, the image of

the Lamb of God is something that is everywhere in the Old Testament. The work of Atonement is prominent. The Lamb led to the slaughter now has now been slain and been sacrificed at the cross. Christ, says Paul is our Passover Lamb. Now alive again, He gives us the very things that were a sacrifice. The Lamb stands at the throne and gives his faithful people His gifts, namely forgiveness of sins and his peace.

The hymn typically has 3 stanzas, three petitions, where the congregation asks for Christ to have mercy on them in the first two stanzas. In the third, the congregation asks for the peace of Christ, which they just heard in the Pax Domini. Again, like the Lord’s Prayer, the prayer is answered in receiving the Sacrament of the Altar.

In some churches, the congregation sings this hymn while kneeling. In other congregations, they stand. As a pastor I look directly at the chalice and paten, adoring and pondering the very mystery over which I am a steward. Christ’s body and His blood is there, we all get to set our eyes on the “Lamb of God, who has come!” The petition of the Sanctus is fulfilled. The One who comes in the Name of the Lord is with us and we not only get to behold Him, but we get to now come forward to His table to be fed His body and His Blood. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

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## The Third Commandment (continued)

...continued

Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God’s commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word.

Likewise those fastidious spirits are to be reprov’d who, when they have heard a sermon or two, find it tedious and dull, thinking that they know all that well enough, and need no more instruction. For just that is the sin which has been hitherto reckoned among mortal sins, and is called ἀκηδία, *i.e.*, torpor or satiety, a malignant, dangerous plague with which the devil bewitches and deceives the hearts of many, that he may surprise us and secretly withdraw God’s Word from us.

For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you

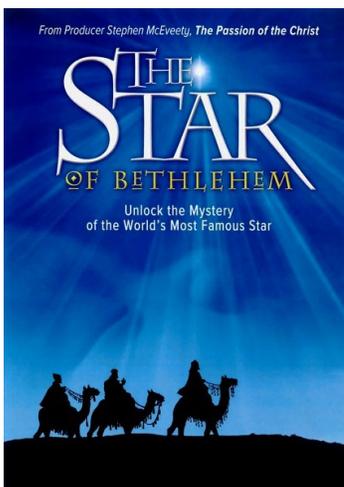
are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. Therefore you must always have God’s Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware. On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words. And even though no other interest or necessity impel us, yet this ought to urge every one thereunto, because thereby the devil is put to Right and driven away, and, besides, this commandment is fulfilled, and [this exercise in the Word] is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.

## December

- Th 02 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House  
**Lutherans For Life**  
6:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- M 06 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Board of Finance**  
4:30 p.m., All Purpose Room
- F 10 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](http://stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines)
- M 13 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli  
**GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 14 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Th 16 Board of Trustees**  
6:00 p.m., All Purpose Room
- M 20 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- W 22 St. John's School Christmas Program**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- F 24 Christmas Eve**  
All Ministries offices closed
- Sa 25 Christmas Day**
- M 27 All Ministries offices closed**
- Tu 28 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Th 30 All Ministries offices closed**
- Th 31 New Year's Eve—All Ministries offices closed**

## January (proposed)

- Sa 01 Happy New Year!**
- M 03 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Th 06 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- M 10 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli  
**Altar Guild**  
1:30 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 11 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- F 14 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](http://stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines)
- M 17 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 18 Board of Christian Education**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**  
6:30 p.m., All Purpose Room
- Th 20 Board of Trustees**  
6:00 p.m., All Purpose Room
- M 24 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 25 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Sisters in Christ**  
6:30 p.m., All Purpose Room
- M 31 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center



Thirsty Souls Bible study invites you to join them on **December 16th at 5:30 p.m.** in the Christian Life Center for a movie. We will be watching and discussing **The Star of Bethlehem.**

Youth Group Fundraiser

## Wrapping Christmas Presents

Wednesdays:

12/1  
12/15  
12/22

7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Free Will Donation



**December 4**  
*Rick and Kay*  
*Crawford*

**December 10**  
*Thomas and Kristine*  
*Daugherty*

**December 11**  
*Ryan and Megan*  
*Schroeder*

**December 12**  
*Dennis and Susan*  
*Bennett*

**December 19**  
*Ronald and Elaine*  
*Hull*  
*Kenneth and Elizabeth*  
*Manthey*  
*Paul and Christine*  
*Stark*  
*Joel and Amanda*  
*Thiede*

**December 20**  
*Benjamin and Melissa*  
*Chvojicek*

**December 22**  
*Roger and Phoebe*  
*Cole*

**December 27**  
*Joseph and Susan*  
*Schesny*

**December 30**  
*Anthony and Diane*  
*Bortz*

**October  
 Memorials and Offerings**

**Undesignated**  
 \$1,000.00  
 In memory of  
*Phyllis Johnson*



<b>Unified Fund</b>	<b>\$58,373.35</b>	<b>School Tuition Relief</b>	<b>\$405.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,625.00</b>	<b>Pennies for Preachers</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$735.00</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Almoners Fund</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>		
<b>Orphanages</b>	<b>\$355.00</b>	<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$61,653.35</b>

**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—Church  
 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  
 Jim Krupski,  
 Principal  
 jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com  
 Amanda Kohn,  
 Ministries Coordinator —School  
 akohn@stjohnsportage.com  
**School Hours:**  
**M—F 7:30a–3:15p**

**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  
 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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