

**Week of
September 4, 2022**



Join the
**St. John's Lutheran
Ministries**
Facebook group for news,
updates and daily
encouragement!

Welcome in the name of the Lord !

As God serves us today in Word and Sacrament, may we rejoice in His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

1) To parents of small children, we love the sound of children in worship. Thank you for bringing your child to worship; they belong here! If your child is actively crying, we have a cry room near the restrooms.
2) Regarding the Lord's Supper today: If you are not a confirmed member of this congregation or a congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, please speak to the pastor before communing. Pastor is readily available in the narthex before worship for this conversation. For those with medical need, the center section of the individual cup trays is filled with cups of grape juice (lighter color). For those that have a gluten intolerance, gluten-free wafers are available. Share your need as you come forward to the altar.

3) Children are invited to come forward to the altar while the Lord's Supper is distributed; encourage them to bow their heads and fold their hands. While there, they will receive a Baptismal blessing from the Pastor.

4) We ask that if you have a mobile device, please silence it during the worship service.

5) Our elders, greeters, and ushers are here to help with any of your worship needs today.

Thanks for worshipping with us!

Worship Times

+ Saturdays 5:30 p.m. — *Abbreviated service*

+ Sundays 8:00 a.m. — *Communion at the rail*

+ Sundays 10:30 a.m. — *With Praise Band*

Masks are optional at all services.

Livestreaming of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at stjohnsportage.com/live.

Please Pray

Thanksgiving (birth, baptisms, weddings, recovery):

Milestone (birthdays, anniversaries):

Medical:

Tom Waddell

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Mourning:

Other:

How Do I Get Someone on the Prayer List?

If you, or someone you know, would like to have a name added to the prayer list, please contact the church office by noon on Wednesdays. Please be sure that you have the permission of the individual before contacting the church office to add them to the public prayer list.

***Please notify the church office when one of our church family members is in the hospital, so that a pastoral visit may be made or arranged.**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 4:6-7

Ministries Calendar

Calendar events for the week of September 4, 2022:

Sunday (04)

9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary

Monday (05)

Labor Day

All Ministries offices closed

Tuesday (06)

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
10:30 a.m. GriefShare planning meeting, Church APR

Wednesday (07)

10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline,
Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
6:30 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (08)

8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
5:30 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC

Friday (09)

Church office closed
12:00 p.m. Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline,
Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
Submission Guidelines can be found on our website, stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines

Sunday (11)

9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour and Fellowship, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary

Calendar events are subject to change.

For the most up-to-date calendar information, please visit our website, <http://www.stjohnsportage.com/st-johns-calendar>.

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

Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 259

Unified Received: \$9,044.00

Other Contributions: \$1,160.00

TOTAL: \$10,204.00

Weekly Unified Needed: \$13,975.00



This Weekend's Lectionary Summary

PROPER 18—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (04 September 2022)

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Philemon 1–21

Luke 14:25–35

Christ Jesus Has Paid the Cost of Discipleship for You

A disciple of Jesus Christ will “bear his own cross” (Luke 14:27) and follow the Lord through death into life. Discipleship is costly because it crucifies the old man with “all that he has” (Luke 14:33), in order to raise up the new man in Christ. The disciple disavows “his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life” (Luke 14:26), in deference to Christ. That way of the cross is impossible, except that Christ Jesus has already paid the cost. His cross is set before you as “life and good, death and evil” (Deut. 30:15). Taking up His cross is to “choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him” (Deut. 30:19–20). To live that life in Christ is also to bear His cross in love, “that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord” (Philemon 14).

Confirmation

Wednesday Evening Confirmation Program

St. John's offers a two-year evening program to support our parents' pledge at the baptism of their child of ongoing instruction, nurture in the Christian faith, and encouragement toward faithful reception of the Lord's Supper.

Parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders not attending St. John's school interested in the confirmation of their child, please plan on attending a required parent/student meeting on September 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Blood Pressure Screening

St. John's Health & Wellness Ministry will be offering blood pressure checks at church. The checks will be on the second Sunday of the month between services (9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) beginning September 11.

We follow the Health and Human Services guidelines for Columbia County, which recommends that everyone wear a mask. We will sanitize surfaces between clients, and provide masks.

Stop by our table in the coat area on September 11 and sign up!

Get Involved

Adult Choir

Rehearsals begin on September 7 and are every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the church balcony.

Handbell Choir

Rehearsals begin on September 14 and are every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the church balcony.

Altar Guild

Join the Altar Guild on Monday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Rachel Bible Study

Rachel Bible Study will be starting on Thursday, September 8 at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center. We will be watching “The Chosen” series with discussion following. Everyone is welcome.

GriefShare

GriefShare will begin in September

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. Through GriefShare, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a loved one. At each session, there will be a DVD followed by a small group discussion. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held in the All Purpose Room at St. John's at 4:30 p.m. for 13 weeks beginning Tuesday, September 13. A \$20 free-will donation to cover the cost of participant materials is appreciated. More information and online registration can be found at stjohnsportage.com/griefshare or contact the church office.

Sanctuary Projector

The new sanctuary projector is fixed!

The cost is \$13,297.26. If you would like to contribute toward the replacement, please indicate your gift by labeling an envelope “Projector Project.” The envelope may be put in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

We still need people willing to assist with the operation of the projector at each of our services.

If you are interested in helping, please email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Coffee Hour and Fellowship

Adopt a Sunday! It's a fun and easy way to get to know your church family.

We encourage families and groups to "Adopt a Sunday" by hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Hosting coffee hour involves providing a simple snack, making coffee, and enjoying fellowship time with our church families. Sign up in the Christian Life Center or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Sept. 4:	Mary Witt
Sept. 11:	GriefShare Ministry
Sept. 18:	Open

Attention Youth

You're invited to

Senior Youth Group Grades 8-12

Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
St. John's School Gym
Starting September 7

The focus of Senior Youth Group is being "equipped" with God's armor. There will be games, Bible study, servant work, and pizza.

Sunday School

Sundays from 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.
St. John's School Cafeteria
Starting September 18

Lessons are based on the weekly readings. There will be games, Bible lessons, and snacks.

Jr. Youth Group Grades 4-7

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.
St. John's School Gym
Starting September 21

The focus of Jr. Youth Group is Martin Luther's Catechism to help prepare for confirmation. There will be pizza, and games to help us learn God's Word.

Bible Studies

Join us for fellowship and Bible study!

- † **Christian Education Hour meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of The Lutheran Spirituality Series: *Confession: God Gives Us Truth*, by John T. Pless.
- † Sunday School — Learn and Grow Through Christ meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the School Cafeteria. Sunday School is for families with children of all ages. Join us September 18!
- † **Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Portage Airport.** We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew.
- † **Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of the upcoming week's readings.
- † Sisters in Christ Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. We are taking a summer break. Join us in September.
- † **Esther Bible Study meets Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of John.
- † **Rachel Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** Join us starting September 8. We will be watching and discussing *The Chosen* series.
- † **Thirsty Souls Bible Study meets Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the book of Colossians. If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Jahn, 608-617-7787.

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 / 7:00a–5:00p

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, Chairman
David Hall 493-2125
Pete Smith 697-3807
Ron Mueller 369-1845

Sermon Reflections

Readings _____

Gospel _____

What problem (sin) did the sermon address?

What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?

What part of the sermon did you find easiest to remember?

Daily Lectionary

This week's readings comes from the Daily Lectionary found in the Lutheran Service Book page 299.

Sunday,

2 Kings 2:1–18 &
Eph. 4:1–24

Monday,

2 Kings 2:19–25, 4:1–7 &
Eph. 4:25—5:14

Tuesday,

2 Kings 4:8–22, 32–37 &
Eph. 5:15–33

Wednesday,

2 Kings 4:38—5:8 &
Eph. 6:1–24

Thursday,

2 Kings 5:9–27 &
Phil. 1:1–20

Friday,

2 Kings 6:1–23 &
Phil. 1:21—2:11

Saturday,

2 Kings 9:1–13; 10:18–29 &
Phil. 2:12–30

Stewardship Thoughts

Luke 14:33 – “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” None of what we have is ours. It all belongs to God. That is the foundation of Christian stewardship. What we have been given is to be used for God’s purposes according to our callings in home, Church, and society. As we learn to leave generously in these callings, we renounce our ownership of our wealth. It’s not “ours,” it’s His. God owns everything, and we manage for the furtherance of His goals.

Life Thoughts

September 4 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 18) – Conventional wisdom once equated slaves with property instead of people. The Gospel Paul proclaimed in Philemon, about God Incarnate as humankind’s slave and becoming our brother, eventually ended the injustice. And will we not delight to declare it and demonstrate the same sanctity of every human life until abortion and assisted suicide also become obsolete?

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23