

December 3, 2022



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) Please complete either a Guest (blue) or Member (white) card found in the hymnal rack of the pews. You may place this card in the offering plate located in the Narthex.

2) 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 with service audio near the restrooms.

3) 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 (darker color). For those that have a gluten intolerance, gluten-free wafers are available. Share your need as you come forward to the altar.

4) 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.

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

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

Thanks for worshipping with us!

Sermon Reflections

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?

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*

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

Weekly Events

Sunday (11)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening, Church Nursery
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC

Monday (12)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 9:00 a.m. School Christmas Program Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly Worship

Tuesday (13)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:30 a.m. Every One His Witness, Church CLC
- 4:30 p.m. GriefShare, Church APR
- 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee, Church CLC

Wednesday (14)

- 10:00 a.m. School Christmas Program, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. School Christmas Program, Church Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (15)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
- 11:00 a.m. Columbia County Healthcare monthly worship

Friday (16)

- Church office closed
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Ladies Bible Study, Westfield

Sunday (18)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC

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.

Please Pray

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.

Thanksgiving

(birth, birthdays, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, recovery):
Birth of Willa Josephina Coullard

Medical:

Jane Kaiser

Candace Bartz (grandma of *Kendra Dorn*),
Jeri Wilkins (grandma-in-law of *Kandra Dorn*),
Jeff Pratsch (friend of the *Ken and Marilyn Jahn*)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Carole Stafford, Nola Tennyson,
Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of *Don and Carol Kohrt*),
Lisa Priske (daughter of *Betty Mootz*)

Mourning:

Family of *Merlyn Mohr*, Family of *Ron Hull*

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. Prayer requests for Thanksgiving, Medical, and Mourning will remain on the list for two weeks. Prayer requests for Long-term Illness/Treatment will remain for 1 month unless the church office is notified with an update on the individual. Please be sure that you have the permission of the individual before contacting the church office to add them to the public prayer list.

Life Thoughts

December 11 – Advent III – Abortion and assisted suicide attempt to acquire one's salvation by violence (Matthew 11:12). But God's kingdom comes as He mercifully preserves at our weakest (Matthew 11:5-6). We need not seize happiness at the expense of others. Rather, we advocate endurance in sufferings such as surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis (James 5:11), and with our support for them we strengthen instead of extinguish (Isaiah 35:3).

Stewardship Thoughts

Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Project Connect

Project Connect, from Lutheran Hour Ministries, is an excellent evangelism resource. It gives congregations and individuals an outreach program that works and is easy to maintain. This app not only allows you to download and share these great resources, but to listen to high quality recordings as well.

- Topic categories include “Abuse Addiction”, “Domestic Violence”, and “Life Skills”.
- New! Includes booklets for children that you can read with them when you're on the go!
- Share the resources with a friend through a variety of social media and communication outlets.

The app is available on Google Play, Kindle Fire, and Apple.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Midweek Service

Midweek services will be on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Worship

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



School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

School Christmas Tree

Thank you for all the support given to our school ministry.

This year our teachers and staff have provided wishes for the school year. Please take an ornament from the tree and fulfill their Christmas wish. Presents may be returned to the tree with the ornament.

Census 2022



St. John's is taking a census of its entire membership. If you haven't done so, please complete the Census 2022 online at stjohnsportage.com/census2022. It takes less than 2 minutes. Paper copies are available at the Welcome Center. We are looking for 100% participation of our families. Thanks to all who have participated.

Thank you to all who have submitted a Census.

Get Involved

The new sanctuary projector is fixed!

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.

Get Involved in the Community

The Pregnancy Resource Center is need of a secretary to take minutes at the board meetings that meet every other month. This is a voluntary position. Please contact the Pregnancy Resource Center, 800-705-4710, or talk to Liesa Zastrow, 608-683-4361, if you would like more information.

Support our Ministries

Get a late start on your Christmas shopping and support St. John's at the same time!

Shop for gift cards with RaiseRight. You can place your order on Tuesday and pick up on Thursday. Or, stop in the church office and pick up a card from our stock.

Festival:	\$50
Kwik Trip:	\$25, \$50, & \$100
Pizza Ranch:	\$25
Walgreens:	\$25
Walmart:	\$25
Culvers:	\$25
Portage Movie Theater:	\$10
Subway:	\$10

Visit: raiserright.com

Click: [Sign Up](#)

Enrollment Code: **Please call the church office, 608-742-9000 for the enrollment code.**

Crusader cards are back!

25% off Dairy Queen is just one of the great deals on the Crusader Card. Stop in the church office during office hours to pick up your Crusader Card.

Price: \$10.00

Dairy Queen 25% off purchases	Dino's 10% off for parties 10 or less. (excludes alcohol)	Pizza Ranch 10% off purchases
La Tolteca 10% off purchases (excludes alcohol)	Edgewater Greenhouse 10% off purchases (Excludes wired orders and sales items)	The Ballroom 10% off purchases
Craig's Popcorn Corner 10% off purchase	Prairie Flower Beads 10% off purchases	Saddle Ridgle 2 for 1 on 9 holes of Golf
Red Apple 10% off purchases	J&J Fireball Lanes Buy 1 get 1 game of bowling	Pets of Portage 10% off purchase
It's Poppin —10% off purchase—Limit 3 uses		○○○○
Johnny B's —10% off purchase—Limit 3 uses		○○○○
Carol's Cones —\$.50 off cone or dish—Limit 5 uses		○○○○○○

Not valid with other specials or discounts. 1 use per visit per day. Offers subject to change. St. John's is not responsible for closure of any business on card. **Local Stores ONLY** Expires December 2023

Financial Peace University

Did you spend too much during Christmas? Are your bills more than you make? Want to make a plan for your retirement? Want to get out of debt? Come to a 9-week class starting Monday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Bring friends and family if you like. The cost is \$100 for materials. Flex payments are available.

Every One His Witness

Feeling like you're not adequate to witness to others about Jesus? Do you have a heart for lost souls? This class gives you the tools. To learn more, come to the 6-week class on Tuesdays, starting January 10 at 1:15 p.m. or Thursdays starting January 12 at 6:00 p.m. Classes will be held in the Christian Life Center. Bring friends and family if you like.

Reminders

Please be considerate of our disabled worshipers' parking needs. If the driver is not disabled, it would be best if he or she would drop an individual at the door and use a regular parking stall when possible. Then, we will be sure we have enough handicap parking for our disabled drivers. We appreciate our caregivers and drivers.

Email Spoofing. What is email spoofing? According to Google, email spoofing is the creation of an email message with a forged sender address. Typically, the email sender is requesting you to purchase gift cards and send them a picture of the code.

Recently I received an email from what looked like Pastor Hovland asking me to purchase gift cards. Pastor Hovland will not send an email requesting you to purchase gift cards.

If you received an email like this, please check the sender's email address. If it does not match the one you have on file for the sender, it might be a spoofing email. Email the sender, using their known email address, to verify the request.

Example of spoof email address:

Rev. Greg Hovland <officeemail2908@gmail.com>

Altar Guild Flower Fund

If you are interested in donating toward Christmas poinsettias, please fill in the information below and return it to the church office by December 22.

Please make checks payable to **St. John's Altar Guild**. Please do not place in an offering.

A gift in loving memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Youth Ministry

All youth are invited to join us for fun and fellowship.

✠ Sunday School

Meets Sundays from 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m. in St. John's School Cafeteria. Lessons are based on the weekly readings. There will be games, Bible lessons, and snacks.

✠ Jr. Youth Group—We are taking a break. Join us January 8, 2023.

✠ Senior Youth Group

For grades 8-12, meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in St. John's School Gym The focus of Senior Youth Group is being equipped with God's armor. There will be games, Bible study, servant work, and pizza.

Memory Verse Challenge

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 24–25

Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 531 (Includes Wednesday service)

Unified Received: \$15,645.00

Other Contributions: \$610.00

TOTAL: \$17,830.75

Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00

YTD Unified Giving: \$280,759.92

YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$305,192.31

Contact us

St. John's Lutheran Ministries

608-742-9000

Church:

option 4

Office Hours:

M—Th / 8:00a–3:30p

churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Rev. Greg Hovland,

Senior Pastor

(c) 608-571-3360

ghovland@stjohnsportage.com

Child Development Center:

option 3

Office Hours:

M—F / 7:00a–5:00p

cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Debra Drew,

Director

ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

School:

option 2

Office Hours:

M—F / 7:30a–3:15p

schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jim Krupski,

Principal

jkupski@stjohnsportage.com

St. John's Elder Directory

Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman

Ken Chvojicek 697-2102

Gene Thompson 697-4786

Mark Witt 697-0224

David Hall 493-2125

Pete Smith 697-3807

Ron Mueller 369-1845

Roger Baerwolf 617-6088

To schedule your group activity, or add a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

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:

Vocation: God Serves through Us, by Chad E. Hoover.

✠ **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew and the Synoptic Gospels.

✠ **Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Portage Airport.** We are currently studying the book of Acts.

✠ **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 currently taking a break.**

✠ **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.** We are currently 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 taking a break. Join us Thursday, January 5, 2023.**

✠ **Friday Ladies Bible Study meets Fridays at 1:00 p.m. at the Muellers' home, W7809 Evergreen Ave, Westfield, WI.** We are currently studying Colossians.

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,
Is. 28:14–29 &
1 John 5:1–21

Monday,
Is. 29:1–14 &
Jude 1–25

Tuesday,
Is. 29:15–30:14 &
Rev. 1:1–20

Wednesday,
Is. 30:15–26 &
Rev. 2:1–29

Thursday,
Is. 30:27–31:9 &
Rev. 3:1–22

Friday,
Is. 32:1–20 &
Rev. 4:1–11

Saturday,
Is. 33:1–24 &
Rev. 5:1–14

Coffee Hour

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

Dec. 11:	Sherry Aberle
Dec. 18:	Hoppmann Family
Dec. 23:	Open
Dec. 30:	Open