

April 16, 2023



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 (16)

- 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 APR

Monday (17)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:00 a.m. Strong Bodies Gathering, Church CLC

Tuesday (18)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Board for Christian Ed, Church CLC

Wednesday (19)

- 10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group Babysitting, School Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Instruction, Church CLC and APR

Thursday (20)

- 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 Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Every One His Witness, Church CLC

Friday (21)

- Church office Closed
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Ladies Bible Study, W6808 Elk Rd. Westfield

Saturday (22)

- 10:00 a.m. Every One His Witness, Church CLC

Sunday (23)

- 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 APR

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):

Other:

Medical:

Erich Hienrich (friend of Tom and Barb Steinhaus)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell, ,

Don Weideman, Arlis Roetman, Babette Schumann

Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of Don and Carol Kohrt) and her brother, Brian

Mourning:

Family of Margery Schultz

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 one 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.

Sunday School

Our last week of Sunday School will be Sunday, April 30th. We will then be taking a break for summer and will see all the kids again in the fall.

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School

We have found a leader, but this fun week cannot be success without help. If you are able to help with VBS, please sign up on one of the sheets found in the back of the church. If we do not have enough volunteers signed up by April 30th, we will not have VBS 2023.

Wisconsin Private School Choice Program

Wisconsin Private School Choice Program is a tuition assistance program for private and religious schools.

Who is Eligible?

Incoming Kindergarten

All New & Current 1st Graders

All New Students to St. John's

Students Already in the Choice Program

Enrollment ends April 15.

For information on the Wisconsin Private School Choice Program, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs> or scan the QR.



Reminder

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.

Want to be a part of St. John's Family?

We would love to have you here! If you would like to begin the path toward membership and the reception of Holy Communion at St. John's, it begins with worshiping with us regularly. The next step is to visit with Pastor Greg. You may set up a time to meet with him at <https://calendly.com/pastorhovland/newmember> or contact the church office during regular office hours, and Catharine will assist you in setting up an appointment.



Save the Date



Wednesday, April 19

4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

St. John's School Gym

RSVP via text to 608-697-2649

Free Will Donation

(\$5/per child/hour suggested donation)



Can you hear the sizzle? Our 8th-grade class will be grilling up brats at Festival Foods. Come out and help them raise money for their class trip to the Mall of America.

Saturday, April 29

10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Festival Foods, 2915 New Pinery Rd. Portage

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Baby Shower

May 6, 4:00-5:00 pm

In the Christian Life Center

to benefit

Pregnancy Resource Center

Contact Stephenie Hovland for more information. SHovland@stjohnsportage.com

Support our Ministries

BoxTop\$ for Education is a great way to support St. John's School!

All you have to do is download the Box Tops for Education app and scan your receipt. It's that simple!



Support St. John's while you shop!

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.

Visit: raiserright.com

Click: **Sign Up**

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

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

We're Hiring!

St. John's Lutheran Ministries is looking for energetic, patient, and kind Christians who would like to teach and pray every day with an amazing group of God's children.

Available positions at St. John's Child Development Center:

- ✚ Full-time Early Childhood Teacher
- ✚ Cook

For a complete job description and employment application, please email Debbie Drew, ddrew@stjohnsportage.com or call 608-742-9000 x102.

Financial Peace University

Debt is a thief. Want to get out of debt? Start a retirement plan or have an emergency fund? **Learn the tools to be debt free.** We will work out dates and times by folks' schedule. Sign-up sheet for 9-week class is at the Welcome Center. Bring family and friends. Payment plans are available. Cost is \$100 for all materials and class. Questions contact jim@atkinsonrealtor.com 608-697-7052.

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.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Easter breakfast, especially those who helped with preparation, serving, clean up, food donations, and monetary donations. Without these folks donating their time and money it would be impossible to complete.

Your help and donations allows us to do this event every year. Thanks again, and we will do it all again next year!

Thank you, St. John's Lutheran Ministries donors, participants, volunteers and Youth Group for making this year's Easter Egg Hunt successful. We are blessed with an amazing family at St. John's! He is risen!

Walkie Talkie

Walkie Talkies are back!

We will meet on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on the levee (by Tamarack) starting April 26. If the weather is bad, we will meet at St. John's. If you have any questions, call Theresa at 608-697-0509. Join us, all are welcome!

Interested in comfort dogs?

You're invited to attend the LWML Zone 16 Spring Rally at Monona Lutheran Church, 4411 Monona Dr. Monona, WI 53716, on Saturday, April 29. Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be a Bible study, short business meeting, LWML information and sharing, speakers and comfort dogs from Lutheran Church Charities. The rally will close with a luncheon at noon.

Interested in helping your neighbor?

With ongoing worldwide disasters taking place, Orphan Grain Train has a constant need for shipping out hygiene kits.

LWML will be packing kits at our next meeting, Tuesday May 15. Join us, along with St. John's students in donating items needed for the kits.

- Bath size bars of soap
- Plastic soap dish with closing lid
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Toothbrushes
- Sturdy combs
- Nail clippers
- Small packs of facial tissues

Items can be placed in the basket located by the entrance to the Christian Life.

Community Event

Portage Police Department invites you to TRIAD Safe Night Out. Join the PPD for a spaghetti dinner, bingo, prizes, and fun! Only \$5.00 a person.

When: April 26 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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.

Life Thoughts

April 16 – Easter II – Personal choice, public opinion, and political controversy cannot stifle our Gospel-motivated voices For Life. With the first Christians, we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). He has commanded every human life into its existence, and we work to preserve them all until He permits them to pass away (Psalm 148:5-6). If this means discomfort or suffering, we will rejoice at the privilege of suffering together with Jesus Christ (Acts 5:41).

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

1 Peter 1:3-4 – “He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” We have an inheritance waiting for us, a treasure gathered where moth and rust do not destroy. That should change our perspective on the treasures of this earth. They are fleeting. They come and go. But we can use the treasures of this earth for the work of the kingdom that will not fade away.

Stewardship Thoughts

*There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:1

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, Ex. 20:1-24 & Luke 4:1-15	Tuesday, Ex. 23:14-33 & Luke 4:31-44	Friday, Ex. 31:1-18 & Luke 6:1-19
Monday, Ex. 22:20-23:13 & Luke 4:16-30	Wednesday, Ex. 25:1-18 & Luke 5:1-16	Saturday, Ex. 32:1-14 & Luke 6:20-38
	Thursday, Ex. 25:1-22 & Luke 5:17-39	

Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 547
Unified Received: \$17,866.00
Other Contributions: \$255.00
TOTAL: \$18,121.00
Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00
YTD Unified Giving: 518,102.08
YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$544,038.46

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 Lifestyles of Reconciliation Series: *Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation*, produced by Ambassadors of Reconciliation
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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 meets Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We will meet again starting April 13.
- ✚ **Friday Ladies Bible Study meets Fridays at 1:00 p.m. at the home of June R., W6808 Elk Rd., Westfield, WI.** We are currently studying Colossians.

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

April 16:	Parent Teacher League (PTL)
April 23:	Open
April 30:	Open
May 07:	Lutherans For Life
May 14:	LWML

Contact us: 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 2
Office Hours:
M—F 7:00a–5:00p
cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Debra Drew,
Director
ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

School:
option 3
Office Hours:
M—F 7:30a–3:15p
schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jim Krupski,
Principal
jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com

St. John's Elder Directory:
Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman
Roger Baerwolf 617-6088
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102
Bill Hageman 279-0272
David Hall 493-2125
Patrick Kirchenwitz 575-3959
Ron Mueller 369-1845
Pete Smith 697-3807
Gene Thompson 697-4786
Mark Witt 697-0224

To schedule your group activity or add a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 608-742-9000 option 4 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.