

April 23, 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 St. John's 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 (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

Monday (24)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 3:00 p.m. Evangelism, Church CLC
- 4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC

Tuesday (25)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Elders, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Narthex

Wednesday (26)

- 10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, 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
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (27)

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC

Friday (28)

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

Sunday (30)

- 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):
Baptism anniversary of Grace Rabl

Other:

Medical:

Jane Kaiser, Erich Hienrich (friend of Tom and Barb Steinhaus)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell, Babette Schumann
Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of Don and Carol Kohrt) and her brother, Brian
Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)

Mourning:

Family of Arlis Roetman

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.

Lutheran Night with the Milwaukee Brewers

KANSAS CITY ROYALS

VS

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

SATURDAY | MAY 13 | 6:10 PM

\$23-\$59

Loge Outfield Box
Loge Infield Box/Field Infield Box

Order tickets by May 1.

Purchase tickets online at the SWD website, swd.lcms.org or <https://fevogm.com/event/Lutheranschools2>.

Event questions, please contact Robin, SWD office, 414-292-0741.
Ticket questions, please contact Teddy Sibilsky, Milwaukee Brewers, 414-902-4657.

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.



Volunteer for VBS!

Vacation Bible School, June 5-9!

We have found a leader, but this fun week cannot be success without help. **We are looking for volunteers ages 11 and up.** If you are able to help with VBS, please sign up on one of the sheets found at the Welcome Center. If we do not have enough volunteers signed up by April 30th, we will not have VBS 2023.

Save the Date



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.**

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| 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

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

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

A special thank you to all who donated to the Altar Guild Easter flower fund in memory of your loved ones celebrating the resurrection of our Savior.

Thank you to all our chefs and cooks out there who bring food for funerals and other events. We have an amazing congregation and amazing volunteers. If you brought food for a funeral or other event, your dishes are located in the Christian Life Center kitchen.

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.

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.

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.

Reminder

For the protection of the church facility, the only door unlocked during church office hours is the side entrance on Armstrong Street (near Franklin Street). Feel free to park on Armstrong Street near the entrance, if you plan on stopping by. Our office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 3:30pm.

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.

Life Thoughts

April 23 – Easter III – The resurrected and compassionate Jesus made Himself present in His loved ones’ sadnesses (Luke 24:16-17). Our Lord is not absent but all the more active in difficulties like surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis. He redeems us and our sufferings to usher us into His exceeding glory (Luke 24:26). Not only do His words and ways deliver souls from death, but He also undertakes to relieve all tears from their eyes (Psalm 116:8).

Stewardship Thoughts

1 Peter 1:18-19 – “You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” Christ ransomed us and bought us back from the slavery into which we were born. We do not belong to ourselves, to the devil or to the world. We belong to Jesus. Therefore, we live our lives not in accordance with our own wisdom, but in line with God’s Word.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Ephesians 2:13-14

Daily Lectionary

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

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| Sunday, Ex. 32:15–35 & Luke 6:39–49 | Tuesday, Ex. 34:1–28 & Luke 7:18–35 | Friday, Ex. 39:32–40:16 & Luke 8:22–39 |
| Monday, Ex. 33:1–23 & Luke 7:1–17 | Wednesday, Ex. 34:29–35:21 & Luke 7:36–50 | Saturday, Ex. 40:17–38 & Luke 8:40–56 |
| | Thursday, Ex. 38:21–39:8 & Luke 8:1–21 | |

Weekly Offerings

Last Week’s In-person Attendance: 253
 Unified Received: \$8,903.67
 Other Contributions: \$605.00
 TOTAL: \$9,508.67
Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00
 YTD Unified Giving: \$527,005.75
YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$557,307.69

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

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

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| April 23: | Open |
| April 30: | 8th-grade |
| May 07: | Lutherans For Life |
| May 14: | LWML |
| May 21: | Health & Wellness |

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.