

May 21, 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 who 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?**

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**What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?**

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

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## 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](http://stjohnsportage.com/live).

## Weekly Events

### **Sunday (21)**

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

### **Monday (22)**

- 4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC

### **Tuesday (23)**

- 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, Church APR

### **Wednesday (24)**

- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, School Gym
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

### **Thursday (25)**

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:30 a.m. Every One His Witness session 2, Church APR
- 6:00 p.m. 8th Grade Graduation, Church Sanctuary

### **Friday (26)**

- Church office closed
- 8:30 a.m. Last Day of School Chapel, Church CLC

### **Sunday (28)**

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 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](mailto: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 of *Arthur Poppy*, Baptism of *Lillianne Chvojicek*,  
*Ally Windus* graduating from Concordia University Mequon

### Other:

#### Medical:

*Alice Atkinson*

#### Long-term Illness/Treatment:

*Carole Stafford, George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler,*  
*Tom Waddell, Babette Schumann*

*Lani Kohrt* (daughter-in-law of *Don* and *Carol Kohrt*)

*Lisa Priske* (daughter of *Betty Mootz*)

### Mourning:

### **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.

## Bring your children to church.

- ✓ **Even if** you feel they are noisy.
- ✓ **Even when** they lie on the floor and roll around.
- ✓ **Even if** their crayons roll 6 pews ahead of you and they decide to crawl under the pews after them.
- ✓ **Even if** it takes 589 Goldfish crackers and 2 bags of fruit snacks to keep them quiet.
- ✓ **Even if** you have to walk out and take a breather in the nursery.
- ✓ **Even if** you have to stand and sway back and forth with your tiny baby in the back of church.
- ✓ **Even if** your pew suddenly looks like a tornado blew through.
- ✓ **Even when** they yell out or cry during the sermon.

Jesus loves those children and wants them in church! Church will not always be easy, but He provides you the patience and wisdom to parent in that hour of church.

Let them see you pray. Let them see you sing the hymns and liturgy. Let them see you worship your Savior. If they don't see and learn those things from you, who are they going to learn from?

## Register for VBS!



**Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to help with VBS! Because of you, VBS IS BACK!**

Monday, June 5 – Friday, June 9  
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Open to ages 4 - going into 4th grade

**Registration forms and more information are located on the VBS table in the narthex.**

Parish Life is accepting monetary donations to help with the cost of supplies. Donations can be placed in the freewill donation box located on the VBS table in the narthex.

## Young Adult Ministry!

### **St. John's Young Adults... Let's Stay Connected**

Once our St. John's young adults are off on their own, St. John's members are thinking of them, and maybe the young adults would like to hear from their St. John's people too...

- ⇒ If you are a young adult from St. John's who is thinking about a member or two you'd like to hear from, you can reach out on your own or let us know, and we'll help make the connection.
- ⇒ If you are thinking of a young adult who you are missing, you can reach out on your own, or let us know, and we'll help you too.

One call or text per month is all that it could take to keep the connection. Just a "Hello, how are you?" Everyone benefits. Our new Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is just getting started. We're happy to help and will keep everything simple and private. Contact Danielle at 608-697-3560.

## Every One His Witness Session 1

**Every One His Witness, session 1 class will be Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Lunch will be served. This is a one-day class in the Christian Life Center. We must have a minimum of six people to start. So spread the word and bring your family and friends. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact [jim@atkinsonrealtor.com](mailto:jim@atkinsonrealtor.com) or 608-697-7052.

## 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.

## 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, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Beware of texting scams.** When receiving unsolicited texts requesting personal information, offering unrealistic offers, or a text from Pastor Hovland asking for gift cards, always verify the legitimacy of the sender before sharing any sensitive details or engaging in financial transactions.

**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.

## Support our Ministries

### 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.

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

Visit: [raiserright.com](https://raiserright.com)

Click: **Sign Up**

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

### 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!



## Attention Altar Guild!

We need to reschedule cleaning the Sanctuary. Instead of June 5, we will be cleaning on June 12 starting at 8:30 a.m.

## Friday Ladies Bible Study

Friday Ladies Bible Study is taking summer off. Join them in Westfield in the fall.

## Walkie Talkies

**Looking to get your steps this summer? Join the Walkie Talkies!** We meet on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on the levee (by Tamarack). 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!

## The Lutheran Witness



**It's time to renew your subscription to The Lutheran Witness magazine.** If you would like to renew your subscription or receive The Lutheran Witness magazine, the cost this year is \$19.20.

Please stop by or call the church office, 608-742-9000, to sign up. **Deadline is Monday July 3.**

## 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.

## Save the Date!

**Join us for free family fun at St. John's Block Party!**

Saturday, June 24 starting at 2:00 p.m.

- ✓ Fast and Fresh Food Truck
- ✓ Family fun games for all ages

We will wrap up the fun with worship service at 5:30 p.m.

We hope to see you there!



## Life Thoughts

**May 21 – Easter VII** – The demise of Judas (Acts 1:18) confirms death is always the devil's work (1 Peter 5:8). We are not ashamed to resist its enticements, for the sake of both the Gospel and our neighbors. The work of God, on the other hand, always seeks to adopt even the ones the world discards and number every human life among His household (Psalm 68:5-6). Let us be about the Father's business!

## Stewardship Thoughts

1 Peter 5:7 – "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." We have a Father in heaven who really cares for us and loves us. That is the basis of generosity, because such knowledge spells the end of worry, which is the source of all tightfisted greed.

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

## Daily Lectionary

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

<b>Sunday,</b> Num. 31:1–16, 39–48 & Luke 14:25–15:10	<b>Tuesday,</b> Num. 9:1–23 & Luke 16:1–18	<b>Friday,</b> Num. 11:24–29, 12:1–16 & Luke 17:20–37
<b>Monday,</b> Num. 8:5–26 & Luke 12:1–12	<b>Wednesday,</b> Num. 10:11–36 & Luke 16:19–31	<b>Saturday,</b> Num. 13:1–3, 17–33 & Luke 18:1–17
	<b>Thursday,</b> Num. 11:1–23, 31–35 & Luke 17:1–19	

## Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 332  
Unified Received: \$10,937.50  
Other Contributions: \$365.00  
TOTAL: \$11,302.50  
**Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00**  
YTD Unified Giving: \$576,137.64  
**YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$610,384.62**

## 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 book of Revelation.
- ✚ **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.**
- ✚ **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 taking a break. See you in the fall!

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

May 21:	Health & Wellness
May 28:	Every One His Witness
June 4:	Open
June 9:	Open

## Contact us: 608-742-9000

**Church:**  
option 4  
Office Hours:  
M—Th 8:00a–3:30p  
[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Rev. Greg Hovland,  
Senior Pastor  
(c) 608-571-3360  
[ghovland@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ghovland@stjohnsportage.com)

**Child Development Center:**  
option 2  
Office Hours:  
M—F 7:00a–5:00p  
[cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Debra Drew,  
Director  
[ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com)

**School:**  
option 3  
Office Hours:  
M—F 7:30a–3:15p  
[schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Jim Krupski,  
Principal  
[jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).