



Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET
PORTAGE, WI 53901
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2023

WWW.STJOHNSPORTAGE.COM

Worship Times

Saturdays:
5:30 p.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**

Sundays:
8:00 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**
9:00 a.m. **Coffee Hour and Fellowship,**
Christian Life Center
10:30 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**

Weekly Events

Wednesdays:
12:00 p.m. **Weekly Announcements Deadline**
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Fridays: **Church Office Closed**

Weekly Christian Education and Bible Studies

Sundays:
9:15 a.m. **Christian Ed Hour,** Christian Life Center
11:30 a.m. **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study,**
All Purpose Room

Tuesdays:
6:30 a.m. **Men's Bible Class,** Portage Airport
9:15 a.m. **Tuesday Morning Bible Study,**
Christian Life Center

Wednesdays:
6:30 p.m. **Sr. Youth Group,** School Gym

Thursdays:
8:00 a.m. **Esther Bible Study,** Christian Life Center
10:15 a.m. **Rachel Bible Study,** Christian Life Center
5:00 p.m. **Thirsty Souls Bible Study,**
Christian Life Center

Church Word: Faith

Faith is one of those “church words” that everyone knows and uses, but find hard to pin down. We use it to mean everything from a family of church bodies to a system of things people believe, to trust in God, to accepting something is true, but that we cannot prove. Hebrew uses various forms of the word (*aman*— firm, trustworthy, safe). The word Amen comes from this same word. It means something like: “I believe that. I agree. It is true”) The Greek language uses one word for both faith and belief. *pisteoo* — to believe, *pistis* — Faith) When the New Testament uses the word, it uses it for both what we believe in and our trust in God to keep his promises to save us.

Many Christians think of faith or believing in a different way. They think it means something like accepting as true and as facts things they can't prove, such as “Jesus is God,” “God will raise us from the dead on the last day,” and other teachings of the Holy Scripture. They may understand passages like Hebrews 11 to mean this. (For example, verse 1: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”) What they miss is that most of the chapter is about what the Old Testament saints did because they trust God and his promises. James, the brother of Jesus, demonstrates how mistaken this view of faith is when he wrote: ” You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ” (James 2:19)

When the Bible talks about faith in God, (Saving Faith, Justifying Faith) it means a trust in God to keep his promises, especially his promise to save us. This trust is not something we create by things we do. It is created in us when the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Gospel, Baptism or the Lord's Supper. (Romans 1:17, John 20:30-31, Ephesians 1:13, Romans 1:16-17) Our faith clings to Jesus, believing that his sufferings and death on the cross forgives our sins and gives us everlasting life. This faith responds to the Grace given to us in God's Word and the Sacraments. It thanks God for his mercy, praises him and gives us the desire to serve God and our neighbors.

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Judge of the Living and the Dead

Every action movie, adventure novel or cartoon has a version of the same plot. A dark cloud comes over people. A sinister force imposes its will upon everyone, enslaving them and bringing misery to all. A hero arises and with great struggle defeats the evil swarm and brings justice to them. Everyone lives forever. The real world rarely turns out that way.

When evil people prosper, when sin, suffering, grief and death dominates, we pray for deliverance. Rarely does it come. In such situations, we long for Jesus to return to earth and finally set things right. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords is what we want. The beauty of that wish is that it will come true, some day, at the right time set by God's own choosing.

On that day all the dead will rise from the grave and will be gathered before the Throne of God the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The books will be opened and everything that everyone has ever done be exposed for what it is. All evil will be judged, and the books balanced. The catch — our deeds will be among them. And that is not pleasing at all.

The surprise comes when the verdict is announced. We, the very guilty will be pronounced “not guilty!” Why? Because the Great, Almighty King is the Lamb of God, who took

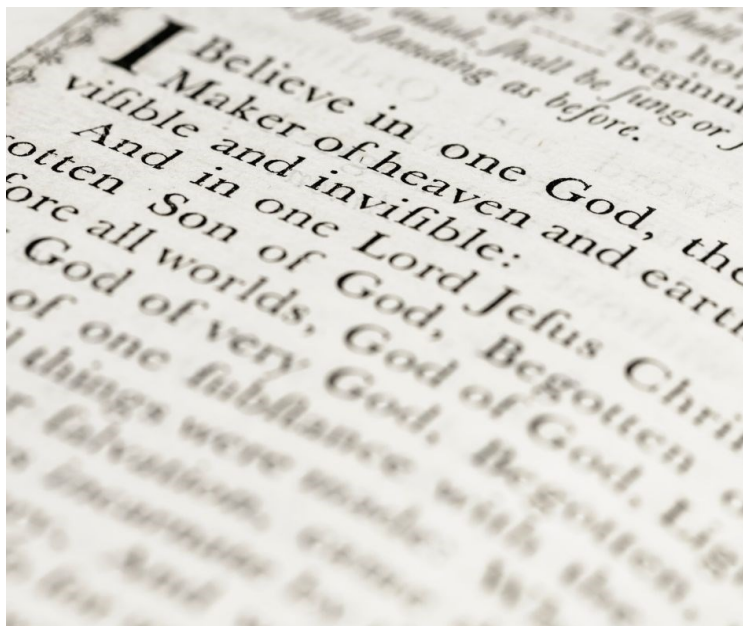
away the sins of the world. Putting our guilt upon us, the Author of Life died to pay its penalty in full. We and those who cling to his promise of salvation in faith will live with him forever. By his death, he destroyed death and by his rising he opens the kingdom to all believers.

That day will resolve everything, not by defeating our enemies, but by destroying them. Then we really will live happily ever after forever and ever.

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Luther's Large Catechism

In this edition of the Cornerstone, we continue to publish portions of Luther's Large Catechism for your continued growth in God's Word. The text for this series is taken from the Triglotta, a public domain version of The Book of Concord. For a more up-to-date reading, consider purchasing Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions at cph.org.



THE CREED

Article II.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Here we learn to know the Second Person of the Godhead, so that we see what we have from God over and above the temporal goods aforementioned; namely, how He has completely poured forth Himself and withheld nothing from us that He has not given us. Now, this article is very rich and broad; but in order to expound it also briefly and in a childlike way we shall take up one word and sum up in that the entire article, namely (as we have said), that we may here learn how we have been redeemed; and we shall base this on these words: *In Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

If now you are asked, What do you believe in the Second Article of Jesus Christ? answer briefly: I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord. But what is it to become Lord? It is this, that He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and all evil. For before I had no Lord nor King, but was captive under the power of the devil, condemned to death, enmeshed in sin and blindness.

For when we had been created by God the Father, and had received from Him all manner of good, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil, so that we fell under His wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, as we had merited and deserved. There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God in His unfathomable goodness had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness, and came from heaven to help us. Those tyrants and jailers, then, are all expelled now, and in their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation, and has delivered us poor lost men from the jaws of hell, has won us, made us free, and brought us again into the favor and grace of the Father, and has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection, that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.

Let this, then, be the sum of this article that the little word Lord signifies simply as much as Redeemer, i.e., He who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same. But all the points which follow in order in this article serve no other end than to explain and express this redemption, how and whereby it was accomplished, that is, how much it cost Him, and what He spent and risked that He might win us and bring us under His dominion, namely, that He became man, conceived and born without [any stain of] sin, of the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, that He might overcome sin; moreover, that He suffered, died and was buried, that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe, not with silver nor gold, but with His own precious blood. And all this, in order to become my Lord; for He did none of these for Himself, nor had He any need of it. And after that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father's right hand, so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet, until finally, at the last day, He will completely part and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

But to explain all these single points separately belongs not to brief sermons for children, but rather to the ampler sermons that extend throughout the entire year, especially at those times which are appointed for the purpose of treating at length of each article—of the birth, sufferings, resurrection, ascension of Christ, etc.

Ay, the entire Gospel which we preach is based on this, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rest, and which is so rich and comprehensive that we never can learn it fully.

What Do You Want?

June—4

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article — June 2023

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we *actually* suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will

help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Congratulations to all the St. John’s Lutheran
Ministries graduates!

*May He give you the desire of your heart and make all
your plans succeed.*

Psalm 28:4



SERVING THE LORD IN CZECH REPUBLIC

NEWS FROM CINDY ZIRBEL WRUCKE
March/April 2023



Reconciled through Christ



This cross of Christ in the middle of the woods near my home reminds me on my daily walks how the impossible becomes possible.

We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving on Easter Sunday the reconciliation with God made possible for us through Christ's death and resurrection. This Easter, I also celebrated the miracle of reconciliation between brothers and sisters in our small Czech congregation in Prague.

When I moved to Prague more than five years ago, the Czech congregation just received a new pastor when the founding pastor resigned after serving for about 12 years. Both pastors welcomed me, and we worked well together. I quickly got to know many people in the congregation and enjoyed working with all of them, including the church council president. But conflict between the new pastor and synod leadership resulted in the abrupt departure of the pastor, several of the church council members and a few congregation members, as well.

I remained friends with the former president and his family, and recently met him for coffee. He shared how he was attending a Catholic church where his wife was baptized. His wife was a regular member of my ladies' group and longed to be baptized, something the Lutheran church did not provide for them before they left. As much as he felt betrayed by the faults of human pastors, he still identified as Lutheran, and our church is the only Lutheran church in Prague. Since we now have a new pastor whom I also work closely with, I offered to be a mediator to see if reconciliation was possible. And then I prayed—a lot.

I talked with the current church council president and pastor to ensure the family was welcome to return. Then I arranged a meeting between the former and current congregation presidents. We met for beer late one afternoon. I used mediation skills I hadn't used since graduate school and relied on promptings of the Holy Spirit to guide a very contentious but fruitful discussion for almost three hours. Bridges were built and a door was opened for the family to return. The current pastor then met with the former member.

When I arrived at church on Palm Sunday, I saw the former church president seated in a pew near the front of church. I enthusiastically greeted him. As we rode the tram together after church, he shared something even more amazing. When he arrived at church that day, another man had arrived at the exact same moment—the former church council treasurer. It was also his first time back since they both left. The former president and treasurer had never spoken during that time and here they both were, back in the church they loved and missed, for the first time in almost four years.

The former church president is also a gifted musician and asked to be included in the Easter vigil service six days later. As I sat in the dark church lit only by candles on that Saturday night, this man sang with all his heart from the balcony the psalms and prayers in service to the church. It was the most beautiful church service I have ever attended. The miracle of reconciliation was manifest this Easter in more ways than I could ever have imagined.

Conflict among brothers and sisters is not unique to our church in Prague. Satan clearly is the driver behind division. But we also know that our Savior, Jesus Christ, has claimed victory over Satan and can heal and reconcile brothers and sisters in His church, as well as in workplaces and families. I have witnessed it firsthand. May you also have the joy to see this work among you.

This month we remember our reconciliation through Christ:

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01	Virgil Chance Theresa Dehn Tracy Friese	14	Cullen Kiefer Lovice Klemp Timothy Loomans	22	Richard Raimer Tara Weideman
02	Justin Hageman	15	Michael Carney William Schumann Chad Steinle	23	Susan Bennett Zachary Schoppenhorst Carole Stafford Brevin Walker
03	Kloe Bielke Jessica Walker	16	Bob Hartwig Jane Loomans Robert McCoy Kris Tomaszewski	24	Jax Brown Gladys Chance Dylan Erdmann Justine Gavinski Dana Gudgeon Richard Mael Marilyn McReath Ronald Mueller
05	Ben Chvojicek Andrew Steinle	17	Jon Epstein Norman Hurd Eric Kershaw	25	Tom Perry Bodie Thompson Lori Witt
06	Connor Neumann Peter Smith	19	Bonnie Konkel Marion Kopfhamer Blake Smith	26	Andrew Chvojicek
07	Timothy Burrow	20	Jeynell Boeck Joseph Daniels Gerald Mael Justine Richards Ricky Simonson	27	Carolyn Koepp Carol Swanson
08	Cindy Luedeman Shirley Mertes	21	Idella Anacker Bentley Dewsnap	29	Brecken Wade
09	Timothy Barthel Emmett McDaniel				
10	James Bethke Autalyn Krueger				
12	Vance Beckett Casey Zimmerman				
13	Natalie Moll Hannah Nilson				

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- ♥ *Howard & Cathy Dehn — June 2*
- ♥ *William & Susan Lorenz — June 3*
- ♥ *Curt & Michelle Nummerdor — June 3*
- ♥ *Dennis & Karen Riewe — June 3*
- ♥ *Rev. Alan & Jeynell Boeck — June 4*
- ♥ *David & Danielle Rabl — June 4*
- ♥ *William & Judith Hasse — June 5*
- ♥ *Ken & Marilyn Baars — June 6*
- ♥ *Rev. Greg & Stephenie Hovland — June 6*
- ♥ *Timothy & Diana Shebel — June 6*
- ♥ *Robert & Claudia Fairfield — June 7*
- ♥ *Steven & Kathleen Mael — June 9*
- ♥ *Richard & Penny Raimer — June 10*
- ♥ *Roger & Karen Tessororf — June 10*
- ♥ *Nicholas & Amanda Cornelissen — June 11*
- ♥ *Joel & Melissa Leeland — June 11*
- ♥ *Mark & Dorothy Rice — June 12*
- ♥ *John & Silvia Cross — June 13*
- ♥ *Eugene & Carol Pribnow — June 20*
- ♥ *Jon & Theresa Hoppmann — June 21*
- ♥ *Raymond & Bonnie Konkel — June 21*
- ♥ *Jake & Leslie Ciolkosz — June 22*
- ♥ *Gary & Deb Bauman — June 24*
- ♥ *Ronald & Dawn Mueller — June 25*
- ♥ *George & Glenda Johnson — June 27*
- ♥ *Timothy & Sandra Barthel — June 29*

Love one another with genuine affection, and
take delight in *Honoring* one another.

Romans 12:10

Greetings from St. John's Child Development

Do you remember that old song by Alice Cooper, Schools Out for t Summer? Well, it is not a song we sing here at the center or school, but it always comes to mind this time of the year as I watch the 4K class graduate, 8th-grade graduations, and celebrations. In the weeks before all this, we had a wonderful group of students make their confirmation. I believe this was the vision you had for St. John's Ministries years ago, three buildings working together as one to bring God's children to Christ. Birth to 8th grade and beyond!

Thanks to our congregation, community, teachers, support staff, families, and children we have a very good thing going here at St. John's Ministries. God had a plan, and this was it! Take the time to rejoice and thank Him for these blessings. I do every morning when I walk into this building that Jack built! (Jack Tills and friends).

Enjoy your summer!

Serving God's Children
Debbie



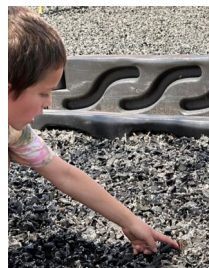
Crusader News

Thank you to all the parents for making this a special week for the teachers & staff at St. John's Lutheran Ministries! The Ministry was spoiled with LaTolteca catered lunch, tons of desserts, flowers, chocolates, getting to know each other, coffee & tea, popcorn, many cards, and breakfast catered by you!

THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU ALL!



Kindergarten learned about butterflies while they watched them go through their life cycle. Super neat!



Baby Shower for Pregnancy Resource Center

St. John's Lutherans For Life chapter hosted a baby shower for the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) in May. We were so happy to see people show up and enjoy the hour we spent together raising funds, donating baby stuff, making picture frames for families, and writing personal messages for those who receive the gifts we give to PRC. Based on what Leisa Zastrow shared with us, we need to continue to donate throughout the year. The volume of visits to the PRC and the

requests for diapers is way up this year. The demand for support is higher than ever for our area. Thank you to those who attended and those who couldn't but sent donations any way. We plan to do this again.



St. John's Ministries Monthly and Special Event Calendar

June—10

June

- Th 01 Every One His Witness Session 2**
10:30 a.m., Church Christian Life Center
Heritage House Monthly Worship
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- Sa 03 Every One His Witness Session 1**
10:30 a.m., Church Christian Life Center
- M 05 VBS—Keeper of the Kingdom**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Church and School
Health and Wellness
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 06 VBS—Keeper of the Kingdom**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Church and School
- We 07 VBS—Keeper of the Kingdom**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Church and School
- Th 08 VBS—Keeper of the Kingdom**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Church and School
- F 09 VBS—Keeper of the Kingdom**
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Church and School
Cornerstone Submission Deadline
12:00 p.m., churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
Submission Guidelines can be found on our website,
stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines
- Su 11 Blood Pressure Screening**
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 12 Altar Guild cleaning the Sanctuary**
8:30 a.m., Church Sanctuary
Tivoli Monthly Worship
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- Tu 13 Executive Committee**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 15 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care
- Sa 24 St. John's Block Party**
2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Ministries
- Mo 26 Board of Finance**
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 27 Board of Elders**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
Prayer Shawls
6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

July (proposed)

- Tu 04 HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**
All ministries offices closed
- Th 06 Heritage House Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- Su 09 Blood Pressure Screening**
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 10 Tivoli Monthly Worship**
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- Tu 11 Executive Committee**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 14 Cornerstone Submission Deadline**
12:00 p.m., churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
Submission Guidelines can be found on our website,
stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines
- Tu 18 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**
6:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 20 Columbia County Healthcare Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Healthcare
- M 24 Board of Finance**
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 25 Board of Elders**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
Prayer Shawls
6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

June Altar Guild

1. Nancy Zuleke
617-3822, mcconochiezuhlke@gmail.com
2. Carol Hamele
617-3855/745-4669, cdhamele@hotmail.com

July Altar Guild

1. Judy Kerr
635-4062, djkerrlakewi@yahoo.com
2. Rita Haase
697-9773, rosebudrita@hotmail.com

**GAMES
FOR ALL
AGES!**

JOIN US FOR FAMILY FUN
AT ST. JOHN'S

BLOCK PARTY

June 24 starting
at 2:00 p.m. and
ending with a
worship service at
5:30 p.m.

**FAST N
FRESH
FOOD
TRUCK**

850 ARMSTRONG ST. PORTAGE, WI 53901



1. Let children see you praying.
2. Before you take a trip or go on an outing, pause to pray together.
3. The next time you're at the table together, hold hands when you pray.
4. The next time a child tells a lie, ask him to pray with you. Pray that you both would always have the courage to tell the truth.
5. The next time you and a child disagree over a major issue, ask her to pray about it and assure her you'll do the same.
6. The next time you listen to the evening news with a child and hear something especially sad, ask him to pray with you about it.
7. When a child faces a challenge in his life, encourage him to pray. You might use the first part of the common table prayer and then add an appropriate ending. For example: "Come, Lord Jesus, be my guest... as I take this test."
8. Remember back when you were a child. What fears did you have? Were you frightened of bullies down the street? How did you feel if you were teased in school? Talk to children about some of their fears and then pray over them.
9. Ask the children in your life to pray for you.
10. If a child stays overnight, kneel down at the bedside and say your evening prayers together.

March Memorials and Offerings

Choir Fund
\$50.00
In memory of
Barbara Wheeler

Altar Guild
\$50.00
In memory of
Barbara Wheeler

Unified Fund	\$54,243.37	School Tuition Relief	\$225.00
Capital Improvements	\$0.00	Organ	\$0.00
Missions	\$125.00	Total	\$54,788.37
Almoners Fund	\$70.00	Contributions	
Orphanages	\$125.00		

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
raron@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

Office Hours:
M—F | 7:00a—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

Tonya Edwards,
Assistant Director
tedwards@stjohnsportage.com

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:

Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman
Roger Baerwolf 617-6088
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102
Bill Hageman 279-0272
David Hall 493-2125
Ron Mueller 369-1845
Pete Smith 697-3807
Gene Thompson 697-4786
Mark Witt 697-0224