

Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET
PORTAGE, WI 53901
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

July 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
9:00 a.m. **Walkie Talkies**
Levee Rd

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

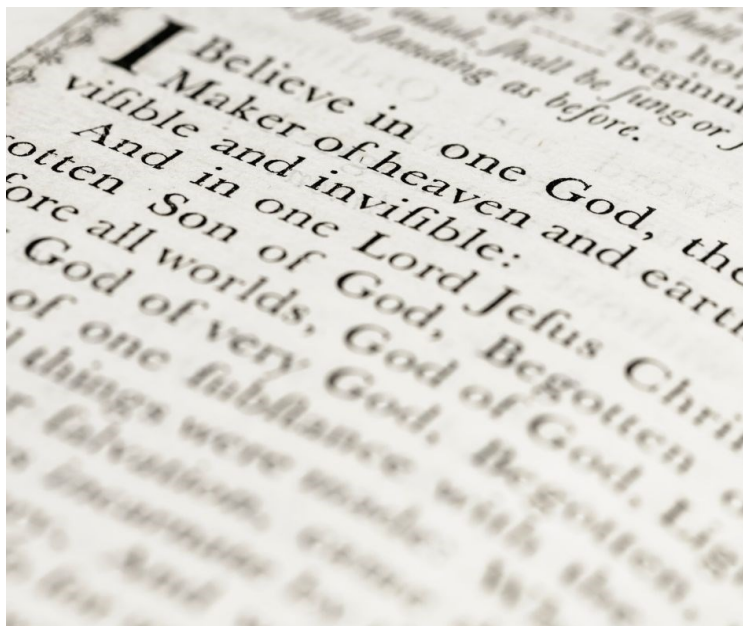
Tuesdays:
6:30 a.m. **Men's Bible Class,** Portage Airport
9:15 a.m. **Tuesday Morning Bible Study,**
Christian Life Center

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

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 opt. 4 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

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 III.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

This article (as I have said) I cannot relate better than to Sanctification, that through the same the Holy Ghost, with His office, is declared and depicted, namely, that He makes holy. Therefore we must take our stand upon the word *Holy Ghost*, because it is so precise and comprehensive that we cannot find another. For there are, besides, many kinds of spirits mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, as, the spirit of man, heavenly spirits, and evil spirits. But the Spirit of God alone is called Holy Ghost, that is, He who has sanctified and still sanctifies us. For as the Father is called Creator, the Son Redeemer, so the Holy Ghost, from His work, must be called Sanctifier, or One that makes holy. But how is such sanctifying done? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion, whereby He wins us, through His birth, death, resurrection, etc., so also the Holy Ghost effects our sanctification by the following parts, namely, by the communion of saints or the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting; that is, He first leads us into His holy congregation, and places us in the bosom of the Church, whereby He preaches to us and brings us to Christ.

For neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe on Him, and obtain Him for our Lord, unless it were

offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Ghost through the preaching of the Gospel. The work is done and accomplished; for Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, etc. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew of it, then it would be in vain and lost. That this treasure, therefore, might not lie buried, but be appropriated and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed, in which He gives the Holy Ghost to bring this treasure home and appropriate it to us. Therefore sanctifying is nothing else than bringing us to Christ to receive this good, to which we could not attain of ourselves.

Learn, then, to understand this article most clearly. If you are asked: What do you mean by the words: *I believe in the Holy Ghost*? you can answer: I believe that the Holy Ghost makes me holy, as His name implies. But whereby does He accomplish this, or what are His method and means to this end? Answer: By the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. For, in the first place, He has a peculiar congregation in the world, which is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God, which He reveals and preaches, [and through which] He illumines and enkindles hearts, that they understand, accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.

For where He does not cause it to be preached and made alive in the heart, so that it is understood, it is lost, as was the case under the Papacy, where faith was entirely put under the bench, and no one recognized Christ as his Lord or the Holy Ghost as his Sanctifier, that is, no one believed that Christ is our Lord in the sense that He has acquired this treasure for us, without our works and merit, and made us acceptable to the Father. What, then, was lacking? This, that the Holy Ghost was not there to reveal it and cause it to be preached; but men and evil spirits were there, who taught us to obtain grace and be saved by our works. Therefore it is not a Christian Church either; for where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Ghost who creates, calls, and gathers the Christian Church, without which no one can come to Christ the Lord. Let this suffice concerning the sum of this article. But because the parts which are here enumerated are not quite clear to the simple, we shall run over them also.

The Creed denominates the holy Christian Church, *communio sanctorum*, a communion of saints; for both expressions, taken together, are identical. But formerly the one [the second] expression was not there, and it has been poorly and unintelligibly translated into German *Gemeinschaft der Heiligen*, a communion of saints. If it is to be rendered plainly, it must be expressed quite differently in the German idiom; for the word *ecclesia* properly means in German *eine Versammlung*, an assembly. But we are accustomed to the word *church*, by which the simple do not understand an assembled multitude, but the consecrated house or building, although the house ought not to be called a church, except only for the reason that the multitude assembles there. For we who assemble there make and choose for ourselves a particular place, and give a name to the house according to the assembly.

Thus the word *Kirche* (*church*) means really nothing else than a common assembly, and is not German by idiom, but Greek (as is also the word *ecclesia*); for in their own language they call it *kyria*, as in Latin it is called *curia*. Therefore in genuine German, in our mother-tongue, it ought to be called a Christian congregation or assembly (*eine christliche Gemeinde oder Sammlung*), or, best of all and most clearly, holy Christendom (*eine heilige Christenheit*).

So also the word *communio*, which is added, ought not to be rendered communion (*Gemeinschaft*), but congregation (*Gemeinde*). And it is nothing else than an interpretation or explanation by which some one meant to explain what the Christian Church is. This our people, who understood neither Latin nor German, have rendered *Gemeinschaft der Heiligen* (communion of saints), although no German language speaks thus, nor understands it thus. But to speak correct German, it ought to be *eine Gemeinde der Heiligen* (a congregation of saints), that is, a congregation made up purely of saints, or, to speak yet more plainly, *eine heilige Gemeinde*, a holy congregation. I say this in order that the words *Gemeinschaft der Heiligen* (communion of saints) may be understood,

because the expression has become so established by custom that it cannot well be eradicated, and it is treated almost as heresy if one should attempt to change a word.

But this is the meaning and substance of this addition: I believe that there is upon earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, even Christ, called together by the Holy Ghost in one faith, one mind, and understanding, with manifold gifts, yet agreeing in love, without sects or schisms. I am also a part and member of the same, a sharer and joint owner of all the goods it possesses, brought to it and incorporated into it by the Holy Ghost by having heard and continuing to hear the Word of God, which is the beginning of entering it. For formerly, before we had attained to this, we were altogether of the devil, knowing nothing of God and of Christ. Thus, until the last day, the Holy Ghost abides with the holy congregation or Christendom, by means of which He fetches us to Christ and which He employs to teach and preach to us the Word, whereby He works and promotes sanctification, causing it [this community] daily to grow and become strong in the faith and its fruits which He produces.

The Holy Spirit Seeks the Lost

Evangelicals are looking for seekers. These are people without Christ, who are looking for someone or something to fill the God-shaped hole in their hearts. Evangelicals believe that when they hear the gospel, they are won over by the preacher and accept Jesus as their Savior. Or perhaps they responded to an altar call and prayed the sinner's prayer. This decision theology maintains that it is something we decide that saves us. Lutherans believe they are mistaken.

Why? Because the Holy Scripture describes people without faith in Christ as dead in their sins, unable to accept the things of the Spirit (Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 2:14). Nowhere in the Bible do we find a passage commanding us to accept Jesus as Savior. In fact, if you review in your mind all the Sunday school lessons about people God used in his plan to save us, you will discover God came looking for them; they didn't seek Him. Faith is not accepting a series of facts as true or choosing to follow Jesus.

We are saved because God seeks and saves the lost. The Holy Spirit used the Gospel, shared by parents, friends and love ones with us, read in the pages of the Bible and preached to us, and when we are baptized. He used it to create faith in our hearts which trusts in Jesus to save us. He calls us by the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in the faith. We can be confident of our salvation because it depends on God and not on our own strength.

Church Word: Hope

In today's English, the word *Hope* means a wish for that something we very much want to happen will come true. There is something about it that makes us doubt we will be so lucky. "Well, I hope so," we'll say.

In the Bible, hope is a bit different. Hope is something you have no doubt will happen, so much so that you can build your life on it. In theological terms, the Christian hope is resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Because it is God himself who promises these blessings, we can count on it and live our lives knowing it will happen. This is how Christians can suffer and die rather than deny their faith in Christ. It is why the burial service calls it "the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of the dead."

Why is the Christian Hope so sure and certain? First of all, because God himself promises it in his Word. Second, because Jesus proved these promises are true by dying and rising again from the dead. So, he can be trusted to keep his promises that where he is, we will be also. For us, hope becomes reality when we die. He comes to bring us to be with him forever. Exactly what happens then is a mystery.

But this is just the beginning of the blessings kept safe in Heaven for us. On the last day, Jesus will return in glory and he will bring us with him. He will raise our bodies from the grave and change us to be like him. We will then be gathered before the throne and our names read from the Book of Life. We will then live with him forever in Paradise, where there is no more sorrow, crying, grief or pain. God will make everything new. He will bring us to the great marriage feast of the Lamb, which will never end. This great hope is what gives us joy even in suffering, since we know it will pass away.

Grace & Growth Grant Update – July 2023

July—4

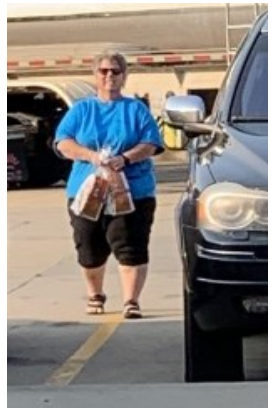
As part of our Grace & Growth grant, we (the ministries staff) keep looking for more ways to connect in and out of work. Just for fun, we got together for a bowling night in Westfield this past May.

We also started a walking challenge that goes from May 15 through August 15. For each week we check in with each other, money will be donated to Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC). We had a few different local charities to choose from and ended up voting for PRC. Each person who checks in will have a dollar earmarked for donation each week she checks in. At the end of summer, we'll add up all the check ins and present the money to PRC.

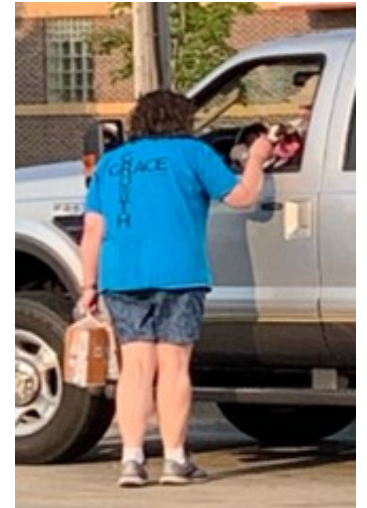
In June, we spent two evenings at Kwik Trip North, handing out free bread to whoever wanted it. This was what we call **Planned Acts of Christian Kindness**. Part of this grant for worker wellness is about doing things together. And there's something really great and team building about doing service/outreach projects with your co-workers.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of all our staff at the child development center, the school, and the church. We appreciate it!

Stephenie Hovland
Deaconess Intern



This Planned Act of Christian Kindness is a reflection of what Jesus freely gave to us all. His words, actions, and the ultimate sacrifice He made on the cross were for our salvation and freedom.



Greetings from St. John's Child Development Center

We had a great first week of Summer Camp!

The summer camp children attended Vacation Bible School—Keepers of the Kingdom. The VBS committee, Parish Life, youth group, and adult volunteers did a wonderful job. Thank you for all your hard work. The kids talked nonstop at the lunch table about what they made and what they learned. I was in the hallway and I heard a 4-year-old ask her mom at pick up time if they could go to church, "I just love that place!"

Lindsey, our Summer Camp teacher, has a small group this year. It is important to the children in our community and the families we serve. After all, what better place to learn about God, share our stories and songs that come from the Bible than right here at St. John's Ministries!

At the end of May, some 2023 Portage High school graduates walked the halls at our school and center. It was a blessing to see the St. John's school and center alumni walk the halls. The hard part for me was trying to find the 3- or 4-year-old in that graduate's face. It was a blessing to hear where they were going and what they would be doing. Funny, none of them wanted to go into Early or Elementary Education. Haven't they heard we are hiring? Oh, the road they will travel. God, please look over our graduates and keep them all safe.

The center has a few openings for children. Please call the center at (608) 742-9000 x2. We are looking for two full-time early childhood lead teachers and a part-time cook. For the summer we have hired a student, Carter, to work in the Summer Camp and in the kitchen. For now, I have been the cook and some days it's not so pretty or tasty, so we need this position filled fast!

Serving God's Children
Debbie

Vacation Bible School: Keepers of the Kingdom

Thank you to our VBS leaders, Melissa Kiefer and Emily Eicher, for organizing VBS 2023. Thank you to all our adult and youth volunteers. We could not have had a successful event without you.



2023 VBS is in the books!

This year's theme was "Keepers of the Kingdom." VBS was centered around teaching kids about their role as keepers of God's kingdom.

Each day started with singing, praying, a devotion, Bible story, and lesson. Then we moved on to crafts and games. We ended with a recap of the lesson, singing, and prayer.



Vacation Bible School: Keepers of the Kingdom
Day 1
Of the two, only one is true!

The Bible tells us how God and Satan are in a cosmic battle that's between 2 kingdoms. God's kingdom is based on *truth*. The enemy, Satan, his kingdom is based on *lies*.



Vacation Bible School: Keepers of the Kingdom
Day 2
Decide your side!

As you repent of your sins and believe Jesus died and rose from the dead, then you are forever with Him. That means you get to be a part of his forever kingdom and follow Him.



Vacation Bible School: Keepers of the Kingdom
Day 3

Do what's right in God's sight!

God knows it's hard for us to obey all of His commands; that's why He's given us the Holy Spirit and the armor of God. Putting on the armor of God is all about loving God and showing our love for God because of the armor He has given us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02	Melissa Chvojicek Bradley Wilson	12	Amy Brown Carol Hamele Lacey Koehler Dennis Raimer	23	Barbara Gerstenkorn Andrew Jacobson Lorraine Stevens
03	Debra Baker Michele Lendobeja Merrienne Mlsna Dawson Zimmerman	13	Deanna Houck Joyce Kleist	24	Dawn Wilcox Anthony Yahnke
04	Tammy Conley Glenda Johnson Lucinda Stanford	15	Robert Fairfield Kathy Gerstenkorn Jeffrey Lauth	25	Adrienne Snyder
06	Justin Mommens Walter Smith	16	Catherine Kampen Bruin Kassner Larry Schumann Jeanette Witt	26	Julie Gussel Johni Stout
07	Beckie Johnson Maya Schroeder	17	Jack Eicher Virginia Laing Dean Simonson	27	Josephine Daniels Nathaniel Fredrick Kenzie Lehman Kara Rietmann
08	Howard Dehn Kayla Hornat Dorothy Neitzel Sherry Oeftger	18	Jasper Burrow Monica Neumann Kennedy Popp	28	Scott Jones
09	Jason Beckius Matthew Rohrbeck Boden Schmidt	19	Raymond Moore Phillip Rygiewicz	29	Gary Witt
10	Rubie Kohn Deidre Lang	20	Jaxon Konkel	30	Nola Tennyson Chad Wilcox
		21	Eva Chvojicek Karen Morgan	31	Brent Smith Samuel Windus

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- ♥ Donald & Jeanette Witt — July 1
- ♥ Henry & Elizabeth Mootz — July 7
- ♥ Virgil & Gladys Chance — July 8
- ♥ Roy & Gretchen Halvorsen — July 9
- ♥ Keith & Julie Horan — July 10
- ♥ Len & Diane Strozinski — July 10
- ♥ Andy & Rebecca Arkin — July 11
- ♥ Brian & Stacie Wheeler — July 13
- ♥ Charles & Marlene Dehmlow — July 15
- ♥ Phillip & Joyce Kleist — July 16
- ♥ Kyle & Kathleen Bernander — July 17
- ♥ Donald & Carol Kohrt — July 18
- ♥ Alex & Carol Swanson — July 27
- ♥ Timothy & Danielle Burrow — July 28
- ♥ Michael & Kelly Behnke — July 29
- ♥ Olen & Deidre Lang — July 30
- ♥ David and Eleanor Mendel — July 31

Love one another with genuine affection, and
take delight in *Honoring* one another.
Romans 12:10

2023 St. John's 8th Grade Graduates

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
Romans 12:21



"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."
1 John 3:1a



Francesca

Future Dispatcher

Her favorite memory at St. John's was playing Red Rover when Gabe fell on his backend.



Arianna

Future Volleyball Coach

Her favorite memory at St. John's was playing Volleyball with Coach Ciolkosz.



Alexis

Future Nurse

Her favorite memory at St. John's was playtime in Kindergarten.



Isaac

Future Electrician, Pro Motocross Racer, & Pro Snowboarder

His favorite memory at St. John's was in Kindergarten. He got a pea stuck up his nose.



Katze

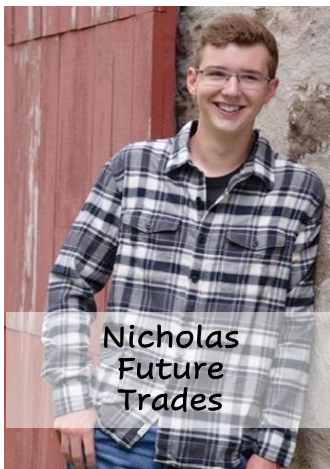
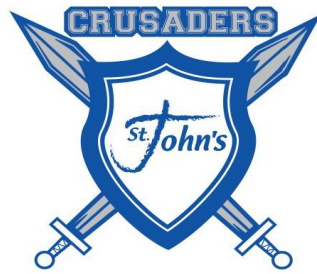
Future Interior Designer/Artist

Her favorite memory at St. John's was in Miss Kosmala's class. She had to get the sticky dart on the tiny dot from a great distance to earn \$100 of class money. She was the only one to win.

Dear Graduates, we continue to pray God's blessings of courage, strength, patience, success, and love for you. Remember you are a child of God always. You are prepared for this next chapter. Look to Him in times of confusion, fear, anger and worry. He will be there to guide you. In Christ's love for you, the St. John's Lutheran Ministries Staff

2023 High School Graduates

2019 St. John's Alumni



St. John's Ministries Monthly and Special Event Calendar

July—10

July

- 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
- 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



The floors at the school will be being stripped and waxed starting July 10.

The upper level is closed
July 10-16

The lower level is closed
July 17-23

August (proposed)

- Th 03 Heritage House Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- M 07 Health and Wellness**
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 08 Executive Committee**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 11 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 13 Blood Pressure Screening**
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 14 Tivoli Monthly Worship**
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- W 16 All ministries offices closed**
- Th 17 School Office Closed**
Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care
- M 21 Back to School Open House**
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m., School
- Tu 22 Board of Elders**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
Prayer Shawls
6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room
- W 23 First Day of School**
School Chapel,
10:00 a.m., Church Sanctuary
- M 28 Board of Finance**
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- W 23 School Chapel,**
10:00 a.m., Church Sanctuary

July Altar Guild

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

August Altar Guild

1. Nancy Malloy
697-3314, nancymalloy@yahoo.com
2. Phyllis Zimmerman
745-4290, simm3366@gmail.com
3. Irma Brockley
429-3917, ibrockley043@gmail.com

**Vacation Bible School:
Keepers of the Kingdom**
Day 4
Learn to discern!

It's super important to read and to study God's Word and keep asking Him to help you do right. Pray for God to help you learn to discern and stand strong!



**Vacation Bible School:
Keepers of the Kingdom**
Day 5
Train your brain!

Every day, you've got to be hearing, memorizing, and using the Bible. You've got to train your brain with the Bible. Commit to God that you're going to read or have somebody read to you at least a little bit from the Bible every day. Pray and ask God to help you love Him and his Word more each day. Go to church and learn more about God and the Bible. Whatever you do, do something!

April Memorials and Offerings

<p>Choir Fund \$20.00 In memory of <i>Roger Himler</i></p>	<p>Undesignated \$375.00 In memory of <i>Margery Schultz</i> In memory of <i>Roger Himler</i></p>	Unified Fund	\$56,571.88	School Tuition Relief	\$300.00
		Capital Improvements	\$1,990.00	Organ	\$0.00
		Missions	\$763.00	Total	\$59,834.88
		Almoners Fund	\$60.00	Contributions	
		Orphanages	\$150.00		

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
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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

Summer Hours:
June–July
Tu—Th | 8:00a –12:00p

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



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