

July 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 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 worshiping 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. — *Abbreviated service*
- 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
11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR
- Monday (24)**
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, Church APR
- Wednesday (26)**
9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at Tamarack
12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- Thursday (27)**
8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study
- Friday (28)**
Church office closed
- Sunday (29)**
9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
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 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

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 *Emma Jane Curtis*

Baptism of *James Louis Pietrantonio III*

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Cathy Dehn,

Tom Waddell, Babette Schumann

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

Shirley Marotz (friend of *Kathleen Thalacker*)

Janeen Driscoll (sister-in-law of *Don and Jan Weideman*)

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?

Check out the Kids in the Divine Service booklets located by the busy bags.

Volunteers Needed

Help us host a booth at the Columbia County Fair. You can sign up for 2-hour time slots at the Welcome Center. This opportunity will allow us to share Jesus with our community and promote our school, child development center, and congregation. The Columbia County Fair is Wednesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 30, from 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Assistance is needed to help tear down the fair booth on Sunday, July 30 at 4:00 p.m. Many hands make light work!

Help is needed to move furniture back into the classrooms after summer maintenance. Are you available on Saturday, July 29th at 9:00 a.m.? If you can assist, contact Jim Krupski at 608-742-9000 option 3 or email

jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com

Volunteers Needed – Synod Convention

The LCMS Convention will be held July 29-August 3 at the Wisconsin Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee. Many volunteers are needed to serve in the days leading up to and throughout the convention in various areas – Hospitality, Information, Registration and more.

Visit swd.lcms.org/serve or scan the QR code below to review the available slots. Thank you for considering serving at the Convention!



Community Events

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Westfield presents its 28th annual Fish Boil on Friday, August 4. Serving will be from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the church located at 210 S. Charles St. The cost is \$10 per person. Tickets are available by calling 608-296-2088 and will also be available at the door.

The menu includes fish, potatoes, onions, cole slaw, beans, bread, beverage and dessert.

Proceeds from the dinner go to the Orphan Grain Train, Wisconsin Division, to help people in need.

Portage/Columbia County Touched Twice Clinics provides (upon availability): Medical care, in the form of: diabetes screenings, blood pressure readings, health education, and referrals; Chiropractic care through adjustments and manipulations; Dental care through screenings and cleanings; Spa services: haircuts, and mini-massages; Financial counseling; Family portraits. Also, St. Vincent De Paul, the Portage Food Pantry, Columbia County Health & Human Resources and more will be present to promote the services they offer. We would also like to provide all participants and volunteers a free hot lunch.

Date: August 12, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Portage Fair Grounds/Veterans Field

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER



Touchedtwiceportage@gmail.com



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

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!



Get Involved

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. To help women grow spiritually through Bible studies, retreats, seminars, workshops, and prayer services.

We reach out with service projects suggested by the District LWML, such as promoting Lutheran Work Relief and collecting items for crisis pregnancy centers.

LWML meets in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November on the 3rd Tuesday in the Christian Life Center at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Theresa Smith - tsmith52@hotmail.com or 608-742-2614

Altar Guild serves under the Board of Elders. It is their responsibility to care for the altar and prepare it for services. They keep the chancel area prepared for services by keeping the area dusted and wiped down, setting up for communion per the guideline sheet.

The Altar Guild also prepares for weekends when there are baptisms or wedding and any funerals. The high festivals (especially Lent through Easter & Advent through Epiphany) have more preparation. This group also cares for the banners and other decorations for the church.

We meet in the months of September, November, January, March and May on the 2nd Monday in the Christian Life Center. The September and May meetings are at 7:30 p.m. and the November, January, and March meetings are at 1:30 p.m.

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.

Available positions at St. John's Lutheran School:

- ✚ Cook

For a complete job description and employment application, please email **Jim Krupski, jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com** or call 608-742-9000 x109.

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



Join St. John's!

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.

Life Thoughts

July 23 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 11A) – The people of God dare not confuse weeds with wheat. His Word clearly distinguishes His gifts from counterfeits. For our neighbor's sake and our own, we must recognize the enemy's doings (Matthew 13:27-28). Abortion, embryocide, and euthanasia are the devil's deceptions. Jesus Christ alone decides life and death for us (Isaiah 44:6), and His timing never withholds any bounties or glories (Romans 8:18).

Stewardship Thoughts

Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel — if we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, 1 Sam. 6:19—7:17 & Acts 19:1—22	Tuesday, 1 Sam. 9:1—27 & Acts 21:37—22:16	Friday, 1 Sam. 13:1—18 & Acts 23:12—35
Monday, 1 Sam. 8:1—22 & Acts 21:15—36	Wednesday, 1 Sam. 10:1—27 & Acts 22:17—29	Saturday, 1 Sam. 14:47—15:9 & Acts 24:1—23
	Thursday, 1 Sam. 12:1—25 & Acts 22:30—23:11	

Weekly Offerings

July 9 In-person Attendance: 272
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$11,221.00
Restricted Contributions Received: \$557.00
TOTAL: \$11,778.00
Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$24,416.05
YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$25,770.00
(week 2)

July 16 In-person Attendance: 295
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$9,443.06
Restricted Contributions Received: \$460.00
TOTAL: \$9,903.06
Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$33,859.11
YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$38,655.00
(week 3)

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.

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.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 1:1–2

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.
- ✦ **Thirsty Souls meets Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.**

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

July 23:	Don & Carol Kohrt, and Linda Vista
July 30:	Tracy Friese and Marilyn Baars
August 06:	Open
August 16:	Open

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
Summer Office Hours:
Tu—Th 8:00a–12:00p
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.