

July 30, 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?

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 (30)

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

Tuesday (01)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Board for Christian Education, Church CLC

Wednesday (02)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at Tamarack
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Thursday (03)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 11:00 a.m. Heritage House Monthly Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC

Friday (04)

Church office closed

Sunday (06)

- 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):
Pastor Robert Benson for 40-year Anniversary of Ordination

Medical

Kimberly Ingram, Jane Kaiser, Sonia Zook,
Pastor Mark Meier

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Cathy Dehn,
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?

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

Attention Bakers!

Do you like baking desserts and goodies?

Evangelism is sponsoring a free cookout at the homeless shelter and would also like to provide baked goods. A sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Please bring desserts to the church kitchen in the Christian Life Center on August 16 and 17.

Let's Celebrate

Join us in celebrating Pastor Robert Benson for 40 years of service! Pastor Benson was a full-time LCMS pastor for many years and then a fill-in pastor for churches throughout Wisconsin, including St. John's. A card will be at the Welcome Center on August 5 and 6 if you would like to extend your thanks and well wishes to Pastor Benson.

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, coleslaw, 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



Save the Date!

2023 Pregnancy Resource Center Golf Scramble
Saturday, September 23
Portage Country Club

To register, call Peter Bartaczewicz at 608-617-6997.

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.

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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 |

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.

Save the Date for New Member and Refresher Class

Basic Bible Teachings – An Introduction to the Lutheran Faith

New Member and Refresher class for Saint John's
Six Monday evenings: 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27
6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Led by Pastor Hovland

Please register before September 8.

To register online, please use the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/nvLwHEhuKK> or the QR code below. To register by phone, call (608) 742-9000 and press 4.



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 position 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.

Volunteers Needed

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

Daily Lectionary

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

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| Sunday, 1 Sam. 15:10–35 & Acts 24:24–25:12 | Tuesday, 1 Sam. 17:1–19 & Acts 26:1–23 | Friday, 1 Sam. 18:10–30 & Acts 27:27–44 |
| Monday, 1 Sam. 16:1–23 & Acts 25:13–27 | Wednesday, 1 Sam. 17:20–47 & Acts 26:24–27:8 | Saturday, 1 Sam. 19:1–24 & Acts 28:1–15 |
| | Thursday, 1 Sam. 17:48–18:9 & Acts 27:9–26 | |

Life Thoughts

July 30 – Pentecost IX (Proper 12A) – Our Lord loves to take the tiniest as His treasured possession (Deuteronomy 7:7-8). Their insufficiencies only accentuate how great is His compassion (Psalm 125:2). “Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.” Does this include gestating embryos and unborn babies? Does it include bodies limited by age or ailment? Yes, Jesus loves them just as much as He loves me.

Stewardship Thoughts

Matthew 13:45–46 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Indeed, Jesus redeemed us, purchased us back from sin and death, with all that He had. We belong to Him now. Our generosity ought to imitate the out-sized generosity of Jesus.

Weekly Offerings

July 23 In-person Attendance: 206
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$12,690.38
Restricted Contributions Received: \$798.00
TOTAL: \$13,488.38
Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$46,549.49
YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$51,540.00
(week 4)

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 4:18

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

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| 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.