

August 13, 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. — *Abbreviated service*

**Livestreaming** of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at [stjohnsportage.com/live](http://stjohnsportage.com/live).

## Weekly Events

### Sunday (13)

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

### Monday (14)

- 9:00 a.m. Praise Band Music Planning, Church APR
- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Parish Life, Church CLC

### Tuesday (15)

- 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 Stewardship, Church CLC

### Wednesday (16)

- All Ministries Offices Closed**
- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at Tamarack
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

### Thursday (17)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 11:00 a.m. Columbia County Healthcare monthly worship
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC

### Friday (18)

Church office closed

### Sunday (20)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening, Church Nursery
- 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 be considerate of our disabled worshippers' 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

*Don Kohrt, Kimberly Ingram, Jane Kaiser, Sandy Hutler*  
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:

Family of Eric Pollex (brother of *Danielle Rabl*)

### **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.**

## Ministries Offices Closed

**All St. John's Lutheran Ministries offices will be closed on Wednesday, August 16** for our annual staff meeting.

## Blood Pressure Checks

**St. John's Health & Wellness Ministry will be offering blood pressure checks at church this Sunday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m.**

We follow the Health and Human Services guidelines for Columbia County, which recommends that everyone wear a mask. We will sanitize surfaces between clients and provide masks.

Stop by our table in the coat area and sign up!

## 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 17.**

## Save the Date for New Member and Refresher Class

### **New Member and Refresher Class**

All who want to become members of St. John's or anyone seeking to refresh their Lutheran theology, join Pastor Hovland on Mondays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. starting in September.

These six Monday evenings will be spent asking and answering questions you may have about basic Lutheran teachings such as:

- Why do we talk about Law and Gospel?
- Are Baptism and Communion really that important? What does it mean to be part of a church vs. being an individual with faith?

To learn more about the exact dates and to be sure we have materials ready for you, register by September 8:

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

New Member / Refresher  
Membership Class - Fall 2023



## 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](http://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!



## Adult Choir

God has given all of us talents to use in the spreading of the Gospel message. **The Adult Choir invites you to use your musical talents to help us sing the good news, Jesus Christ is our Savior.** We practice on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church balcony starting September 6. We sing two times a month at alternate services. If you don't read music, we can help. We work around various schedules. Come and join this wonderful choir family.



## Volunteers Needed

Our Child Development Center is gearing up for a playground clean up from August 14 to the 18. The center will be closed. If you have time, we are looking for a few odd jobs to be done.

- Pressure wash the playground and surfaces.
- Put sand in our sandbox.
- Trike repairs- pedals.
- Rake rubber mulch to cover tree stumps and other uneven ground.
- Toss playhouse in the dumpster.
- Window cleaning - outside only.
- Remove bushes from Emmett Street.
- Look at fence for broken unsafe areas and add new locks.

If interested please call me or email me. I need help making this area a safe and fun place for children.

Debbie Drew, (608)742-9000 x 2, [ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com)

## Save the Date!

**All youth are invited to join us for fun and fellowship.**

### Sunday School

For ages 3-3rd grade meets Sundays from 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m. in St. John's School Cafeteria **starting September 10.** Lessons are based on the weekly readings. There will be games, Bible lessons, and snacks.

### Jr. Youth Group

For grades 4-7 meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. in St. John's School Gym **starting September 6.** The focus of Jr. Youth Group is Luther's Small Catechism to help prepare for confirmation. There will be pizza and games to help us learn God's Word.

### Senior Youth Group

For grades 8-12 meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in St. John's School Gym **starting September 6.** The focus of Senior Youth Group is being equipped with God's armor.

**Help proclaim God's might to another generation** by volunteering to teach Sunday School or help with Youth Group.

For more information contact:

Sunday School, Emily Eicher 608-697-5528, or  
Melissa Kiefer 608-369-2672

Youth Group, Amanda Kohn [youth@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:youth@stjohnsportage.com)

## GriefShare

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. Through GriefShare, you will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a loved one. Each session begins with a video followed by a small group discussion. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. **GriefShare will be held in the Christian Life Center at St. John's at 4:30 p.m. for 14 weeks beginning Monday, September 11.** A Surviving the Holidays event will be presented on one of the Monday evening sessions. A \$20 free-will donation to cover the cost of participant materials is appreciated.

St. John's will also host an additional Surviving the Holidays event on Thursday, November 16 at 4:30 in the Christian Life Center. A \$10 free-will donation to cover the cost of participant materials is appreciated.

More information and online registration can be found at <http://www.stjohnsportage.com/griefshare> or contact the church office.

## Daily Lectionary

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

<b>Sunday,</b> 1 Sam. 31:1-13 & 1 Cor. 7:1-24	<b>Tuesday,</b> 2 Sam. 5:1-25 & 1 Cor. 8:1-13	<b>Friday,</b> 2 Sam. 7:18-29 & 1 Cor. 10:23-11:16
<b>Monday,</b> 2 Sam. 1:1-27 & 1 Cor. 7:25-40	<b>Wednesday,</b> 2 Sam. 6:1-19 & 1 Cor. 9:1-23	<b>Saturday,</b> 2 Sam. 11:1-27 & 1 Cor. 11:17-34
	<b>Thursday,</b> 2 Sam. 7:1-17 & 1 Cor. 9:24-10:22	

## Life Thoughts

**August 13 – Pentecost XI (Proper 14A)** – Contrary to the logic of abortion and assisted suicide, human worth doesn't come from age, appearance, or ability. God's grace in creating, redeeming, and calling makes every life precious. No one else's labor or lack thereof can improve or impair it. We declare and demonstrate a righteousness based on this faith and not based instead on works of the law (Romans 10:5-6).

## Stewardship Thoughts

**Matthew 14:30** – “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’” The world really is a scary place, with natural disasters, disease, terrorism and a hundred other things. But where do we place our hope, our trust, our vision? Where do we look for aid and comfort? When Peter's eyes were on the Lord, he had confidence. When he turned to look at his problems and took his eyes off the Lord, he fell apart. Sometimes God's call to support the work of His church with our offerings makes us nervous. But put your eyes back on your Lord, trust Him, follow His Word and all really will be well.

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32

## Weekly Offerings

**August 6** In-person Attendance: 243  
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$14,289.00  
Restricted Contributions Received: \$875.00  
TOTAL: \$15,164.00  
**Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00**  
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$70,890.19  
**YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$77,310.00**  
(week 6)

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

August 13:	Open
August 20:	Sherry Aberle

## 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).