



Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET
PORTAGE, WI 53901
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 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,**
Church Christian Life Center
10:30 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**

Wednesdays:
10:00 a.m. **Chapel, Church Sanctuary**

Weekly Events

Sundays:
9:15 a.m. **Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary**

Mondays:
4:30 p.m. **GriefShare, Church CLC**
9:00 a.m. ***Strong Bodies, Church Narthex**

Wednesdays:
10:00 a.m. **Chapel, Church Sanctuary**
12:00 p.m. **Weekly Announcements Deadline**
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
9:00 a.m. **Walkie Talkies, Levee Rd**
5:00 p.m. **Handbell Choir, Church Balcony**
6:30 p.m. **Adult Choir, Church Balcony**

Thursdays:
9:00 a.m. **Strong Bodies, Church Narthex**

Fridays:
Church Office Closed

Weekly Christian Education and Bible Studies

Sundays:
9:15 a.m. **Christian Ed Hour, Church Christian Life Center**
9:15 a.m. ***Sunday School, School Cafeteria**
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,**
Church Christian Life Center

Wednesdays:
4:30 p.m. **Jr. Youth Group, School Gym**
6:30 p.m. **Sr. Youth Group, School Gym**
6:30 p.m. ***Confirmation Class,**
Church Christian Life Center and All Purpose Room

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

***Sunday School starts September 10.**

***Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting is on September 13.**
Confirmation classes starts on September 20.

***GriefShare starts September 11.**
***Strong Bodies starts September 25.**

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.

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.



OF PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (part 1)

We have now heard what we must do and believe, in which things the best and happiest life consists. Now follows the third part, how we ought to pray. For since we are so situated that no man can perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, even though he have begun to believe, and since the devil with all his power, together with the world and our own flesh, resists our endeavors, nothing is so necessary as that we should continually resort to the ear of God, call upon Him, and pray to Him, that He would give, preserve, and increase in us faith and the fulfilment of the Ten Commandments, and that He would remove everything that is in our way and opposes us therein. But that we might know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ has Himself taught us both the mode and the words, as we shall see.

But before we explain the Lord's Prayer part by part, it is most necessary first to exhort and incite people to prayer, as Christ and the apostles also have done. And the first matter is to know that it is our duty to pray because of God's commandment. For thus we heard in the Second Commandment: *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain*, that we are there required to praise that holy name, and call upon it in every need, or to pray. For to call upon the name of God is nothing else than to pray. Prayer is

therefore as strictly and earnestly commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, etc. Let no one think that it is all the same whether he pray or not, as vulgar people do, who grope in such delusion and ask, Why should I pray? Who knows whether God heeds or will hear my prayer? If I do not pray, some one else will. And thus they fall into the habit of never praying, and frame a pretext, as though we taught that there is no duty or need of prayer, because we reject false and hypocritical prayers.

But this is true indeed that such prayers as have been offered hitherto when men were babbling and bawling in the churches were no prayers. For such external matters, when they are properly observed, may be a good exercise for young children, scholars, and simple persons, and may be called singing or reading, but not really praying. But praying, as the Second Commandment teaches, is to call upon God in every need. This He requires of us, and has not left it to our choice. But it is our duty and obligation to pray if we would be Christians, as much as it is our duty and obligation to obey our parents and the government; for by calling upon it and praying the name of God is honored and profitably employed. This you must note above all things, that thereby you may silence and repel such thoughts as would keep and deter us from prayer. For just as it would be idle for a son to say to his father, "Of what advantage is my obedience? I will go and do what I can; it is all the same;" but there stands the commandment, Thou shalt and must do it, so also here it is not left to my will to do it or leave it undone, but prayer shall and must be offered at the risk of God's wrath and displeasure.

This is therefore to be understood and noted before everything else, in order that thereby we may silence and repel the thoughts which would keep and deter us from praying, as though it were not of much consequence if we do not pray, or as though it were commanded those who are holier and in better favor with God than we; as, indeed, the human heart is by nature so despondent that it always flees from God and imagines that He does not wish or desire our prayer, because we are sinners and have merited nothing but wrath. Against such thoughts (I say) we should regard this commandment and turn to God, that we may not by such disobedience excite His anger still more. For by this commandment He gives us plainly to understand that He will not cast us from Him nor chase us away, although we are sinners, but rather draw us to Himself, so that we might humble ourselves before Him, bewail this misery and plight of ours, and pray for grace and help. Therefore we read in the Scriptures that He is angry also with those who were smitten for their sin, because they did not return to Him and by their prayers assuage His wrath and seek His grace.

Now, from the fact that it is so solemnly commanded to pray, you are to conclude and think, that no one should by any means despise his prayer, but rather set great store by it, and always seek an illustration from the other commandments. A child should by no means despise his obedience to father and mother, but should always think:

This work is a work of obedience, and what I do I do with no other intention than that I may walk in the obedience and commandment of God, on which I can settle and stand firm, and esteem it a great thing, not on account of my worthiness, but on account of the commandment. So here also, what and for what we pray we should regard as demanded by God and done in obedience to Him, and should reflect thus: On my account it would amount to nothing; but it shall avail, for the reason that God has commanded it. Therefore everybody, no matter what he has to say in prayer, should always come before God in obedience to this commandment.

We pray, therefore, and exhort every one most diligently to take this to heart and by no means to despise our prayer. For hitherto it has been taught thus in the devil's name that no one regarded these things, and men supposed it to be sufficient to have done the work, whether God would hear it or not. But that is staking prayer on a risk, and murmuring it at a venture; and therefore it is a lost prayer. For we allow such thoughts as these to lead us astray and deter us: I am not holy or worthy enough; if I were as godly and holy as St. Peter or St. Paul, then I would pray. But put such thoughts far away, for just the same commandment which applied to St. Paul applies also to me; and the Second Commandment is given as much on my account as on his account, so that he can boast of no better or holier commandment.

Therefore you should say: My prayer is as precious, holy, and pleasing to God as that of St. Paul or of the most holy saints. This is the reason: For I will gladly grant that he is holier in his person, but not on account of the commandment; since God does not regard prayer on account of the person, but on account of His word and obedience thereto. For on the commandment on which all the saints rest their prayer I, too, rest mine. Moreover, I pray for the same thing for which they all pray and ever have prayed; besides, I have just as great a need of it as those great saints, yea, even a greater one than they.

Let this be the first and most important point, that all our prayers must be based and rest upon obedience to God, irrespective of our person, whether we be sinners or saints, worthy or unworthy. And we must know that God will not have it treated as a jest, but be angry, and punish all who do not pray, as surely as He punishes all other disobedience; next, that He will not suffer our prayers to be in vain or lost. For if He did not intend to answer your prayer, He would not bid you pray and add such a severe commandment to it.

2023-2024 Confirmation

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6, ESV)

Confirmation — the public affirmation of baptism and faith in Christ — is a time-honored tradition in which the child baptized as an infant is given the opportunity to confess for himself or herself the faith that he or she was unable to confess as an infant. Faith is not created at confirmation, but it is rather confessed for all to hear so that the church can join and rejoice in this public confession.

So everyone who confesses me before men, I also will confess before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32–33, NKJV)

Confirmation takes place after a period of instruction that lasts several years — beginning at baptism. The parent serves as the primary teacher of the faith. St. John's partners with parents in this instruction, providing public worship services every week, cradle roll materials, Sunday school, a child development center, a Lutheran day school, and youth group.

Pastor-led instruction on Luther's Small Catechism is provided by the congregation to assist parents in the faith development of their children. For our youth that are not part of St. John's Lutheran School, this instruction typically begins in sixth grade and continues for two years. Students, for a variety of reasons, can start at an older age but still are

expected to go through the two-year program. For our St. John's school students, this instruction takes place in seventh grade as part of the school curriculum.

Some of the topics that are covered in the two-year Wednesday evening program and the one-year school curriculum are:

- How to read the Bible
- Law and Gospel
- Ten Commandments
- Apostles Creed
- Lord's Prayer
- Sacraments of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion

Confirmation classes for the two-year Wednesday evening program begin in September. **There is a required parent/student meeting on September 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Christian Life Center. Classes will begin the following Wednesday.

The rite of confirmation at St. John's is typically the first Sunday in May at the late service. This year it is scheduled for May 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6–7, ESV)



Sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education

LeadaChild is an independent Lutheran Mission Agency, dedicated to *sharing the Good News of Jesus' love to children through Christian education in third world countries.*

We gather gifts and donations from supporters and use the funds to provide scholarships, school registration, and supplies for children so that they can attend Lutheran schools and after school programs. We also provide professional development for leaders and teachers at our sites, with an emphasis on effective ways to share the Gospel and teach Biblical truths to children.

Whether our students experience modern classrooms with computers and desks, or are surrounded by woven grass walls, they are hearing about a Heavenly Father who loves them, A Son who has redeemed them from sin, death, and the devil, and a Spirit who fills their hearts with hope and salvation.

From The Field



The teachers and leadership in Sierra Leone are making great progress in their efforts to create a model Lutheran school that provides a quality education in a Gospel-filled environment.

My August trip focused on teacher workshops and modeling an actual classroom room experience so that we can continue to fill up their "educational tool box" with ideas and practices to promote great student learning.

We thank our friends at Memorial Lutheran School in Houston for the generous chapel offering they donated, providing desks, chairs, and new blackboards for each of the classrooms. We were also able to purchase some reading books for each grade - something that they have never had.

The next big project in Bo is the construction of a building that will house classrooms for grades 7-12, a multi-purpose room for worship and assemblies, a kitchen, and bathrooms.

Keep all the teachers and leaders in your prayers as they work to share the love of Jesus with the children of Sierra Leone through the gift of a Christian education.

Dr. Phil

Participate. Pray. Give.

<https://www.leadachild.org>

get INVOLVED

Pray for the children and international Lutheran schools

Host a LeadaChild Sunday at your church

Sign up your school / Sunday school for our Kids Helping Kids program

Sign up for our monthly e-news or phone app

Give generously



979-702-0925

Headquarters Address
13145 South Blackbob Road
Olathe, KS. 66062

Dr. Philip Frusti
executivedirector@leadachild.org

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



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.

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.

Church Word: Grace

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

PSALM 145:8



At the end of many worship services, the pastor will announce God's blessing to his people. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:23-26) This is nothing new. Through Moses, God commanded priests to announce his grace to his people in this way. For 3,500 years, priests and pastors have done so. God blesses and watches over his people. God smiles at his people and favors them. He looks at them and everything is right in the world.

The key word in this blessing is the word, "Grace" (Hebrew *chanan* = to look at someone favorably, Greek *charis* = to view someone favorably, a gift given without strings attached) When describing God in the Old Testament, his prophets often announce: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness" (For example, Psalm 145:8, my translation) St. Paul opens

almost all his letters with "Grace to you and peace..." Almost all the time, Grace travels with the same words: "mercy," "peace," "love" among them.

God's grace is not a thing that is given out when you do something. It is God's attitude toward us. He loved us even before he made the world. (Ephesians 1:4-5) When he thinks about us, he is inclined to be kind to us. It is not because we deserve his kindness. In our sin, we have turned our back on him, broken all his laws, ruined his creation and deserve nothing but death and hell. Yet the good news is that, for the sake of Christ's death on the cross, he looks on us ready to give his good gifts and his Spirit. It is by this grace alone that we are saved.

But there is more to grace than that he smiles on us. The Greeks used the word *charis* for gifts given just because he loves us. Among these gifts are the Means of Grace, the gifts of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and God's Word, which bring with them in turn the gifts of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation — and the faith to receive them and to trust God to keep his promises.

Grace is forever. It is how we can look forward to the day we see the smile on God's face as he says, "Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)

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Call by the Gospel

God's grace knows no limit. He loves us so much that all three persons work for our salvation. The Father chose us to be his before the world was made. He sent the Son to die for us. The Son became a flesh-and-blood man, lived a perfect life for us, suffered and died to pay the price for our sins and rose from the dead so that we might rise to live forever.

The Holy Spirit makes us holy — sanctifies us. In theology, we use the word *sanctification* in two ways. The first is everything the Spirit does from placing faith in our hearts to maintaining it to the day of our death. The second way we use it is for everything the Spirit does after he saves us. Martin Luther describes the first definition in this way: "The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one, true Faith..." (Small Catechism)

The Holy Spirit calls us through the preaching of God's Word. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14) He inspired Moses, David, the prophets, evangelists, apostles and the other human authors of the Scriptures to record his words. In the Word of God, we find the law, which condemns us all as sinners, worthy of eternal death, and the gospel, which reveals that God is gracious to us for the sake of Jesus' death on the cross and will forgive all those who believe this. This gospel is preached to us by those God sends to do so, read in the Bible and when put together with water in Baptism. In this way, the Holy Spirit calls us to faith in Jesus. (Romans 10:14-17, Titus 3:5-7)

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01	Brian Paske	13	Gary Bauman	22	Christina Paske
02	Ronald Henke Susan Lorenz		Daphne Beckius Douglas LaVigne Margie Radmann		Mary Witt
04	Callie Ciolkosz Judith Haase Jane Kaiser Matthew Schlinkert	14	Cathy Dehn Jacob May	23	Dustin Drew Garrett Hinrichsen Brett Johnson Katelyn Poppy Joshua Powers Kathleen Thalacker
05	Darlene Krueger Debra Thompson	15	Ronald Behnke Laurie Huston	24	David Fandrich
07	Bennett Bass Olive Hutchinson	16	Coltin Dittberner Brian Kabele	25	Jackson Krebs Diane Lavigne Brian Yahnke Sonia Zook
08	Annalise Brudnowski Sara Kowalski Wyatt Schwartz Carolyn Smith	17	Theresa Beckius Anthony Bortz Steven Mael Gabe Witkowski	26	Gary Drew Thomas Klappstein Patricia McCoy Judy Nichols
09	Jessica Vilstrup Logan Walker	18	William Bahr James Rohrbeck Emily Steele James Tennyson Brian Wheeler	27	Rilynn Kabele Mandrow Tomaszewski
10	William Brockley	19	Ryan Jahn Michael Johnson Joy Witkowski	28	Kimberly Ingram Kurt Lauth Annette Monthey
11	Ruth Chvojicek Hoytt Lang Andrew Schwartz	20	Adalynn Lang	29	Louis Herrick Bruce Smith
12	James Behnke	21	Ervin Gudgeon James Isakson Sara Jakeman Boyd Wolfgram	30	Leon Beckius Ruth Mell

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- ♥ *Dennis and Judy Raimer — September 1*
- ♥ *Thomas and Stacy Davenport — September 2*
- ♥ *Eugene Charlene Phillips — September 5*
- ♥ *Brian and Cindy Smith — September 5*
- ♥ *Tony and Jennifer Beckett — September 7*
- ♥ *Joshua and Jessica Krueger — September 8*
- ♥ *Robert and Dawn Wilcox — September 8*
- ♥ *Brandon and Stephanie Yahnke — September 8*
- ♥ *Gary and Janet Schoppenhorst — September 9*
- ♥ *Dean and Jean Simonson — September 11*
- ♥ *Brent and Cathy Smith — September 13*
- ♥ *Michael and Jackie Raimer — September 16*
- ♥ *Brian Schnieder and Michelle Barrone — September 21*
- ♥ *Brian and Christina Paske — September 20*
- ♥ *Michael and Carol Mueller — September 21*
- ♥ *Ryan and Michelle Nichols — September 21*
- ♥ *Paul and Jean Gavinski — September 22*
- ♥ *Logan and Jessica Walker — September 22*
- ♥ *Scott and Dana Gudegon — September 24*
- ♥ *Jonathan and Megan Loomans — September 24*
- ♥ *Mark and Julie Witt — September 24*
- ♥ *Zackary and Cassandra Krebs — September 26*
- ♥ *Thomas and Pamela Klappstein — September 29*
- ♥ *Mark and Mary Witt — September 29*
- ♥ *Kenneth and Sandra Hutler — September 30*
- ♥ *Cory and Spring Thompson — September 30*

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

Romans 12:10

Crusader News

2023-2024 School Theme



John 15:1-5 shares, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Back to School Open House Moments



September greetings from St. John's Child Development Center!

Welcome back to school!

School is open! Mrs. Curtis is back with two 4K classes. We have lots of new faces, families, and friends. I love the blend of center friends with new 4K friends. This blend helps with introductions, insecurity, finding the bathrooms, playground and most of all, introducing children and families to what a great place to have your children learn and grow in but St. John's Schools.

Thank you, Mrs. Curtis, for blending these programs and sharing your most precious gift with our families. Mrs. Curtis daughter, Emma Jane, is enrolled at the center in our infant room and was just recently baptized at our church. Blessings indeed!

On August 10, our center staff had the opportunity to go to the Concordia Summit for Lutheran Teachers and Leaders in Mequon. It was a wonderful experience for everyone. The teachers who graduated from the university shared their personal experience as a student, helped guide their co-workers around and told a few funny stories. I will not share them here to protect those involved.

The summit had a great turn out, and the classes offered were plentiful.

Here are some:

- The ABC's of Defending Your Faith.
- Stretched versus Stressed: What's the difference and Why does it matter?
- Being present in Your Leadership, now that you have the teachers, how do you keep them?
- Truth, Identity, and Purpose in Post-Christian America.

It was a great day to spend together on a beautiful campus.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our center. Without our congregation, volunteers, and donations, we would not be able to do the work we do here, which is offer a quality, safe Christian center and school for children and families to learn and grow in.

Debbie Drew and Center Staff



WE ARE HIRING

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- Part-time Cook

608-742-9000 x 109



WE ARE HIRING

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- Full-time Early Childhood Teacher
- Part-time Cook

608-742-9000 x 102



Spread the word St. John's is hiring!

Are you passionate about nurturing young minds and creating a foundation for lifelong learning? We are seeking a dedicated and compassionate **Early Childhood Teachers, Center Cook, and School Cook** to join our dynamic team and make a meaningful impact on the lives of our students.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact St. John's Lutheran Ministries at 608-742-9000 x109 for the school or x102 for the Child Development Center, or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com for an employment application.

St. John's Ministries Monthly and Special Event Calendar

September—10

September

- M 04 Happy Labor Day!**
All ministries offices closed
- Th 07 Heritage House Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- F 08 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 10 Blood Pressure Screening**
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 11 Tivoli Monthly Worship**
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
Altar Guild
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
New Member and Refresher Class
6:15 p.m.–7:30 p.m., Church Narthex
- Tu 12 Executive Committee**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- W 13 Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting**
6:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 14 New Member Meal**
5:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 19 Women's Guild**
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
Board for Christian Education
6:30 p.m., CDC Lower Level
LWML
6:30 p.m., Church All Purpose Room
- Th 21 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care
- M 25 Board of Finance**
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
New Member and Refresher Class
6:15 p.m.–7:30 p.m., Church Narthex
- Tu 26 Board of Elders**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
Prayer Shawls
6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

Altar Guild Schedule

1. Karen Morgan
742-7590, kmsmorgan@hotmail.com
2. Jean Smith
742-3648

October (proposed)

- M 02 Health and Wellness**
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 05 Heritage House Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- Su 08 Blood Pressure Screening**
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 09 Tivoli Monthly Worship**
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
New Member and Refresher Class
6:15 p.m.–7:30 p.m., Church Narthex
- Tu 10 Executive Committee**
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 13 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
- Th 19 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship**
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care
- F 20 No School**
- M 25 Board of Finance**
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 27 Grandparents' Day**
8:00a.m.–12:00p.m.
- M 30 New Member and Refresher Class**
6:15 p.m.–7:30 p.m., Church Narthex



St. John's Lutheran Ministries apparel store is open until September 10th. Get your Ministry and Crusader apparel now.

Link to Apparel Store:

<https://www.stjohnsportage.com/apparel-store>



2023 Pregnancy Resource Center
GOLF SCRAMBLE
 Saturday, September 23rd, 2023



Portage Country Club
 W7245 Country Club Rd

This year we have two different golf options. You can do an 18 hole scramble with registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. with an 8:30 a.m. start, or golf 9 holes with registration at 10:00 a.m. and a 10:30 a.m. start time.

- Lunch/Raffle @ 1:15 PM
- \$55/Person for 9 holes
- \$75/Person for 18 holes
- Prices include cart
- PCC members pay \$55 without cart pass or \$35 with cart pass
- Form your own teams or we can pair you
- Lunch included and cash bar
- Hole prizes, 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets
- Golfers and non-golfers welcome
- Non Golf Lunch is \$15

To Register please call Portage Country Club at (608) 742-5121 or Pete Bartaczewicz (608) 617-6997.

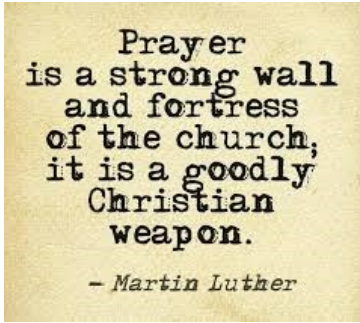
Interested in joining a strength training class? *Strong Bodies* is an evidence-based strength training class for middle age and older men and women. Strength training has been shown to increase strength, muscle mass and bone density and reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis and arthritis. Plus, it is an opportunity to connect and socialize with some great people.

Strong Bodies will be starting up again on Monday, September 25 and will be held every Monday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the narthex. Classes will run from September through April, with a short break for Christmas.

St. Johns Health and Wellness committee is suggesting a donation of \$30 for the entire session (September through April) to help offset the cost of equipment. This class is open to the community and is for everyone. Each of the exercises can be modified to match your ability. Weights and chairs are provided.

Call or text Polly Koepp at (608) 745-8887 to find out more information or to reserve a spot. Let's get strong together!

July Memorials and Offerings



Unified Fund	\$54,711.59	School Tuition Relief	\$300.00
Capital Improvements	\$1,560.00	Organ	\$0.00
Missions	\$100.00	Total Contributions	\$57,216.59
Almoners Fund	\$80.00		
Orphanages	\$465.00		

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
 rarmon@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
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
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