



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 (15)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

Monday (16)

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

Tuesday (17)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
1:30 p.m. Women's Guild, Church CLC
6:30 p.m. Board for Christian Education, School Cafeteria

Wednesday (18)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at Tamarack Chapel, School Gym
10:00 a.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
12:00 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, School Gym
4:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Church Balcony
5:00 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Church CLC
6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (19)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
11:00 a.m. Columbia County Healthcare Worship
5:30 p.m. All Staff Gathering, School Cafeteria

Friday (20)

No School—Teacher Inservice
Church office closed

Sunday (22)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
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.

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?

Horizontal lines for writing the answer to the first question.

What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?

Horizontal lines for writing the answer to the second question.

What part of the sermon did you find easiest to remember?

Horizontal lines for writing the answer to the third question.

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):

Medical

Samantha Encarnacion (daughter of *Don* and *Terri Soppe*)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell,

Ellowyn Kershaw,

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

Lisa Priske (daughter of *Betty Mootz*)

Jim Nummerdor (father of *Curt Nummerdor*)

Gary Tennyson (son of *Jim* and *Nola Tennyson*)

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.

LWML

LWML invites you to the Zone 16 Fall Gathering at Good Shepherd by the Lake Lutheran Church in Stoughton on Saturday, October 14. Registration and coffee start at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m.

We will have a Bible study, sharing of LWML activities, a speaker, and lunch. Additionally, we will be collecting bras, socks, and underwear for the Stoughton Area Dignity Drive. All sizes are need for children and adults. Donation items must be new and in packages.

Pastor Rod Armon will be our speaker. He will be sharing his experiences as a military Chaplain. We will conclude around noon.

Come and join us!

For ride info, please contact Theresa 608-697-0509

Walkie Talkies

The Walkie Talkies will meet on Wednesdays in the church starting on October 18.

Thirsty Souls Bible Study

Thirsty Souls Bible Study will not meet this Thursday, October 19.

Grandparent's Day!

Grandparent's Day at St. John's Lutheran School

Grandparents, mark your calendars for Friday, October 27 to spend time with your grandkids at school. It will be a fun-filled day to remember.

The school is also looking for volunteer grandparents to share the day with some of our students who do not have grandparents close by.

Contact school office if interested at schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com or call 608-742-9000 press 3.

Save the date!

Join us for a Reformation Day Pot Luck on October 29 after the 10:30 service. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign ups are in the back of the church. Can't wait to see you there!

Come have fun with Trunk-or-Treating October 29 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.! We're asking participants from the CDC, School, and Church to decorate the backs of their vehicles or even just a parking space. Everyone is invited to wander around collecting goodies, playing games and enjoying the fun! Sign ups are in the back of the church. Any questions contact Emily or Melissa at parishlife@stjohnsportage.com. Can't wait to see you there!

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)!

It's so exciting to share that our new outreach group is making progress! Recent high school graduates were sent outreach cards, encouraging them to stay connected to St. John's members.

YAM is also working on reaching out to the confirmation class and youth groups. While family is always important, research has proven that if young people have a positive connection with other unrelated adults, the young adult is much better able to thrive. Also, many church members miss the young adults who move away. Let's stay connected!

Please consider reaching out to any young adult who you are missing and join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 8 at 5:00 p.m. in the CLC.** Contact Danielle at 608-697-3560 for more information. Hope you can join us!

GriefShare

GriefShare – Surviving the Holidays seminar

St. John's will host a Surviving the Holidays seminar on Thursday, November 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. A \$10.00 free-will donation to cover the cost of participant materials is appreciated.

The Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
How to discover hope for your future

For information or to register, you may contact the church office at churchoffice@stjohnsportage.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.

Visit: raiserright.com

Click: **Sign Up**

Enrollment Code: **Please call the church office, 608-742-9000 for the enrollment code.**

Festival	\$25 & \$50
Kwik Trip	\$25, \$50, & \$100
Pizza Ranch	\$25
Walgreens	\$25
Walmart	\$25
Culvers	\$25
Portage Movie Theater	\$10

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!



Children in Church

To the parents of young children, may we suggest:

God gave children vibrant energy that sometimes causes them to wiggle and make noise. They belong right here with God's people where you have so faithfully brought them. Stick with it!

Feel free to sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service, and the actions of the pastor, ushers, singers, etc. **Check out the Kids in the Divine Service booklets located by the busy bags.**

Sing the songs and participate in the prayers and responses. Children learn how to worship by watching you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

To the members of our church:

Children are a gift, not a distraction. The sound of children in the church is the sound of Jesus keeping his promises; it is the should of his church that lives on and never dies. Please welcome children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Project Connect

Project Connect, from Lutheran Hour Ministries, is an excellent evangelism resource. It gives congregations and individuals an outreach program that works and is easy to maintain. This app not only allows you to download and share these great resources, but to listen to high quality recordings as well.

Youth Ministries

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

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

Jr. Youth Group (grades 4–7) meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. in St. John's School. 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 (grades 8–12) meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. in St. John's School Gym. The focus of Senior Youth Group is being equipped with God's armor.

Pumpkin Cake Rolls!

Now that we have your attention... St. John's Lutheran Ministries is selling Joyful Traditions cake rolls to raise money for updating and maintaining the new playground. You can order your cake rolls from a St. John's student at the school or CDC, the school office, or the church office. **The sale ends on October 23.** The cake rolls will arrive on November 15, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Price per cake roll: \$17.00

(payment is due at the time of order)

Available flavors: Carrot Cake, Chocolate Crème, Lemon Crème, Pumpkin, Red Velvet, and Strawberry Cheesecake. Each cake roll will serve 8 people.

SWD Teacher of the Year Award

Each year, the South Wisconsin District selects an outstanding educator for the Teacher of the Year award in the following categories:

- early childhood teacher (infant - 3 yr olds)
- early childhood teacher (4K-3rd Grade)
- elementary teacher (4th-8th Grade)
- high school teacher
- early childhood director principal

To nominate an educator who has at least two years of teaching experience and is currently teaching full-time in one of our LCMS schools in the SWD, go to swd.lcms.org/TOTY or scan the QR code. Nominations are open through November 15.



Community Events

Portage Airport Fly In/Drive In Chili Feed 2023

When: Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Portage Municipal Airport

Cost: \$8.00

Includes: Chili, bread, drinks, and all the fixings.

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, Deut. 13:1-18 & Matt. 13:1-23	Tuesday, Deut. 15:19-16:22 & Matt. 13:44-58	Friday, Deut. 19:1-20 & Matt. 15:1-20
Monday, Deut. 14:1-2, 22-23, 14:28-15:15 & Matt. 13:24-43	Wednesday, Deut. 17:1-20 & Matt. 14:1-21	Saturday, Deut. 20:1-20 & Matt. 15:21-39
	Thursday, Deut. 18:1-22 & Matt. 14:22-36	

Life Thoughts

October 15 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23A) – Abortion and physician-assisted suicide represent a surrender to death brought about by fear. We need not be afraid of enduring terminal illness, because our Heavenly Father protects us even in the darkest places (Psalm 23:4). And we need not be afraid of carrying surprise pregnancy, because our dear Savior Jesus provides all we need even in the most difficult times (Philippians 4:12-13).

Stewardship Thoughts

Matthew 22:5 – “**But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business.**” The invitation to join God in His feast and in His work is easily ignored. The rest of life seems so much more pressing, and we always think that there will be another time when we can catch back up with God. But what joys are we missing when we set aside God's invitation to join Him in His plans and purposes? What inheritance are we trading for the world's bowl of pottage?

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,
“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you
will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

John 8:31-32

Weekly Offerings

October 8 In-person Attendance: 283
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$12,010.75
Restricted Contributions Received: \$545.00
TOTAL: \$12,555.75
Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$182,489.53
YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$193,275.00
(week 15)

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 Luther's Catechism: The Lutheran Confessions Series produced by Concordia Publishing House.
- ✠ **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 Romans.
- ✠ **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

October 15: Open
October 22: 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
Office Hours:
M—F 7:30a-3:15p
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.