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

10:00 a.m. Chapel, Church Sanctuary

Wednesdays:

Weekly Events

weekly Events								
Sundays:	•							
9:15 a.m.	Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary							
Mondays:								
9:00 a.m.	Strong Bodies, Church Narthex							
4:30 p.m.	GriefShare, Church CLC							
Wednesdays:	•							
9:00 a.m.	Walkie Talkies, Levee Rd							
12:00 p.m.	Weekly Announcements Deadline							
•	churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com							
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							

September Memorials

Undesignated

\$170.00 In memory of Robert and Dorothy Johnson

September Offerings

ı		
ı	Unified Fund	\$46,160.12
ı	Capital Improvements	\$1,140.00
ı	Missions	\$200.00
ı	Almoners	\$40.00
ı	Orphanages	\$200.00
ı	School Tuition Relief	\$400.00
ı	Organ	\$0.00
ı	Total Contributions	\$48,140.12
н		

St. John's Weekly 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 Sr. Youth Group, School Gym 6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. **Confirmation Class**,

Church Christian Life Center

Thursdays:

8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church Christian Life Center

10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study,

Church Christian Life Center Thirsty Souls Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.

Church Christian Life Center





The Christmas Choral Vesper Service will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 5:30 p.m. Come and share the Advent message and special music by the Handbells and the Adult Choir.



School Christmas Program, Connected to the Promise, Wednesday, December 20th at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church

November Greetings from St. John's Child Development Center

We have so much to be thankful for here at the center. We hired two new staff members. Ms. Sumer Simonson is our new cook, and she is doing a wonderful job. Her son Easton is in our center and our 4K program. The infant room has a new teacher Gretchen Hulka and we are happy to have her on board also. Gretchen has a little guy named Levi and he is also in the center.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we will be having a Thanksgiving Feast with our children and parents at the center. I sure hope this will not scare off the new cook. We always have a good group of volunteers so I never worry but Sumer might. Hope she reads the Cornerstone as I set the date for November 16th, Thursday.

The center needed a Bye-Bye Buggy and thanks to the funds we received from Butter Braids last year we were able to purchase this buggy. Have you ever heard the song "The Wheels on the Bus"? It is an American folk song written by Verna Hills back in 1937. Very popular song in early childhood programs and young children. Our new buggy is a "Big Yellow Bus!" It's a six-seater and the children love it. Most likely not the bus Verna Hills was thinking about when she wrote that song back in 1937.

Prayers for the world and the pain and suffering we see on the news. Be thankful for God's blessings and share these blessings with those in need this Thanksgiving. God is good!

Serving God's Children
Debbie Drew and center staff

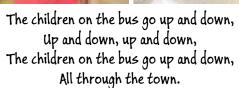


















Crusader News

Connected to Christ





Stay up to date on school news and calendar events with our weekly school newsletter, The Crusader Chronicle, using this QR code with your smartphone camera:



Kindergarten through 4th grade spent time with Ryan from the Portage Fire Department learning fire safety in October







The first 2 weeks of October, our school had MAP testing to measure our students learning. Even the second graders enjoyed using their Chromebooks to take these exams.









Lego Club meets the second Monday starting with a Bible Devotion and then build based on the devotion. In October, they read Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ." They then discussed where they hear the Word of God and built churches, homes, schools, and a boat.



Advent 2023

Join us for worship

Wednesday, November 29

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Come early for Advent Dinner hosted by *St. John's Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups* 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

Wednesday, December 6

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Come early for Advent Dinner hosted by *St. John's School Staff* 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Come early for Advent Dinner hosted by *St. Child Development Center Staff* 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

Wednesday, December 20

School Christmas Program Connected to the Promise 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. No Advent Dinner.

Christmas 2023

Join us for worship

Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament 5:00 p.m. Festival of Scripture and Carols 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight

Monday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service of Word and Sacrament





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, visit our website, **www.stjohnsportage.com/griefshare** or you may contact the church office at churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02	Claudia Fritz Chase Jones	10	Byron Kershaw Jessica Krueger	21	Robert Hintz
	Timothy Raimer Jason Zimmerman	11	Kendra Dorn Brooke Fandrich	22	Adalyn Bocinsky Jackie Carrington Linda Dittman
03	Patrick Haefele				Robert Schumann
	Stephanie Kleist	12	Casey Busse		
	Abigail Leeland		Caitlin Ciolkosz	23	Julie Horan
	Theodore Mootz		Lorna McMahon		TT 1 1 5 111
	Jack Poppy		David Mendel	24	Vicki Bublitz
	Donald Schultz		Penny Raimer		Thomas Davenport
0.4	D 1 . D 1		John Wilcox		Lucia Fredrick
04	Robert Beahm	4.0	T 11 D		Diana Shebel
	Ally Windus	13	Jackie Bauman		T D 1 1
0.7	N. D. 11		G1	25	Lauren Bocinsky
05	Marc Brockley	14	Sherry Aberle	26	mi II
	William Hageman		Te Qwaune Adams Jr.	26	Theresa Hoppmann
	Judith Kerr	1.5	Cl 1 D 1 1		Eric Shimpach
0.6	T : D	15	Charles Dehmlow		Kraig Windus
06	Teri Burns		Cathy Smith		Kaitlyn Yaddof
	Dennis Dreyer		Colleen Smith	25	A.1. TT
	Zachary Kraucyk	1.0	G: 1 : G: 1 CC	27	Alex Hartwig
0.7	E11: 44 E	16	Stephanie Gitzlaff		Erik Isakson
07	Elliott Fredrick		Philip Kerl		Matthew Schultz
	Lois Somer		Emma Paske	20	D 1 W 1 1
00	1 11		Don Weideman	28	Brandon Yahnke
08	Jon Hoppmann	10	C II	••	M 11 D
00	C 1 D 4 1	18	Suzanne Kerr	29	Mariah Davenport
09	Sandra Barthel		Scott Raimer		Aron Kershaw
	Stacy Davenport	10	г и г		Betty Nollenberg
	Val McReath	19	Emily Janney		Emma Zook
	Joe Morgan	20	M ' D / I		
	Keith Nollenberg	20	Marie Bartels		
	Caitlyn Schroeder		Amy Lehman		
			Myles Schwartz		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November 3

Robert and Lael Schumann

November 4

♥ *Gary and Debra Drew*

November 5

- Russell and Jackie Carrington
- Erik and Andrea Nilson

November 7

▼ *Timothy and Lois Schmidt*

November 11

♥ *John and Justine Gavinski*

November 13

- Matthew and Darcie Rohrbeck
- Randy and Wendy Tomlinson

November 26

♥ Cory and Mandi Herwig

November 28

♥ *Robert and Patricia McCoy*

November 30

♥ John and Susan Wilcox

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

Romans 12:10

St. John's Ministries Monthly and Special Event Calendar

November

Th 02 Heritage House Monthly Worship 11:00 a.m., Heritage House

Tu 07 Board of Stewards 6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

W 08 Young Adult Ministry (Y.A.M) 5:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

F 10 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

Sa 11 Family Game Night 6:30 p.m., School Cafeteria

Su 12 Blood Pressure Screening 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery

M 13 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 14 Executive Committee 6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

W 15 Cake Roll Delivery 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., School

Th 16 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship 11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care

Tu 21 Women's Guild 1:30 p.m., School Gym Board for Christian Education 6:30 p.m., School Cafeteria LWML 6:30 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

W 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

- Th 23 Happy Thanksgiving!
 All Ministries offices closed
- F 24 Portage Holiday Lighted Parade 5:00 p.m., TBD
- Su 26 Christmas Tree Decorating 11:30 a.m., Church Sanctuary

M 27 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 28 Board of Elders 6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center Prayer Shawls 6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

W 29 Advent Dinner hosted by Youth Group 5:30 p.m., Church CLC Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

December (proposed)

Sa 02 Christmas Choral Vesper Service 5:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

M 04 Health and Wellness 1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

W 06 Advent Dinner hosted by School Staff 5:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

Th 05 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

Tu 12 Executive Committee 6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center

W 13 Advent Dinner hosted by CDC Staff 5:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

W 20 School Christmas Program 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary

Th 21 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship 11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care

F 20 No School

Su 24 Festival of Scripture and Carols 5:30 p.m., Church Sanctuary Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service 9:00 p.m., Church Sanctuary

M 25 Christmas Day! Christmas Day Service of Word and Sacrament 9:00 a.m., Church Sanctuary

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.

Altar Guild November Schedule

- 1. Linda Loomans 608-697-9934
- 2. Rebecca Arkin 608-333-2038

Grace & Growth Grant Update – November 2023

Over the summer, we focused on just a few things for our Grace & Growth worker wellness initiative. We offered to pay for half of a summer fitness membership at LaVita for any of our staff. We also held a walking challenge that went from May 15 through August 15. Each week, we checked in with each other. At the end of the challenge, I counted up the check-ins, and we donated \$1 per check-in to Pregnancy Resource Center.

The annual all-staff meeting happens every year in August. This year the grant money paid for us to have it off-site with special guest speakers from Doxology, an LCMS church worker support organization. Dr. Bev Yahnke and Rev. David Fleming presented seminars all day long, focusing on the psychological and spiritual demands our workers face. Then they sat down with some of the leadership from our ministries and spoke to them directly about their struggles and the future of St. John's. It was a pretty intense day!

There are a few more things scheduled before this grant money is depleted. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of all our staff at the child development center, the school, and the church.



Stephenie Hovland Grant Coordinator Deaconess Intern





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.



The Lord's Prayer
The First Petition
Hallowed be Thy name.

This is, indeed, somewhat obscure, and not expressed in good German, for in our mother-tongue we would say: Heavenly Father, help that by all means Thy name may be holy. But what is it to pray that His name may be holy? Is it not holy already? Answer: Yes, it is always holy in its nature, but in our use it is not holy. For God's name was given us when we became Christians and were baptized, so that we are called children of God and have the Sacraments, by which He so incorporates us in Himself that everything which is God's must serve for our use.

Here now the great need exists for which we ought to be most concerned, that this name have its proper honor, be esteemed holy and sublime as the greatest treasure and sanctuary that we have; and that as godly children we pray that the name of God, which is already holy in heaven, may also be and remain holy with us upon earth and in all the world.

But how does it become holy among us? Answer, as plainly as it can be said: When both our doctrine and life are godly and Christian. For since in this prayer we call God our Father, it is our duty always to deport and demean ourselves as godly children, that He may not receive shame, but honor and praise from us.

Now the name of God is profaned by us either in words or in works. (For whatever we do upon the earth must be either words or works, speech or act.) In the first place, then, it is profaned when men preach, teach, and speak in the name of God what is false and misleading, so that His name must serve to adorn and to find a market for falsehood. That is, indeed, the greatest profanation and dishonor of the divine name. Furthermore, also when men, by swearing, cursing, conjuring, etc., grossly abuse the holy name as a cloak for their shame. In the second place, also by an openly wicked life and works, when those who are called Christians and the people of God are adulterers, drunkards, misers, envious, and slanderers. Here again must the name of God come to shame and be profaned because of us. For just as it is a shame and disgrace to a natural father to have a bad, perverse child that opposes him in words and deeds, so that on its account he suffers contempt and reproach, so also it brings dishonor upon God if we who are called by His name and have all manner of goods from Him teach, speak, and live in any other manner except as godly and heavenly children, so that people say of us that we must be not God's, but the devil's children.

Thus you see that in this petition we pray just for that which God demands in the Second Commandment; namely, that His name be not taken in vain to swear, curse, lie, deceive, etc., but be usefully employed to the praise and honor of God. For whoever employs the name of God for any sort of wrong profanes and desecrates this holy name, as aforetime a church was considered desecrated when a murder or any other crime had been committed in it, or when a pyx or relic was desecrated, as being holy in themselves, yet become unholy in use. Thus this point is easy and clear if only the language is understood, that to hallow is the same as in our idiom to praise, magnify, and honor both in word and deed.

Here, now, learn how great need there is of such prayer. For because we see how full the world is of sects and false teachers, who all wear the holy name as a cover and sham for their doctrines of devils, we ought by all means to pray without ceasing, and to cry and call upon God against all such as preach and believe falsely and whatever opposes and persecutes our Gospel and pure doctrine, and would suppress it, as bishops tyrants, enthusiasts, etc. Likewise also for ourselves who have the Word of God, but are not thankful for it, nor live as we ought according to the same. If now you pray for this with your heart, you can be sure that it pleases God; for He will not hear anything more dear to Him than that His honor and praise is exalted above everything else, and His Word is taught in its purity and is esteemed precious and dear.¹

¹ Concordia Triglotta—English: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, electronic ed. (Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1996), 707–711.

Church Word: Ministry

The word ministry is used very often in church circles and in the world of politics. In European countries, the word Minister means the same thing as we mean when we say the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, etc. A ministry, or portfolio, is the government department they supervise. In church, we talk about children's ministry, music ministry, various programs for the poor — any work of a Christian to serve God and others in the name of God. Until the last few centuries, however, the word was used to mean pastor — a man called to the Office of the Public Ministry — and the work he does.

Ministry is all about service. In fact, the word for ministry is a Latin translation of the Greek word diakonia, which means personal service. Ancient Greeks used several words for service: douleuo, to serve because you are a slave, latreuo, to work for a wage, leitourgia, public service and therapeuo, to serve willingly, to care for, especially the sick.

For the Greeks, almost all service was viewed as demeaning. Jesus turned that around. Jesus said that he came to serve, not to be served, so Christians must serve each other. (Matthew 20:26-28) The church took this charge to heart. They called themselves servants and slaves of Jesus. (Acts 4:29, Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Revelation 1:1) They concluded that if Jesus loved us, we should love each other.

The New Testament used the Greek words for service in two ways. In general, it came to stand for the preaching of the word and the sharing of the sacraments by Christians in every way. In its narrow use, it refers to the work of pastors. To carry out ministry, Jesus created the office of the Pastoral Ministry and the Apostles created the deaconate to support them. Today, pastors, professional church workers, and laypeople serve together in ministry — to live and work dedicated to God and to others. It this way, we proclaim together the gospel and show the love of God to the world.

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Kept in the True Faith



Military planners labor long hours to plan every detail of a campaign before the first soldier or sailor even receives their orders. They consider carefully all of the strengths and weaknesses of their enemy and their own troops. They weigh every possible variation and the effects unforeseen weather

might have on the battle. Yet the moment the battle begins, all of that goes away. "The fog of war" sets in. You can't see clearly. Sometimes you mistake enemies for friends. The battle might be won everywhere but where you are.

In this sin-filled world, you are at war and in the middle of a battle. The old and new man compete for control of your life. The world and the devil try to bend you to their will. Sin, sickness, grief and death explode all around you. In the middle of this chaos, the Holy Spirit fights to keep you in the true faith. The good news is that he will. Nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:38-39) The Holy Spirit who began a good work in you will complete it on the day Christ returns. (Philippians 1:6)

We can be sure that we will be with Jesus when we die because he promises we will. (<u>John 12:26</u>) It does not depend on how many good works we do, whether we confessed and repented of all of our sins, whether we really accepted Jesus as our Lord or not. It all depends on God, who does it all for us and promised we would be with him forever. He guarantees it. After all, he gave us the Holy Spirit.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

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



Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we man-age them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heav-enly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more dili-gent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



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

Nationally Accredited Schoo 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

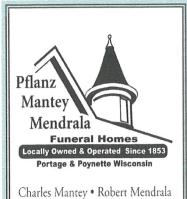
> Office Hours: M—F | 7:00a–5:00p

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 Mark Witt 697-0224



www.pmmfh.com



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