



# 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

Three things from today's sermon I want to remember:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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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 (03)

- 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 (04)

- 9:30 a.m. Visitation, Church Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Health and Wellness, Church APR
- 11:00 a.m. Funeral, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Funeral Luncheon, Church CLC
- 4:30 p.m. GriefShare, Church CLC

### Tuesday (05)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Parent Teacher League, School Cafeteria

### Wednesday (06)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's
- 10:00 a.m. Advent Midweek Service, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)
- 1:00 p.m. School Christmas Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 5:30 p.m. Advent Dinner, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Midweek Service, Church Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony

### Thursday (07)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
- 11:00 a.m. Heritage House Monthly Service

### Friday (08)

- Church office closed
- 12:00 p.m. Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

### Sunday (10)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening, Church Nursery
- 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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

## 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

Shirley Marotz (Friend of *Kathleen Thalacker*)

### Long-term Illness/Treatment:

*Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell, Ellowyn Kershaw,*  
Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of *Don and Carol Kohrt*)  
Lisa Priske (daughter of *Betty Mootz*)

### Mourning:

The family of *Ronald Eddy*, The family of *Idella Anacker*,  
The family of *Paul Jacobson*

### **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.

## Blood Pressure Checks

**St. John's Health & Wellness Ministry will be offering blood pressure checks at church Sunday, December 10 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!

## Christmas FAQ

**QUESTION: Jesus was to come from the house of David. I see references in the Bible to Joseph of that lineage; I can't find references to Mary's being of the house of David. Are they there?**

**ANSWER:** While there is no specific reference in Scripture to Mary's Davidic lineage, it is assumed that Mary was of Davidic ancestry because (as attested by historians such as Eusebius) the Israelite tribes were not to intermarry.

Thus, Matthew's genealogy would apply to Mary as well as to Joseph. (See the article by Dr. Paul Maier on New Light on the Nativity in the December 1999 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*.)

## Advent and Christmas Schedule



**Advent midweek services** are held  
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Advent 2, December 06: A Virgin's Great Son  
Advent 3, December 13: John's Joy  
Advent 4, December 20: School Christmas Program

**Advent Dinner** is served at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life center.

December 6, hosted by St. John's School staff, Chili  
December 13, hosted by St. John's CDC staff, Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese

**School Christmas Program**, Connected to the Promise,  
**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

### **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 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

## Altar Guild Flower Fund

### *Altar Guild Flower Fund*



If you are interested in donating toward Christmas poinsettias, please fill in the information below and return it



to the church office by **December 22.**

Please make checks payable to **St. John's Altar Guild**. Please do not place in an offering.

A Gift in loving memory of:

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Given by:

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## School Calendar

### Tuesday, December 5

- 5:00 p.m. Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's Portage
- 6:30 p.m. Parent Teacher League, School Cafeteria

### Thursday, December 7


- 5:00 p.m. Boy's Basketball @ St. Patrick's Mauston

### Tuesday, December 12

- 5:00 p.m. Boy's Basketball –vs– St. Joseph's, School Gym

### Thursday, December 14

- 5:00 p.m. Boy's Basketball –vs– St. John's, School Gym



**Boy's B Basketball Referees Needed!**

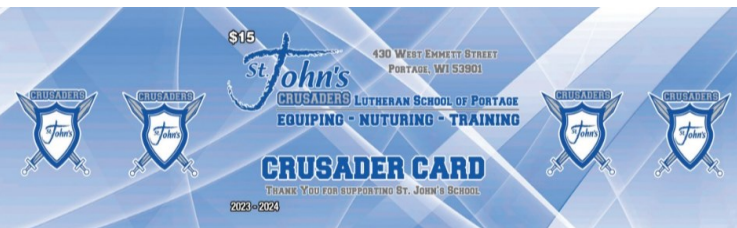
Games start at 5 p.m. (1 hour game) @ St. John's Lutheran School Gym

- Tuesday, December 12th
- Thursday, December 14th

Contact Jim Krupski at 608-742-9000 option 3

## Crusader Cards

Crusader Cards are on their way! Watch for St. John's Lutheran School students selling Crusader Cards in December. They are full of great deals!



### Portage:

- Red Apple Restaurant
- Canape Sandwiches
- Edgewater Green House
- Portage Country Club
- The Ball Room
- Craig's Popcorn Corner
- J&J Fireball Lanes
- Dairy Queen
- Dino's
- Pizza Ranch
- La Tolteca

### Westfield:

- It's Poppin, Westfield
- Thal Acres Golf
- Tiffany's Buds and Beans
- Amish Market

### Pardeeville:

- Johnny B's Rolling Smoke
- The Crooked Ranch Coffeehouse

### Montello:

- Oyster Cracker

## Thank You

**To the Pastor and members of St. John's Lutheran Ministries of Portage, WI.** Thank you for your prayers and thoughtfulness to me on my 40th anniversary in the Holy Ministry. I cherish the times you afforded me to preach God's comforting Word at your congregation. I also thank you for remembering my Ordination anniversary. May our dear Lord grant all of you a strong faith as you rejoice in the salvation which Christ has earned for you by His suffering, death, and resurrection. He is, indeed, the only God that saves.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Robert Lee Benson

## 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?

The world will teach them that church is not a priority. The world will teach them it's ok not to read their Bible and pray. The world will take them down dark paths that don't lead to their Savior. The world won't teach them about Jesus.

Mark 10:13-16 reminds us, "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

Children are a blessing from the Lord. Parenting is a great responsibility. Raising children to love their Savior and grow in their faith is an even greater responsibility. Let your light shine and let your children see who is most important in your life!

## Note from Pastor Hovland

**Pastor Hovland has declined the call to serve as Senior Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Springfield/Nixa, Missouri.** Please pray for Redeemer as they continue their call process to find a pastor. Copies of Pastor Hovland's letter emailed last week to St. John's email list are available at the Welcome Center. If you want to be added to the list, please email Catharine at [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities!

**We still need people willing to assist with the operation of the projector at each of our services.**

If you are interested in helping, please email [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

**St. John's is ready to use Church Music Solutions for music during church services when an organist is not available.** We are looking for volunteers to attend training and run the Church Music Solutions program as needed. Any volunteers please contact Bob Fairfield, Elder. Thank you.

## Daily Lectionary

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

<b>Sunday,</b> Is. 9:8—10:11 & 1 Peter 5:1—14	<b>Tuesday,</b> Is. 11:1—12:6 & 2 Peter 2:1—22	<b>Friday,</b> Is. 24:14—25:12 & 1 John 2:15—29
<b>Monday,</b> Is. 10:12—27a, 33—34 & 2 Peter 1:1—21	<b>Wednesday,</b> Is. 14:1—23 & 2 Peter 3:1—18	<b>Saturday,</b> Is. 26:1—19 & 1 John 3:1—24
	<b>Thursday,</b> Is. 24:1—13 & 1 John 1:1—2:14	

## Weekly Offerings

**November 26** In-person Attendance: 241  
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$9,907.38  
Restricted Contributions Received: \$1,270.00  
TOTAL: \$11,177.38

**Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00**  
YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$266,741.22  
**YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$283,470.00**  
(week 22)

## Life Thoughts

**December 3 – Advent I –** Surprise pregnancy intimidates, and terminal diagnosis terrifies because they darken the future. But Jesus the Savior looks through walls and sees around corners (Mark 11:2-3). He has promised abundant and everlasting life as the one who both secures the ends and supplies the means. God is faithful and will sustain (1 Corinthians 1:9); can we confirm it with our testimony (1 Corinthians 1:6)?

## Stewardship Thoughts

**Jeremiah 23:6 – “And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”** Jesus is our righteousness, our justification, our all. In Jesus, we are forgiven and receive every blessing from the Father. This knowledge sets us free to live as children of the heavenly Father without fear. Freed from the supposed need to justify ourselves, we can do good works for the right reason: to thank God and to serve our neighbor.

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch... In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”*  
Jeremiah 23:5-6

## 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)

**December 3:**  
Altar Guild

**December 10:**  
GriefShare

## 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).