



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. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Standard 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.

Standard Worship Times may change due to Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Please see Weekly Events for changes.

Weekly Events

Sunday (14)

- 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

Monday (15)

- 9:30 a.m. Visitation, Church
- 11:00 a.m. Funeral, Church
- 6:00 p.m. Financial Peace University, School Cafeteria Classroom

Tuesday (16)

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. LWML, Church CLC

Wednesday (17)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's Chapel, School Gym
- 10:00 a.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 12:00 p.m. Jr. Youth Group grades 4–7, School Gym
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Church CLC and APR
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group grades 8–12, School Gym

Thursday (18)

- 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. Columbia County Healthcare Monthly Worship

Friday (19)

Church office closed

Sunday (21)

- 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

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):

The Baptism of Harper Ann Moreno

The Baptism of Jannah Mae Whirry

(Medical)

Dorothy Neitzel, Darlene Krueger,

Kevin Smith (friend of Linda Vista),

Richard Thompson (brother of Gene Thompson)

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell,

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

Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)

Gary Tennyson (son of Jim and Nola Tennyson)

Mourning:

The family of *Jane Kaiser*

The family of *Ray Konkel (husband of Bonnie Konkel)*

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.

Want to be a part of St. John's family?

Interested in joining St. John's?

Basic Bible Teachings – An Introduction to the Lutheran Faith

New Member and Refresher Gathering

Six Monday evenings: 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18

6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Christian Life Center

To register online, please use the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/m37j7L3k64> or the QR code

below. To register by phone, call (608) 742-9000 and press 4.

Please register before February 7.

New Member / Refresher
Membership Class - Winter 2024



Sanctity of Life Sunday

In honor of Sanctity of Life Sunday, St. John's Lutherans For Life and the Pregnancy Resource Center (Portage) are hosting a resource table in the church narthex. We invite you to join us as we celebrate and support all life! The Pregnancy Resource Center's baby bottles and resources will be available on the table in the narthex. The funds collected from the Baby Bottle Campaign will provide essential support to infants and families by supplying items such as diapers, lotions, blankets, and baby clothing. Please take these bottles home and fill them with coins, cash, or a check, contributing to the ministry of the Pregnancy Resource Center as your heart guides you. Kindly return the bottles to the cradle on the table by Sunday, February 11.

“God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, ‘For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand’ (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us.”

Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, who has Down syndrome – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life lutheransforlife.org

Financial Peace University

Want to improve your marriage? Want to get out of debt? Want to have a retirement plan?

Join us for in-person or virtual Financial Peace University classes starting Monday, January 15, at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Lutheran School Cafeteria Classroom. Enjoy a 20% discount for the first 6 participants! Grab this deal now—our comprehensive 9-week classes, including all materials, are marked down from \$100 to \$80. Contact Jim Atkinson 608-697-7052 or email jim@atkinsonrealtor.com to sign up.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML meets this Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. We are planning our activities for 2024. Bring your ideas, your mite box, and a friend!

Women's Guild

Women's Guild meets this Tuesday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. We are playing White Elephant Bingo!

Every One His Witness

Every One His Witness

Are you uncertain about how to witness Jesus to others? Every One His Witness gives you the tools and the confidence to talk about Jesus.

Join us for a one day class on Saturday, February 10 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. The Board of Evangelism will provide lunch. A minimum of 6 people must sign-up by Wednesday, February 7. To sign up for Every One His Witness, contact Jim Atkinson at 608-697-7052, email jim@atkinsonrealtor.com, or sign up at the Welcome Center.

School Calendar

Sunday, January 21

10:30 a.m. Upper Grades School Choir Sings

National Lutheran Schools Week!

January 21, 2023 – January 27, 2024

Tuesday, January 30

100th Day of School!

Crusader Cards

Crusader Cards are on their way! Watch for St. John's Lutheran School students selling Crusader Cards. They are full of great deals! Cost: \$15.00

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 Branch Coffeeshouse

Montello:

- Oyster Cracker

St. John's School Open House!

St. John's School Open House, Thursday February 1 from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- We offer monthly payments and tuition assistance.
- The number one thing setting St. John's Lutheran School apart from all other schools is our Christ-Centered education.

Check out our website, stjohnsportage.com/school or contact the school, 608-742-9000 opt. 3.

Help us grow the kingdom of God.

School Choice

Wisconsin Private School Choice Program is a tuition assistance program for private and religious schools.

Who is eligible?

Incoming kindergarten

All new & current 1st graders

All new students to St. John's

Students already in the Wisconsin School Choice Program

Enrollment begins February 1.

For information on the Wisconsin School Choice Program, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs>.

FAQs About the Bible

QUESTION: Could you tell me: a) Were any of the disciples baptized? b) If so, which one(s)? c) If so, by whom? d) If so, where can this be found in the New Testament?

ANSWER: The New Testament is silent on this question. It does report that the disciples themselves baptized as representatives of Jesus (John 4:2).

Given the command and promise attached to this sacrament instituted by Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20; cf. Acts 2:38ff), and the fact that the disciples administered this sacrament to others, it seems reasonable to assume that they were baptized as a matter of course as followers of Jesus, commissioned also by Him to administer the means of grace to others that they may also become heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.

<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/the-bible#date>

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.

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 book of Acts.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Rachel Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently watching and discussing My First Trip to Israel by Sheila Walsh.

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!



Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, Ezek 36:33—37:14 & Rom. 5:1—21	Tuesday, Ezek. 38:1—23 & Rom. 7:1—20	Friday, Ezek. 44:1—16, 23—29 & Rom. 9:1—18
Monday, Ezek. 37:15—28 & Rom. 6:1—23	Wednesday, Ezek. 39:1—10, 17—29 & Rom. 7:21—8:17	Saturday, Ezek. 47:1—14, 21—23 & Rom. 9:19—33
	Thursday, Ezek. 40:1—4; 43:1—23 & Rom. 8:18—39	

Weekly Offerings

January 7

In-person Attendance: 282

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$14,766.75

Restricted Contributions Received: \$535.00

TOTAL: \$15,301.75

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$362,756.49

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$360,780.00
(week 28)

Life Thoughts

January 14 – Epiphany II – Life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with uncertainty. But the Lord our God knows both our worries (Psalm 139:4) and the best way forward. He has already seen (John 1:48) what it will take to save, and He has still chosen life for all humankind, even when we behold only darkness and despair. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow.

Stewardship Thoughts

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 – “**You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**” God owns everything, including our very selves. We were made to serve Him and glorify Him and will never truly be happy or find our fulfillment until we learn that lesson. Jesus has redeemed us and brought us back into the kingdom of the Father, and that has set us free to serve Him in joy, generosity, liberty and faith.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
Romans 6:3–4

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

January 14:
Sherry A. and Amanda C.
January 21:
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
cdooffice@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.