



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 (28)

- 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 (29)

- 9:00 a.m. **Church office Closed**
- 6:00 p.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- Financial Peace University, School Cafeteria Classroom

Tuesday (30)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Portage Demographics Study, Church CLC

Wednesday (31)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 12:00 p.m. Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups Babysitting, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., School Gym
- 4:00 p.m. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 5:00 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Church CLC

Thursday (01)

- 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 Worship
- 3:30 p.m. School and CDC Open House, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., School

Friday (02)

Church office closed

Sunday (04)

- 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.

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)

Dorothy Neitzel, Darlene Krueger, Leona Brockopp, 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:

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



Volunteer Opportunities!

St. John's is using 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.

Contribution Statements

Your 2023 contribution statements are at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

St. John's School and Child Development Center



All families are invited to tour our St. John's Lutheran School and Child Development Center!

Thursday, February 1
3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Come and meet our teachers, tour the facilities, ask questions, and enroll your students for the 24-25 school year!

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

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

Help us grow the kingdom of God.

Attention Parents!

Let us entertain your children!

St. John's Youth Group is hosting annual babysitting night.

When:

Wednesday, January 31
4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where:

St. John's Lutheran School Gym
(Gym Door F located on Armstrong Street)

A free will donation is accepted.
(\$5.00 child/hour suggested)

Supper will be provided.

RSVP via text to 608-697-2649, or email youth@stjohnsportage.com.

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 Choice Open Enrollment!

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>.

School Calendar

Tuesday, February 01

- 100th Day of School!
- School Choice Open Enrollment

Friday, February 16

- Early Release at 1:00 p.m.

Monday, February 19

- No School

Thursday, February 22

- Dinosaurs at School

Saturday, February 24

- Candy Land School Dance

Candy Land School Dance

St. John's Parent Teacher League invites all school and church families to St. John's Lutheran School for a Candy Land Dance!

February 24th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the School Gym

The Parent Teacher League has a wish list to make the event spectacular. If you wanted to help but had no time, this is the perfect way to help out.

Check out their wish list at <https://shorturl.at/eHOW8> or scan this QR code.

Thank you for helping!



Sanctity of Life

In honor of Sanctity of Life, 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.**

Ash Wednesday and Lent Service Schedule

Lent midweek services will be held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday
Accusations (Job 40:1,2; 42:1-6)

February 21
Restraint (Luke 22:47-53)

February 28
Testimony (Matthew 26:57-75)

March 6
Misconceptions (Luke 23:1-12)

March 13
Truth (John 18:33-40)

March 20
Sympathy (Luke 23:26-34)

Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes at 9:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. The Lord's Supper will be offered on Ash Wednesday.

Fellowship suppers will be held on Wednesdays during Lent from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

If you are interested in hosting a Lent supper, there is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office at 608-742-9000, opt 4, or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

February 14, hosted by Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups
Serving: Chili and Hot Dogs

February 21, hosted by Adult Choir
Serving: BBQ

February 28, hosted by Child Development Center Staff

March 6, open

March 13, open

March 20, open

Sweethearts Lunch

**St. John's Youth Groups invite all couples to
Sweethearts Lunch!**

Sunday, February 18, 2024
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
St. John's School Cafeteria

Join us for lunch, games, pictures, and great conversation.

RSVP by Sunday, February 4, 2024 via the RSVP box at the welcome center, or leave a message at 608-697-2649.



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: raiseright.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, Zech. 6:1—7:14 & Rom. 16:17—27 | Tuesday, Zech. 9:1—17 & 2 Tim. 2:1—26 | Friday, Zech. 12:1—13:9 & Titus 1:1—2:6 |
| Monday, Zech. 8:1—23 & 2 Tim. 1:1—18 | Wednesday, Zech. 10:1—11:3 & 2 Tim. 3:1—17 | Saturday, Zech. 14:1—21 & Titus 2:7—3:15 |
| | Thursday, Zech. 11:4—17 & 2 Tim. 4:1—18 | |

Weekly Offerings

January 21

In-person Attendance: 270

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$24,980.38

Restricted Contributions Received: \$955.00

TOTAL: \$25,935.38

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$394,907.72

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$386,550.00
(week 30)

Life Thoughts

January 28 – Epiphany IV – Gospel-motivated voices have the privilege – and the responsibility – to proclaim the whole counsel of God. Those who speak otherwise dabble in judgment and condemnation (Deuteronomy 18:20). The Scriptures and the Savior have graciously made clear – with “shall” and “shall-nots” – His jealous devotion to the survival and salvation of every human life. We get to repeat and rejoice in it, especially for the sake of the weaker ones (1 Corinthians 8:12).

Stewardship Thoughts

Mark 1:22 – “**And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.**” Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don't like to hear. But that's just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus' authority is something we need. We need Him to show us what to believe and how to live, for Jesus' authority is always connected to his love.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and
in trust shall be your strength.”*

Isaiah 30:15

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 28:

Tracy F.

January 28:

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.