

April 7, 2024



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.

Weekly Events

Sunday (07)

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

Monday (08)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday (09)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 5:30 p.m. Lutherans For Life, Church APR
- 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee, Church CLC

Wednesday (10)

- 8:30 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours
- 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group grades 4–7, School Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Church CLC and APR
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group grades 8-12, School Gym

Thursday (11)

- 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

Friday (12)

- 12:00 p.m. **Church office closed**
Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

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

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.



Blood Pressure Checks

St. John's Health & Wellness Ministry will be offering blood pressure checks at church on Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. Stop by our table in the coat area and sign up!

Thank You

A big thank you to those individuals who helped with the Easter breakfast and to those who donated money, bakery goods, and eggs. It couldn't be done without your help. God willing I hope to do it again next year.

Gary Zastrow

Walkie Talkies

Stretch your legs, and engage in meaningful conversations with the Walkie Talkies!

Join us Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in the church Narthex for walking and talking.

LWML News

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) invites all ladies to join us at the LWML Zone 16 Spring Rally on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

This year's spring rally is held at St. John's in the Christian Life Center, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with registration, coffee, and pastries. The program starts at 9:00 a.m. and will end with lunch beginning around 11:30.

We will have a Bible study led by Pastor Joel Brandt, our Zone 16 pastoral counselor. Our speakers will be Jim and Susan Kaiser, missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators. We are gathering items for hygiene kits that we will assemble at St. John's LWML meeting on May 7. The hygiene kits will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train.

We hope you will come to share in fellowship and learn about the missions of LWML.

Items needed for the Hygiene Kits

- Bar of soap
- Toothbrush
- Bath towel
- Washcloth
- Plastic soap box
- Small facial tissues
- Sturdy comb
- Nail clippers

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.

Other

Pastor Hovland is deliberating a Divine Call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Mequon, WI.

Medical:

Phoebe Cole

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell,

Ned Seymour (father of Kathleen Bernander)

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

Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)

Gary Tennyson (son of Jim and Nola Tennyson)

Mary Maldonado (friend of Gretchen Halvorsen)

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.

Divine Call Update

Pastor Hovland Call Update

On March 17, Pastor Hovland received a call to serve Trinity, Mequon. This new call came just after he decided to decline the call to Redeemer, Manitowoc. Please pray for St. John's, Redeemer, Trinity, and Pastor's family. Remember that pastors in the LCMS do not seek calls or apply for positions in congregations. His name was submitted for consideration by a congregation member or district.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Join our dynamic worship family! St. John's Praise Band is seeking a pianist for next fall. If you're passionate about creating uplifting worship experiences, we want you!

If you are interested, email Deb Bauman overthehill40db@yahoo.com.

School Growth Committee

Are you interested in helping grow our christian school? We need your positive ideas, outreach into the community, and team efforts to start the School Growth Committee. If interested please sign-up at the Welcome Center or contact Jim Atkinson 608-697-7052 jim@atkinsonrealtor.com.

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 is open until April 18!

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

Community Support Needed

Aging and Disability Resource Center is developing a crucial three-year aging plan and they need your help.

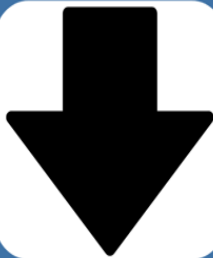
Please take a few minutes to fill out a survey and share your thoughts and ideas on the support needed for our aging and disabled communities.

Your feedback will guide improvements and new services to better support our community.

SCAN HERE FOR THE SURVEY

OR

FILL OUT A PAPER SURVEY



OVER THE PHONE AND IN PERSON LISTENING SESSIONS AVAILABLE,
PLEASE CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MORE INFO:

(608) 742-9233

adrc@columbiacountywi.gov



Note: Paper copies of the survey can be found on the Welcome Center.

Join us for VBS Planning!

Hey awesome volunteers! Are you ready to make this year's Vacation Bible School an unforgettable experience? Our youth group is gearing up for an incredible week, and we need YOUR help to make it happen!

When: Wednesdays starting April 10

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Where: School Gym

Join us in the school gym as we brainstorm, organize, and plan for VBS! Your input and enthusiasm are invaluable as we work together to create a week full of faith, fun, and fellowship.

Whether you're a seasoned VBS pro or new to volunteering, there's a place for you on our team. Let us know how you can contribute and help us make this year's VBS the best one yet! Can't wait to see you there!



Lutheran Schools Night with The Milwaukee Brewers.

Join us for a night of family fun as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the New York Yankees.
Saturday, April 27 6:10 p.m.

Select your seats from the Loge Outfield Box where our group has been in past years, or from the Field Infield Box, Field Outfield Box, Loge Infield Box or Terrace Infield sections in the ballpark. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! Tickets range from \$15-\$59. You can also purchase a parking pass in advance. For groups of 10+, please contact Teddy Sibilski, Milwaukee Brewers. If you are ordering tickets for a group, you can forward tickets via text or email to the MLB Individuals Ballpark App.

Purchase your tickets online at

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranschools24>
or scan the QR code by April 12.

Questions? Contact Robin, SWD, mueller@swd.lcms.org.
Go Brewers!



Weekly Offerings

March 31

In-person Attendance: 506 (includes Holy Week and Easter)

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$14,949.50

Restricted Contributions Received: \$595.00

TOTAL: \$15,544.50

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$524,904.93

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$515,400.00

(week 40)

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

Ex. 20:1-24 &
Luke 4:1-15

Monday,

Ex. 22:20-23:13 &
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday,

Ex. 23:14-23 &
Luke 4:31-44

Wednesday,

Ex. 24:1-18 &
Luke 5:1-16

Thursday,

Ex. 25:1-22 &
Luke 5:17-39

Friday,

Ex. 31:1-18 &
Luke 6:1-19

Saturday,

Ex. 32:1-14 &
Luke 6:20-38

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Stewardship Thoughts

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

Life Thoughts

April 7 – Easter II – How remarkable that our Lord's beloved Apostle St. John describes the Gospel of Jesus Christ as “the Word of Life” (1 John 1:2). He also declares all believers qualify as “little children” (2:1). And he proclaims that God has given His Son to redeem “the whole world” – every member of the human race, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Even personal choice or political controversy can't keep us quiet about it!

Reminder

For the protection of the church facility, the only door unlocked during church office hours is the side entrance on Armstrong Street (near Franklin Street). Feel free to park on Armstrong Street near the entrance, if you plan on stopping by.

Beware of texting scams. When receiving unsolicited texts requesting personal information, offering unrealistic offers, or a text from Pastor Hovland asking for gift cards, always verify the legitimacy of the sender before sharing any sensitive details or engaging in financial transactions.

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

April 7
7th and 8th Grade

April 14
Tracy F.

April 21
LWML

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.