

April 14, 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 (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)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 3:00 p.m. Evangelism, Church CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Budget Committee, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. School Growth Committee, School Cafeteria

Tuesday (16)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Stewardship, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Board for Christian Ed, School Cafeteria

Wednesday (17)

- 8:30 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's Chapel with Dr. Phil, Church Sanctuary
- 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. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 5:00 p.m. Budget Committee, Church CLC
- 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 (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 Health Care Monthly Worship

Friday (19)

- 4:00 p.m. **Church office closed**
LWML Spring Rally Setup, Church CLC

Saturday (20)

- 8:30 a.m. LWML Spring Rally, Church CLC

Sunday (21)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Lutheran Bible Translator Presentation, 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



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, 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.

Blood Pressure Checks

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

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

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?

School Calendar

Sunday, April 14

- 7–8 Grade Class Trip
April 14 – April 16

Tuesday, April 16

- K–2 Overture Center
Field Trip

Wednesday, April 24

- Seniors Walk the Halls of
St. John's

Monday, April 29

- Map Testing
April 29 – May 10

Monday, May 6

- 5–8 grade Field Day
Reedsburg High School

Friday, May 17

- Book Swap

Sunday, May 19

- All School Choir Sings at
10:30 a.m. Service
- School Reception
11:30 a.m. Church CLC

Thursday, May 23

- Senior Lunch with 8th
Grade

Friday, May 24

- LAST DAY OF
SCHOOL!
- 8:30 a.m. Chapel with
Pastor
- 12:00 p.m. School Picnic
Hosted by PTL

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>.

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.

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.

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



ADRC
Aging & Disability Resource Center
of Columbia County

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

You're invited!



Passing on the Faith

In partnership with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the LCMS South Wisconsin District (SWD) is thrilled to extend a special invitation to the members of our congregation and schools to participate in the upcoming **Family Life Conference** under the theme, *Passing on the Faith* at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, on **June 8, 2024**.

This transformative event is designed to equip families of all types with the tools and resources needed to strengthen their bonds and pass on their faith in today's ever-changing world.

For more information and registration details, visit www.swd.lcms.org/FLC.

Weekly Offerings

April 7

In-person Attendance: 323

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$13,818.76

Restricted Contributions Received: \$1,175.00

TOTAL: \$14,993.76

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$538,733.69

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$528,285.00
(week 41)

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

Ex. 32:15-35 &
Luke 6:39-49

Monday,

Ex. 33:1-23 &
Luke 7:1-17

Tuesday,

Ex. 34:1-28 &
Luke 7:18-35

Wednesday,

Ex. 34:29-35:21 &
Luke 7:36-50

Thursday,

Ex. 38:21-39:8,
22-23, 27-31 &
Luke 8:1-21

Friday,

Ex. 39:32-40:16 &
Luke 8:22-39

Saturday,

Ex. 40:17-38 &
Luke 8:40-56

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live

John 14:19

Stewardship Thoughts

1 John 3:2 – “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection, but in the meantime, we strive toward that goal because we want to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. By His grace we share His destiny in eternal life, and therefore we desire to share His life of service now.

Life Thoughts

April 14 – Easter III – With St. Peter and the Pentecost Apostles, we confess Jesus Christ alone as “Author of life” (Acts 3:15). This means no one else has right or responsibility to decide what kind of life a neighbor may have or when any human life ought to end. Rather, we rejoice to repeat the message of repentance and forgiveness (Luke 24:47) for every sinner and every sin – abortion and assisted suicide included.

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 14
Tracy F.

April 21
LWML

April 28
Sherry A. and Amanda C.

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.