

April 21, 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 (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

Monday (22)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 11:00 a.m. Open-Door Office Hours with Pastor Greg 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Budget Committee, Church CLC

Tuesday (23)

- 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 Elders, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Church APR

Wednesday (24)

- 8:30 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's School Chapel, Church Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Open-Door Office Hours with Pastor Greg 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 11:00 a.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
- 5:00 p.m. Budget Committee, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting, School Gym
- 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 (25)

- 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 (26)

Church office closed

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

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):
Grace Rabl's 20th Baptismal Birthday

Other

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.

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.

Save the Date! We will start meeting at the levee by Tamarack starting May 1.

Divine Call Update

After prayerful deliberation, Pastor Hovland has declined the call to serve as Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mequon, Wisconsin. Please pray for Trinity Lutheran as they continue their call process to find a pastor. Copies of Pastor Hovland's letter emailed this past 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.

St. John's Apparel Store

Design 1 Apparel is open and accepting orders for St. John's Lutheran Ministries and St. John's Crusader apparel. There are many choices.

Sale ends 4/29/2024 at 11:00 p.m.

Link to Apparel Store:

<https://www.stjohnsportage.com/apparel-store>

T-shirts, long sleeve, crew, hoodies are screen printed.

Polos, jackets, 1/4 zip, full zip and hats are embroidered.

Tumblers are laser engraved.



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

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!

School Calendar

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

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.

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

faith . family . friends

St. John's Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is encouraging everyone to think about ways to stay connected with our young adults, or soon-to-be young adults.

Parents, can we help our children form connections with other church members? The church wants to support your family, so let's get to know each other.

Confirmation students, middle school students, and high school students, can you introduce yourself to other members? The church members are eager to meet and support you.

Church members, can we reach out to young people in our congregation? Let's show these young people how happy we are to see them.

Simple connections can make all the difference. A greeting before or after church service or a monthly text once they are off on their own can go a long way.

YAM contacts: Dawn at 608-369-3163 or Danielle at 608-697-3560.

Thank you!

Bring your children to church.

To the parents of young children, may we suggest:

God gave children vibrant energy that sometimes causes them to wiggle and make noise. They belong right here with God's people where you have so faithfully brought them. Stick with it!

Quietly explain the parts of the service, and the actions of the pastor, ushers, singers, etc. **Check out the Kids in the Divine Service booklets in the busy bags.**

Items needed for the Hygiene Kits

(Items should be new and in the original packaging)

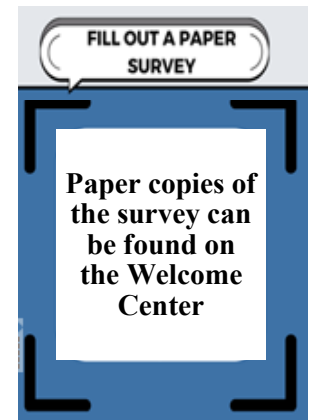
- Bar of soap
- Toothbrush
- Bath towel
- Washcloth
- Plastic soap box
- Small facial tissues
- Sturdy comb
- Nail clippers

Community Support Needed

Ageing 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.



MORE INFO:

(608) 742-9233

adrc@columbiacountywi.gov



Weekly Offerings

April 14

In-person Attendance: 264

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$10,977.24

Restricted Contributions Received: \$480.00

TOTAL: \$11,457.24

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$549,710.93

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$541,170.00
(week 42)

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36 & Luke 9:1-17	Tuesday, Lev. 10:1-20 & Luke 9:37-62	Friday, Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8 & Luke 11:1-13
Monday, Lev. 9:1-24 & Luke 9:18-36	Wednesday, Lev. 23:23-44 & Luke 10:1-22	Saturday, Lev. 19:9-18, 23-37 & Luke 11:14-36
	Thursday, Lev. 17:1-16 & Luke 10:23-42	

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

John 14:27

Stewardship Thoughts

John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

Life Thoughts

April 21 – Easter IV – The Gracious Savior brings a delightful clarity to life-and-death issues and situations. Killing and destroying belongs entirely to the work of the devil (John 10:11). The people of God advocate and extend abundant, everlasting life to the Lord's every last little lamb. Unto all our neighbors, with both our voice and our goods (1 John 3:17), may we “come that they may have life and have it abundantly!”

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 21
LWML

April 28
Sherry A. and Amanda C.

May 5
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.