

July 20, 2025



**WELCOME**  
*in the name of the Lord!*

### 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](http://stjohnsportage.com/live).

**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

### Weekly Events

#### Sunday (20)

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

#### Monday (21)

- 12:00 p.m. Visitation, Church Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Funeral, Church Sanctuary
- 1:30 p.m. Funeral Luncheon, Church CLC

#### Tuesday (22)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport EAA Building
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 4:30 p.m. Volleyball Practice, School Gym

#### Wednesday (23)

- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)
- 4:30 p.m. Volleyball Practice, School Gym

#### Thursday (24)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 4:30 p.m. Volleyball Practice, School Gym

#### Friday (25)

**Church office closed**

#### Sunday (27)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

### Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

LSB front cover



This weekend we are reminded that, while faithful service is good and necessary, only one thing is truly needful: the Word of Christ. Abraham welcomed the LORD and received the promise of a son (Genesis 18:1–14), not by works, but by **God's Word of promise**. Likewise, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and received what could not be taken away—the Word that gives life (Luke 10:38–42).

Through His Church, Christ continues to make known the mystery once hidden but now revealed: that in Him we are reconciled to God and made holy by His Word (Colossians 1:21–29).

### 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):

*Don and Carol Kohrt* celebrating their 61 wedding anniversary

#### Medical:

*Coltin Dittberner, Jim Rittmeyer*

#### Long-term Illness/Treatment:

*Stacie Wheeler, Geraldine Kerl*

#### Mourning:

The family of Joe Chance (son of *Virgil* and *Gladys Chance*)

### **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.

## Hands to Help, Hearts to Serve: Volunteer Opportunities

### St. John's Fair Booth

**We need your smiling faces at our fair booth, July 23–27!** This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our community, **share what Jesus has done for you**, and invite others to our church and school. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for a 2-hour time slot between noon and 8:00 p.m.

— *Board of Evangelism*

### Basketball Coach

**St. John's is looking for a boys' basketball coach** for the upcoming season. If you love the game and enjoy working with youth, this is a great opportunity to share your time and talents! Coaching experience is helpful but not required. For more information or to express interest, please contact the school office, 608-742-9000 opt. 3 or email [schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com)

### Run iPad

**When the organists cannot play, we have a special program that uses an iPad and our organ to play the music for services.** It's time to bring in a couple of new volunteers to our group. If you're curious about how this works, contact Stephenie at [Shovland@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:Shovland@stjohnsportage.com). No musical experience needed.

### Slide into Service Projector Operators needed

**We are looking for volunteers to help operate the projector** during our worship services. **No experience necessary**—just a willingness to serve! If you're interested or would like to learn more, please email us at [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com). Thank you for supporting our worship ministry!

## Understanding the Creeds

### **What is a creed?**

A creed is a statement of what we believe, teach, and confess. The word *creed* comes from the Latin *credo*, meaning "I believe." The Church holds to three creeds—the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds—which clearly proclaim the Christian faith handed down from Scripture. These are not just words; they confess the truth of the living God who saves us through Christ.

### **Why do we speak the creed in the Divine Service?**

When we speak the creed in worship, we respond in faith to God's work for us through Jesus. We join with the Church throughout time and around the world, boldly confessing the Gospel. In the creed, we say together: *This is what we believe!*

## Texas Flooding Support – Disaster Response Fund



In response to the recent severe flooding in Texas, our LCMS Disaster Response Fund provides direct aid through local congregations, pastors, and volunteers. This is mercy work rooted in Christ—offering help, hope, and the Gospel. To support this effort, designate your check or envelope to “Disaster Response Fund,” or give online at [stjohnsportage.com/give](https://stjohnsportage.com/give) and select “LCMS Disaster Relief.” Learn more at [lcms.org/disaster](https://lcms.org/disaster).

## Save the Date

### GriefShare

Grieving the death of a loved one? Find comfort, hope, and healing at **GriefShare**, hosted by St. John’s Grief Ministry.

**Mondays, beginning September 8  
4:30–6:30 p.m.**

**Christian Life Center**

Suggested free-will donation: \$25

Register online at

<https://www.stjohnsportage.com/ministry-events>

### LWML SWD Fall Retreat

**Friday, Sept. 26 – Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025  
Embassy Suites by Hilton, Brookfield, WI  
1200 S Moorland Road, Brookfield, WI 53005**

**Theme:** *Armor of God – Your Strong Suit*

**Presenter:** Donna Snow

**Scripture:** “Put on the whole armor of God...”  
(Ephesians 6:10–18)

Join women from across the district for a weekend of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

**For more information and to register, visit:**

[lwml-swd.org/events/retreat](https://lwml-swd.org/events/retreat)

## Reminders

**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.



**Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide** in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as internet and print communications, dramas, music and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LMH’s flagship program, *The Lutheran Hour*, is the world’s longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on nearly 1800 stations. For more information, visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

## Project Connect

**Lutheran Hour Ministries’ booklet ministry, Project Connect**, is designed to provide down-to-earth insight about things people deal with every day – grief, stress, prayer, relationships – and more. You can share Project Connect booklets with friends and neighbors. Nearly 60 topical booklets are currently available – with dozens available in Spanish or as audio files. For more information, call 800-876-9880 or visit [www.lhm.org/projectconnect](http://www.lhm.org/projectconnect)

## Community Event

### 30th Annual Fish Boil

You’re invited to the **30th Annual Fish Boil** at Immanuel Lutheran Church (210 S. Charles Street, Westfield) on **Friday, August 1, 2025**, from **4:30–7:00 p.m.** Enjoy a delicious meal of cod, potatoes, onions, cole slaw, beans, bread, dessert, and a beverage.

**Proceeds will benefit the Orphan Grain Train (Wisconsin Branch)**, supporting people in need.

**Ticket prices:**

Adults – \$12.00

Children (ages 6–10) – \$5.00

Children under 6 – Free

Carry-outs available. Get your tickets now by calling **(608) 296-2088** or purchase at the door.

## Organ Concert @ St. Peter’s

**St. Peter’s Lutheran Church invites you to the Rev. Dr. Marion Hendrickson Memorial Organ Concert Series.**  
**Concert Schedule – All concerts begin at 3:00 p.m.**

• **Sunday, August 24** – *Jane Syme*

• **Sunday, December 7** – *Val Floeter & Patricia Backhaus*

Come and enjoy an afternoon of inspiring music in a beautiful worship setting. **All are welcome!**

**St. Peter’s Lutheran Church**  
303 Park Street, Arlington, WI



## Weekly Offerings

**July 13, 2025**

In-person Attendance: 283

Actual July 13 Giving: \$10,709.00

**Weekly Giving Goal: \$18,458.00**

Weekly Shortfall: (\$7,749.00)

Year-to-Date Shortfall: (\$9,472.00)

Our weekly giving goal is based on past patterns of congregational giving and our approved annual budget for ministry. This figure reflects only regular offerings and does not include other income sources. More detailed financial updates will be shared in our newsletter. Thank you for faithfully stewarding your time, talents, and treasures in joyful response to God's grace, recognizing that all we have is entrusted to us by Him (Psalm 24:1; 1 Peter 4:10).

## Slide into Service – Run the Projector

**We are looking for volunteers to operate the projector during our services.** If you're interested in helping, please email us at [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

### July 20

5:30—Travas Busse  
8:00—Travas Busse  
10:30—Debbie R.

### August 3

5:30—Open  
8:00—Open  
10:30—Debbie R.

### July 27

5:30—Debbie R.  
8:00—Bella B.  
10:30—Open

### August 10

5:30—Open  
8:00—Open  
10:30—Debbie R.

## Brew Fellowship – Host Coffee Hour

Looking for a simple way to serve and connect with others at St. John's? Consider *adopting a Sunday* by hosting our Coffee Hour! It's a fun opportunity for individuals, families, or groups to share a snack, brew some coffee, and enjoy time with fellow members after worship.

You'll bless others with hospitality—and likely make a few new friends, too. Sign up in the Christian Life Center or reach out to the church office to pick your Sunday!

### July 20

Open

### August 3

Open

### July 27

Open

### August 10

Open

## Stewardship Thoughts

**Luke 10:40b – “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?”** Martha is doing the right thing but in the wrong order. Her service to the Lord is good, but she has let it get ahead of hearing His Word. Mary has placed the Word first, which is good. Is there any doubt that she will rise once she has heard the Word and get to serving as well? Isn't that what hearing the Word always leads us to do? We listen, then respond. We believe, and thus we act!

## Life Thoughts

**July 20 – Pentecost VI (Proper 11C)** – Affirming the sanctity of every life means more than just ending abortion or opposing physician-assisted suicide. Sometimes it includes Gospel hospitality that sits and listens to neighbors about the crosses they carry (Luke 10:39). Bringing about death to dismiss and silence suffering may feel like a human right, but sharing one another's sorrows represents the better portion (Luke 10:42).

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

## Daily Lectionary

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

### Sunday,

1 Sam. 3:1–21 &  
Acts 16:1–22

### Tuesday,

1 Sam. 5:1–6:3,  
10–16 &  
Acts 18:1–11,  
23–28

### Thursday

1 Sam. 8:1–22 &  
Acts 21:15–36

### Monday,

1 Sam. 4:1–22 &  
Acts 16:23–40

### Wednesday,

1 Sam. 6:19–7:17  
&  
Acts 19:1–22

### Friday,

1 Sam. 9:1–27 &  
Acts 21:37–22:16

### Saturday,

1 Sam. 10:1–27 &  
Acts 22:17–29

## Contact us: 608-742-9000

### Church:

option 4

Office Hours:

M—Th 8:00a–3:30p

[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Rev. Greg Hovland,  
Senior Pastor

(c) 608-571-3360

[ghovland@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ghovland@stjohnsportage.com)

### Child Development Center:

option 2

Office Hours:

M—F 7:00a–5:00p

[cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Debra Drew,  
Director

[ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com)

### School:

option 3

Office Summer Hours:

M—F 8:00a–12:00p

[schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Kris Winkelmann,  
Interim Principal  
[kwinkelmann@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:kwinkelmann@stjohnsportage.com)

### St. John's Elder Directory:

Patrick Kirchenwitz 575-3959

Roger Baerwolf 617-6088

Ken Chvojicek 697-2102

Bill Hageman 279-0272

Ron Mueller 369-1845

Pete Smith 697-3807

Gene Thompson 697-4786

Mark Witt 697-0224

Dennis Powers 235-4987

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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).