

July 27, 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.

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!

Weekly Events

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

Tuesday (29)

- 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 (30)

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

Thursday (31)

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

Friday (01)

Church office closed

Sunday (03)

- 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.

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

Church Office Closed August 18-22

The church office will be closed from **Monday, August 18 through Friday, August 22** for an all staff meeting. For pastoral care needs, please contact Pastor Hovland, 608-571-3360.

Sermon Reflections



This weekend, Jesus teaches us how to pray. In faith, we are invited to call upon our heavenly Father with boldness and confidence, trusting in His promise: ***“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find”*** (Luke 11:9).

Like Abraham, who interceded for Sodom believing in God’s mercy (Genesis 18:20–33), and like the Church, who clings to Christ the Head (Colossians 2:6–19), we too pray in faith—confident that the Father hears and answers according to His will and grace.

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:

Jim Rittmeyer

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Geraldine Kerl

Mourning:

The family of *Stephen Larson*

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.

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!*

Hands to Help, Hearts to Serve: Volunteer Opportunities

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

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. 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. Thank you for supporting our worship ministry!

Advent by Candlelight

We are looking for volunteers to help organize and set up for our upcoming Advent by Candlelight. If you enjoy decorating, planning, or lending a hand, we’d love your help in making this evening beautiful and meaningful for our congregation. If you are able to assist, please contact **Bonnie**, 608-617-1180 for more details.

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 and select “LCMS Disaster Relief.” Learn more at 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

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.

BACK to SCHOOL BLESSINGS

All students—from **4K through college**—are invited to receive a special **back to school blessing** during worship services as we begin a new academic year.

Please join us at one of the following services:

Saturday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 24 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Come and be encouraged in Christ as we lift up our students in prayer, trusting in God’s promises from His Word (Proverbs 3:5–6; Psalm 119:105).

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.

Trinity Lutheran Golf Event

Trinity Lutheran Church in the Wisconsin Dells is hosting their 16th Annual Golf Charity Event.

When: Sunday, August 10th, at 1:00 PM

Where: Cold Water Canyon Golf Course – Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells

Format: Shotgun start, 4-person scramble (Don’t have a team? We’ll pair you up!)

Cost:

\$80 per golfer – includes 18 holes with cart, hot dinner, raffle, prizes, & fun!

Dinner only: \$35 (Ages 6–12: \$17; 5 & under: Free)

Hole Sponsorship: Promote your business or family with hole sponsorship signage at \$100, \$250, or \$500.

Registration deadline: July 31st

Contact: Trinity Lutheran School at 608-253-3241 or office@trinitydells.org

Weekly Offerings

July 20, 2025

In-person Attendance: 272

Actual July 20 Giving: \$13,395.41

Weekly Giving Goal: \$18,458.00

Weekly Shortfall: (\$5,062.00)

Year-to-Date Shortfall: (\$14,535.00)

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).

Projector Schedule

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.

July 27

5:30—Debbie R.

8:00—Bella B.

10:30—Travas B.

August 3

5:30—Gary S.

8:00—Travas B.

10:30—Debbie R.

August 10

5:30—Open

8:00—Open

10:30—Debbie R.

August 17

5:30—Open

8:00—Bella B.

10:30—Izzy N.

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 27

Kris W.

August 3

Open

August 10

Hovland

August 17

Sherry A. and Amanda C.

Stewardship Thoughts

Luke 11:11 – “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent?” A generous, giving spirit comes from knowing that you have a generous, giving Father. He will care for our needs. We are therefore free to reflect His generosity in our lives. We can be generous in raising our children, supporting the church and serving our neighbor in the community. In these three areas — home, church and society — the Lord has called us to show His grace and generosity to those around us.

Life Thoughts

July 27 – Pentecost VII (Proper 12C) – Surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses involve more than just political controversies or worldly concerns. Human lives embody spiritual matters because they arrive as the work, purpose, and property of God's hands (Psalm 138:8). Who needs abortion or assisted suicide when the Heavenly Father urges us to ask for, expect, and await miracles (Luke 11:9-10)?

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

1 Sam. 12:1–25 &
Acts 22:30–23:11

Monday,

1 Sam. 13:1–18 &
Acts 23:12–35

Tuesday,

1 Sam. 14:47–15:9
&
Acts 24:1–23

Wednesday,

1 Sam. 15:10–35 &
Acts 24:24–25:12

Thursday

1 Sam. 16:1–23 &
Acts 25:13–27

Friday,

1 Sam. 17:1–19 &
Acts 26:1–23

Saturday,

1 Sam. 17:20–47 &
Acts 26:24–27:8

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 Summer Hours:

M—F 8:00a–12:00p

schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Kris Winkelmann,

Interim Principal

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.