

August 3, 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 (03)

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

Monday (04)

- 10:00 a.m. Health and Wellness, Church CLC

Tuesday (05)

- 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 (06)

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

Thursday (07)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:00 a.m. Our House monthly worship
- 11:00 a.m. Heritage House monthly worship
- 4:30 p.m. Volleyball Practice, School Gym

Friday (08)

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

Sunday (10)

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

Prayer Before Worship

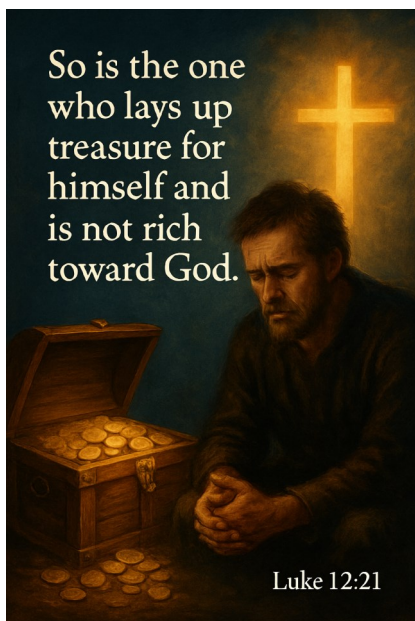
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. 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 pastoral care needs, please contact Pastor Hovland, 608-571-3360.

Sermon Reflections



This weekend, we are reminded that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions, but in Christ alone. Earthly wealth, toil, and striving apart from God are vanity—a chasing after the wind (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26). Our sinful hearts are prone to covetousness, which is idolatry (Colossians 3:5), but God calls us to seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

In Him, we are raised to a new life—one that is hidden with Christ in God and rich with eternal treasures. Jesus, who is our life, teaches us not to store up treasures for ourselves, but to **be rich toward God** through faith in Him (Luke 12:21).

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:

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.

Commissioning of Deaconess Stephenie Hovland

We rejoice to announce the Commissioning of Deaconess Stephenie Hovland during the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 10. Deaconess Hovland has been certified for service in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and has accepted a call to serve among us. In this service, she will be formally commissioned into her role—a vocation of mercy, spiritual care, and Christian teaching, carried out in support of the pastoral ministry and in faithful service to Christ and His Church.

Thank You

“Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for men.”

Colossians 3:23

St. John’s Fair Booth

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and take down the booth. A special thank you to the eight church members who staffed the booth—sharing Jesus, inviting our community to our church and school, and handing out God’s Word. We’re also grateful to the Gideons for partnering with us and drawing many visitors through the Wheel of Scripture. Together, we handed out 150 copies of God’s Word!

-Board of Evangelism



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).

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

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.

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?

The world will teach them that church is not a priority. The world will teach them it's ok not to read their Bible and pray. The world will take them down dark paths that don't lead to their Savior. The world won't teach them about Jesus.

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>

Community Event

Organ Concert @ St. Peter's

St. Peter's Lutheran Church regrets to announce that the Rev. Dr. Marion Hendrickson Memorial Organ Concerts scheduled for **Sunday, August 24** and **December 7** have been **canceled**.

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 27, 2025

In-person Attendance: 224

Actual July 20 Giving: \$17,138.14

Weekly Giving Goal: \$18,458.00

Weekly Shortfall: (\$1,320.00)

Year-to-Date Shortfall: (\$15,855.00)

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.

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—Debbie R.
8:00—Bella B.
10:30—Izzy N.

August 24

5:30—Kloe B.
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!

August 3

Open

August 10

Hovland

August 17

Sherry A. and Amanda C.

August 24

Board for Chrisitan Ed.

Stewardship Thoughts

Luke 12:15 – “And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’” Coveting is the opposite of being content with what God has given us. And the cure for coveting is twofold: thankfulness to God and generosity toward God’s purposes. So be on guard against all covetousness. Acknowledge that your Father has given you all that you need, and therefore be free and confident in directing the mammon of this world toward godly purposes.

Life Thoughts

August 3 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 13C) – The Lord our God has made human lives His business (Psalm 100:3; Luke 13:20). That makes the sanctity of every human life the Church’s business. Crucified and ascended Jesus Christ invites us to press even death into service – never the death of the neighbor’s body, but rather the death of the sinful and selfish desires (Colossians 3:5) that lie behind abortion and assisted suicide.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*He is the image of the invisible God,
he firstborn of all creation.*

Colossians 1:15

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

1 Sam. 17:48—18:9
&
Acts 27:9–26

Monday,

1 Sam. 18:10–30 &
Acts 27:27–44

Tuesday,

1 Sam. 19:1–24 &
Acts 28:1–15

Wednesday,

1 Sam. 20:1–23 &
Acts 28:16–31

Thursday

1 Sam. 20:24–42 &
1 Cor. 1:1–25

Friday,

1 Sam. 24:1–22 &
1 Cor. 1:26–2:16

Saturday,

1 Sam. 25:1–22 &
1 Cor. 3:1–23

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.