

August 10, 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!

Sermon Reflections

Weekly Events

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

Monday (11)

- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly worship
- 1:00 p.m. Cabinet Meeting, Church CLC
- 5:00 p.m. LFL Officers meeting, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Evangelism, Zoom

Tuesday (12)

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee, Church CLC

Wednesday (13)

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

Thursday (14)

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

Friday (15)

Church office closed

Sunday (17)

- 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.

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.



This weekend, we are reminded that our security is not found in possessions or worldly gain, but in the promises of our faithful God.

Just as Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6), so too we are called to live by faith—trusting in Christ, who has won for us an eternal kingdom.

It is the Father's *good pleasure* to give you that Kingdom. So do not be anxious. Seek His Kingdom. Be watchful and set your heart on the treasure that cannot be lost.

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):

Deaconess, *Stephenie Hovland*

Medical:

Jim Rittmeyer

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Geraldine Kerl

Mary Rochester (sister of *Nancy Malloy*)

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.

Congratulations Deaconess Stephenie Hovland

We give thanks to God and celebrate with joy the Commissioning of Deaconess Stephenie Hovland. Deaconess Hovland has been certified for service in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and has accepted a call to serve among us. We rejoice in this milestone and warmly congratulate her as she begins her ministry at St. John's!

Ministry Staff (Re)Dedication

As we begin a new school year, we invite you to a special service of prayer and thanksgiving at **8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 24**, as we celebrate the (re)dedication of our ministry staff.

Following the service, all are welcome to a **celebration at 9:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center**, hosted by the Board of Christian Education. Come enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and give thanks for those who serve in our



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).

YOUTH GROUP BEACH PARTY

Youth Group Beach Kickoff!

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to kick off the new youth group year with an afternoon of fun and fellowship at **Silver Lake Beach on Wednesday, August 27 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

Join us for a **devotion, music, snacks, swimming**, and time together in God's creation. Bring a towel, swimsuit, and a friend!

Let's start the year with a splash! See you at the beach!

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.

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!



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.

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.

Come Sing with Us

Do you love music? Do you enjoy singing God's praises? Then come be a part of the **St. John's Adult Choir**!

We're a welcoming group of people who love to sing, grow in faith, and share the joy of music together. Whether you've sung in choirs for years or are just thinking about giving it a try, **we'd love to have you.**

Choir practices begin Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the church balcony

Come raise your voice in joyful song and be part of something beautiful for the Lord!

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)

For more information and to register, visit:

lwml-swd.org/events/retreat

Community Event

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

August 3, 2025

In-person Attendance: 264

Actual August 3 Giving: \$13,597.00

Weekly Giving Goal: \$12,936.00

Weekly Shortfall: \$660.00

Year-to-Date Shortfall: (\$15,194.00)

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 10

5:30—Mark and Mary W.

8:00—Kris W.

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—Travas B.

10:30—Debbie R.

August 31

5:30—Open

8:00—Bella B.

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 10

Hovland

August 17

Sherry A. and Amanda C.

August 24

Board for Christian Ed.

August 31

Open

Stewardship Thoughts

Luke 12:24 – “Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them.” God feeds the birds of the air, this we know. It's just that, as one wit put it: God sometimes feeds the birds...to the cats! Yes, crosses and hardships will always come — Christ said that no disciple is above his Master. But through it all, the Lord cares for us and He calls upon us to entrust ourselves to that care. He really is our Father, and He really will guard and keep us through whatever this life has to throw at us. And in the end, we shall receive the gift of eternal life.

Life Thoughts

August 10 – Pentecost IX (Proper 14C) – The Heavenly Father hopes for human offspring as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5) and countless as grains of sand (Hebrews 11:12). So Christians encourage our communities to share our joy in regarding children – no matter what size, skills, or circumstances – as more precious than any amount of income, possessions, or pets (Luke 12:22-24).

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

1 Sam. 25:23–44 &
1 Cor. 4:1–21

Monday,

1 Sam. 26:1–25 &
1 Cor. 5:1–13

Tuesday,

1 Sam. 28:3–25 &
1 Cor. 6:1–20

Wednesday,

1 Sam. 31:1–13 &
1 Cor. 7:1–24

Thursday

2 Sam. 1:1–27 &
1 Cor. 7:25–40

Friday,

2 Sam. 5:1–25 &
1 Cor. 8:1–13

Saturday,

2 Sam. 6:1–19 &
1 Cor. 9:1–23

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.