



# Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET  
PORTAGE, WI 53901  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# February 2022

WWW.STJOHNSPORTAGE.COM

## Worship and Weekly Events

### Sundays:

8:00 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**  
9:15 a.m. **Christian Ed Hour**, Christian Life Center  
9:15 a.m. **Sunday School**, School Cafeteria  
9:15 a.m. **Praise Band**, Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**

### Tuesdays:

6:30 a.m. **Men's Bible Class**, Portage Airport  
9:15 a.m. **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**,  
Christian Life Center  
6:30 p.m. **Sisters in Christ Bible Study**,

### Wednesdays:

10:00 a.m. **Chapel**, Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. **Weekly Announcements Deadline**  
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
5:00 p.m. **Handbell Choir**, Balcony  
6:30 p.m. **Youth Group**, School Gym  
6:30 p.m. **Adult Choir**, Balcony  
6:30 p.m. **Confirmation Class**,  
Christian Life Center & All Purpose Room

### Thursdays:

8:00 a.m. **Esther Bible Study**, Christian Life Center  
5:30 p.m. **Thirsty Souls Bible Study**,  
Christian Life Center

### Saturdays:

5:30 p.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**

## Resource Links

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:**

<http://www.lcms.org/>

**South Wisconsin District of LCMS:**

<http://swd.lcms.org/>

**South Wisconsin District of LWML:**

<http://www.swd-lwml.org/>

**Lutheran Hour Ministries:**

<http://www.lhm.org/>

**Concordia University – Wisconsin:**

<http://www.cuw.edu/>

**Lutheran Counseling and Family Services:**

<http://www.lcfswi.org>

**Lutherans For Life:**

<http://www.lutheransforlife.org/>

**Camp LuWiSoMo:**

<http://www.luwisomo.org/>

**Concordia Publishing House:**

<http://www.cph.org/>

**Northwestern Publishing House:**

<http://www.nph.org/>

# A Walk through the Liturgy: Benediction

With the Benediction, the service comes a close. It is the perfect closing to the Lord's Service to His people.

The Aaronic Benediction, the words given by the Lord to Aaron to speak over the assembly who waited at the services of the Tabernacle, is the bookend to the Invocation. There, the Name of the Lord was put upon the people. So now at the conclusion the Lord's name is placed upon His people once again before they leave the sanctuary and enter into the world to live out their daily lives in their various vocations. Not only does the congregation leave with His Name, but they also leave with His Peace.

The Aaronic Benediction used as the final words of the Liturgy is uniquely Lutheran. Note the Tri-fold blessing that the congregation receives. They are to be kept by Him, They are have His face shine upon them, and they are to receive peace. It is the perfect blessing to receive that reminds us of our baptisms as we leave the sanctuary. God goes with us into the world, just as He promised He would.

It is a peace which is only known via Jesus Christ giving us this peace in Word and Sacrament. He serves us this peace by coming into the world to bear the burden of our sin and stand in our stead at the cross as our substitute. He acts as the great high priest who has atoned for our sin not via the blood of bull or goats but has obtained our salvation by pouring out His own blood as payment for sin. By Christ we have been reconciled to God. As the Gloria in Excelsis says, "Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" we have that peace granted to us. God's goodwill is shining upon us. He is gracious to us on the account of Christ. And Christ our Lord speaks this peace to His faithful even now through His chosen mouth pieces, the pastors He has placed into your congregations, so that hear this good news and believe so that Christ's peace be made your own.

And the congregation upon receiving this blessing says, "Amen." Yes, yes, it shall be so. Yes, Lord let is be so, now and always.

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## February Lectionary Summaries

### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(6 February 2022)

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13), 1 Corinthians 14:12b–20, Luke 5:1–11

#### ***Jesus Comforts His People and Builds Up His Church by the Ministry of His Gospel***

When Isaiah "saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up," he was overcome with an awareness of his sin and "unclean lips" (Is. 6:1, 5). But the Lord atoned for his sin, took away his guilt and sanctified his lips with "a burning coal" from the altar (Is. 6:6–7). Not only was he rescued from death, but he was called and sent as a prophet of the Lord's Word (Is. 6:8–9). Similarly, when Simon Peter and his companions "enclosed a large number of fish" at the Word of Jesus, he humbled himself and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:4–8). But Jesus comforted Simon, called him to discipleship and declared that he would be "catching men" (Luke 5:10–11). So in the Office of the Ministry, the Church remains the little boat from which Jesus teaches His people (Luke 5:3). Thus are we instructed in the faith, so that we say "Amen" and return thanks with heart, mind, tongue and life. For the preaching of Christ Jesus is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, by which He builds up His Church on earth (1 Cor. 14:12–19).

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(13 February 2022)

Jeremiah 17:5–8, 1 Corinthians 15:(1–11) 12–20, Luke 6:17–26

#### ***Christians Live by Faith in Christ and Rejoice in the Promise of His Resurrection***

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man," for all the strength of his flesh is like the grass that fades away (Jer. 17:5). The one who turns away from the Lord may have food and money and laugh for now, but he "shall mourn and weep" in the judgment (Luke 6:24–25). But "the man who trusts in the LORD" is blessed with all that he needs, "like a tree planted by water." When heat comes, he survives (Jer. 17:7–8). For the Lord has come in the flesh to heal the people of all their diseases, to cleanse their spirits with forgiveness, and to preach the Gospel of the kingdom of God to the poor (Luke 6:18–20). As all of this is by way of His cross, it is solely by faith in the promise of His resurrection that Christians "rejoice" and "leap for joy" (Luke 6:21–23). "If Christ has not been raised," our faith is in vain and we are most to be pitied (1 Cor. 15:14–19). But, in fact, just as "Christ died for our sins," so has He also "been raised from the dead" (1 Cor. 15:3, 20).

**St. John's Lutheran Ministries  
Youth Group  
Valentine's Day  
Babysitting Fundraiser**

Bring your child to be entertained by our youth while you enjoy the evening!

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022  
4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.**

**St. John's Lutheran School—Gym  
Freewill Donation Accepted  
Suggested donation of \$5/child/hour**

Supper will be served.  
**RSVP** by going to this link to sign-up your child(ren):

<https://bit.ly/3tM3H21>



**Save The Date  
March Youth Group Fundraisers:**

**Lent Dinner—3/2/2022**

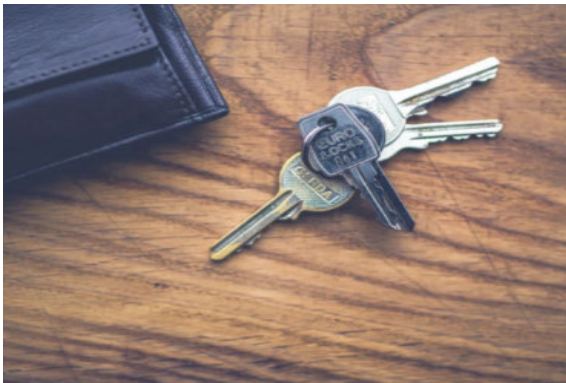
**Mystery Murder Dinner—3/26/2022**

Our Youth Group is currently raising money for the National Youth Gathering being hosted in Houston, TX this July 9th—13th. 30,000+ teenagers come together from all around the world at this gathering to worship and praise the Lord! This gathering is a blessing.

We have 10 Youth Group members/adults attending: Justin, Brett, Michael, Gracie, Mekah, Bailey, Lillianna, Amanda, Tom, and Rebecca.

Our goal is to raise \$6000 before next July. Thank you for your help in getting us there!

## Use the Key



*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.  
Jeremiah 17:7*

The word *key* is interesting. When used as an adjective, key means essential or important, primary, basic, or indispensable. As a noun, it is an item that unlocks.

As a physical item used to unlock, current technology replaces the good old-fashioned key. Electronic devices use codes to unlock doors and buttons to start vehicle engines instead of keys.

My key fob provided access to my van's locked doors until the battery in it died at a gas station while still at the pump. (I had gone inside the convenience store). I had never used the physical key to unlock the doors, nor did I think of it! I called my daughter to let her know my dilemma and that I would be quite late arriving at her house. After a few minutes of "What are we going to do?" she calmly stated, "Mom, use the key. Unlock the door." Candidate for a padded cell? Not quite yet.

But those simple three words gave me pause for thought. In our prayer life, we "use" our words. Jesus taught us to pray with the Lord's Prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to "pray without ceasing." In using our words, we connect with **the** word—God's Word. With the Holy Spirit's blessing of faith, prayer provides access to our triune God. Prayer, hope, and faith are the essential keys, yet also nouns to unlock our believing hearts into trust—trusting God in all matters regardless of earthly circumstances.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

John 15:7–8 **If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

My van key fob now has a new battery. Modern technology is at our fingertips with an encyclopedia of knowledge, music, art, but we should not forget the basic, elementary application of "Use the key."

And stay plugged in to our triune God.

*"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*  
Matthew 6:10

Connie Streich



**(Lutheran Women *in Mission*)**

LWML is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

***Lutheran Women in Mission***

You can minister to the people of the world through Mite Box mission offerings.

When you give you don't just make a donation – you make a difference! Your offerings and prayers bring the love and hope of Jesus to those in need in our neighborhoods and around the world.

***Fund worldwide missions!***

Get your own Mite Box from your church's LWML group. There are many ways to give to the LWML!

***By God's grace together we accomplish.***

- **Christian outreach and human care projects in more than 71 countries on five continents**
- **More than \$127 million raised for missions**
- **Bible studies, devotions, and other faith building resources**
- **Leadership training with confidence-expanding opportunities**
- **Friendships nurtured and lives changed by sharing the love of Jesus Christ**

**Get involved, Stay Connected, Be Supported!**

Here are some of the LWML resources, products and connections to help:

**Devotions and Podcasts**

**Mustard Seed Devotions** – emailed daily to your inbox or ordered by the package in print version. Printed Mustard Seed Devotions are great as witness tools: leave one with a gratuity, or slip one into a note card.

**Devotions** – Free downloadable, emailed, online or print versions.

**Podcasts** – enjoy listening to doctrinally sound podcasts

**Bible Studies**

Select from hundreds of studies available. Free downloadable, online or print versions.

**Servant Activities**

Monthly suggestions for opportunities to touch others with hands-on projects

**Lutheran Woman's Quarterly & eQuarterly**

Inspirational feature articles, relevant Bible studies, and newsy updates from the mission field are available in each issue.

[lwml.org](http://lwml.org) and [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). You can also download the LWML app for free.



**Lent 2022 – The Crucial Hours**

The Crucial Hours ponders key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of His saving work for us, the breadth and depth of His love for us, and the strength of His union with us. Consider walking the Lenten journey with us!

Midweek Lenten services will be on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. beginning on March 2, 2022 (Ash Wednesday).

March 2  
**I Will Keep the Passover,**  
 Matthew 26:18

March 9  
**Satan Has Asked to Sift All of You,**  
 Luke 22:31,32

March 16  
**They Bound Him,**  
 John 18:12

March 23  
**The Semblance of Legality,**  
 Luke 22:66

March 30  
**What to Remember When You Are Seized with Remorse,**  
 Matthew 27:3,4

April 6  
**A Part for the Whole,**  
 Luke 23:13-16

# Luther's Large Catechism

In this edition of the Cornerstone, we continue to publish portions of Luther's Large Catechism for your continued growth in God's Word. The text for this series is taken from the Triglotta, a public domain version of The Book of Concord. For a more up-to-date reading, consider purchasing Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions at [cph.org](http://cph.org).



## The Fourth Commandment (Part 2)

*Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother.*

Let us, therefore, learn at last, for God's sake, that, placing all other things out of sight, our youths look first to this commandment, if they wish to serve God with truly good works, that they do what is pleasing to their fathers and mothers, or to those to whom they may be subject in their stead. For every child that knows and does this has, in the first place, this great consolation in his heart, that he can joyfully say and boast (in spite of and against all who are occupied with works of their own choice): "Behold, this work is well pleasing to my God in heaven, that I know for certain." Let them all come together with their many great, distressing, and difficult works and make their boast; we will see whether they can show one that is greater and nobler than obedience to father and mother, to whom God has appointed and commanded obedience next to His own majesty; so that if God's Word and will are in force and being accomplished, nothing shall be esteemed higher than the will and word of parents; yet so that it, too, is subordinated to obedience toward God and is not opposed to the preceding commandments.

Therefore you should be heartily glad and thank God

that He has chosen you and made you worthy to do a work so precious and pleasing to Him. Only see that, although it be regarded as the most humble and despised, you esteem it great and precious, not on account of our worthiness, but because it is comprehended in, and controlled by, the jewel and sanctuary, namely, the Word and commandment of God. Oh, what a high price would all Carthusians, monks, and nuns pay, if in all their religious doings they could bring into God's presence a single work done by virtue of His commandment, and be able before His face to say with joyful heart: "Now I know that this work is well pleasing to Thee." Where will these poor wretched persons hide when in the sight of God and all the world they shall blush with shame before a young child who has lived according to this commandment, and shall have to confess that with their whole life they are not worthy to give it a drink of water? And it serves them right for their devilish perversion in treading God's commandment under foot that they must vainly torment themselves with works of their own device, and, in addition, have scorn and loss for their reward.

Should not the heart, then, leap and melt for joy when going to work and doing what is commanded, saying: Lo, this is better than all holiness of the Carthusians, even though they kill themselves fasting and praying upon their knees without ceasing? For here you have a sure text and a divine testimony that He has enjoined this; but concerning the other He did not command a word. But this is the plight and miserable blindness of the world that no one believes these things; to such an extent the devil has deceived us with false holiness and the glamour of our own works.

Therefore I would be very glad (I say it again) if men would open their eyes and ears, and take this to heart, lest some time we may again be led astray from the pure Word of God to the lying vanities of the devil. Then, too, all would be well; for parents would have more joy, love, friendship, and concord in their houses; thus the children could captivate their parents' hearts. On the other hand, when they are obstinate, and will not do what they ought until a rod is laid upon their back, they anger both God and their parents, whereby they deprive themselves of this treasure and joy of conscience, and lay up for themselves only misfortune. Therefore, as every one complains, the course of the world now is such that both young and old are altogether dissolute and beyond control, have no reverence nor sense of honor, do nothing except as they are driven to it by blows, and perpetrate what wrong and detraction they can behind each other's back; therefore God also punishes them, that they sink into all kinds of filth and misery. As a rule, the parents, too, are themselves stupid and ignorant; one fool trains [teaches] another, and as they have lived, so live their children after them.

Continued on page 8.



It looks like the first puzzle club was a huge success. Puzzle club happens on the second Monday of the month right after school.

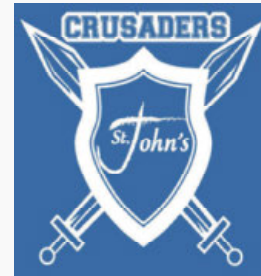


## Crusader Calendar — February

### Join us for Chapel

10:00 a.m. Wednesdays in the church sanctuary.  
\*February 16 chapel will be in the school gym.

- M 14 Butter Braid sales start**  
**Puzzle Club**  
3:15 p.m., school classroom 245
- M 21 No School — Teacher Inservice**
- Sa 26 School Choir sings in church**  
5:30 p.m.  
**School Dance**  
6:30 p.m., school gym



St. John's Lutheran Ministries—  
School will be singing and  
playing chimes on February 26,  
2022 at the 5:30 p.m. worship  
service.  
Come and listen to them praise  
the Lord in song!



## St. John's Lutheran Ministries - School Open Enrollment & Choice School Enrollment Starts February 1, 2022 through April 15, 2022



# happy birthDay

1	Michelle Nummerdor Darwin Simonson	8	Abigail Edwards Roger Hemler Brayden Jones Joel Thiede	19	Phoebe Cole Beverly Hall Grace Rabl Cody Reynolds Robert Wilcox Jeanne Young
2	Merlyn Mohr Gavin Thompson	9	Cole Huston Lilly Mommens Justin Stanford	20	Roy Erdmann Donald Kohrt Henry Mootz
3	Calvin Behnke Hartley Bell	10	Sue Hamel Sandra Tills	21	David Sutfin Zachary Wilson
4	Roger Baerwolf Pamela Eastman Jackson Moll	11	Lynn Allds Marilyn Baars Nicollete Haddix Jennifer Hinrichsen Elaine Hull Domanick Vogel Zoey Zimmerman	22	Jacob Witt
5	Linda Bannen Gretchen Halvorsen Roy Halvorsen Logan Mael Joshua Raimer	12	Keith Licht Diane Simmermon	23	Olivia Szymanski Patty Szymanski Phyllis Zimmerman
6	Arabelle Gitzlaff Ashley Hartwig Emmit Simonson Troy Witt	13	Katie Heiman Deborah Rohrbeck	24	Mark Behnke Carter Edwards Michael Kinzler Sonja Kohn Aleah Yahnke
7	Joel Leeland Peter Welsh Kristine Winkelmann	14	Brittany Yaddof	25	Dorothy Rice Judith VanWormer
		15	David Gussel Victor Kreuziger Amanda Simonson	26	Thaddeus Tomaszewski
		16	Joan Bailey	27	Michelle Erdmann Tanner Kerr
		17	JoAnn Watkins Walker Wheeler	28	Scott Jones Chase Miller
		18	Dale DeLude Jayne Hurd Nancy Johnson	29	Jeff Carrington Marian Ernst

**February 7**  
Boyd & Holly  
Wolfgram

**February 8**  
Jody & Beverly  
Hornat

**February 14**  
Joe & Karen  
Morgan

**February 14**  
Steven & Deborah  
Rohrbeck



**February 21**  
Don & Terri  
Soppe

**February 22**  
James & Deanna  
Isakson

**February 23**  
Ronald & Connie  
Eddy



This, now, I say should be the first and most important consideration to urge us to the observance of this commandment; on which account, even if we had no father and mother, we ought to wish that God would set up wood and stone before us, whom we might call father and mother. How much more, since He has given us living parents, should we rejoice to show them honor and obedience, because we know it is so highly pleasing to the Divine Majesty and to all angels, and vexes all devils, and is, besides, the highest work which we can do, after the sublime divine worship comprehended in the previous commandments; so that giving of alms and every other good work toward our neighbor are not equal to this. For God has assigned this estate the highest place, yea, has set it up in His own stead, upon earth. This will and pleasure of God ought to be a sufficient reason and incentive to us to do what we can with good will and pleasure.

Besides this, it is our duty before the world to be grateful for benefits and every good which we have of our parents. But here again the devil rules in the world, so that the children forget their parents, as we all forget God, and no one considers how God nourishes, protects, and defends us, and bestows so much good on body and

soul; especially when an evil hour comes, we are angry and grumble with impatience, and all the good which we have received throughout our life is wiped out [from our memory]. Just so we do also with our parents, and there is no child that understands and considers this [what the parents have endured while nourishing and fostering him], except the Holy Ghost grant him this grace.

God knows very well this perverseness of the world; therefore He admonishes and urges by commandments that every one consider what his parents have done for him, and he will find that he has from them body and life, moreover, that he has been fed and reared when otherwise he would have perished a hundred times in his own filth. Therefore it is a true and good saying of old and wise men: *Deo, parentibus et magistris non potest satis gratiae rependi*, that is, To God, to parents, and to teachers we can never render sufficient gratitude and compensation. He that regards and considers this will indeed without compulsion do all honor to his parents, and bear them up on his hands as those through whom God has done him all good.

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**February Lectionary Summaries... continued.**
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
 (20 February 2022)

Genesis 45:3–15, 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42  
 Luke 6:27–38

***As the Son of God Is Merciful and Forgives Your Sins, You Also Be Merciful and Forgive***

Your inheritance as a child of Adam is sin and death, but in Christ you are made alive through His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:21–22). As you have died with Him in Holy Baptism, so are you raised with Him to newness of life. Therefore, “*do not go on sinning*” (1 Cor. 15:34). Instead of serving your desires and harming your neighbors, live as “*sons of the Most High*,” and “*be merciful, even as your Father is merciful*” (Luke 6:35–36). Deal with others as you would have others deal with you (Luke 6:31, 37–38). As Christ loved you when you were at enmity with Him, as He blessed and prayed for those who abused Him, and as He did good to those who hated Him and hurt Him, so also “*love your enemies, do good*” (Luke 6:27–29, 35). For God sent His Son to bear the cross and suffer death, not to condemn the guilty, but “*to preserve life*.” So does He provide a place for you within His Church, where He is near and deals kindly with “*you and your children and your children’s children*” (Gen. 45:5–10).

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

(27 February 2022)

Deuteronomy 34:1–12, Hebrews 3:1–6, Luke 9:28–36  
***The Glory of God Is Manifested in the Body of Christ***

“*Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant*,” but Christ Jesus “*has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses*” (Heb. 3:3, 5). A beloved and well-pleasing Son, faithful even to the point of death, Jesus’ own body was raised up on the third day as the house of God, and He has brought us into that house through the waters of Holy Baptism (Heb. 3:6). Thus, it was not Moses, the lawgiver, but his successor, Joshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus), who led the people into the Promised Land (Deut. 34:1–4, 9). Now, on the Mount of Transfiguration, the New Testament Joshua appears in the glory that He is about to manifest by His “*departure*” (exodus) in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31). Having entered the waters of the Jordan in His Baptism, He passed through those waters and entered into glory by His cross and Passion. What He thereby accomplished in His own flesh and blood, crucified and risen, He reveals and gives to His Body, the Church, by the means of His Word. Therefore, the Father declares from heaven, “*Listen to him!*” (Luke 9:35).



# God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)



St. John’s Lutheran Youth Group  
Grades 7th and up  
with Concordia University

Friday, 2/11 7:00 p.m.  
Until Saturday, 2/12 7:00 a.m.

@ St. John’s Lutheran School

Consent to Participate & Photo Release  
signed by parent or guardian needed.

Admission is cans of soup  
(for Portage Food Pantry)

Link for food donation:  
<https://bit.ly/3GLcTr1>



Link for volunteering:  
<https://bit.ly/3Ag8WI8>

## February

- W 02 Jr. Youth Group**  
3:30 p.m., School Gym
- Th 03 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- M 07 GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**New Member Class**  
6:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 08 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Voters' Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- F 11 Youth Group Lock-in**  
7:00 p.m., School Gym  
**Cornerstone Submission Deadline**  
12:00 p.m., churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
Submission Guidelines can be found on our website, [stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines](http://stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines)
- M 14 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli  
**GriefShare**  
4:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**New Member Class**  
6:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 15 Board of Christian Education**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- W 16 Youth Group babysitting**  
4:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m., School Gym
- Th 17 Columbia County Healthcare Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m. Columbia County Healthcare  
**Board of Trustees**  
6:00 p.m., All Purpose Room
- Su 20 Sweethearts Dinner,**  
12:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- M 21 Ministries offices closed**
- Tu 22 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Prayer Shawls**  
6:00 p.m., Church Office Conference Room

## March (proposed)

- W 02 Ash Wednesday Worship**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Ash Wednesday Dinner**  
5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Th 03 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- Tu 08 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center
- W 09 Lent Worship**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Lent Dinner**  
5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- F 11 Cornerstone Submission Deadline**  
12:00 p.m., churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
Submission Guidelines can be found on our website, [stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines](http://stjohnsportage.com/resources/the-cornerstone-submission-guidelines)
- M 14 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli  
**Altar Guild**  
1:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Tu 15 Women's Guild**  
1:30 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Board of Christian Education**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**  
6:30 p.m., All Purpose Room
- W 09 Lent Worship**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Lent Dinner**  
5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Th 17 Columbia County Healthcare Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m. Columbia County Healthcare  
**Board of Trustees**  
6:00 p.m., All Purpose Room
- Tu 22 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Christian Life Center  
**Prayer Shawls**  
6:00 p.m., Church Office Conference Room
- W 23 Lent Worship**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Lent Dinner**  
5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center
- Sa 26 Youth Group Mystery Murder Dinner**  
Time and Place: TBD
- W 30 Lent Worship**  
10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Lent Dinner**  
5:30 p.m., Christian Life Center

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.



# Commandments 9 and 10 – The Problem is the Heart

To a serious believer, the Ten Commandments seem simple enough. Believe in God and don't frequent idols — check. Don't swear — check. Go to church every week, sometimes more — check. Love mom and dad — check. Never killed anyone, never took anything that doesn't belong to you, never stepped out on your spouse, don't lie — check on all counts. And then comes coveting... How do you deal with thoughts and feelings?


As we have considered the other commandments, we've learned they are not so simple. Still, they seem doable. The Ninth and Tenth Commandments point out the real problem. Our Old Adam and Old Eve want everything for themselves. Everyone at work gets a raise and yours is quite generous. But you know your teammate got more. So you're jealous.

King David had everything, including many beautiful wives. Yet one look at someone else's wife — and he took a bath. Committed adultery, lied about it and arranged the murder of her husband. Later he put his finger on the problem. He was sinful from birth — sinful since he was conceived. (Psalm 51:1-5) Jesus summed it up when he said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone." (Matthew 15:19-20)

Let's face it. We cannot do this alone. Instead, we can turn to the one tempted in every way that we are, except he didn't sin. (Hebrews 4:15) His suffering and death breaks the power of sin in our lives. When we remember our baptisms, we remember that the Old Adam and Eve were drowned there. We can confess our sin to him, be forgiven and face our fight with the flesh. We also have those in this fight with us — our brothers and sister in Christ. Together we can resist whatever comes to our minds — and hearts.

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## December Memorials and Offerings

<p><b>Women's Guild</b> \$200.00 In memory of <i>Marina Voight</i> <b>Altar Guild</b> \$200.00 In memory of <i>Marina Voight</i> <b>Undesignated</b> \$25.00 In memory of <i>Marina Voight</i></p>	<p><b>School</b> \$100.00 In honor of <i>Madison Rohrbeck</i></p> 
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<b>Unified Fund</b>	<b>\$73,000.00</b>	<b>School Tuition Relief</b>	<b>\$955.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$1,385.00</b>	<b>Pennies for Preachers</b>	<b>\$13.87</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Almoners Fund</b>	<b>\$740.00</b>	<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$76,413.87</b>
<b>Orphanages</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>		

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fax 742-7154  
Rev. Greg Hovland,  
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Jenni See,  
Business Manager  
jsee@stjohnsportage.com  
Catharine Daily,  
Ministries Coordinator—Church  
cdaily@stjohnsportage.com  
**Office Hours: M—Th / 8:00a–3:30p**

**St. John's Lutheran School**  
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Jim Krupski,  
Principal  
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Amanda Kohn,  
Ministries Coordinator —School  
akohn@stjohnsportage.com  
**School Hours:**  
**M—F 7:30a–3:15p**

**St. John's Child Development Center**  
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phone (608)742-9000  
Debra Drew,  
Director  
ddrew@stjohnsportage.com  
cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
**Center Office Hours: M—F / 7:00a–5:00p**

**St. John's Elder Directory**  
The elders listed below are available to talk and pray with you. Feel free to contact us wherever you are, with whatever you may be going through. We CARE and are here for you:  
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102  
Gene Thompson 697-4786  
Mark Witt 697-0224  
Bob Fairfield 296-4012  
David Hall 493-2125  
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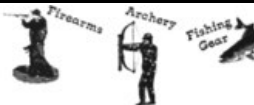
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