

March 26, 2023



# WELCOME

*in the name of the Lord!*

**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 this 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 that 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

**What problem (sin) did the sermon address?**

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**What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?**

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**What part of the sermon did you find easiest to remember?**

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## Worship Times

- ✠ Saturdays 5:30 p.m. — *Abbreviated service*
- ✠ Sundays 8:00 a.m. — *Communion at the rail*
- ✠ Sundays 10:30 a.m. — *With Praise Band*

**Livestreaming** of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at [stjohnsportage.com/live](http://stjohnsportage.com/live).

## Weekly Events

### Sunday (26)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

### Monday (27)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC

### Tuesday (28)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:30 a.m. Every One His Witness, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Elders, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Church Narthex

### Wednesday (29)

- 10:00 a.m. Lent Service, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. The Weekly Lenten Litany, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
- 5:30 p.m. Lent Dinner, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Lent Service, Church Sanctuary
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Practice, Church Balcony
- 7:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

### Thursday (30)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:15 a.m. Rachel Bible Study, Church CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Everyone His Witness, Church CLC

### Friday (31)

- Church office closed
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Ladies Bible Study, W6808 Elk Rd. Westfield

### Sunday (02)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School, School Cafeteria
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 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).

## 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):  
Baptism of *Elliott Rose Fredrick*

### Other:

### Medical:

### Long-term Illness/Treatment:

*George Koepp, Stacie Wheeler, Sherry Aberle, Tom Waddell*  
Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of *Don and Carol Kohrt*)  
Lisa Priske (daughter of *Betty Mootz*)

### Mourning:

Family of *Barbara Wheeler*

### 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.

## Easter Flowers



If you are interested in donating to the Altar Guild Easter Flower Fund, please fill in the information below and return it to the church office by April 2. Please make checks payable to **St. John's Altar Guild**.

A gift in loving memory of:

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Given by:

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## Lent 2023 –His Final Steps

The overall theme for the midweek services of Lent in 2023 is “His Final Steps.” We will ponder the significance of the people and places on Jesus’ resolute final steps to the cross.

Midweek 6, March 29

*His Final Steps Led to His Enemies*

Services are held at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The **Litany**, pages 288 and 289 in Lutheran Service Book, will be prayed at noon on Wednesdays in the sanctuary.

You are welcome to join us for these printed prayers and other requested prayers. This weekly prayer service will last around 15 minutes. Maybe bring your lunch, invite others, and visit in the Christian Life Center before or after.

**Midweek meals are served Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian life Center.** If you or your group would like to host a midweek meal, please signup at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office, [churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).

Midweek 6, March 29,

hosted by St. John’s  
Parent Teacher League

## Holy Week and Easter 2023

### Holy Week

***Maundy Thursday***  
**worship with Sacrament**

April 6, 10:00 a.m.  
and 6:30 p.m.

***Good Friday Tre Ore*** worship

April 7, 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

### Easter

***Easter Vigil***  
**worship with Sacrament**

April 8, 5:30 p.m.

***Easter Sunrise***  
**worship with Sacrament**

April 9, 6:00 a.m.

***Easter Day***  
**worship with Sacrament**

April 9, 8:00 a.m.  
and 10:30 a.m.

## Easter Breakfast

**Volunteers are needed for Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 9.**

- ⇒ Serving
- ⇒ Cleaning up
- ⇒ Donations: doughnuts, sweet rolls, and coffee cake
- ⇒ Monetary gifts are welcome to defray the costs of food items.

If you can help or offer donations, please contact Gary Zastrow, 608-742-4775.

God’s blessings to you.

## Easter Egg Hunt

**You’re invited to a Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Youth Group.**

When: Easter Sunday, April 9 | 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Where: School Gym

In addition to the egg hunt, we will have refreshments and Easter crafts.

Donations to fill 1000 Easter eggs are greatly appreciated. A box is in the church coat room for all Easter Egg Hunt donations.

## Wisconsin Private School Choice Program

Wisconsin Private School Choice Program is a tuition assistance program for private and religious schools.

### Who is Eligible?

Incoming Kindergarten  
All New & Current 1st Graders  
All New Students to St. John's  
Students Already in the Choice Program

Enrollment ends April 15.

For information on the Wisconsin Private School Choice Program, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs> or scan the QR.



## 8th-Grade Class Trip Fundraiser

Take a night off from cooking and help our 8th grade class raise funds for their class trip.

### When:

Monday, March 27 | 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### Where:

Pizza Ranch in Portage

Don't forget to purchase your Pizza Ranch RaiseRite cards in the church office.

## We're Hiring!

St. John's Lutheran Ministries is looking for energetic, patient, and kind Christians who would like to teach and pray every day with an amazing group of God's children.

### Available positions at St. John's Child Development Center:

- ✚ Full-time Early Childhood Teacher
- ✚ Part-time Cook
- ✚ Part-time Janitor

For a complete job description and employment application, please email Debbie Drew, [ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com) or call 608-742-9000 x102.

## Thank you!

St. John's amazing grace and support of the local Pregnancy Resource Center, truly, is amazing! Last year you supported us, through the baby bottle donation, in the amount of \$902.67. This year, 2023, your donation through the baby bottles, was \$1,271.01! This is a significant increase for which we are grateful. Your generous donations will be used to support the needs of families throughout Columbia County and beyond. This includes: Infants, children, moms, and dads. (We are seeing an increase in dads, as well, looking for services for their children). Your continued support and contributions for Life is appreciated.

God's richest blessings,

Pregnancy Resource Center Board of Directors.

For more fundraising ideas see St. John's April Cornerstone newsletter.

## Reminder

Please be considerate of our disabled worshippers' parking needs. If the driver is not disabled, it would be best if he or she would drop an individual at the door and use a regular parking stall when possible. Then, we will be sure we have enough handicap parking for our disabled drivers. We appreciate our caregivers and drivers.

## Vacation Bible School is back!



We hope to restart VBS this summer, June 5–9, and we are looking for a leader!

You'll have lots of help and support as we all have fun bringing the joy of learning about God to the kids in our community.

If you are interested or would like to hear more please call or message Emily, 608-697-5528, or Melissa, 608-369-2672.

## Every One His Witness

Do you have family or friends that do not go to church and/or believe in Jesus? Feel uncomfortable about witnessing to them? Read Acts 1:8 what God says about this subject. This class will give you the tools to witness. Three-week classes available. To sign up, visit the Welcome Center.

Thurs. March 30th @ 6:00 pm

Sat. April 15th @ 10:00 am.

## Financial Peace University

**Debt is a thief.** Want to get out of debt? Start a retirement plan or have an emergency fund? **Learn the tools to be debt free.** We will work out dates and times by folks' schedule. Sign-up sheet for 9-week class is at the Welcome Center. Bring family and friends. Payment plans are available. Cost is \$100 for all materials and class. Questions contact [jim@atkinsonrealtor.com](mailto:jim@atkinsonrealtor.com) 608-697-7052.

## Young Adult Ministry!

### St. John's Young Adults... Let's Stay Connected

Once our St. John's young adults are off on their own, St. John's members are thinking of them, and maybe the young adults would like to hear from their St. John's people too...

- ⇒ If you are a young adult from St. John's who is thinking about a member or two you'd like to hear from, you can reach out on your own or let us know, and we'll help make the connection.
- ⇒ If you are thinking of a young adult who you are missing, you can reach out on your own, or let us know, and we'll help you too.

One call or text per month is all that it could take to keep the connection. Just a "Hello, how are you?" Everyone benefits. Our new Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is just getting started. We're happy to help and will keep everything simple and private. Contact Danielle at 608-697-3560.

## Community Event

**Portage Police Department invites you to TRIAD Safe Night Out.** Join the PPD for a spaghetti dinner, bingo, prizes, and fun! Only \$5.00 a person.

When: April 26 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Census 2022

St. John's is taking a census of its entire membership. If you haven't done so, please complete the Census 2022 online at [stjohnsportage.com/census2022](http://stjohnsportage.com/census2022). It takes less than 2 minutes. Paper copies are available at the Welcome Center. We are looking for 100% participation of our families. Thanks to all who have participated. Thank you to all who have submitted a Census.



## Life Thoughts

**March 26 – Lent V** – Almighty God wondrously and abundantly brings forth life where we only behold despair and darkness (Ezekiel 37:3-6). How much more dear does He hold embryonic neighbors, impaired persons, and aging ones than piles of bones? And would we not witness—and deliver!—miracles in voicing it to them and for them, especially amid surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?

## Stewardship Thoughts

**Romans 8:1** – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and coheirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.*

Ephesians 1:7

## Daily Lectionary

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

<b>Sunday,</b> Ex. 1:1–22 & Mark 14:12–31	<b>Wednesday,</b> Ex. 4:14–18 & Mark 15:1–15	<b>Friday,</b> Ex. 5:1–6:1 & Mark 15:33–47
<b>Monday,</b> Ex. 2:1–22 & Mark 14:32–52	<b>Thursday,</b> Ex. 4:19–31 & Mark 15:16–32	<b>Saturday,</b> Ex. 7:1–25 & Mark 16:1–20
<b>Tuesday,</b> Ex. 2:23–3:22 & Mark 14:53–72		

## Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 402 (includes Wednesday)  
 Unified Received: \$14,299.79  
 Other Contributions: \$590.00  
 TOTAL: \$14,889.79  
**Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00**  
 YTD Unified Giving: \$475,779.08  
**YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$505,836.54**

## 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 Hours:  
M—F 7:30a–3:15p  
schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com

Jim Krupski,  
Principal  
jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com

**St. John's Elder Directory:**  
Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman  
Roger Baerwolf 617-6088  
Ken Chvojicek 697-2102  
Bill Hageman 279-0272  
David Hall 493-2125  
Patrick Kirchenwitz 575-3959  
Ron Mueller 369-1845  
Pete Smith 697-3807  
Gene Thompson 697-4786  
Mark Witt 697-0224

## Bible Studies

Join us for fellowship and Bible study!

- ✚ **Christian Education Hour meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of The Lifestyles of Reconciliation Series: *Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation*, produced by Ambassadors of Reconciliation
- ✚ **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of Matthew and the Synoptic Gospels.
- ✚ **Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Portage Airport.** We are currently studying the book of Acts.
- ✚ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** This is a Pastor-led Bible study of the upcoming week's readings.
- ✚ **Esther Bible Study meets Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently studying the Gospel of John.
- ✚ **Rachel Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.** We are currently watching and discussing *The Chosen* series.
- ✚ **Thirsty Souls meets Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.**
- ✚ **Friday Ladies Bible Study meets Fridays at 1:00 p.m. at the home of June R., W6808 Elk Rd., Westfield, WI.** We are currently studying Colossians.

## Coffee Hour

**Adopt a Sunday! It's a fun and easy way to get to know your church family.**

We encourage families and groups to “Adopt a Sunday” by hosting coffee hour on Sunday mornings. Hosting coffee hour involves providing a simple snack, making coffee, and enjoying fellowship time with our church families. Sign up in the Christian Life Center or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

March 26:	2nd – 4th Grades
April 2:	Shirley Palmquist, Kathy Gerstenkorn, and Johni Stout
April 9:	Easter Breakfast
April 16:	Parent Teacher League (PTL)

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.