



# Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET  
PORTAGE, WI 53901  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2023

WWW.STJOHNSPORTAGE.COM

## Worship Times

- Saturdays:**  
5:30 p.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**
- Sundays:**  
8:00 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**  
9:00 a.m. **Coffee Hour and Fellowship**, Christian Life Center  
9:15 a.m. **Praise Band**, Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. **Service of Word and Sacrament**
- Wednesdays:**  
10:00 a.m. **Chapel**, Sanctuary

See page 10 for Holy Week and Easter schedule.

## Weekly Events

- Mondays:**  
9:00 a.m. **Strong Bodies**, Narthex
- Wednesdays:**  
12:00 p.m. **Weekly Announcements Deadline**  
churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com  
5:00 p.m. **Handbell Choir**, Balcony  
6:30 p.m. **Confirmation Instruction**, Christian Life Center  
6:30 p.m. **Adult Choir**, Balcony
- Thursdays:**  
9:00 a.m. **Strong Bodies**, Narthex
- Fridays:**  
**Church Office Closed**

## Weekly Christian Education and Bible Studies

- Sundays:**  
9:15 a.m. **Christian Ed Hour**, Christian Life Center  
9:15 a.m. **Sunday School**, School Cafeteria  
11:30 a.m. **Late Sunday Morning Bible Study**, All Purpose Room
- Tuesdays:**  
6:30 a.m. **Men's Bible Class**, Portage Airport  
9:15 a.m. **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**, Christian Life Center
- Wednesdays:**  
4:30 p.m. **Jr. Youth Group**, School Gym  
6:30 p.m. **Sr. Youth Group**, School Gym
- Thursdays:**  
8:00 a.m. **Esther Bible Study**, Christian Life Center  
10:00 a.m. **Rachel Bible Study**, Christian Life Center  
5:30 p.m. **Thirsty Souls Bible Study**, Christian Life Center
- Fridays:**  
5:30 p.m. **Friday Ladies Bible Study**, W6808 Elk Rd. Westfield

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 opt. 4 or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

# Church Word: Omnipresent

In most non-Christian religions, God is seen as very far away. He is the High God, who made the world and left it to others to cope as best they can. Even in popular American culture, we think of God as tucked away, up in Heaven. Our songs tell us “God is watching us... from a distance,” “And the three men I admire most The Father, Son and the Holy Ghost They caught the last train for the coast...” Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, people have imagined they could hide from God. (Genesis 3:8)

All these concepts are mistaken. God is omnipresent — he is everywhere. God is not far away, he is very near. He fills the heavens and the earth. (Jeremiah 23:23-24) No one can hide from him. (Ps 139:6-12) No one can escape his judgement or is beyond his care.

Yet he is not a part of his creation, as the Hindus, Buddhists and others believe. For them, we are god, we just do not know it yet. God is a separate, distinct being. God is not a man (Numbers 23:19), either as these Eastern religions teach or as one of many physical being that grew into Gods, as the Mormons believe. He is busy endlessly maintaining his creation, supporting it with his power, directing the course of events, working through his word and his church to seek and to save the lost, and making new creatures — including each

and every new human life.

But that is not the end of the ways God is present. In the Son of God, God became one of us. Jesus is in every way human, except without sin. He is Emmanuel — God with us. He live a perfect life for us, suffered and died for us, rose and ascended to Heaven for us. And yet he has in a mysterious way not gone away at all. He is “by our side upon the plain (the field of battle) with his good gifts and spirit.” When we gather for worship, even two or three of us, he is there among us.

And yet, Christ is even more present in a way so personal we cannot begin to understand it. In the Lord’s Supper, he is really present, in the flesh and blood sacrificed for us. This body he gives with bread for us to eat and this blood he gives with wine for us to drink. In this way, he is with us so that we cannot miss him. So, God’s omnipresence is a very good thing for us. It means we are never alone, from the day we are conceived to the day we enter his eternal presence and finally see his face.

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## Christ is Risen!



From ancient times, Christians first greet each other on Easter: “He is risen!” or “Christ is risen.” The words of the angel to the women at the tomb (Mark 16:6) are still joyful to this day. In Lutheran churches it is common for pastors to open sermons throughout the Easter season with these words. The greeting is repeated at the end of Lutheran burial services, reminding us of the resurrection. So, why does the resurrection strike such a chord with Christians? After all, the full price for our salvation was completed when Jesus died on the cross.

The reasons why we cling to the Resurrection of Jesus are many. The most important is that the resurrection of our bodies is tied to it. In baptism, we die with Christ and when he rose, we rise to new life. (Romans 6:3-4) If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we would remain in our graves. We would have believed in a lie. But Christ did rise from the grave, the first harvest of God’s children. (1 Corinthians 15:20) His resurrection broke the seal of the grave. On the last day, we will rise, body and soul to live with Christ forever.

The resurrection of our Lord also fulfilled all of the promises of God’s word and the predictions of Jesus himself. When he rose, he demonstrated that God’s promises are kept. The three days in the grave — Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday evening — fulfilled these in great precision. So, with the Church of all times and places, we confess, “on the third day, he rose from the dead,” knowing that it makes our resurrection a sure and certain hope. So, we can face death, knowing it has no sting any longer.

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# A Better Way

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)  
Newsletter Article — April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not *whether* a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians *should* tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

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## AMAZING GRACE

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).

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



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

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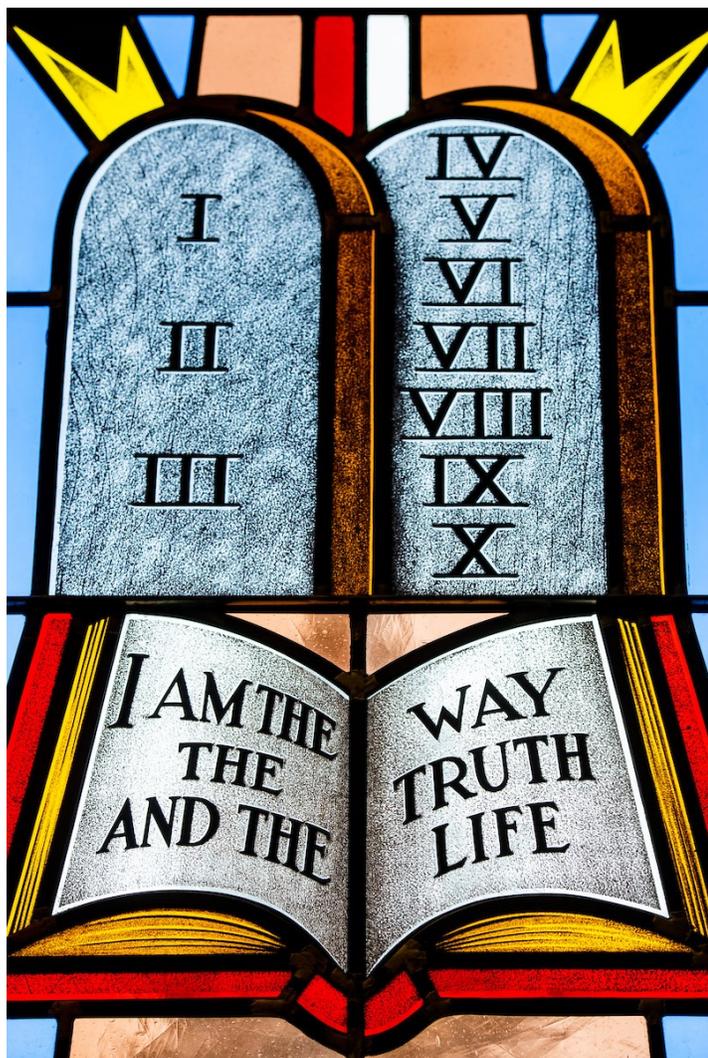
Your continued support and contributions for Life is appreciated. Stay tuned for upcoming events we will be fund raising at: Concerts at the Portage, Taste of Portage, and the Pregnancy Resource Center Golf Scramble 2023, (new location: Portage Country Club). If you would like to volunteer at any of these events, please text: Liesa Zastrow (608) 683-4009.

God's richest blessings,

Pregnancy Resource Center Board of Directors.

# 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).



## Conclusion of the Ten Commandments.

Thus we have the Ten Commandments, a compend of divine doctrine, as to what we are to do in order that our whole life may be pleasing to God, and the true fountain and channel from and in which everything must arise and flow that is to be a good work, so that outside of the Ten Commandments no work or thing can be good or pleasing to God, however great or precious it be in the eyes of the world. Let us see now what our great saints can boast of their spiritual orders and their great and grievous works which they have invented and set up, while they let these pass, as though they were far too insignificant, or had long ago been perfectly fulfilled.

I am of opinion, indeed, that here one will find his hands full, [and will have enough] to do to observe these, namely, meekness, patience, and love towards enemies, chastity,

kindness, etc., and what such virtues imply. But such works are not of value and make no display in the eyes of the world; for they are not peculiar and conceited works, and restricted to particular times, places, rites, and customs, but are common, every-day domestic works which one neighbor can practice toward another; therefore they are not of high esteem.

But the other works cause people to open their eyes and ears wide, and men aid to this effect by the great display, expense, and magnificent buildings with which they adorn them, so that everything shines and glitters. There they waft incense, they sing and ring bells, they light tapers and candles, so that nothing else can be seen or heard. For when a priest stands there in a surplice embroidered with gilt, or a layman continues all day upon his knees in church, that is regarded as a most precious work which no one can sufficiently praise. But when a poor girl tends a little child and faithfully does what she is told, that is considered nothing; for else what should monks and nuns seek in their cloisters?

But see, is not that a cursed presumption of those desperate saints who dare to invent a higher and better life and estate than the Ten Commandments teach, pretending (as we have said) that this is an ordinary life for the common man, but that theirs is for saints and perfect ones? And the miserable blind people do not see that no man can get so far as to keep one of the Ten Commandments as it should be kept, but both the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer must come to our aid (as we shall hear), by which that [power and strength to keep the commandments] is sought and prayed for and received continually. Therefore all their boasting amounts to as much as if I boasted and said: To be sure, I have not a penny to make payment with, but I confidently undertake to pay ten florins.

All this I say and urge in order that men might become rid of the sad misuse which has taken such deep root and still cleaves to everybody, and in all estates upon earth become used to looking hither only, and to being concerned about these matters. For it will be a long time before they will produce a doctrine or estates equal to the Ten Commandments, because they are so high that no one can attain to them by human power; and whoever does attain to them is a heavenly, angelic man, far above all holiness of the world. Only occupy yourself with them, and try your best, apply all power and ability, and you will find so much to do that you will neither seek nor esteem any other work or holiness.

Let this be sufficient concerning the first part of the common Christian doctrine, both for teaching and urging what is necessary. In conclusion, however, we must repeat the text which belongs here, of which we have treated already in the First Commandment, in order that we may learn what pains God requires to the end we may learn to inculcate and practice the Ten Commandments:

For I the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

Although (as we have heard above) this appendix was primarily attached to the First Commandment, it was nevertheless [we cannot deny that it was] laid down for the sake of all the commandments, as all of them are to be referred and directed to it. Therefore I have said that this, too, should be presented to and inculcated upon the young, that they may learn and remember it, in order to see what is to urge and compel us to keep these Ten Commandments. And it is to be regarded as though this part were specially added to each, so that it inheres in, and pervades, them all.

Now, there is comprehended in these words (as said before) both an angry word of threatening and a friendly promise to terrify and warn us, and, moreover, to induce and encourage us to receive and highly esteem His Word as a matter of divine earnestness, because He Himself declares how much He is concerned about it, and how rigidly He will enforce it, namely, that He will horribly and terribly punish all who despise and transgress His commandments; and again, how richly He will reward, bless, and do all good to those who hold them in high esteem, and gladly do and live according to them. Thus He demands that all our works proceed from a heart which fears and regards God alone, and from such fear avoids everything that is contrary to His will, lest it should move Him to wrath; and, on the other hand, also trusts in Him alone and from love to Him does all He wishes, because he speaks to us as friendly as a father, and offers us all grace and every good.

Just this is also the meaning and true interpretation of the first and chief commandment, from which all the others must flow and proceed, so that this word: *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me*, in its simplest meaning states nothing else than this demand: Thou shalt fear, love, and trust in Me as thine only true God. For where there is a heart thus disposed towards God, the same has fulfilled this and all the other commandments. On the other hand, whoever fears and loves anything else in heaven and upon earth will keep neither this nor any. Thus the entire Scriptures have everywhere preached and inculcated this commandment, aiming always at these two things: fear of God and trust in Him. And especially the prophet David throughout the Psalms, as when he says [Ps. 147, 11]: *The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy*. As if the entire commandment were explained by one verse, as much as to say: The Lord taketh pleasure in those who have no other gods.

Thus the First Commandment is to shine and impart its splendor to all the others. Therefore you must let this declaration run through all the commandments, like a hoop in a wreath, joining the end to the beginning and holding them all together, that it be continually repeated and not forgotten; as, namely, in the Second Commandment, that we fear God and do not take His name in vain for cursing, lying, deceiving, and other modes of leading men astray, or rascality, but make proper and good use of it by calling upon Him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, derived from love and trust according to the First Commandment. In like manner such fear, love, and trust is to urge and force us not to despise His Word, but gladly to learn, hear, and esteem it holy, and honor it.

Thus continuing through all the following commandments

towards our neighbor likewise, everything is to proceed by virtue of the First Commandment, to wit, that we honor father and mother, masters, and all in authority, and be subject and obedient to them, not on their own account, but for God's sake. For you are not to regard or fear father or mother, or from love of them do or omit anything. But see to that which God would have you do, and what He will quite surely demand of you; if you omit that, you have an angry Judge, but in the contrary case a gracious Father.

Again, that you do your neighbor no harm, injury, or violence, nor in any wise encroach upon him as touching his body, wife, property, honor, or rights, as all these things are commanded in their order, even though you have opportunity and cause to do so and no man would reprove you; but that you do good to all men, help them, and promote their interest, howsoever and wherever you can, purely from love of God and in order to please Him, in the confidence that He will abundantly reward you for everything. Thus you see how the First Commandment is the chief source and fountainhead which flows into all the rest, and again, all return to that and depend upon it, so that beginning and end are fastened and bound to each other.

This (I say) it is profitable and necessary always to teach to the young people, to admonish them and to remind them of it, that they may be brought up not only with blows and compulsion, like cattle, but in the fear and reverence of God. For where this is considered and laid to heart that these things are not human trifles, but the commandments of the Divine Majesty, who insists upon them with such earnestness, is angry with, and punishes those who despise them, and, on the other hand, abundantly rewards those who keep them, there will be a spontaneous impulse and a desire gladly to do the will of God. Therefore it is not in vain that it is commanded in the Old Testament to write the Ten Commandments on all walls and corners, yes, even on the garments, not for the sake of merely having them written in these places and making a show of them, as did the Jews, but that we might have our eyes constantly fixed upon them, and have them always in our memory, and that we might practice them in all our actions and ways, and every one make them his daily exercise in all cases, in every business and transaction, as though they were written in every place wherever he would look, yea, wherever he walks or stands. Thus there would be occasion enough, both at home in our own house and abroad with our neighbors, to practice the Ten Commandments, that no one need run far for them.

From this it again appears how highly these Ten Commandments are to be exalted and extolled above all estates, commandments, and works which are taught and practiced aside from them. For here we can boast and say: Let all the wise and saints step forth and produce, if they can, a [single] work like these commandments, upon which God insists with such earnestness, and which He enjoins with His greatest wrath and punishment, and, besides, adds such glorious promises that He will pour out upon us all good things and blessings. Therefore they should be taught above all others, and be esteemed precious and dear, as the highest treasure given by God.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Gretchen Hintz Jeannine Mueller Rebecca Thompson	8	Mary Loomans Julia Witkowski	17	Odyssey Nagy Nicole Powers	25	Susan Budka George Koepf Marta Leeland Stacy Opalewski Aaron Stanford Landon Walker
2	Mandi Herwig Greta Loomans Brian Schneider Stefanie Yahnke	10	Hannah Davenport Isabella Opalewski	18	Mark Schlinkert		
		11	Vivian Beckett	19	Ellen Cafilich Jeffrey Jones Amy Schlinkert	26	James Atkinson Cayson Kiefer
3	Kevin Jonas Zoe Opalewski Marie Raimer	12	Kathleen Bernander Bryan Schumann		Jerry Schumann Laura Wilson	27	Sharon Norland
		13	Lauren Jonas Bowen Snyder	21	Lois Schmidt	29	Debra Drew Jean Klappstein
4	Sandra Hutler Matthew Witt	14	Janice Hartwig Leah Hutchinson Barbra Steinhaus Alicia Wilcox	22	David Hutchinson McKenna Kabele	30	David Dreyer Elaine Schehr Jane Wenker
5	Easton Jones Hunter Yahnke			23	Timmie Carlin Randy Tomlinson Chase Wolff		
6	Eugene Pribnow	15	Bonnie Horton Bailie Jones Lilliana Jones Johnathan Loomans Gina Pellmann	24	Sandra Gustafson Shane Schmidt Ann Yahnke		
7	Ryan Gitzlaff Gracie Kohn Trinity Rietmann						

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Love one another with genuine affection, and take delight in **Honoring** one another.*

*Romans 12:10*

## *April 1*

♥ *Keith & Betty Nollenberg*

## *April 2*

♥ *Jason & Sarah Zimmerman*

## *April 4*

♥ *Tom & Barbra Steinhaus*

## *April 6*

♥ *Michael & Stephanie Helmann*  
♥ *Brian & Jennifer Kabele*

## *April 16*

*David & Julie Gussel*

## *April 17*

♥ *Dennis & Wendy Powers*

## *April 18*

♥ *James & Mary Kabele*

## *April 19*

♥ *Michael & Sara Kowalski*

## *April 20*

♥ *Wayne & Mary Perry*

## *April 22*

♥ *Dean & Nancy Malloy*

## *April 26*

♥ *Steve & Lucia Fredrick*  
♥ *Robert & Janice Hartwig*

## *April 27*

♥ *Lucas & Emily Eicher*

## *April 28*

♥ *Timothy & Marie Raimer*

+++  
**Kids in the  
Divine Service**  
+++

**If all Jesus had to do was die, then why is Easter such a big deal?**

Easter is a very important day. Easter is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After Jesus was crucified, His disciples were very sad. It seemed like their God and friend had been defeated and killed. They had forgotten that Jesus told them that He would rise from the dead. They must have thought Mary Magdelene was crazy when she told them that Jesus had appeared to her at the tomb where He was buried. But her story was true! Jesus was alive! He had risen from the dead!

Later, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times to prove it. And that's just what He did, He proved it! By His resurrection, He proved to the world that He was victorious over death and paid for our sins completely. Now, the first words you hear in church on Easter Sunday are: "The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

**THE LORD IS RISEN.**



**HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**



**Parents:** Help your children to recognize the different places in our worship service which speak of Jesus' resurrection (the Creed is a good example). Point out some of the symbols in the church that might aid in their understanding of the resurrection. Remind them that we join in His resurrection through our Baptism!



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YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
**Baby Shower**  
May 6, 4:00-5:00 pm  
In the Christian Life Center  
to benefit

**Pregnancy Resource Center**

Contact Stephenie Hovland for more information. [SHovland@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:SHovland@stjohnsportage.com)

## St. John's Lutheran School had fun in March! We are blessed.

We kicked off March with our school's Spirit Week! The Luau, a school dance, was our first big event. There were 53 students, and we raised over \$100 for our St. John's Lutheran School Parent Teacher League. (The next PTL meeting is April 4. Come and check out what is being planned.)



For the first full week of March, St. John's Lutheran School planned a Spirit Week filled with dress-up days and different activities. During this week, we were dressed in comfy clothes, as royalty, as sea creatures, and we brought everything but our backpacks to school. Our students were creative, bringing their schoolbooks in grocery carts and baby strollers.

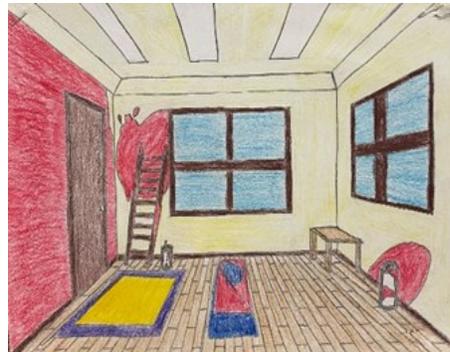
We could have used the grocery carts for all the Portage Food Pantry donations received to make birthday bags filled with cake mix, frosting, candles, balloons, streamers, and birthday plates. We were able to make 30 bags. Our donation to the Portage Food Pantry totaled 113 pounds. We also collected pennies during Penny Wars for the Portage Community School District – The Market, an extension of the food pantry located in the high school for all families to use. We collected money to add to our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter chapel offerings for The Market during Spirit Week.



Unfortunately, Spirit Week was cut short due to a snowstorm. We were able to get our talent show in on Thursday night as the storm came in. We wished all could have been there. The talent was spectacular! We had singers, dancers, educators, and comedians. It was one of St. John's best shows yet. Adding to the excitement of the night was one more day of Spring Break due to the snow.



Our best artwork was taken to The Portage Center for the Arts this month for the K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Show. The show was to celebrate a fabulous year of art with our students and



teachers for the community to enjoy. Every grade from St. John's Lutheran School was represented at this month-long event, which happens every year in March. If you missed this year's show, check it out next year.

St. John's Lutheran School is already preparing for the next year! School open enrollment has started for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Sixty-four percent of our current students have started the process for the new school year. The Wisconsin Private School Choice program portal is open until April 15, supplying families an opportunity for aid in the new school year. If you know of a family interested in joining us at St. John's Lutheran School, have them call us, and we would be happy to give them a tour to see what is happening in our school.

In our classrooms, we are looking to Jesus, our Savior, as we prepare for Holy Week this Lenten season. Our students attended Lenten Worship Services on Wednesdays and learned what Lent and Holy Week mean. We learned what it means to be sinful, repent, and forgive, looking to the cross. Every day starts in prayer and ends in prayer at St. John's Lutheran School. We are blessed for the amazing education we receive at our school.

In Christ,  
James Krupski, Principal



# Spirit Week 2023



# St. John's Ministries Monthly and Special Event Calendar

## April

- M 03 Church office closed**  
10:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.  
**Health and Wellness**  
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 04 Every One His Witness**  
10:30 a.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Parent Teacher League**  
6:30 p.m., School Cafeteria
- Th 06 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- F 07 All Ministries offices closed**  
**No School — Easter Break**
- Su 09 Easter Breakfast**  
9:00 a.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
9:15 a.m., School Gym
- M 10 All ministries offices closed**  
**No School — Easter Break**  
**Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- Tu 11 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 13 Every One His Witness**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 14 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)
- Sa 15 Every One His Witness**  
10:00 a.m., Church Christian Life Center
- W 19 Jr. & Sr. Youth Group Babysitting Night**  
4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., School Gym
- Th 20 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care  
**Every One His Witness**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Sa 22 Every One His Witness**  
10:00 a.m., Church Christian Life Center
- M 24 Board of Finance**  
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 25 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Prayer Shawls**  
6:00 p.m., Narthex
- Sa 29 Every One His Witness**  
10:00 a.m., Church Christian Life Center

## May (proposed)

April—10

- Tu 02 Lutherans For Life (LFL)**  
5:30 p.m., Church All Purpose Room
- Th 04 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- Sa 06 Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Shower**  
4:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- M 08 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- Tu 09 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- F 12 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)
- Su 14 Blood Pressure Screening**  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- Tu 16 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**  
6:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 18 Columbia County Healthcare Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Healthcare
- Tu 21 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**  
6:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Board for Christian Education**  
6:30 p.m., CDC Basement
- M 22 Board of Finance**  
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 23 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Prayer Shawls**  
6:00 p.m., Narthex
- F 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
- M 29 Memorial Day**  
**All ministries offices closed**

## 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

Join us for Easter Breakfast at  
9:00 a.m. in the Christian Life  
Center on Easter Sunday.

### Easter Egg Hunt

You're invited to a Sunday  
School Easter Egg Hunt,  
hosted by Youth Group. Join us  
at 9:15 a.m. in the School Gym.

### April Altar Guild

Claudia Fairfield,  
269-4012

Lora Foster,  
745-8108

Gretchen Halverson,  
333-8559

### April Elders

**Saturday, 5:30 p.m.**

Pete Smith,  
697-3807  
Mark Witt,  
697-0224

**Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**

Ken Chvojicek,  
697-2102  
Ron Mueller,  
369-1845

**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**

David Hall,  
369-0235  
Gene Thompson,  
697-4786





Can you hear the sizzle? Our 8th-grade class will be grilling up brats at Festival Foods. Come out and help them raise money for their class trip to the Mall of America.

**When:**

April 29 | 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Festival Foods, 2915 New Pinery Rd. Portage

# BABYSITTING

BY ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**  
**4:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.**

**ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL GYM**

Armstrong Street — Door F

Free Will Donation

(\$5/per child/hour suggested donation)

RSVP via text to 608-697-2649

**Undesignated**  
 \$60.00  
 In memory of  
*Rosemary Martin*  
 In memory of

## February Memorials and Offerings

<b>Unified Fund</b>	<b>\$54,839.54</b>	<b>School Tuition Relief</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Almoners Fund</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$56,394.54</b>
<b>Orphanages</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>		

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**

850 Armstrong Street  
 Portage, Wisconsin 53901  
 phone (608) 742-9000  
 fax 742-7154

Rev. Greg Hovland,  
 Senior Pastor  
 (c) 608-571-3360  
 ghovland@stjohnsportage.com

Rev. Rod Armon,  
 Pastoral Care  
 rarmon@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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 Portage, Wisconsin 53901  
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Jim Krupski,  
 Principal  
 jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com  
 Amanda Kohn,  
 Ministries Coordinator —School  
 akohn@stjohnsportage.com

**Office Hours:**  
**M—F | 7:00a–3:15p**

**St. John's Child Development Center**

*A Five-Star Rated Center*  
 426 West Emmett  
 Portage, Wisconsin 53901  
 phone (608)742-9000

Debra Drew,  
 Director  
 ddrew@stjohnsportage.com  
 cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Tonya Edwards,  
 Assistant Director  
 tedwards@stjohnsportage.com

**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:

Bob Fairfield 296-4012, Chairman  
 Roger Baerwolf 617-6088  
 Ken Chvojicek 697-2102  
 Bill Hageman 279-0272  
 David Hall 493-2125  
 Ron Mueller 369-1845  
 Pete Smith 697-3807  
 Gene Thompson 697-4786  
 Mark Witt 697-0224



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SCOTT P. HEWITT \* PLS  
625 E. Shiffer St. Portage, WI 53901  
Phone 608/742-7788  
Fax 608/742-0434

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