

April 2, 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?

What solution (gospel) was presented for the problem?

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

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.

Weekly Events

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

Monday (03)

- Church office closed, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**
- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 1:30 p.m. Health and Wellness, Church CLC

Tuesday (04)

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. Parent Teacher League, School Cafeteria

Wednesday (05)

- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 4:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group, School Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group, School Gym

Thursday (06)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:00 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Church Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Heritage House Monthly Service
- 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Church Sanctuary

Friday (07)

- No School Easter Break**
- All Ministries Offices Closed**
- 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Tre Ore
- 12:00 p.m.–3:00p.m., Church Sanctuary

Sunday (09)

- 9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, School Gym
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast, Church CLC
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

*The Easter worship schedule is listed in the weekly announcements.

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.

Holy Week and Easter 2023

Holy Week

Maunder 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.



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:

Verona Gray

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

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

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.

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.

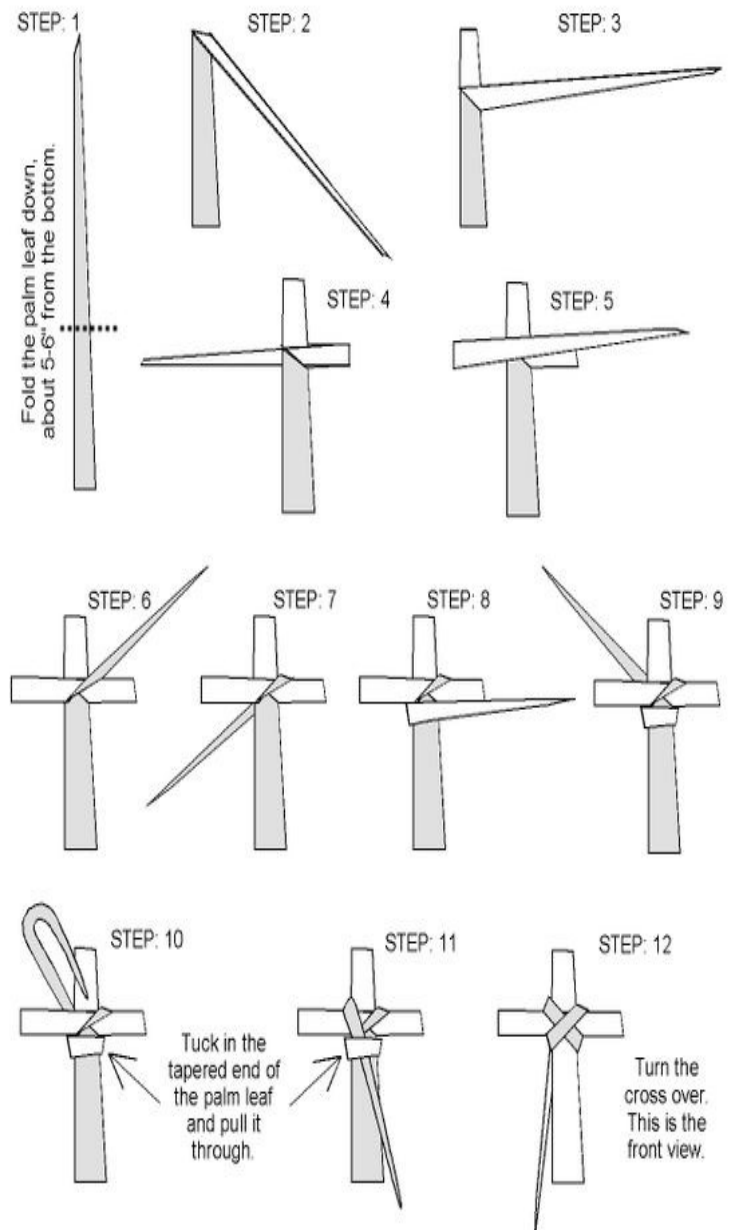
Donations to fill 1000 Easter eggs are greatly appreciated. A box is in the church coat room for all Easter Egg Hunt donations.

Thank you!

Thank you to the family of Frank Budka for the donation of palms for Palm Sunday in his loving memory.

Palm Leaf Cross Directions

Supplies: One palm leaf strip about 24-26" in length, 1/2" in width, tapering to the end.



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:

Given by:

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School

We have found a leader, but this fun week cannot be success without help. If you are able to help with VBS, please sign up on one of the sheets found in the back of the church. If we do not have enough volunteers signed up by April 30th, we will not have VBS 2023.

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.



Reminder

Please be considerate of our disabled worshipers' 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.

Save the Date



Wednesday, April 19
4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
St. John's School Gym
RSVP via text to 608-697-2649
Free Will Donation
(\$5/per child/hour suggested donation)



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.

Saturday, April 29
10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Festival Foods, 2915 New Pinery Rd. Portage

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

Thirsty Souls Bible Study

The Thirsty Souls Bible Study for Thursday April 6, has been canceled. Join them Thursday, April 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Get Involved

The new sanctuary projector is fixed!

We still need people willing to assist with the operation of the projector at each of our services.

If you are interested in helping, please email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

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.

Life Thoughts

April 2 – Palm Sunday – Every tongue must and shall confess Jesus and not ourselves as Lord over death and life (Philippians 2:11). When offered gall to accelerate His own dying, the Savior declined, even in His terminal condition (Matthew 27:34). We also may commend ourselves and our neighbors into the Heavenly Father's loving hands as days draw to their ends.

Stewardship Thoughts

Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Did Jesus really *need* the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4–5

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday, Ex. 8:1–32 & Heb. 1:1–14	Wednesday, Ex. 10:21—11:10 & Heb. 4:1–16	Friday, Ex. 12:29–32; 13:1–16 & Heb. 6:1–20
Monday, Ex. 9:1–28 & Heb. 2:1–18	Thursday, Ex. 12:1–28 & Heb. 5:1–14	Saturday, Ex. 13:17—14:9 & Heb. 7:1–22
Tuesday, Ex. 9:29—10:20 & Heb. 3:1–19		

Weekly Offerings

Last Week's In-person Attendance: 540 (includes Wednesday)

Unified Received: \$10,994.00

Other Contributions: \$760.00

TOTAL: \$11,754.00

Weekly Unified Needed: \$14,875.00

YTD Unified Giving: \$486,773.08

YTD Budgeted Unified Need: \$517,500.00.

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.** We will meet again starting April 13.
- ✚ **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

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.