



# Cornerstone

850 ARMSTRONG STREET  
PORTAGE, WI 53901  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 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**

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 7.

## Weekly Events

- 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. **\*Adult Choir, Balcony**
- Fridays:** **Church Office Closed**

\*May 17, is the last practice for the adult and handbell choirs.  
\*May 26, is the last chapel of the school year.

## Weekly Christian Education and Bible Studies

- Sundays:**  
9:15 a.m. **Christian Ed Hour, Christian Life Center**  
9:15 a.m. **Sunday School, We are on summer break. See you in the fall!**  
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, We are on summer break. See you in the fall!**  
6:30 p.m. **Sr. Youth Group, School Gym**
- Thursdays:**  
8:00 a.m. **Esther Bible Study, Christian Life Center**  
10:15 a.m. **Rachel Bible Study, Christian Life Center**  
5:00 p.m. **Thirsty Souls Bible Study, Christian Life Center**
- Fridays:**  
1:00 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: Omnipotent

People respect power and ability. They admire the powerful and dream of what they could do if they had more power. People are willing to fight for power, and sometimes do things they hate along the way. Money speaks because it brings with it power. Individuals are willing to sacrifice almost anything to gain power. Power lets you do whatever you want to do and so it becomes attractive. The problem with power is sinful people cannot be trusted with it. “Power tends to corrupt,” said Lord Acton, “And absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

The only one who truly is all-powerful — all-mighty — *omnipotent* is God. God can do anything he wants to do. When God speaks, the world was created. (Genesis 1) By his word, he keeps the universe running (Hebrews 1:3) Even when things seem impossible to us, for God, all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26) What this means for us is that he can and does keep his promises to us. The real question, then, is not what *can* God do, but what *does* he want to do for us?

Where people come to doubt God’s power or his existence, it is almost always because he does not do what *they* think he should do. “If there is a good god,” they say, “then he would...” — eliminate disease, suffering and death — right

now! He would shower them with blessing, making you rich and comfortable. When he does not do these things — and on their timetable, people will complain. What they should do is ask: “what is God’s will?” “what does he want to do?”

What God wants to do is to save us and to live with us forever. He loved us before he made the world, chose us to be adopted as his children, to make us holy and blameless in his presence. This he accomplished through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross by which he redeemed us, earned for us the forgiveness of sins and sealed us for eternity by His Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

So, what God wants to do is seek and save the lost. With his power, he is able to do this and has already done it for us. What he also wants to do is to work his power through us. He sends us with his word to proclaim, his sacraments to share and gifts to care for our neighbors. So, we are a part of his plan to execute his will. It is through us he chooses to exercise his almighty power, for the praise of his grace, the salvation of the lost and the restoration of his creation to perfection. For with God, nothing is impossible.

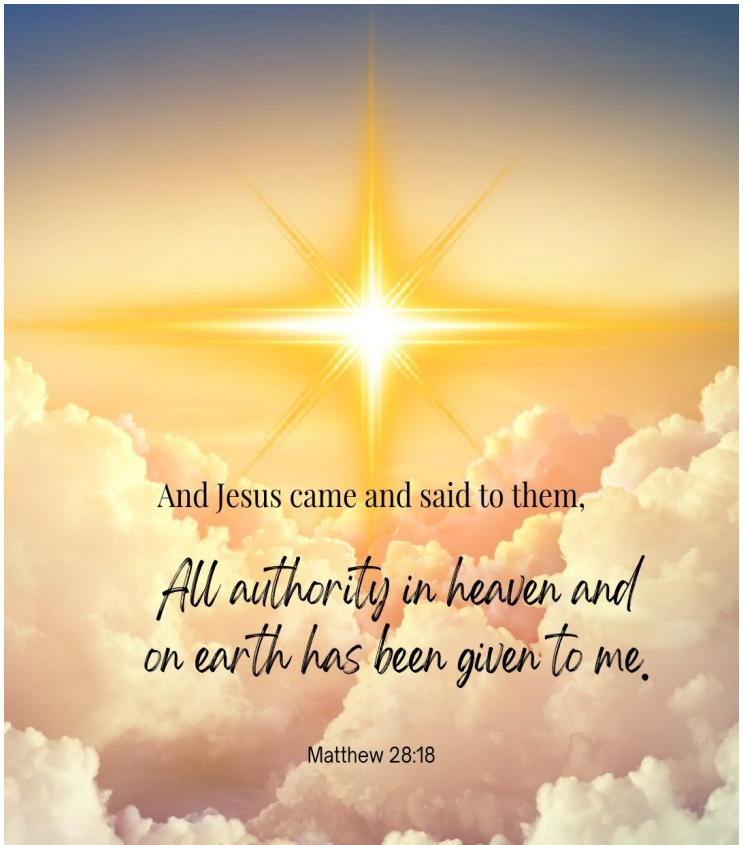
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## Right Hand of God

In ancient palaces, a ruler exercised power in a very formal way. He would enter the throne room with a herald going before him. All would bow to him and yet watch his every move, every gesture and listen carefully to every word. His crown identified him as ruler. The session began when he sat down on his throne. In fact, the word “session” literally means “the time of sitting.” those who stood near him were very powerful people. Only those of equal power would sit in his presence — especially at his right hand. So, the right hand of the ruler became a figure of speech that stands for his authority, glory, and honor.

When we say that Jesus “ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty,” we confess that he is equal to the Father and is also almighty. (Matthew 28:18) this truth is precious to us for many reasons.

When Satan, the world, and our sinful nature try to rule over us, we can tell them to get lost. They do not rule us — Jesus does. When we baptize and teach others God’s Word, it is not our talents, reputation, ability to impress others with our words that matter. The authority to do so comes from Jesus and power that changes hearts come from him and the Holy Spirit. When we feel lonely, we are not alone, because he is with us always, until the end of time itself.

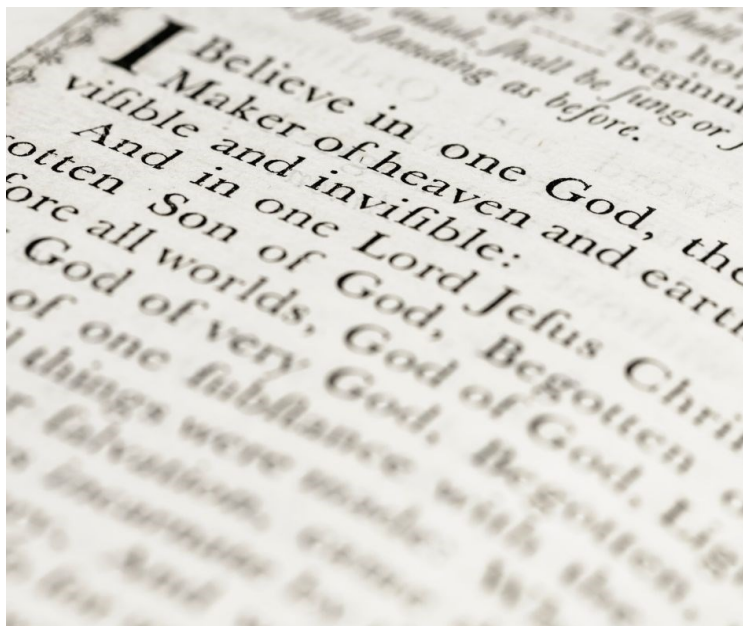


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# Luther's Large Catechism

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 CREED

Thus far we have heard the first part of Christian doctrine, in which we have seen all that God wishes us to do or to leave undone. Now, there properly follows the Creed, which sets forth to us everything that we must expect and receive from God, and, to state it quite briefly, teaches us to know Him fully. And this is intended to help us do that which according to the Ten Commandments we ought to do. For (as said above) they are set so high that all human ability is far too feeble and weak to [attain to or] keep them. Therefore it is as necessary to learn this part as the former in order that we may know how to attain thereto, whence and whereby to obtain such power. For if we could by our own powers keep the Ten Commandments as they are to be kept, we would need nothing further, neither the Creed nor the Lord's Prayer. But before we explain this advantage and necessity of the Creed, it is sufficient at first for the simple-minded that they learn to comprehend and understand the Creed itself.

In the first place, the Creed has hitherto been divided into twelve articles, although, if all points which are written in the Scriptures and which belong to the Creed were to be distinctly set forth, there would be far more articles, nor could they all be clearly expressed in so few words. But that it may be most easily and clearly understood as it is to be taught to children, we shall briefly sum up the entire Creed in three chief articles, according to the three persons in the Godhead, to whom everything that we believe is related, so that the First Article, of God the Father, explains Creation, the Second Article, of the Son, Redemption, and the Third, of

the Holy Ghost, Sanctification. Just as though the Creed were briefly comprehended in so many words: I believe in God the Father, who has created me; I believe in God the Son, who has redeemed me; I believe in the Holy Ghost, who sanctifies me. One God and one faith, but three persons, therefore also three articles or confessions. Let us briefly run over the words.

### Article I.

*I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.*

This portrays and sets forth most briefly what is the essence, will, activity, and work of God the Father. For since the Ten Commandments have taught that we are to have not more than one God, the question might be asked, What kind of a person is God? What does He do? How can we praise, or portray and describe Him, that He may be known? Now, that is taught in this and in the following article, so that the Creed is nothing else than the answer and confession of Christians arranged with respect to the First Commandment. As if you were to ask a little child: My dear, what sort of a God have you? What do you know of Him? he could say: This is my God: first, the Father, who has created heaven and earth; besides this only One I regard nothing else as God; for there is no one else who could create heaven and earth.

But for the learned, and those who are somewhat advanced [have acquired some Scriptural knowledge], these three articles may all be expanded and divided into as many parts as there are words. But now for young scholars let it suffice to indicate the most necessary points, namely, as we have said, that this article refers to the Creation: that we emphasize the words: *Creator of heaven and earth*. But what is the force of this, or what do you mean by these words: *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker, etc.*? Answer: This is what I mean and believe, that I am a creature of God; that is, that He has given and constantly preserves to me my body, soul, and life, members great and small, all my senses, reason, and understanding, and so on, food and drink, clothing and support, wife and children, domestics, house and home, etc. Besides, He causes all creatures to serve for the uses and necessities of life sun, moon, and stars in the firmament, day and night, air, fire, water, earth, and whatever it bears and produces, birds and fishes, beasts, grain, and all kinds of produce, and whatever else there is of bodily and temporal goods, good government, peace, security. Thus we learn from this article that none of us has of himself, nor can preserve, his life nor anything that is here enumerated or can be enumerated, however small and unimportant a thing it might be, for all is comprehended in the word *Creator*.

Moreover, we also confess that God the Father has not only given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but daily preserves and defends us against all evil and misfortune, averts all sorts of danger and calamity; and that He does all this out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a benevolent Father, who cares for us that no evil befall us. But to speak more of this belongs in the other two parts of this article, where we say: *Father Almighty*.

# Follow Him in Generosity

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

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts:

“The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us! In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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

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## Luther’s Large Catechism The Creed continued...

Now, since all that we possess, and, moreover, whatever, in addition, is in heaven and upon the earth, is daily given, preserved, and kept for us by God, it is readily inferred and concluded that it is our duty to love, praise, and thank Him for it without ceasing, and, in short, to serve Him with all these things, as He demands and has enjoined in the Ten Commandments.

Here we could say much if we were to expatiate, how few there are that believe this article. For we all pass over it, hear it and say it, but neither see nor consider what the words teach us. For if we believed it with the heart, we would also act accordingly, and not stalk about proudly, act defiantly, and boast as though we had life, riches, power, and honor, etc., of ourselves, so that others must fear and serve us, as is the practise of the wretched, perverse world, which is drowned in blindness, and abuses all the good things and gifts of God only for its own pride, avarice, lust, and luxury, and never once regards God, so as to thank Him or acknowledge Him as Lord and Creator.

Therefore, this article ought to humble and terrify us all, if we believed it. For we sin daily with eyes, ears, hands, body

and soul, money and possessions, and with everything we have, especially those who even fight against the Word of God. Yet Christians have this advantage, that they acknowledge themselves in duty bound to serve God for all these things, and to be obedient to Him [which the world knows not how to do].

We ought, therefore, daily to practise this article, impress it upon our mind, and to remember it in all that meets our eyes, and in all good that falls to our lot, and wherever we escape from calamity or danger, that it is God who gives and does all these things, that therein we sense and see His Paternal heart and his transcendent love toward us. Thereby the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, and to employ all such good things to the honor and praise of God.

Thus we have most briefly presented the meaning of this article, as much as is at first necessary for the most simple to learn, both as to what we have and receive from God, and what we owe in return, which is a most excellent knowledge, but a far greater treasure. For here we see how the Father has given Himself to us, together with all creatures, and has most richly provided for us in this life, besides that He has overwhelmed us with unspeakable, eternal treasures by His Son and the Holy Ghost, as we shall hear.

# Don't Give Up the Ship (and Other Lessons from a Soggy Sailor)

By Rachel Bomberger

“Ready to tack?”

The skipper's voice cut through the roar of the wind as the prow clunked into yet another wave. For what seemed the hundredth time that day, saltwater washed up over the deck, filling my boots and trickling down the back of my raincoat under my hood. I wasn't “ready to tack,” not at all. “Ready to tack” would mean prying my stiff fingers off the lifelines and unwinding my aching legs from around the stanchion by which I clung desperately to the side of the sailboat. “Ready to tack” would mean scrambling up slick fiberglass to the other side of the deck, which was then tilted at a precarious angle. “Ready to tack” would mean wrestling with sore back and sodden lines to quickly trim the jib sail as we executed our turn into the wind. In that moment, “ready to tack” was the last thing I wanted to be.

With a muffled groan, I fought back dread and nausea and began to climb over to the jib winch. As I lurched across, my hamstring spasmed, sending shocks of pain through my left leg. *Perfect*, I thought.

“Ready!” I replied.

## *A change in the winds*

When my son and I first signed up to help crew our friend's racing sloop in a daylight endurance race, we were expecting calm seas all the way. The forecast called for winds of five knots — a long and gentle day of sailing, perfect for the still-relatively-inexperienced sailors we were.

Then came Hurricane Ian, throwing all the weather forecasts into uncertain chaos. Even though the storm had weakened to a tropical depression before race day, we still sailed under a small craft advisory, with winds gusting to 25 knots and regular bouts of drenching rain. Powerboats rarely go out on a day like that. Sailboats often do. With their sturdy keels offering almost uncanny stability, it's not uncommon for adventurous sailors to don rain gear and life jackets, strap on jack lines to tether themselves to the boat, and go on.

So that day, on we went, soaked, shivering and queasy, as the sailboat smacked into whitecap after whitecap for eight October hours. Some of us were sick over the side. Some who weren't sick wished they could be. During one hair-raising maneuver, our helmsman lost his footing and came within inches of falling into the Long Island Sound.

We lost control of a sail in a whipping wind at the finish line, and after we crossed over, our drenched and pummeled engine refused to start. We were forced to flag down a competitor to tow us in. It was a miserable day, start to finish.

I'd do it again in a heartbeat. Hard as it was, I almost can't remember when I've had more fun. A day of high adventure was like fresh air to my sedentary, suburban soul. The untamed beauty of the rough seas and the thrill of our small vessel cutting through them at speed are memories I will carry with me forever. What's more, sailing through the remnants of a hurricane provided me a wealth of visceral new insights into how the people of God survive stormy weather together.

## *The “Holy Ark” in stormy weather*

From ancient times, the church has often been compared to a ship. Luther's Flood Prayer famously references “the holy ark of the Christian church.” The worship space in traditional church architectural designs is called a “nave” (think “navy” and “naval”), and many old sanctuaries are even built in the shape of an upside-down sailing vessel, its ribs visible in the rooflines. It's an apt metaphor. Jesus and His disciples shared many boating adventures together on the Sea of Galilee, and some of His most memorable miracles — calming the storm, walking on water — were performed in or around a boat at sea. Likewise, some of Paul's greatest miracles took place during and after his shipwreck as a prisoner bound for Rome.

The metaphor of church as ship is even more powerful when we compare the world around us to a capricious sea. And isn't it? Smooth and calm one moment; small craft advisory the next? We sign up expecting fair sailing, only to find the water rougher, windier and very much wetter than anticipated?

Such musings aren't, of course, idle fancies — not in the world we live in today. Some folks still living may remember a time when the waters of American culture were relatively warm and smooth — when Christianity was in vogue and churches were regarded with favor by those in power. Increasingly, I cannot. The winds and the waves have risen against us even within my lifetime, and the gale shows every sign of only strengthening as we go forward. So what do we do? How do we sail this poor “ship of fools” through the raging storm?

Here are a few thoughts from one soggy sailor:

## **Don't give up the ship!**

When the weather is fine and the sea becalmed, the water around us may not seem very scary. We might even be tempted to jump overboard for a refreshing swim. Yet when the weather is stormy, all such temptation vanishes completely. To leave the ship is to embrace death. Only by clinging — or even lashing ourselves — to the boat can we make it safely to shore.

Continued on page 5.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1	Michael Muller Maya Oganezov	10	John Gavinski David Hornischer Heidi Thompson	17	Diane Bortz Joanne Haefele Richard Hemler Tom Hinrichsen Jan Weideman	24	Michael Larson Heather Saari Hayden Steinle Easton St. Martin
2	Brody St. Martin	11	Stephanie Helmann Rebecca Johnson Robert Johnson Lael Schumann	18	Jennifer Kabele	25	Cora Loomans
3	Shari Beckius	12	Gordon DeZoute Beverly Hornat Kara Lendobeja	19	Diane Manthey Isaac Opalewski	26	Brian Thompson
4	Mary Kastner Jennifer Popp Gary Steinhorst	13	Jacob Helmann Mark Jonas Helen O'Neill Dreyer	20	Isabelle Bass Larry Bielke	27	Miles Dorn Sally Miller
5	Philayne Pribnow Sophia Jo Reynolds Linda Vista	14	Natalee Moll	21	Johnathan Conway Kaia Brockway Emma Eicher	28	Rita Haase
6	Wesley Brown Tremaine Richards David Tamminga	15	Tony Beckett Robert Warren	22	Grace Jones Shane Kraucyk	29	Levi Carrington Regina Mommens
8	Rebecca Arkin Laci Wilcox Susan Wilcox	16	Craig Johnson	23	Jesse Jahn Donna Leege Kaitlyn Lendobeja Gil Schultz	30	Parker Horan Raymond Norland Colin Thompson
9	Elizabeth Manthey Bonnie Mulhern Mark St. Martin Eugene Thompson Logan Wilcox					31	Martin Hintz Melissa Leeland

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

*Romans 12:10*

- ♥ Jonathan & Carrie Conway — May 1
- ♥ David and Sandy Hall — May 16
- ♥ Jason & Shari Beckius — May 3
- ♥ Kenneth and Marilyn Jahn — May 16
- ♥ Thomas & Amanda Kohn — May 4
- ♥ Michael and Melissa Belton — May 17
- ♥ Val & Marilyn McReath — May 4
- ♥ Gary and Lori Witt — May 17
- ♥ William & Kelly Hageman — May 6
- ♥ David and Beverly Hornischer — May 26
- ♥ Paul & Amy Wolff — May 7
- ♥ Michael and Bonnie Mulhern — May 27
- ♥ Scott & Donna Jones — May 8
- ♥ Robert and Marion Beahm — May 28
- ♥ Tom and Jennifer Hinrichsen — May 10
- ♥ Paul and Stacy Opalewski — May 28
- ♥ Arthur and Shirley Anacker — May 15
- ♥ Jeffrey and Susan Jones — May 30
- ♥ Andre and Sassha Coullard — May 15

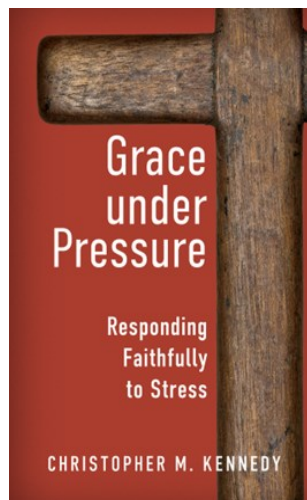


# Grace and Growth Worker Wellness Initiative - May 2023

In February, we enjoyed an evening together as a staff at 608 Axe Throwing in Baraboo. We had fun, even if some of the throws were not too accurate!



In March, some of us were able to get together at Beautifully Blemished downtown, where we decorated wine bottles as either windchimes, lanterns, or hummingbird feeders. They turned out great, and we were able to get to know each other better.



We just finished our book discussion of *Grace under Pressure: Responding Faithfully to Stress* by Chris Kennedy. We had some really good discussions and would recommend this book for anyone at St. John's. Since each person on staff received a book, you might be able to borrow one from someone.

This Grace and Growth project is funded partially by a grant from Lutheran Church Extension Fund and partially by St. John's Lutheran Ministries. The grant for worker wellness has allowed us some experiences we have not had in the past. The financial support from the congregation will allow some of these opportunities to continue into the future. Thank you for supporting us with your prayers!

Stephenie Hovland  
Deaconess Intern



## St. John's Lutheran School is rolling into the end of the school year.



In April, we finally got to go bowling.



Katze won the local VFW Patriots Pen Contest.



The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade prepared chapel with kindergarten.



The Lego & puzzle clubs met this month. They meet one more time together in May.

In May, our chapel offerings are helping the LWML prepare their offering to the Orphan Grain Train. We are collecting soap, towels, toothbrushes, and combs to help. Then, we will start collecting money the last two weeks to help the Portage Chapter, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Their motto is “no kid sleeps on the floor in our town.” We are helping to make sure this is true.

The school will also be helping the VFW at the end of the month plant American Flags at two cemeteries in our community to prepare for Memorial Day. We are excited to be able to help them.

Our PTL is excited to get the school ready to appreciate our teachers and staff for the first week of May, Teacher Appreciation Week. Our parents have planned a lunch, a breakfast, coffee, chocolates, an appreciation station to drop off letters, and a trivia day to see how well the students know their teachers. This will be exciting.

The PTL has also prepared a Spring Book Fair. Their goal is for every student be able to get a book to start their summer reading. You can help them by donating money to the Scholastic Book Fair eWallet, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/3USBvWu> or contact school office. Help us send every student home with a book.



Every student this month, will be taking a Field Trip this month. There are trips planned to the State Capital, the Madison Veteran Museum, an Escape Room, the annual track and field day in Reedsburg, Pauquette Park to meet up with Pen Pals from Reedsburg, Cave of the Mounds, Mid-Continental Railway Museum, and the Baraboo Ochsner Park & Zoo. Our students will be learning both inside and outside the classroom.

The month will end with eighth grade graduation. The eighth-grade class will have an eventful last day of school with a lunch of their choice joined by the 2019-eighth grade class (now senior class). The day will end with the 6:00 p.m. eighth grade graduation ceremony at St. John's Lutheran Church. We hope you can join us on May 7 for this momentous occasion.

God's blessing as we start our summer and new journeys.

In Christ,  
James Krupski, Principal

## VFW Patriots Pen Essay by Katze



in setting up what is needed or cleaning up after the parade or like occasion. Being thankful and appreciative is a very uncomplicated thing to do.

Sadly, a lot of veterans today aren't living in the best situations. According to the VA, almost 3.7 percent of all veterans experience homelessness. 1 in 5 veterans may also be suffering from a mental illness according to NVHS. Something people can do is give to charities and fundraisers that can help supporting veterans in need. You can even volunteer at local homeless shelters. We should give all the help we can to help any veterans in a difficult situation.

Lastly, one of the best things people can do to show respect for veterans is to pray for them, just as you would for anybody else. We should thank God daily for providing us with people that have so brave and caring hearts that they put their lives on the line for however long they served our country. All because they just wanted to help make sure that we would still have all of the rights and freedoms we have now! Praying for a veteran shows just how much you love and care about them.

Respect is one of the best things to pledge to veterans. I will show love, appreciation, and pray for veterans in my daily life.

I will do the best I can to follow all of these actions as my pledge!

My pledge to veterans is that I will show them respect in all the ways I can. There are many ways to achieve this goal. Some examples of respect are showing thanks and appreciation, being loving and helpful to veterans if they happen to be in any situation of need, and simply praying for any person of our military, whether still active or retired. Even what seem to be the simplest acts of kindness can mean the world to someone. Respect is one of the best forms of showing thanks towards veterans.

Showing thankfulness and appreciation to veterans doesn't need to be fancy or extremely expensive. It can be as easy as giving them a homemade card. Even if you don't know any veterans personally, you can still send items or letters of appreciation to a nearby military installation to make a stranger smile on Veterans Day. You can also attend local events, such as parades. You can help out during these events

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

May—10

## May

- 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
- Su 07 Blood Pressure Screening**  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- 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)
- 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
- 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
- Th 25 8th Grade Graduation**  
6:00 p.m., Church Sanctuary
- F 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
- M 29 Memorial Day**  
All ministries offices closed

## June (proposed)

- Th 06 Heritage House Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Heritage House
- M 05 VBS**  
**Health and Wellness**  
1:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 06 VBS**
- We 07 VBS**
- Th 08 VBS**
- F 09 VBS**  
**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 11 Blood Pressure Screening**  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Church Nursery
- M 12 Tivoli Monthly Worship**  
10:00 a.m., Tivoli
- Tu 13 Executive Committee**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Th 15 Columbia County Health Care Monthly Worship**  
11:00 a.m., Columbia County Health Care
- Sa 24 St. John's Block Party**  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Ministries
- Mo 26 Board of Finance**  
4:30 p.m., Church Christian Life Center
- Tu 27 Board of Elders**  
6:00 p.m., Church Christian Life Center  
**Prayer Shawls**  
6:00 p.m., Church All Purpose Room

### Interested in helping your neighbor?

With ongoing worldwide disasters taking place, Orphan Grain Train has a constant need for shipping out hygiene kits. LWML will be packing kits at our next meeting, Tuesday May 16. Join us, along with St. John's students in donating items needed for the kits.

- Bath size bars of soap
- Plastic soap dish with closing lid
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Toothbrushes
- Sturdy combs
- Nail clippers
- Small packs of facial tissues

Items can be placed in the basket located by the entrance to the Christian Life.

### Walkie Talkie

#### Walkie Talkies are back!

We will meet on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on the levee (by Tamarack) **starting April 26**. If the weather is bad, we will meet at St. John's. If you have any questions, call Theresa at 608-697-0509. Join us, all are welcome!

#### April Altar Guild

Judy Raimer,  
617-6272

Marie Raimer,  
566-6772

#### 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.

Bob Fairfield,  
369-0235

Gene Thompson,  
697-4786



**Don't Give Up the Ship** continued...

So it is with the church. In seasons when Christianity is respectable and the world seems gently disposed toward us — when the water is calm and the sailing is smooth — we may hold to the church only lightly, dabbling our toes in the worldly waters around us or even jumping in for a quick dip. Yet when the culture is hostile and persecutions loom — when the rains come down and the floods come up — our attitude changes. We see that those who jump ship are quickly swept away by powerful currents, and we find ourselves gripping the lifelines of Word and Sacrament, prayer and fellowship with white-knuckled fervor. We cling to the church with every fiber of our being. Like Noah, we find a berth within God's holy ark and stay there until the floods recede and the Holy Spirit calls us to new life.

**All hands on deck!**

When the weather is fair, salty sailors may second-guess the decisions of the skipper or the actions of their fellow crewmates. When the weather is foul, they do not have that luxury. They must overcome differences of opinion, listen attentively, obey orders without question, and work in ship-shape coordination, each doing his or her part and standing ready to pick up the slack for others who may falter.

So it is with the church. Petty conflicts fade away when the storms come. Personal differences are drowned out by the roar of the wind. Christians quickly learn how much they need each other — and that they must work together, obedient to the Word of God, each pitching in and ready to help others. Like sailors in a gale, we find that our mutual survival depends on our ability to serve as a united crew,

each following the voice of our Skipper as we do the work assigned to us.

**Send out an SOS!**

A sailing crew's survival in the storm depends partly on the crew and totally on the grace of God. I'll confess: Sailing isn't normally a time when I do a lot of praying. On that day, however, the Kyrie was constantly on my lips. *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.* I whispered the words compulsively into the wind, praying God's protection for myself, my teenage son and everyone on board.

So it is with the church. When things seem easy for us, our devotion may falter, our prayers grow feeble. But when things get hard, prayer gets easy. We scribble a desperate SOS ("Save our souls!") on every scrap of paper we can find and throw every bottle overboard, trusting that the Captain who once calmed the storm in Galilee will fish them all out of the water and hear our every cry. As the old saying goes, "There are no atheists in foxholes." The same could be said of a sailboat — or a holy ark — in a gale.

My prayers that day on the Long Island Sound were heard, thank the Lord. Every boat finished the race; every crew member made it back to the docks, soaked and sore but safe.

God is good. He will fulfill His promises and see the ship of His church into harbor. And though her crew may emerge wet and tired, with empty bellies and a pulled hamstring or two, they will, by His grace, be kept "safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian church" until the very end of their race.

**March Memorials and Offerings**

<p><b>Choir Fund</b> \$50.00 In memory of <i>Barbara Wheeler</i></p> <p><b>Altar Guild</b> \$50.00 In memory of <i>Barbara Wheeler</i></p>
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<b>Unified Fund</b>	<b>\$54,243.37</b>	<b>School Tuition Relief</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Organ</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$54,788.37</b>
<b>Almoners Fund</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$54,788.37</b>
<b>Orphanages</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>		

**St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
850 Armstrong Street  
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phone (608) 742-9000  
fax 742-7154  
  
Rev. Greg Hovland,  
Senior Pastor  
(c) 608-571-3360  
ghovland@stjohnsportage.com  
  
Rev. Rod Armon,  
Pastoral Care  
raron@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,  
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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**  
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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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