

March 3, 2024



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 St. John's 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 who 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

Three things from today's sermon I want to remember:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Standard Worship Times

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

Livestreaming of the 8:00 a.m. service continues to be available at stjohnsportage.com/live.

Standard Worship Times may change due to Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Please see Weekly Events for changes.

Weekly Events

Sunday (03)

- 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 (04)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday (05)

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Portage Airport
- 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Church CLC
- 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Stewards, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. LWML, Church APR

Wednesday (06)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's
- 10:00 a.m. Lent Midweek Service, Church Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Weekly Announcements Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com
- 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 4:30 p.m. Lent meal prep, Church CLC
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 5:30 p.m. Lent Supper hosted by School Staff, Church CLC
- 6:30 p.m. Lent Midweek Service, Church Sanctuary
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
- 7:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group grades 8–12, School Gym

Thursday (07)

- 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
- 11:00 a.m. Heritage House Monthly Worship

Friday (08)

- 12:00 p.m. **Church office closed**
Cornerstone Newsletter Deadline, Email: churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com

Sunday (10)

- 9:00 a.m. Coffee, Fellowship, and Christian Education Hour, Church CLC
- 9:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening, Church Nursery
- 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

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):

Other

Jackie Bauman, received a call to teach 5th grade in Davenport, IA

Long-term Illness/Treatment:

Stacie Wheeler, Tom Waddell,

Ned Seymour (father of Kathleen Bernander)

Lani Kohrt (daughter-in-law of Don and Carol Kohrt)

Lisa Priske (daughter of Betty Mootz)

Gary Tennyson (son of Jim and Nola Tennyson)

Mourning:

The family of Ellen Caflish

The family of Shirley Marotz (friend of Kathleen Thalacker)

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.

Lenten Giving Campaign

Supporting the Portage Area Community Assistance Program (PACAP) and the Almoners Fund.

As followers of Christ, we are called to embody His love and compassion in our daily lives, extending a helping hand to those in need and serving as beacons of hope in our community.

Join us in making a meaningful impact throughout Lent by supporting PACAP and the Almoners Fund. Your contributions will provide vital assistance with rent, utilities, food, shelter, and transportation for local individuals and families facing emergency situations.

Ways to Contribute:

- ✠ **In-Person:** Drop your free-will donations in the designated box at the Welcome Center (checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church).
- ✠ **Special Offerings:** Find "Almoners & Portage Area Community Assistance Program" listed on the Special Offerings for Charities envelope in your regular offering packets.
- ✠ **Online:** Visit and use the "Almoners Fund" line for online donations.

Together, let's embody the values of compassion, generosity, and service that lie at the heart of our mission as followers of Christ.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to participate in this meaningful endeavor. May God bless our efforts as we strive to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Ash Wednesday and Lent Service Schedule

Lent midweek services will be held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

March 6

Misconceptions (Luke 23:1-12)

March 13

Truth (John 18:33-40)

March 20

Sympathy (Luke 23:26-34)

Lent Fellowship Dinner

Fellowship dinners are held on Wednesdays during Lent from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

If you are interested in hosting a Lent dinner, there is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office at 608-742-9000, opt 4, or email churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com.

March 6, hosted by St. John's School Staff

Serving: Chili

March 13, hosted by St. John's School Athletics

March 20, hosted by Sherry A. and Amanda C.

Serving: Goulash, Salad, and Garlic Bread

Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Tre Ore Service

March 29 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday Service of Word and Sacrament

March 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

March 31 at 6:00 a.m.

Easter Day Service of Word and Sacrament

March 31 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the School Gym.

Gideons International

This weekend, Ken Manthey, representing Gideons International, will be showing a short Gideon Ministry video and will be at the back of the church collecting donations to help spread God's Word around the world. Checks can be made payable to Gideons International, or you can put it on your credit card. Please do not put Gideons International donations in the offering plate. Check out the February Cornerstone to see how God is working through our Portage Gideon Camp.

LWML

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) meets on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. Come for Bible study. Learn about volunteer opportunities at the LWML Zone Spring Rally in April, and the district LWML convention in June. Bring your mite box and a friend!

School Calendar

Thursday, March 14

- School Play

March 11–15

- Spirit Week

March 18–22

- Spring Break

Thursday, March 28

- Butter Braid delivery



Save the Date!

School Play

March 14
1:00 p.m. and
6:30 p.m.

Butter Braid



Scan to order

Get your favorite Butter Braid from your favorite student in time for Easter breakfast!

Starting Friday, February 16, 2024

Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran School

Ending Monday, March 4, 2024

Delivery is Thursday, March 28, 2024 @ 3 p.m.

Proceeds go towards playground maintenance.

We are working on shading the playgrounds.

Crusader Cards

Crusader Cards are here! Watch for St. John's Lutheran School students selling Crusader Cards. They are full of great deals! Cost: \$15.00

Portage:

- Red Apple Restaurant
- Canape Sandwiches
- Edgewater Green House
- Portage Country Club
- The Ball Room
- Craig's Popcorn Corner
- J&J Fireball Lanes
- Dairy Queen
- Dino's
- Pizza Ranch
- La Tolteca

Westfield:

- It's Poppin, Westfield
- Thal Acres Golf
- Tiffany's Buds and Beans
- Amish Market

Pardeeville:

- Johnny B's Rolling Smoke
- The Crooked Branch Coffeehouse

Montello:

- Oyster Cracker

We're Hiring!

Are you passionate about creating delicious and nutritious meals for little ones? **We're looking for a talented and dedicated part-time cook at St. John's Child Development Center.**

For more information and an employment application, please contact our CDC director, Debbie Drew at 608-742-900 opt 2 or email ddrew@stjohnsportage.com

Join our Child Development Center and be the heart of our kitchen!

Every One His Witness

Are you uncertain about how to witness Jesus to others? **Every One His Witness gives you the tools and the confidence to talk about Jesus.**

Join us for a one-day class on Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. The Board of Evangelism will provide lunch. A minimum of 6 people must **sign up by Wednesday, April 3.** To sign up for Every One His Witness, contact Jim Atkinson at 608-697-7052, email jim@atkinsonrealtor.com, or sign up at the Welcome Center.

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Easter will soon be here, and young adults will be coming home. Let's extend a warm greeting to those returning home for Easter and reach out to families with younger children. Remember that we are all members of St. John's family, no matter our age.

Parents, your role is crucial, and we want to support you as you and your children join in faith activities and worship here at St. John's.

YAM fosters meaningful connections among our young adults and soon-to-be adults within the St. John's community. We are excited to encourage this conversation. Contact Dawn at 608-369-3163 or Danielle at 608-697-3560.

Get Involved!

Altar Guild will meet on Monday, March 4 at 1:30 p.m.

The Altar Guild is dedicated to caring for and preparing the altar for services. Responsibilities include maintaining the chancel area, setting up communion, and preparing for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and high festivals. The group also oversees church banners and decorations. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of September, November, January, March, and May at varying times in the Christian Life Center.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Join our dynamic worship family! St. John's Praise Band is seeking a pianist for next fall. If you're passionate about creating uplifting worship experiences, we want you!

If you are interested, email Deb Bauman overthehill40db@yahoo.com.

Weekly Offerings

February 25

In-person Attendance: 550 (includes Lent midweek service)
Unrestricted Unified Received: \$10,439.73
Restricted Contributions Received: \$722.75
TOTAL: \$11,162.48

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$456,685.55

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$450,975.00
(week 35)

Reminder

For the protection of the church facility, the only door unlocked during church office hours is the side entrance on Armstrong Street (near Franklin Street). Feel free to park on Armstrong Street near the entrance, if you plan on stopping by.

Daily Lectionary

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

Sunday,

Gen. 27:30–45;
28:10–22
&

Mark 9:1–13

Monday,

Gen. 29:1–30 &
Mark 9:14–32

Tuesday,

Gen. 38:1–29 &
Mark 9:33–50

Wednesday,

Gen. 37:1–36 &
Mark 10:1–12

Thursday,

Gen. 39:1–23 &
Mark 10:13–31

Friday,

Gen 40:1–23
&

Mark 10:32–52

Saturday,

Gen. 41:1–27 &
Mark 11:1–19

Thank You

Thank you to all our chefs and cooks out there who bring food for funerals and other events. We have an amazing congregation and amazing volunteers. If you brought food for a funeral or other event, your dishes are located in the Christian Life Center kitchen.

Stewardship Thoughts

John 2:16 – “**And he told those who sold the pigeons, ‘Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.’**” The Lord’s house is not a place to sell, but a place to receive and a place to give. It’s not a place for our schemes and plans. Instead, the church is a place for the Lord’s gracious giving and our faithful sacrifices in response.

Life Thoughts

March 3 – Lent III – The Lord God closely associates life and family. He stands commands about parenting and marriage on either side of the prohibition against killing (Exodus 20:12-14). He holds human life as highest priority and will not accept any other creatures as replacement (John 2:15-16). Body and sexuality serve to enrich life – our own as well as one another’s – and not to eliminate it.

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.

1 Peter 5:8–9

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 3

Ruth C.

March 10

Sherry A. and Amanda C.

March 17

Open

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

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.