

March 10, 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](http://stjohnsportage.com/live).

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

## Weekly Events

### 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

### Monday (11)

- 9:00 a.m. Strong Bodies, Church Narthex
- 10:00 a.m. Tivoli Monthly Worship
- 1:30 p.m. Altar Guild, Church CLC
- 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Open-Door Office Hours 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### Tuesday (12)

- 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. Executive Committee, Church CLC

### Wednesday (13)

- 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](mailto: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 Athletics, 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 (14)

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. School Play, School gym
- 6:30 p.m. School Play, School gym

### Friday (15)

**Church office closed**

### Sunday (17)

- 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

## 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.*

### Other

*Jackie Bauman*, received a call to teach 5th grade in Davenport, IA  
*Pastor Hovland* is deliberating a Divine Call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

### Medical:

*Don Witt*

### 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*)  
Mary Maldonado (friend of *Gretchen Halvorsen*)

### **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 Flower Fund

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 March 25. Please make checks payable to **St. John's Altar Guild**.

A gift in loving memory of:

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Given by:

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## Ash Wednesday and Lent Service Schedule

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

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 13, hosted by St. John's School Athletics**  
**Serving: Pasta Bar**

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.

### **Easter Breakfast**

Volunteers are needed for Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 9.

- ⇒ Serving
- ⇒ Cleaning up
- ⇒ Donations: doughnuts, sweet rolls, and coffee cake
- ⇒ Monetary gifts are welcomed 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, hosted by Youth Group.**

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

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



## School Calendar

### Thursday, March 14

- School Play

### March 11–15

- Spirit Week

### March 18–22

- Spring Break

### Thursday, March 28

- Butter Braid delivery

St. John's Lutheran School presents



Join St. John's school for an evening filled with music, wonder, and the timeless tale of "The Tale of Three Trees" brought to life.

Step into the world of three little trees on a mountain top, each dreaming of a grand future. Yet, their journeys take unexpected turns as they are claimed by woodcutters, shaping their destinies. We invite you to witness resilience, faith, and the miraculous path each tree takes in fulfilling a greater calling.

**Thursday, March 14**  
**1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.**  
**in the school gym.**

## Thank You for Your Donations

**You are Jesus "Hands and Feet".** You opened your pocket-books, your wallets, your checkbooks, and your piggy banks to give generously to the Pregnancy Resource Center. This year giving \$1,962.64 through the Baby Bottle Campaign. This supersedes last year's generous donation of \$1,271.01. Not only will your donations be used to provide practical needs for infants and children like: diapers, lotion, blankets, clothing, coats, and pack n plays; but they will also provide for spiritual needs like messages about how deep and how wide is the love of Jesus when we counsel with the women. Many of the women come back to hear the message of Jesus again as they receive more diapers.

God's Richest Blessings To You At St John's in Portage,

The Pregnancy Resource Center Board of Directors  
306 W Cook St. Portage WI 53901

## Thank You for Your Prayers

Thank you for all the prayers during my surgery and recovery.  
Bob Fairfield.

## Divine Call

**Pastor Hovland is deliberating a Divine Call to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manitowoc, Wisconsin.** Please pray for St. John's, Redeemer, and Pastor's family. Pastors in the LCMS do not seek calls or apply for positions from other congregations. His name was either submitted for consideration by a congregation member or the district.

## Vacation Bible School!

# VBS Time of Day Vote

St. John's Lutheran Ministries—Youth Group will be hosting Vacation Bible School this summer. We have a date picked but are stuck on what time to host. Many of the youth have summer jobs and sports commitments. We are hoping to gain insight from our potential attendees. Thank you for taking your time to share your opinion.

What time would you like to see St. John's Lutheran Church VBS be available this summer, June 10th - 14th?  
(select all times that work for your family)

First time— 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Second time—1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Third time— 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fourth time— 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (would have light supper)

To vote, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDJWF58> or use your camera phone to scan the QR code to vote.

Thanks you!



**April 6, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
St. John's School Gym

**Join the St. John's Youth Group for food & the final 4 games!**

Free will suggested donation of \$5 per person

Enter the chili cook-off and showcase your favorite chili at our Chili Madness event. Email [youth@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:youth@stjohnsportage.com), text 608.697.2649, Sign-Up Genius link:

<https://shorturl.at/nxyEI>, or QR code.

Include: your name, chili name, chili recipe, and category: spiciest, unique, or best all around.

Free will suggested entry fee donation of \$5 per chili.



## Weekly Offerings

### March 3

In-person Attendance: 484 (includes Lent midweek service)

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$16,565.50

Restricted Contributions Received: \$565.00

TOTAL: \$17,130.50

**Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00**

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$473,251.05

**YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$463,860.00**  
(week 36)

## Daily Lectionary

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

### Sunday,

Gen. 41:28-57 &  
Mark 11:20-33

### Monday,

Gen. 42:1-34, 38 &  
Mark 12:1-12

### Tuesday,

Gen. 43:1-28 &  
Mark 12:13-27

### Wednesday,

Gen. 44:1-18,  
32-34

&  
Mark 12:28-44

### Thursday,

Gen. 45:1-20,  
24-28

&

Mark 13:1-23

### Friday,

Gen 47:1-31 &  
Mark 13:24-37

### Saturday,

Gen. 49:29-50:7,  
14-26

&

Mark 14:1-11

## LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

Luke 9:23

## Stewardship Thoughts

**Ephesians 2:10** – "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Even the good we do in this world is a gift from God, prepared beforehand for us to do. And this too is a gift! For isn't doing good also a good thing for the one who does it? So from first to last, from the Lord's free salvation given to us to the good works He's prepared for us, everything is a gift of God's grace.

## Life Thoughts

**March 10 – Lent IV** – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis come with risks and costs. But as with the ancient Israelite serpent infestation, the real enemy is neither one's neighbor nor the Maker (Numbers 21:8). Only impaling the snake (not terminating each other) brought deliverance, and the antidote called for faith instead of death. Christians insist God has sent us His Son for extending lives and not ending them (John 3:17).

## 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.

**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.

## 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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

**March 10**  
Sherry A. and Amanda C.

**March 17**  
Open

**March 24**  
LWML

## Contact us: 608-742-9000

**Church:**  
option 4  
Office Hours:  
M—Th 8:00a–3:30p  
[churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

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

**Child Development Center:**  
option 2  
Office Hours:  
M—F 7:00a–5:00p  
[cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:cdcoffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Debra Drew,  
Director  
[ddrew@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:ddrew@stjohnsportage.com)

**School:**  
option 3  
Office Hours:  
M—F 7:30a–3:15p  
[schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com](mailto:schooloffice@stjohnsportage.com)

Jim Krupski,  
Principal  
[jkrupski@stjohnsportage.com](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsportage.com).