

March 24, 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 (24)

- 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 (25)

- 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.
- 4:30 p.m. Board of Finance, Church CLC

Tuesday (26)

- 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 Elders, Church CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawls, Church APR

Wednesday (27)

- 9:00 a.m. Walkie Talkies, meet at St. John's
- 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. Jr. Youth Group grades 4–7, School Gym
- 5:00 p.m. Handbells, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir, Church Balcony
- 6:30 p.m. Sr. Youth Group grades 8-12, School Gym

Thursday (28)

- 8:00 a.m. Esther Bible Study, Church CLC
- 10:00 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service
- 16:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday (29)

- 12:00 p.m. **All ministries offices closed**
- Good Friday Tre Ore Service 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday (31)

- 6:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
- 8:00 a.m. Easter Day Service
- 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast, Church CLC
- 9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, School Gym
- 9:15 a.m. Praise Band Practice, Church Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Day Service
- 11:30 a.m. Late Sunday Morning Bible Study, Church APR

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.

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

Pastor Hovland is deliberating a Divine Call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Mequon, WI.

Jackie Bauman is deliberating a Divine Call to teach 5th grade in Davenport, IA

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 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.

Volunteers are needed for Easter Sunday Breakfast.

- ⇒ 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, 608-683-4361.

God's blessings to you.

Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Youth Group will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the School Gym.

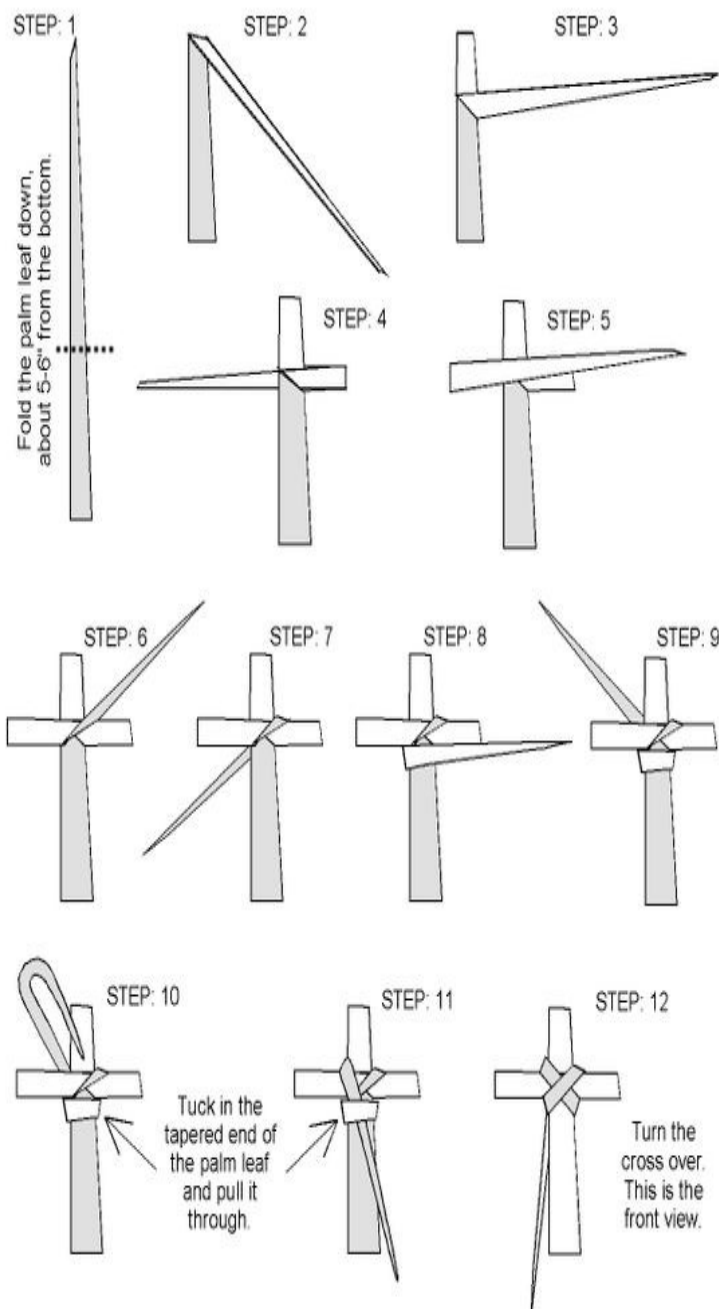
Donations to fill 1000 Easter eggs are greatly appreciated. A box will be labeled in the church coat room for all Easter Egg Hunt donations.

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.



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Divine Call Update

Pastor Hovland Call Update

On March 17, Pastor Hovland received a call to serve Trinity, Mequon. This new call came just after he decided to decline the call to Redeemer, Manitowoc. Please pray for St. John's, Redeemer, Trinity, and Pastor's family. Remember that pastors in the LCMS do not seek calls or apply for positions in congregations. His name was submitted for consideration by a congregation member or district.

School Growth Committee

Are you interested in helping grow our Christian School?

We need your positive ideas, outreach into the community, and team efforts to start the School Growth Committee. If interested please sign-up at the Welcome Center or contact Jim Atkinson 608-697-7052 jim@atkinsonrealtor.com.

School Calendar

Monday, March 25

- 7-8 Grade Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Thursday, March 28

- Butter Braid delivery

Good Friday, March 29

- No School

Easter Monday, April 1

- No School

Tuesday, April 2

- PTL
6:30 p.m., Cafeteria

Saturday, April 6

- School Choir 2-4
sings at 5:30 p.m.

FAQs About the Bible

QUESTION: How does the Church arrive at a Friday crucifixion if our Lord plainly said he would descend for three days and three nights? Assuming that Jesus arose on the first day (sometime after the Sabbath but before dawn) and counting backwards I count a Wednesday crucifixion.

ANSWER: In the entry under *Chronology* in the *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* (Intervarsity, 1992), H.W. Hoehner offers a helpful summary of the chronology of Passion Week. He says:

“Traditionally, Jesus is thought to have died on the Friday of Passion Week.” On the basis of Matthew 12:40, he says, “some conclude Jesus could not have died on Friday; Jesus may have died on Wednesday or Thursday, thus allowing for three days and three nights.

“However, when one recognizes that the Jews reckoned a part of a day as a whole day, Jesus’ death on Friday does not present a real problem.

“Furthermore, the New Testament repeatedly refers to Jesus’ resurrection as having occurred on the third day (not the fourth day; e.g., Matt. 16:21; 17:23; Luke 9:22; 18:33; Acts 10:40; 1 Cor. 15:4).

“Moreover, the Gospels specifically mention the day before the Sabbath (Friday) as the day of his death (Matt. 27:62; Mark. 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:14, 31, 42). Therefore, both scripturally and traditionally, it seems best to accept Friday as the day of Jesus’ death.”

<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/the-bible#date>

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser



Bring your family, bring your friends, and most importantly, bring your appetite! The 7th and 8th grades are raising money for their class trip, so every bite counts!

Join them for dinner, **March 25**

from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Pizza Ranch in Portage.



Saturday, 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, text 608.697.2649, Sign-Up Genius link: <https://shorturl.at/nyxEI>, 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.



Every One His Witness

Join us for a one-day Every One His Witness 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.

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:

Given by:

Weekly Offerings

March 17

In-person Attendance: 464 (includes Lent midweek service)

Unrestricted Unified Received: \$11,820.65

Restricted Contributions Received: \$800.00

TOTAL: \$12,620.65

Weekly Unrestricted Unified Needed: \$12,885.00

YTD Unrestricted Unified Giving: \$496,881.69

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Unified Need: \$489,630.00
(week 38)

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

Monday,
Ex. 9:1-28 &
Heb. 2:1-18

Tuesday,
Ex. 9:29-10:20 &
Heb. 3:1-19

Wednesday,
Ex. 10:21-11:10 &
Heb. 4:1-16

Holy Thursday,
Ex. 12:1-28 &
Heb. 5:1-14

Good Friday,
Ex. 12:29-32;
13:1-16 &
Heb. 6:1-20

Holy Saturday,
Ex. 13:17-14:9 &
Heb. 7:1-22

LCMS Memory Verse Challenge

Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Hosea 6:1-2

Stewardship Thoughts

Zechariah 9:9 – “Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” No king ever rode to war like this. But no king had ever come to wage battle by dying. In His Passion, our Lord Jesus gives everything He has and is; He does this to bring us from death to life, to make us His own people, and show us an example of self-giving love that we should follow.

Life Thoughts

March 24 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord – Sinful nature prizes popularity, property, and power. It despises dependence and discards aging or gestating neighbors because of it. But Jesus proves that God has designed humankind to rely on Him and each other. His salvation comes about by humbly and happily entrusting oneself to an Almighty Father (Philippians 2:6-8). We need not take life and death into our own hands when we can rest upon His.

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

March 24
LWML

March 31
Easter Breakfast

April 7
7th and 8th Grade

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.