

# The St. John's Light

...let it shine!

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April 2026

It's been one month since I arrived in Pembroke to serve you and serve with you. What a month it's been! I've met many of you, but certainly not all. I've visited with some of you, and gone on visits with some of you, but I haven't even come close to visiting everyone. There have been trips to the hospital, to the hospice, and to the funeral home; confirmation classes, Lenten suppers, choir rehearsals, Bible studies and committee meetings. We've prayed together, sung together, heard the Lord's Word together, and communed together. "Who will go to St. John's?" the Lord asked me in December. "Here am I," I said. "Let's go!"

There are still more names to learn and people to visit. Susan and the pastoral care committee are helping me there. You can help too: if you know someone who needs a visit, call the office. If you want to see me, come visit! I plan to be in my study 8 am to 12 pm Monday through Thursday. In the afternoons I see the list of visits and think, "let's go!"

There are still many things to improve so we can be better rooted in Christ and growing in His love. Susan, Debbie and I are trying to regain access to our domain, *stjohnspembroke.ca*, so we can begin updating our website. The registrar of our domain has so far been unwilling to give us access. Prayers may help! We're also working on upgrading our communications so we can send regular emails, and possibly texts, to members. That will help us stay in contact and keep everyone updated.

Our men's breakfast and LWML monthly study theme for March and April will be the letters of Peter. Our weekly Bible study, starting in April, will be on 1 Corinthians. That study will specifically look at how that letter might shape what it means to be St. John's, and what the Lord is doing through us in Pembroke and the Valley. Mid-week communion services will resume after Easter as well. There will be many opportunities for learning together, and for growing in love together. I hope that the Spirit will draw you to one or more of these opportunities, and when study time comes around, you'll think, "let's go!"

Early in his ministry, after healing many in Capernaum, the disciples were surprised to find that Jesus had gone outside the town to pray. "Everyone's looking for you!" they told him (Mark 1:32-38). Jesus said they had to move on. Other towns needed his presence and the comfort of the Good News. What he told his disciples he tells us all: Let's go!

*Charles McOnge*

Pastor Charles

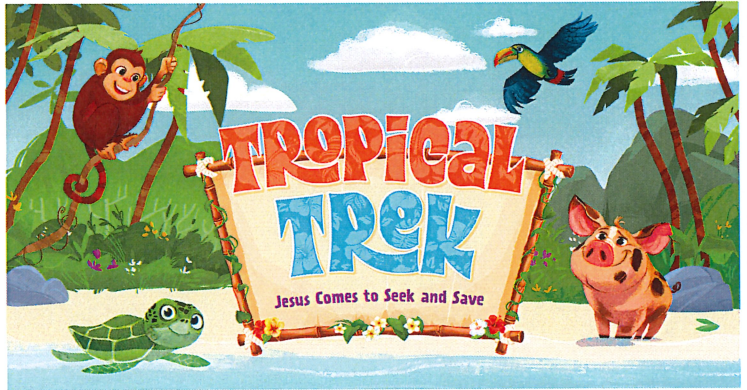
# Sunday School

April



He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24



**VBS will be July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>**

Plans are underway for VBS 2026. This amazing outreach takes many volunteers so please consider helping. Watch bulletin and Parish Paper for ways to get involved. Next meeting is **APRIL 26** following the church service.

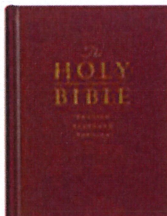


### Baptismal Birthdays for April:

Dallas Shalla  
Cadence Hampel  
Mason Behm

### APRIL MEMORY VERSE:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16



We are continuing to collect donations and pop can tabs to support our mission project – **CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

An Adult Bible Study meets every week during Sunday School and studies the same lessons as the children. Everyone is welcome. No experience or knowledge required!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Apr 05 Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)
- Apr 26 Celebrate Baptismal Birthdays
- Apr 26 VBS Meeting (downstairs after church)



**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Party with Pastor Charles!**

After the church service.

What's your favourite kind of pizza?

Pastor Charles would like to  
get to know our Youth Group!

A special thanks to everyone who came out to our  
Youth Group Swim!



# **Worship & Music Committee Summary 2025**

During the 2025 calendar year, St. John's celebrated 52 regular Sunday worship services as well as Wednesday evening services and special services for Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. The average attendance at Sunday services was 129 with approximately 104 receiving communion per service. We continue to provide an online presence with some viewing the service live while others view the broadcast at a later time. This summer, we changed our worship time to 9:00 am for July and August. On December 14<sup>th</sup> we had the Joint Choir Christmas Concert.

This past year we were forced to replace our communion wine after our usual wine was no longer available as it came from the United States. We are now using a Canadian made wine from Southern Ontario.

After much work on Debbie Bernard's part, the organ chimes have now been repaired following a lightning strike several years ago.

With respect to the Worship & Music Committee itself, our members include Heather Bickel who is our chairperson, Debbie Bernard, Carson Bramburger, Joyce Raglin, Idalee Shalla and myself. We had our first meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> and the general theme of the meeting was the need for more volunteers especially in the areas of technical support such as sound, TV screens and live stream. We are looking to approach more young people of the congregation to encourage their involvement. If you are so moved to volunteer your services or if you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding worship and music, please see myself or any of the committee members mentioned earlier.

Pam Furgoch-Payne

# COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

"Remember the banana - when it left the bunch, it got skinned."

*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)*

## **Highlights of Church Council Meeting** - Thursday March 12, 2026

- Murray Street house to be sold
- both sets of front doors to the church at the Miller Street entrance and the small furnace room door on Doran Street to be replaced
- a new dishwasher was installed in the church kitchen

## **Egg Roll in a Bowl** (Submitted by Carol Brazeau)

### Ingredients

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1 garlic clove, finely chopped  
1 Tbsp. finely chopped peeled ginger  
1 lb. ground pork  
Tbsp. toasted sesame oil  
1 bag coleslaw mix  
1/2 yellow onion, thinly sliced  
1 cup shredded carrot  
1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce  
1 Tbsp. sriracha  
1 green onion, thinly sliced  
1 Tbsp. toasted sesame seeds  
Pot stickers  
1tbsp olive oil  
Sweet Thai chili sauce

### Instructions

Step 1: In a large skillet over medium heat, heat vegetable oil. Add garlic and ginger and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute.  
Step 2: Add pork and cook, breaking up meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until browned in parts and cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes.  
Step 3: Push pork to the side and pour in sesame oil. Add cabbage, onion, and carrot then stir to combine with meat. Add soy sauce and sriracha. Cook, stirring frequently, until cabbage is tender, 5 to 8 minutes;  
Step 4: In a large skillet with a tight lid. Heat olive oil and arrange pot stickers flat side down. Add ½ cup water and steam pot stickers until heated through. Remove the lid and continue cooking until water has evaporated and bottoms are crispy

### Build your bowl

Divide pork mixture among bowls. Top with green onion and sesame seed and pot stickers. Drizzle with chili sauce

# The 5 Finger Prayer



## The 5 Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you...so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you – family and friends.
2. Next is the pointer finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors and ministers.
3. The middle finger is the tallest finger. It reminds of our leaders. Pray for government officials, administrators, and leaders in business and industry.
4. Our ring finger is the weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for those who are struggling, feel weak or are in need.
5. And lastly comes the pinky, the smallest finger of all, which should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs in a good perspective.



# HAPPY QUILTERS

Are you looking for a special Quilt for Easter?

The Happy Quilters at St. John's have a **LARGE SELECTION** of beautiful quilts that would make a memorable, hand-crafted gift for a family member or friend, or just a new decor touch for yourself.

If you are interested in selecting a quilt, contact any of the following people:

Joyce Marcuccio (613)732-7440

Helen Kramer (613)687-2993

Paulette Behm (613)732-7394

*Note: Quilts are not sold at a fixed price for a profit. They are available by donation.*

## **Interested in learning the Art of Quilting?**

Every Wednesday morning, the Quilters gather in our Church basement to quilt.

If quilting is something that interests you, come out Wednesday morning at 9:30am and check it out. All are welcome.

Experience is not required. We will teach you. There is something for everyone to do.

You'll have a fun new hobby and make new friendships quilting together.

~ ***The Happy Quilters***





# St. John's Lutheran Seenagers Corner

*St. John's Seenagers . . . where we make new friends  
and get to know our old friends better  
All Seniors are welcome!*

## **NEXT SEENAGER MEETING**

Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 2:00PM

## **BUNCO AFTERNOON**

## **& POTLUCK DINNER at 4:30 PM**

Contact: Paulette Behm, President (613)732-7394

### Upcoming Events Hosted by the Seenagers

**1. Thursday, April 16, 2026 – "THE PLOWBOYS – THIS IS COUNTRY MUSIC!"**

Departure from St. John's Parking Lot at 8:00am. \$135 per person.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie (613)638-3722.

PAYMENT IS NOW DUE. (cash or cheque to Debbie Bernard or Church Office during regular

Office hours: M-W-F) TRIP IS NOW FULL.

**2. Thursday, September 24-25, 2026 – "COME FROM AWAY"** Gananoque & Kingston – see this world-famous play "COME FROM AWAY" at the 1000 Island Playhouse, Gananoque. This is an overnight trip with exciting activities planned for you. Hosted by St. John's Seenagers with Ottawa Valley Tours. SEE THE POSTER FOR DETAILS.

**3. Thursday, October 22, 2026 – LEISA WAY'S "GET DOWN TONIGHT" – ULTIMATE 70's SOUNDTRACK"** – Upper Canada Playhouse, Morrisburg – \$135 per person. Includes: coach transportation, lunch, and show ticket. See poster for details. Sign-up sheet located at back of Church.

Contact: Debbie Bernard (613)638-3722

**SEENAGER EXCURSION**  
Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seenagers

# **"THE PLOWBOYS"**

## **REPLACING**

### **"ELBOWS UP" SHOW**

**Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 2:00pm**  
**Upper Canada Playhouse, Morrisburg**



**REPLACING**  
**"ELBOWS UP –**  
**COUNTRY MUSIC**  
**STARS"**

The PLOWBOYS are a fixture in Eastern Ontario music scene keeping traditional Country Music alive-one hit at a time! Whether you're a seasoned two-stepper or a newcomer to country music, saddle up and get ready for a toe-tappin', rhinestone-shinin' good time! It's a musical harvest of classic country hits from Buck Owens and Ray Price to Merle Haggard, Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, and many more.

If you have any questions about this show substitution, please contact Debbie 613-638-3722.

PAYMENT IS DUE BY MARCH 8. (cash or cheque to Debbie Bernard or Church Office during regular Office hours: M-W-F)

Departure Time - 8:00am from St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Lunch - McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg (included)

Price - \$135 per person

Contact - Debbie Bernard (613)638-3722

### Kingston & Gananoque - 2026

September 24-25

2 Days



#### Day 1: Kingston | Gananoque, ON

Today our journey brings us to the beautiful waterfront city of **Kingston**, proudly known as the Gateway to the 1000 Islands. Rich in history and charm, Kingston welcomes us with limestone architecture, scenic harbour views, and stories from Canada's early days. Upon arrival, enjoy a **one-hour guided city tour** led by a knowledgeable local guide who will bring the city's fascinating past and vibrant present to life. Following our tour, we check in at the welcoming **DoubleTree by Hilton Kingston**, where warm hospitality awaits. Take some time to relax before gathering with the group for an early dinner at the hotel. This evening, the excitement continues as we travel to the charming riverside town of **Gananoque**. Here, reserved seats await us at the renowned **Thousand Islands Playhouse – Springer Theatre** for the spectacular musical **“Come From Away.”** This acclaimed production tells the remarkable true story of compassion, resilience, and the extraordinary kindness shown to thousands of stranded travellers in a small Newfoundland town. It promises to be a heartwarming and unforgettable evening of music, storytelling, and theatre. (D)

#### Day 2: Kingston, ON | Pembroke, ON

Begin the day with a delicious buffet breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards, enjoy some leisure time in downtown Kingston, where you may wish to stroll through the historic streets and explore the Kingston Public Market. Late morning, we make our way to the waterfront to board the

**Island Star for a delightful three-hour luncheon cruise** through the spectacular 1000 Islands. Relax and take in the breathtaking scenery as we glide past picturesque islands, historic cottages, and grand waterfront estates while enjoying lunch onboard. Later this afternoon, We begin our journey back to Pembroke after the cruise, while sharing many wonderful memories of your 1000 Islands Fall Getaway. (B, L)

#### Your Ultimate Holiday Experience Includes:

- Return Transportation from Pembroke by Deluxe Motorcoach
- 1 night accommodation – Doubletree by Hilton Kingston in Kingston
- 1 breakfast at the hotel
- Luncheon Cruise aboard the Island Star with entertainment
- 1 dinner at the hotel
- Reserved Orchestra Ticket for “Come from Away” at the Springer Theatre
- 1 hour Sightseeing Tour of Kingston
- Services of an Ottawa Valley Tours Director
- All Taxes



#### Cost Per Person:

Twin	\$645	Triple	\$615
Quad	\$598	Single	\$775



**For more information Contact  
Debbie Bernard 613.602.7335**

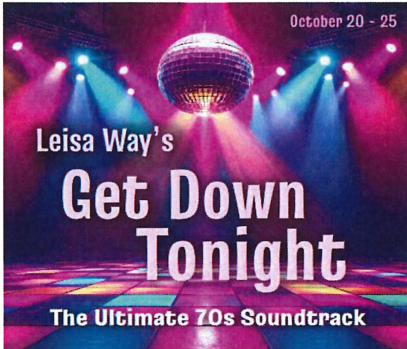
**For Reservations Contact  
Ottawa Valley Tours  
613.723.5701/1.800.267.5288**



## **SEENAGER EXCURSION**

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seenagers

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026**



**2:00 PM Matinee Show**

**Upper Canada  
Playhouse, Morrisburg**

# **GET DOWN TONIGHT**

## **with Leisa Way**

**(The Ultimate 70s Soundtrack )**

It's a high energy concert of the greatest hits of the 70's! From DISCO to FOLK, to ROCK, this powerhouse concert features hits from The Eagles, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac, James Taylor, ABBA, Carole King, Elton John, The Bee Gees, The Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Creedance Clearwater Revival, Joni Mitchell, and more.

**Departure Time: 8:00 AM from St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot**

**Lunch: McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg (included)**

**Price: \$135 per person**

**Contact: Debbie Bernard 613-638-3722**

**Please sign up as soon as possible so that we know if the trip will be a "go".**

## Worship Assistants for April 2026

**Communion Set-Up:** Joyce Raglin

**Altar Guild:** Joyce Raglin, Susanne Hammel, Sarah Goltz

**Elevator Assistant:** Carson Bramburger

**TV Screens:** Heather & Grant Bickel

**Live Stream Video:** Richard Kramer/Karen, Rachel & Ashlyn Craig

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### April 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunrise

**Elders:** Eric Zadow

**Acolyte:** Cole Phinney

**Sound System:** Brian Schroeder

**Psalm Cantor:** Esther & Margaret Zadow

**Communion Assistants:** Eric Zadow

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### April 5<sup>th</sup> - 10am

**Elders:** Karl Hammel

**Acolyte:** Dylin Raglin

**Sound System:** Brian Schroeder

**Psalm Cantor:** Esther & Margaret Zadow

**Communion Assistants:** Carson Bramburger/Dave Trautrim

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### April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Elders:** June Carmody/Stephen Schroeder

**Acolyte:** Avery Timm

**Sound System:** Brian Schroeder

**Psalm Cantor:** Margaret Trautrim

**Communion Assistants:** Jon Hammel/Eric Zadow

**Hospitality:** Trautrim

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### April 19<sup>th</sup>

**Elders:** Dave Trautrim

**Acolyte:** Esther Zadow

**Sound System:** Richard Kramer

**Psalm Cantor:** Sherry Heubner

**Communion Assistants:** Nathanael Alles/Matt Klein

**Hospitality:** Biggs/Zadow

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### April 26<sup>nd</sup>

**Elders:** Jake Bernard/Carson Bramburger

**Acolyte:** Madison Behm

**Sound System:** Richard Kramer

**Psalm Cantor:** Heather Bickel

**Communion Assistants:** Marcel Daoust/Dave Trautrim

**Hospitality:** Communications & Public Relations

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# Church Family News



**EASTER LILIES** We invite you to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter. We ask that you pick up your own flowers from the store of your choice and bring them to the church after Palm Sunday. Please contact Susan and let her know who your flowers are for. We will publish the requests in the bulletin. Thank you. ~Altar Guild



## FOUR SCORE OR MORE

April 2	Sarah Goltz (81)
April 9	John Covell (84)
April 19	Inez Leroux (87)
April 20	Bev Blundon (82)
April 28	Ellsworth Mullen (84)
April 28	Orval Schultz (96)

## CHURCH WEBSITE

[www.stjohnspembroke.ca](http://www.stjohnspembroke.ca)

Check out our Church Website to:

1. easily access Worship Services on YouTube
2. listen to recent Sermons and Choir anthems
3. check on upcoming Events
4. see photos of recent events.

All of this, and much more, is at your fingertips!

**CURRENT OFFERINGS** The amount we need each Sunday is \$5,675.00 to cover approved expenses.

February EMT	\$ 8,020.00
March 1	\$ 3,559.35
March 8	\$ 3,784.00
March 15	\$ 3,107.30
March 22	\$ 3,207.00



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Wesley Anderson	
April 2	Sarah Goltz	
April 5	Barb Dupuis	
April 6	Sam Biggs	
April 8	Nicholas Mask	Larry Scheuneman
April 9	John Covell	Katie Ziebell
	Cadence Hampel	
April 10	Elaine Bucholtz	Evelyn Wodtke
April 12	Karen Krueger	
April 13	Sherry Crone	
April 15	Elise Rolph	Faith Lisk
April 16	Larry Dament	
April 17	Mae Ziebell	Brandon Timm
April 18	Jeff Priebe	Anne Born
	Dylin Raglin	Brooklyn Wodtke
April 19	Inez Leroux	
April 20	Mary Ann Alles	Bev Blundon
April 21	Larry Markus	Cole Phinney
	Clara Vanner	
April 22	Mackenzie Demers	
April 25	Dana Woodtke	Michael Behm
	Benjamin Jones	Melissa Jones
April 26	Marilyn Hampel	Landon Hammel
April 27	Philip Biesenthal	
April 28	Ellsworth Mullen	John Priebe
	Orval Schultz	Liam Wells
April 29	Heather Hamilton	Helen Schroeder
April 30	Lynn Romhild	Megan Roesler

## NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES

April 12	Lawrence & Viola Neuman (40)
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**DEADLINE!** Parish paper submissions **MUST** be in by the **20<sup>th</sup>** of each month. If they are not, they will not be included that month. Thank you! ☺ Please note that items submitted may be edited before printing.

# APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>NOTES:</b>			1	2	3	4
			*OFFICE OPEN	*OFFICE OPEN 7:00 Maundy Thursday	*OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Good Friday	7:00 Easter Vigil
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7:30 Sunrise Easter Service 8:30 Easter Breakfast 10:00 Resurrection of Our Lord	*OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 Grief Share	*OFFICE OPEN 6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	*OFFICE OPEN 9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service	*OFFICE CLOSED 2:00 Seenagers	*OFFICE OPEN	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	1:30 Grief Share 6:00 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service	8:00 Seniors Trip "Elbow's Up" 6:30 Church Council		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:30 Pizza with Pastor	1:30 Grief Share <b>4:00 Deadline for Parish Paper submissions</b> 6:00 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:00 Worship Service			8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:00 LWML
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:30 VBS Meeting	1:30 Grief Share 6:00 Embers	7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	*PASTOR AWAY 9:30 Quilters	*PASTOR AWAY	*PASTOR AWAY	