



St. John's Lutheran Church
 Welcoming Everyone
 Making Disciples
 Trusting Jesus
 Empowering Leaders

March 22nd, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent
St. John's Office Hours: 8-5 Tues.-Fri. Building Hours: 8-5 Mon.-Fri.

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 St. John's Lutheran Church of Le Mars, IA.
 Senior Pastor: Steven Broers
 Minister of Music: Mike Rathke
 Office Manager: Kim Lang
 Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen
 Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken
 Sunday School Superintendent: Beth Larson

CONGRATULATIONS to Ilo Jean Erdmann, who will be baptized at the 10:30 am service this morning. Ilo's family includes parents, Ben & Hope Erdmann and big brother, John. Baptism sponsors are Brock Wallace and Camryn Chambers. Blessings and welcome to the family of God and St. John's.

FORTRESS OF FAITH and **RADIO ADS** are sponsored in memory of Merrill McNaughton by Shirley McNaughton and family.

LOST & FOUND/FREE TABLE Please check the table in the lobby for any items that may be yours. And, help yourself to the free items.

POTTED FLOWER FUNDRAISER Hanging Potted Petunias and Geraniums are being sold by the kids heading to Chicago this summer. \$25 per pot. Sign up in the lobby or see one of the youth to purchase your flowers today! Deadline is April 1st.

ELDERBERRIES will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25th at 2 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be watching a video about "stair exercise." Learn about a great way to stay fit and active! Anyone age 55+ is invited.

PORTALS OF PRAYER The new devotionals are here. Pick up your copy soon.

LENTEN MEAL will be Baked Potato Bar and Dessert on Wednesday, March 25th. A freewill offering will be collected and has been designated to Then Feed Just One.

THEN FEED JUST ONE EVENT The St. John's catechism youth and High School students will be participating in a Then Feed Just One food packaging event on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30-8pm. Other St. John's members are encouraged to join us. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby if you would like to help. Donations for this project will be collected throughout the month of March at the Lenten suppers and can also be left in the offering plate or dropped off at the office. Please notate your gift for "Then Feed Just One". It costs us 18.5 cents per meal we package. Each bag contains six meals and costs \$1.11. Each box contains 216 meals and costs \$39.6. Last year, we packaged 6,480 meals which cost about \$1,200 but had to stop once we ran out of money. We can only package as much food as we buy so thank you in advance for your generosity! Hopefully we can raise more money this year and do even more good! These meals will be sent to places where children are suffering from malnourishment such as Honduras, Haiti, East Africa and Sudan.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES have begun. Join us at 6 pm in the sanctuary. This will include the Holden Evening Prayer Service, a traditional setting of evening prayer set to music. These services will continue through March 25th.

WALKING BAREFOOT WITH GOD A new Men's Small Group Study will begin Tuesday, March 24th at 7 pm. This is a 5 week study. Sign up on the bulletin board, so we can be sure to have enough books for everyone.

NOISY OFFERINGS will be collected next weekend. Don't forget your loose change or bills. Donations will help fund the mission projects during the Chicago Youth Mission Trip.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Help us save a life! Monday, March 30th from 12-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Blood supplies are low! Please consider donating. Contact Julie Albert (540-1455) or visit www.redcross.org to schedule a time.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS WANTED FOR HOLY WEEK

Please contact the office if you are willing to serve as a greeter, lector or communion server during any of the holy week services. There will be a 7 pm Maundy Thursday (greeter, comm. Server), 7 pm Good Friday (lector), Easter 6, 8, 10:30 am (greeter, lector, communion servers). Acolytes and Crucifers are also needed.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday	March 29th
Maundy Thursday Service - 7 pm	April 2nd
Good Friday Service - 7 pm	April 3rd
Easter Services - 6, 8 & 10:30 am	April 5th
Easter Breakfast - 7 am - 10:30 am	April 5th

The church building will be closed on April 6th.

ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS for 2026 are available on the bulletin board. Students attending higher education, service groups, church groups, or if you know of a special need in the community, fill out an application. Applications are due April 15th.

RADIO AD AND FORTRESS OF FAITH sponsors are needed for this year. Please contact Kim if you would like to honor/memorialize someone. Radio Ads are \$10 a week and Fortress of Faith spots are \$25.00. Thank you!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS for 2025 should be directed by March 31st. Please consider choosing St. John's as a recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. This is a gift that helps our ministries throughout the year. Thank you.

CAMP COUNSELOR STIPENDS St. John's will again be offering a \$1000.00 stipend for St. John's members working at Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp this summer. Talk to Pastor or Kim to find out more about this great opportunity.

LIFEWISE EVENING OF IMPACT Thursday, March 26th at the Le Mars Bible Church. Dinner, silent auction, and program beginning at 5:30 pm. Message 712-546-4416 to RSVP.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Dean & Lynn Borchers	Jeff & Mary Roder
Lector	Kristy Broers	Kristy Broers
Comm Serv	Dean Borchers	Hope Majeres
	Jane Arnold	Krista Plueger
	Mark Kehrberg	Paula Kommes
Crucifer	Kenna Grage	
Acolytes	Avery Bogh	Kemper Davis
	Luke Britt	Harper Grause
ProPresenter	Micah Broers	Megan Jeneary
Video/Sound	Becky DeRuyter	Jacob Jeneary
Altar Guild	Janet Lohafer	Tammy Lee
	Arlene Wiener	Sherri Harms
Coffee Bar	Jane Westphal	
Ushers	Tracy Wingert, Chr., Greg M., Doug S., Rob S., Jay D.	Bryce Tingwald, Chr., Nathan P., Joey P., Jeremy F., Graham F.

Remember These People in Prayer: Dave Brennan, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Hallie Bunkers, Grace Galles, Brielle Schorg, Nash, Diane K., Denise, Angie, Nancy & Bob P., Bryan Utesch, Dorothy Luschen; **Ongoing Prayers:** Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Shirley, Jen, Kathy, and Diane Riediger; **Deployed:** Kylee Britt, Brent Jarvis, Nathan Jester; **Care Facility Residents:** Good Samaritan - Russ Martfeld, Lorraine Luksan, Dennis Asche; Accura Health - Patty Lubben; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens, Dorothy Luschen; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Prime Living - Wade & Betty Thompson; Happy Siesta - Eleanor Westhoff

Sun March 22	Mon March 23	Tues March 24	Wed March 25	Thurs March 26	Fri March 27	Sat March 28	Sun Mar 29
8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 am Study Hour/ Property Team Mtg 10:30 am Ilo Erdmann Baptism	LifeWise	LifeWise 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm 40 Day Study L/L 5:30 pm P.o.P./Mission Team Mtg. L/L 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel Study L/L 7 pm Men's Small Group Study Y/R	LifeWise 2 pm Elderberries 5 pm Bells/Lenten Meal 6 pm Holden Evening Service/Comm 6:30 pm Then Feed Just One Event/Grow 6:45 pm Sr. Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	9 am Prayer Time 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	9 am Stole Work Day F/H	Noisy Offerings 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 8 am SS Kids Sing 9:15 am Study Hour 11:30 am Drama Rehearsal

March 22nd, 2026
5th Sunday of Lent



First Reading: Proverbs 14:12-16 ¹²There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. ¹³Even in laughter the heart may ache, and rejoicing may end in grief. ¹⁴The faithless will be fully repaid for their ways, and the good rewarded for theirs. ¹⁵The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps. ¹⁶The wise fear the Lord and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 12

¹ Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

² **Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts.**

³ May the Lord silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue -

⁴ **those who say, "By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us - who is lord over us?"**

⁵ "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them."

⁶ **And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.**

⁷ You, Lord, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked,

⁸ **who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race.**

Second Reading: 1 John 4:1-6 ¹Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. ⁴You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God, and whoever knows God

listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please rise for the reading of the holy Gospel.

The holy Gospel according to St. John the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 18:33-40 ³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" ³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" ³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" ³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." ³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." ³⁸ "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews?'" ⁴⁰ They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

\$16.00 per Easter Lily # of Lilies _____

Deadline: **March 27th**

In memory/honor of: _____

By: _____

Drop this this form w/payment in the offering plate OR call the office-546-8855

