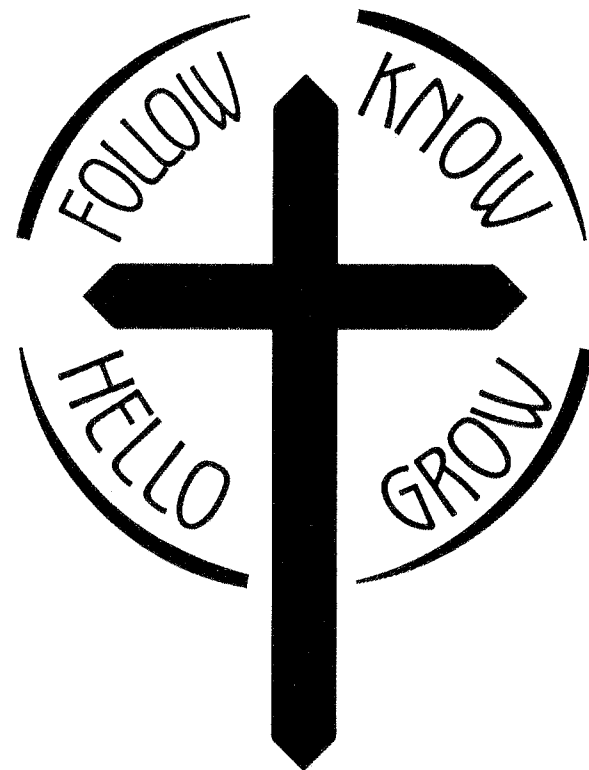


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 1st AVE. NW
LE MARS, IA. 51031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

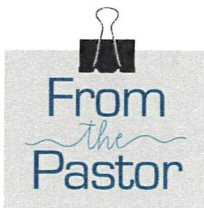
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St. John's Lutheran Church
+

**Welcoming Everyone
Making Disciples
Trusting Jesus
Empowering Leaders**

November 2025



One of my jobs at home is vacuuming. It's not a bad job and I enjoy the sound of all the dirt being sucked up. Our vacuum even has a see through container where you get to see all of the dirt—and especially hair!—that is going to get thrown away. And yet the job is also pretty frustrating because I am **always** trying to go farther than the cord will allow. All of a sudden, I lose power, and I have to go back and plug the thing back in. Electricity is a pretty magical thing and there are lots of appliances, gadgets and power tools that use it, but you **must** stay connected or else you won't be able to finish the job you started.

The same is true with our relationship to God. We **must** stay connected to Him or else we will lose the power that He promises. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."* – Acts 1:8 How can we stay connected to the power that God offers to us? I believe that one of the best ways is through prayer.

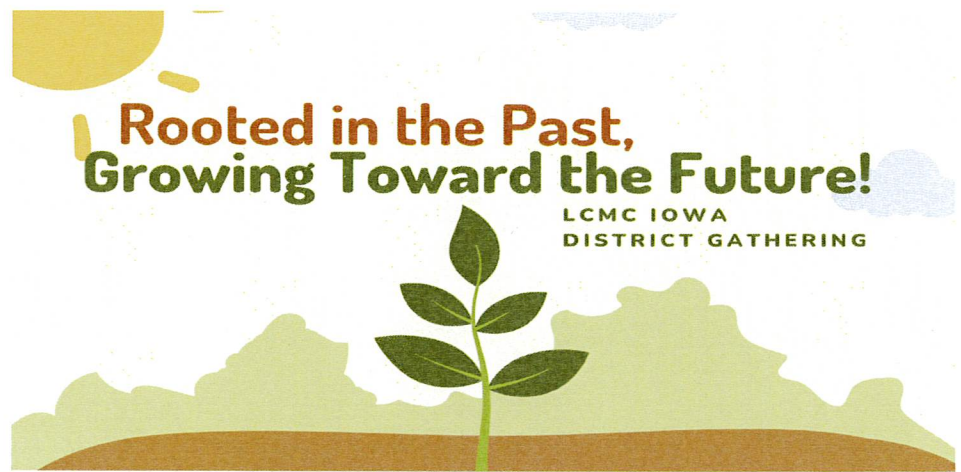
I **love** my weekly prayer time on Thursday mornings. For almost two decades, I have tried to make time each week to pray for at least an hour and not only ask for things and seek guidance from God but **listen** to what **He** has to tell me. Recently, when I was praying, I was telling God how much I loved that time with Him and He told me, "You know. I am available **all** of the time. . . not just Thursday mornings." He seemed to be saying that I could be praying **a lot** more than I was. If I was so encouraged and inspired and helped by this prayer time, why wasn't I praying more **throughout** the week?

This point was made even more clearly when I was praying on another day. I was feeling overwhelmed by everything that had to be done and I was feeling very tired as well. I felt like God spoke to me again and said, "Stop working out of your **own** strength and look to **Me** for strength." Two Bible verses popped into my head, "Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) and "For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2nd Corinthians 12:10) I realized that if I was truly following God's will for my life, then **He** was more interested in me completing the work than I

was. So, instead of trying to get everything done by myself, why wasn't I praying for God's strength to help me get everything done?

When we try to do all of our work without staying connected to God, we are about as successful as that vacuum cleaner trying to work without being plugged in. Our source of power is lost. The only real difference is that when you pray for God to fill you with **His** power and strength your life has a much better chance of **not** sucking as much!

Take time to pray. Every day. Most importantly, don't try to do your work without making sure that you are connected to the source of your life and power—God! Amen.



Join us for a day set aside for worship, learning, and connection with others who share your heart for ministry.

We'll hear from Mark VanderTuig, reflecting on the faithful foundation of the LCMC and where we've come from, and Danny Householder, pointing us toward where God is leading the church in the years ahead.

The day will include worship, communion, lunch, and plenty of time to connect with fellow pastors and leaders across Iowa. Whether your congregation is large or small, urban or rural, you'll find encouragement and camaraderie here.

Come be refreshed, inspired, and reminded that we're in this together.

WHEN

- Saturday, November 15
8:30am-3pm

WHERE

- Immanuel Lutheran in Waukee
(900 S Warrior Ln, Waukee, IA)

REGISTRATION

- lccaltoona.breezechms.com/form/iowalcmcnov2025



Excel in The Grace of Giving!

Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." – Luke 12:15

There are lots of ways that you can support the ministry at St. John's outside of just giving money. Please fill out a time and talent form and let us know how you would like to be involved!

God never asks us to give what we don't have—only to be generous with what He's given us.

One of the best gifts you can give to give to St. John's is your presence at Sunday morning services and weekly activities. No amount of money can buy your enthusiasm, your dedication and your heart for worship. Thank you for being a part of this faith community!

Treasurer's Report

September 2025

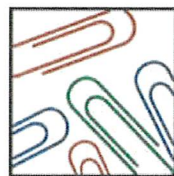
1. Our Operating checking account decreased \$703 to \$13,781 in September. All Benevolences and Payroll tax liabilities were paid current as of quarter end.
2. We continue to be debt free.
3. Continued good news on Offerings as September offerings came in at \$47,216. Year to date offerings for 2025 total \$369,000 as compared to \$348,000 last year, \$357,000 in 2023, \$318,000 in 2022, and \$358,000 in 2021.
4. September operating expenses of \$43,459 as compared to budget of \$45,581. We are now \$26,000 under our operating expense budget for 2025.
5. Endowment funds total \$661,000 after a September investment gain of \$9729. The overall investment gain for 2025 is now \$63,755.
6. Estate gifts under investment total \$434,000. Interest earnings year to date on these gifts total \$15,908. We will need to pay approximately \$86,000 from these funds when the elevator work is completed.

Bill Young
Church Treasurer



Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**Please turn in your newsletter articles by
November 17.**



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Contact us: 712-546-8855 or
stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org**

If you would like to supply
ALTAR FLOWERS
in honor of an occasion or in memory of someone, please call the office to make arrangements. 546-8855



COFFEE IS ON!!! The coffee bar will be ready at 9 am Sunday mornings this fall! Come early or stay after. Grab a cup of coffee and a Lally's donut hole, or two! Free will donations are appreciated. Enjoy!!



Remember These People in Prayer: Alex Hines, Richard Miller, Mason Sitzmann, Phyllis Hamann, Taelynn Ortmann, Michael, Kendra, Terri Clinton, James, Scott, Logan, Jae'Cion, Jen, Kathy, Nancy, Shirley, Tim Lohafer, Norm Nielsen, Kathryn, JoEllen Cronin, Bellamy, and Bryan Utesch; **Ongoing Prayers:** Louis

Westhoff, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Robert, Ali, Brady Plucker, Diane Riediger, and Missy Rarrat;

Deployed: Jaime Koopman, Kylie Britt, Blake Erdmann, Brendt Jarvis, Mitch Lang

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Ron Smith**, who passed away on October 1st.

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Paula Parkin**, who passed away October 6th. St. John's family include her sister, Julie Hulstein.

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Helen Imbrock**, who passed away October 7th.

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Marge Adler**, who passed away October 12th.

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Brenda Rose**, who passed away October 17th.

Sympathies: to the family and friends of **Dan Hystad**, who passed away October 21st.

Record
Keeping

CHURCH RECORDS FOR OCTOBER

New Members:

Bruce & Brenda Erickson
Paul & Kathy Schwader

Deaths:

Ron Smith
Marge Adler
Brenda Rose
Dan Hystad

Service Times for Fall Have Begun

8:00 am Traditional
9:15 am Study Hour
10:30 am Contemporary
Weds @ 6 pm Contemporary

*All services are now Live Streaming
to Facebook and YouTube.*

Care Facility Residents: Good Samaritan - Russ Martfeld, Lorraine Luksan, Dennis Asche, Warren Oetken; Accura Health - Patty Lubben; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens, Dorothy Luschen; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch, Judy Schmidt; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Holy Spirit Retirement Home - Alma Willer; Prime Living - Wade & Betty Thompson; Vintage Hills of Indianola - Jane Schultz

GET YOUR SMILES ON!

Can you help? The InReach Team is looking for volunteers to help check-in people when they arrive for their photo sessions November 11th. If you can help, please sign up on the church bulletin board. Shifts are 2 hours or less. Thanks you!



GET YOUR SMILES ON! The NEW St. John's Directory... **NICE JOB, ST. JOHN'S!**...Many have had their pictures taken this past month, however, Universal has agreed to come for one more day of photos on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**. Those sessions are now available on the website for you to sign-up. **LET'S FILL THESE, TOO!** To schedule your photography appointment, simply go to www.ucdir.com. Click on "**Photography Session Sign-up**" on the right side. Enter **ia371** in the "Church Code" field and enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field.



POINSETTIA ORDERS are now being accepted. The cost is \$11.00 per flower, payable to St. John's. They will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas and are available to take home once all of the services are over. Be sure to get your order in before the **deadline of November 24th**, and note who it is in honor or memory of.

POINSETTIA ORDER \$11.00 per Poinsettia # of Poinsettias _____

Deadline: **November 24**

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

By: _____

Drop this form in the offering plate, bring to the office, drop it in the mail with payment to St. John's OR call the office-546-8855.

WEEKLY MUSIC SCHEDULE

Tuesdays

5:30-6:30 People of Praise

Wednesdays

5:00-5:50 Handbell Choir

6:00-6:30 Wednesday Worship

6:45-7:45 St. John's Choir



Band and Orchestra Sunday will be November 9 at 10:30am service.

This group will play several pieces at the beginning of the service. Rehearsal is on Sunday, November 2 at 11:30am, immediately following the second service. Players, please remember to bring your instrument to church both weeks.

Choir Cantata rehearsals have begun, but it's not too late to join us!

Rehearsals take place every Wednesday at 6:45pm in the choir room downstairs. The choir is presenting Lloyd Larson's "Glory to the Newborn King" at 8:00 and 10:30 on Sunday, December 14.

St. John's Christmas Brass will be playing an extended prelude at the 8pm service on Christmas Eve. High school and adult brass players are welcome to join us. Please let Mike know if you will be in town and are interested.

On Saturday, **November 1 at 2pm**, Christian singer/songwriter **Jocelyn Olivia** will be performing at St. John's as part of her "Work Hard, Pray Hard" album tour. The concert is free with free will donations accepted. There will be a reception to follow to meet the artist.



Salus Vocal Ensemble invites you to their fall concert "Bring Me All Your Dreams" on Sunday, November 16, 2025. There are two performances that day to choose from - a 2pm concert at St. Joseph Catholic Church (605 Plymouth St. NE) in LeMars and a 5pm concert at the Cathedral of the Epiphany (1003 Douglas Street) in Sioux City. The program features songs about America

and the immigrant experience past and present. There is no charge for admission, freewill offerings are accepted. Mike Rathke is the accompanist and sings baritone in the ensemble. Jack McInnis sings tenor in the choir.

IN SEARCH OF BEAUTY - Join the American Center for Puccini Studies and Professors Cindy Moeller (NWC) and Michelle Monroe (UNI) for a FREE concert showing the development of music for women's voices from Handel to Mozart to Mascagni. This elegant selection of duets will be performed Saturday, November 8, 7pm at Gezellig Events Space in downtown Orange City, with an additional reading of the play that inspired Mascagni's opera *Zanetto* on Tuesday, November 4 at 7pm. Both events are FREE with food and drink available for purchase, but reservations are requested--call Woudstra Market at 712.737.2913.

Daylight Savings Time Ends. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour, November 2nd.



Flag Exchange: Please join us at the flagpole on Sunday, November 9th at 9:15 am for a flag raising ceremony. The current flag, flying in honor of Leland Wiener will be retired and a new flag, in honor of William Wruck will be raised. Bill served in the United States Air Force, Airman 2nd Class, serving from 1960 – 1964. The Boy Scouts Troop will be leading this event. You are invited to stay for coffee and donuts after the ceremony. **Thank you to all of our Veterans!**



The Church Office will be closed
Nov. 27 & 28 in celebration of
Thanksgiving.
No Wednesday Night Activities
on the 26th.

Are you going away this winter? PLEASE help keep our expenses down and notify us with your temporary address OR let us know to withhold your newsletter and other mailings during the time you are gone. Returned mail incurs expenses that the church has to cover. Thanks for your help!

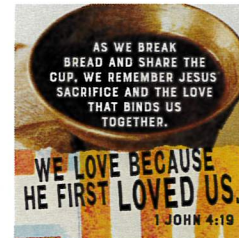


Please plan to join us on November 2nd as we recognize those who have passed on this year and those who have been baptized into the fellowship with Christ. We will also recognize memorial gifts.

Deaths: Janet Borchers 91, Gladys Kock 96, Garry Rachuy 77, Darrell Wiener 88, Stephen Bates 86, La Donna Stangby 91, Ronald Miller 82, Ellen Utesch 96, Robert Pick 83, Ronald Smith 94, Margaret Adler 98, Brenda Rose 83, Daniel Hystad 63, Steve Kolker 70

Baptisms: Ella Kramer, John Erdmann, Caelee Husk, Georgia Kellen, Jordan Congelli, Verity Vollmer, Ermilo Duque, Collins Roder, Raven Hansen, Cooper Royalty, and Everly Neyens

Memorials: Youth Programs - Rich Schultz; Organ Fund - Jake & Verna Van Oort; Sunday School Programming - Gladys Kock, La Donna Stangby; Coffee Mugs - Mel Baack, Karen Breuer, Don Muecke; Le Mars Fire Department - Karen Breuer Estate; Handbells - Stephen Bates; Electronic Keyboard - Bill Baugous, Garry Rachuy, Darrell Wiener, Ron Miller, Ron Smith



WELCOME TO THE TABLE!

St. John's served 1st Communion on October 12th to 11 ~ 5th Graders. They completed a 3 week training period with Pastor Broers to understand the meaning of Communion. Congratulations: Karlee Kay Anderson, Merek Michael Cochran, Gavin Charles Detloff, Anna Belle Ferguson, Kali Rae Gerloff, Anna Lorraine Larson, Treyton James Miller, Faith Ranae Rachuy, Brantley Tyler Schleis, Devyn Wayne Trobaugh, and Parker Trey Westphal.



Calvin Christian Reformed Church is hosting its 2025 **Election Night Soup Supper** Tuesday November 4, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We will be serving a variety of homemade soups, pigs-in-blankets, taverns, and homemade desserts. Adult meals are \$15, children 5-10 are \$5, and children 4 and under are free. Proceeds will go to Lifewise Academy in Le Mars. Calvin CRC is located at 326 7th St. SE, Le Mars.

THANK YOU!

Thank you St. John's! Thank you to everyone who was a part of the pastor appreciation potluck on October 19th! I was very surprised! The youth did a wonderful job acting out Kristy and I in the skit and it was very funny. The food was delicious and the gifts were very thoughtful. I have been wearing new shirts and one of the nice warm jackets every day this week! You were all very generous as well with the gift of money in the card. The whole day was a blessing to me and my family and I am so grateful to God that He called us here. Thank you!



Helen Imbrock, 100, passed away in her sleep early Tuesday morning, October 7 at Bartels Retirement Community in Waverly, Iowa. Helen was the widow of Rev. Arnold Imbrock who was the minister here at St. John's from 1967 to 1978. She was ready, firm in her faith, to move on to the next life. Her visitation was Monday, October

13, at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly. Her funeral was on Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly, where she and Arnie were members since retirement. In lieu of flowers, Helen asks that any contributions be made to your local hospice.

Thanks from the Imbrock family (Jim, Tim, Steve, Dan, Ruth, Rachel).

St. John's will be responsible for **MEALS ON WHEELS** in December. Please reach out to Denny Plueger if you can help. Thank you.



GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED

St. John's is so "thankful" for our faithful gardeners **Janet & Tim Lohafer, Natasha Mayrose and JoEllen Cronin**. This crew donate and plant flowers in the spring, maintain the flower gardens around the church throughout the summer, and decorate with a multitude of pumpkins this fall. You all do a wonderful job and are appreciated!



Blessings to St. John's members:

- 1: Claire Zubrod
- 2: Brooke Westhoff, Dylan Carlsen, Jodene Reinking, Shirley McNaughton
- 3: Malachi Broers
- 4: Jaime Sudtelgte, Kylee Britt, Norman Nielsen, Patricia Lubben Tanner Francksen-Small
- 5: Joel Epling, Mike Rathke, Jason Peters, Callie Kellen,
- 6: LaVonne Wiener, Sandra Cooper, Jon Vollmer, Taylor Weidauer
- 7: Brenda Smalley, Kasen Niehus, Everest Peters
- 8: Carol Anderson
- 9: Cale Anstine, Sarah Vacura
- 10: Kendall Feller, Tim Loraditch
- 11: Megan Dimmick, Rylann Schmidt
- 12: Beverly Kuiken, Robert Jones
- 13: Jim Gearke, Rod Tammen
- 14: Hank McNaughton, Saylix Farmer, Kacen Reuter
- 15: Aynslee Schmidt, Kristy Bagstad, Alexis Te Brink
- 16: Dean Bohlken, Amy Kruse
- 17: Dennis Asche, Gavin Rolling, Jacob Plueger, Georgia Kellen
- 18: Pamela Tyler, Xander Kern
- 19: Cameron Pauling, Chance Anthony, Dick Milne
- 20: Arlene Wiener, Leland Wiener
- 21: Diane Anderson, David Weidauer
- 22: Alex Hines, Joseph Posivio
- 23: Tammy Meier, Ethan Lee
- 24: Jean Heeren, Jean Winterfeld
- 25: Landrik Hansen
- 26: Nichole Fintel
- 27: Katelyn Kolker, Laura Kern, Adley Candor
- 28: Lewis Grage, Brett Jester, Jaxton Brady
- 29: Gerald Klemme, Morgan Lee
- 30: Kay Powell, Chris Gerloff, Landen Hightree



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



RightNow MEDIA

Thanks to everyone who has signed up for an account with Rightnow Media! Next, I want to encourage you to **use** it! In order to make that happen, I thought that I would give you all a few suggestions on some videos that I believe are really good. Some of these are meant to be used for personal devotions while others would work best in a small group. You can also find them in the St. John's Lutheran Church Custom Library under "Pastor Steven's Picks" when you login to your RightNow Media account.

1. The Lord's Prayer – Laurie Short

Many of us have memorized the Lord's prayer. But what do the words mean? If this is the only prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray, it's worth knowing what it is we are praying! In this 6 session study, Laurie Short will take you line by line through this prayer, to discover the meaning and power of each word. You'll never pray this prayer the same again!

2. The Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer – Pete Greig

The Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer is a five-week small group resource from 24-7 Prayer; a follow up to The Prayer Course, which reached over 3 million people in its first year. In the midst of a global pandemic, the Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer is an opportunity for groups to process pain and disappointment; to ask truthful and significant questions of faith; and to unite in the face of uncertainty towards healing and hope. Join 24-7 founder Pete Greig and BAFTA award-winning TV presenter Gemma Hunt as they journey through the final days of Jesus, asking some of the hardest and most personal questions we face as Christians, such as "How am I going to get through this?", "Why aren't my prayers being answered?" and "Where is God when heaven is silent?" Each of the five sessions will also feature an exclusive interview with a special guest: pastor and author Bob Sorge, broadcaster Simon Thomas, activist and Church planter Ladan Nouri, Gospel singer Helen Berhane, and 24-7 Prayer Ireland's former National leader Alain Emerson. The Prayer Course II: Unanswered Prayer draws on themes from Pete Greig's book, God on Mute and has been designed to be run alongside the book.

3. Shepherding Your Adult Children – Holly Culhane

Loving and shepherding your fully launched adult kids requires a nuanced understanding of your role as parent. Join author and speaker Holly Culhane as she guides parents of independent children through God's words to the shepherds of old to help you lead well the grown kids in your life. This highly interactive seven-session experience for small groups explores the biblical framework of shepherd leadership, the three biblically based key elements of shepherding your adult children well, and practical action steps to help you enjoy genuine connections and healthier relationships with your established adult kids.

I hope that you will take advantage of these videos and the over 25,000 other videos on all kinds of spiritual topics. They can really help you grow in your faith! – Pastor Broers

Get Access

Scan the QR code to create your free account and start browsing.

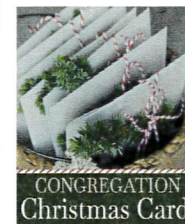


A BROWN FAMILY CHRISTMAS

December 11th, join your St. John's family for an evening of food and entertainment with the Brown's. This evening will include dinner and the Christmas show for \$55 per person. Tickets will go on sale November 9th. So save the date and get ready for an uplifting Christmas extravaganza at the New Browns Music Theater!



Be watching for **THE CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS CARD** late November. Donate what you would spend on sending cards to your friends and family and sign the card to wish your fellow St. John's members Merry Christmas. All funds collected go to the **St. John's Welfare Fund** and are used throughout the year to help those in need of assistance with items such as food, gas and utility payments. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS DECORATING



St. John's will begin decorating for Christmas The week of December 1st. Be watching your bulletins for more details and be thinking of how you can help.

Blue Christmas SERVICE

- * Sunday, December 7th at 2 pm in the sanctuary.
- * Join us in sharing healing prayers, scripture, and acknowledgement that God is present for all of us.
- * This short service will be followed by light refreshments and fellowship.

HONOR
Your LOSS...
Embrace
GOD'S
HOPE

A worship service of remembrance & hope

>>> November 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<i>All Saints' Sunday</i> 2 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 11:30 am Band Practice 3:30 – 9:30 pm HS Okoboji Outreach	3 LifeWise 4 pm Hearts of Fire Study L/L 5 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L	4 LifeWise 10 am Sugar Fast Study L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Missions Mtg L/L 7 pm Men's Study Group L/L
<i>Band/Orchestra Sunday</i> 9 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 10:30 am Bennett Baptism 9:15 am Study Hour/Flag Exchange 2 pm Family Bowling Event	10 LifeWise 4 pm Hearts of Fire Study L/L 7 pm Church Council D/R	<i>Veterans Day</i> 11 LifeWise 9 am Do-Day 10 am Staff Mtg 2 - 8:30 pm Directory Pics 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Study Group L/L
16 Confirmation Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	17 Newsletter Deadline LifeWise 1:30 pm Anna Circle L/L 4 pm Hearts of Fire Study L/L	18 LifeWise 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Study Group L/L
23 High School Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	24 4 pm Hearts of Fire Study L/L	25 10 am Sugar Fast Study L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
Noisy Offering 30 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 10:30 am Anthony Baptism 9:15 am Fellowship Hour		

>>> November 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 2 pm Jocelyn Olivia Concert & Reception
5 LifeWise 5:00 pm Bells/Grow Meal/MS Fun & Games 6:00 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm Catechism /GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	6 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L	7	8
12 LifeWise 9:30 am – 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:00 pm Bells/Grow Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism /GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	13 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L	14 Confirmation Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji	15 Confirmation Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji
19 LifeWise 9:30 am Prime Living Chap. 10 am Accura Chapel 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism /GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	20 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L	21 High School Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji	22 High School Recharge Weekend @ Okoboji 1 pm Private Event F/H
26 No Weds. Activities	27 Thanksgiving Day Building Closed	28 Building Closed	29
			



ALTAR GUILD IS RECRUITING: WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in joining a fun group of people to help with worship services, please reach out to Sandy LaBahn 712-539-9584, Lynn Breuer 712-540-4421, Brenda Haverhals 712-546-9579, or Sherri Harms 712-540-2654.

We would love to have new members on Altar Guild. The task is very simple and the more people we have the fewer services for each person in Altar Guild. Work will begin on the schedule for 2026 in late November, so if you know of a month or months of the year that you are unable to serve, please call or contact one of the chair ladies. It is great to know everyone's requests prior to making out the calendar for the upcoming year. You can be a snow bird and still participate in Altar Guild or maybe the summer months don't work, but spring, winter and fall do. If you are busy with a farm schedule in spring and fall, you can still join. We need many hands!!!

Please consider offering your time on a Sunday Morning and Join Altar Guild in 2026.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

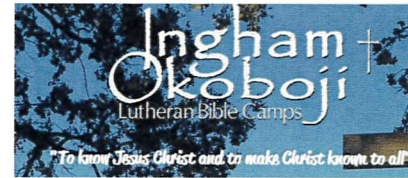
1:30 PM Dorcas Circle, Library

All women are welcome to join St. John's Women Circles. Circle meetings are held the 3rd Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of each month.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH DO-DAY 9 AM

Join us from **9 am-3 pm** as we put together quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health. If you can iron, sew, tie a knot, or use a scissors, we want you to join us! Please call the church office if you would like more information or pick up a booklet from the information table in the entryway or lobby to learn more about this women's ministry!

Please save your gently used Bibles and canceled postage stamps for Do-Day. These items can be placed in the designated baskets which are currently in the north entryway of the church.



Sunday, November 2 – Outreach Night at Ingham Okoboji. High School **and Middle School students** are welcome to attend this night. No charge to attend. Students must tell Pastor Broers if they plan to attend by Wednesday 10/29 so

that arrangements can be made for enough drivers. Parent drivers are needed.

MISSION TRIP DEADLINE

Chicago, Illinois
Mission Trips
ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE WINDY CITY



Youth (grades 8th-12th) and Adults who are interested in going on the Mission Trip to Chicago July 18th-24th, 2026 need to fill out their commitment letters and turn in a \$50 check to St. John's by Wednesday, November 5th to Pastor Broers or the office. We had a great turnout at the informational meeting, but we want to make sure that everyone who is interested in going is able to be a part of it. You can learn more and download the commitment letter on our website at <https://www.stjohnslemarsia.org/missions> Please contact Pastor Broers if you would like more details but were unable to make the informational meeting. Thanks!



Study Hour for ages Pre-K through Adults happens every Sunday, from 9:15 am - 10:15 am. Come join us!!! There is no Sunday School on November 30th.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Save the Date!!! Saturday, December 6th We need walkers along side our lighted church float. We also need a home for our float. If you have extra garage space or a shed, please consider offering your space. Contact Glenn Kellen or Julie Albert for more details.



Gratitude Shift



When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.

This year the St. John's youth will be taking part in a mission project packing shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. The mission of **Operation**

Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations and they do it all one shoebox at a time.

We will be packing shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** at GROW on **Wednesday, November 12th**. If you are able to be an extra helper that night, we will need extra help! We are still seeking donations as we would like to pack as many shoeboxes as we can. For your convenience, Samaritan's Purse has an Amazon link set-up with all sorts of things that work well for the shoeboxes. Here's the link: https://www.amazon.com/shop/operationchristmaschild?ccs_id=5798d6f0-5bae-4b74-95b1-ff236151bace

For ideas of what to pack, refer to the OCC website: samaritanspurse.org or look at the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Please make sure all your items can fit inside a shoebox and still allow for more items to be packed in the shoebox.

THANK YOU to all of you who have donated items as well as money towards shipping the boxes! We are grateful to be able to share these boxes, and especially the Good News of Jesus, with others around the world.

NOVEMBER GROW MEALS

Join us for Wednesday Night Meals
serving 5:00—5:45 pm



November 5	Pizza
November 12	Mac & Cheese
November 19	Taverns
November 26	No GROW-Thanksgiving

GROW November Schedule

Nov. 5 -

- Lesson - 9 - God Comes to Jacob
- Scripture - Genesis 27:41-45, 28:10-22
- PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
- PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
- 1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto
- 3 Teacher - Micah Broers
- 3 Helper - Donna Doque
- 4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal
- 4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
- Diane Baack

Nov. 12 -

- Lesson - Operation Christmas Child
- PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
- PreK-K Helper - Dawn Otto, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
- 1-2 Helper - Megan Jeneary
- 3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
- 3 Helper - Jacob Jeneary
- 4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal
- 4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
- Greeters - Kate Braland
- Rhonda Justice
- Extra Help - Nicole Jarvis

Nov. 19 -

- Lesson - 11 - Joseph and His Brothers
- Scripture - Genesis 41:1-8, 14-40, 42:1-8, 45:1-7
- PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
- PreK-K Helper - Micah Broers, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
- 1-2 Helper - Kate Braland
- 3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
- 3 Helper - Donna Doque
- 4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
- 4-5 Helper - Cindy Kamies
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
- Kate Braland

Nov. 26 - NO GROW

Dec. 3 -

- Lesson - 13 - Queen Esther
- Scripture - Esther 2:5-9, 17; 3:1-2, 5-6, 8-9, 13; 4:1-16; 5:1-3; 7:3-6, 9-10; 8:7-8, 11
- PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
- PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
- 1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto
- 3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
- 3 Helper - Cindy Kamies
- 4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
- 4-5 Helper - Donna Doque
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
-Rhonda Justice



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints."

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

Thank you to those serving St. John's this month:

Worship Assistants

Sunday, November 2:

8:00 AM Greeter: Judy Schulz
Lector: Iris Hemmingson
Communion Server: Roma Lancaster
Ellen Russell
Brenda Haverhals
10:30 AM Greeter: Adam Schmidt Family
Lector: Aynslee Schmidt
Communion Server: Rex Knapp
Chris Knapp
Brad Pick

Sunday, November 9:

8:00 AM Greeter: Joyce Roeser
Lector: Aleigha Bohlken
Communion Server: Jane Arnold
Dean Borchers
Joel Johnson
10:30 AM Greeter: Jean Heeren
Lector: Lauren Forbes
Communion Server: Eliese Hoffman
Dan Albert
Julie Albert

Sunday, November 16:

8:00 AM Greeter: Steve & Lynn Breuer
Lector: Dick Milne
Communion Server: Steve Breuer
Lynn Breuer
Jane Westphal
10:30 AM Greeter: Jeff & Mary Roder
Lector: Sophia Brennan
Communion Server: Dave Brennan
Elizabeth Brennan
Paula Kommes

Sunday, November 23:

8:00 AM Greeter: Bette Miller
Lector: Kent Westphal
Communion Server: Arlene Wiener
Pam Roling
Jo Ellen Cronin
10:30 AM Greeter: Scott & Paula Kommes
Lector: Karol Holton
Communion Server: Hope Majeres
Jackson Majeres
Anne Jeneary

Sunday, November 30:

8:00 AM Greeter: Henry & Teri Herrig
Lector: Karla Hansen
Communion Server: Karla Hansen
Henry Herrig
Teri Herrig
10:30 AM Greeter: Steve & Rhonda Justice
Lector: Tammy Lee
Communion Server: Harold Lee
Tammy Lee
Cindy Kamies

Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, November 2:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Norah Kellen
Acolytes: Mia Petsch
Kylee Den Ouden
10:30 AM Acolytes: Kenna Grage
Rylann Schmidt

Sunday, November 9:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Autumn Jelken
Acolytes: Hadley Klein
Aubrey Jelken

10:30 AM Acolytes: Kyleigh Bohlken
Aleigha Bohlken

Sunday, November 16:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Kemper Davis
Acolytes: Avery Bogh
Luke Britt
10:30 AM Acolytes: Harper Grause
Aynslee Schmidt

Sunday, November 23:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Tim Larson
Acolytes: Saylix Farmer
Quentin Ranschau
10:30 AM Acolytes: Kaden Brownmiller
Sophia Brennan

Sunday, November 30:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Aiden Fintel
Acolytes: Owen Fintel
Carter Westphal
10:30 AM Acolytes: Ethan Rachuy
Keyanna Miller

Sound Board

Nov 2:

8:00
ProPresenter: ?????
Video/sound: Tim Larson

10:30

ProPresenter: Sophia Brennan
Video/sound: Megan Brennan

Nov 9:

8:00
ProPresenter: Becky DeRuyter
Video/sound: Micah Broers
Training: Carter Westphal

10:30

ProPresenter: Megan Jeneary
Video/sound: Jacob Jeneary

Nov 16:

8:00
ProPresenter: Ian DeRuyter
Video/sound: Becky DeRuyter
10:30
ProPresenter: Ian DeRuyter
Video/sound: Megan Brennan

10:30
ProPresenter: Ian DeRuyter
Video/sound: Megan Brennan

Nov 23:

8:00
ProPresenter: Brenda Haverhals
Video/sound: Micah Broers
Training: Carter Westphal

10:30

ProPresenter: Megan Jeneary
Video/sound: Jacob Jeneary

Nov 30:

8:00
ProPresenter: Brenda Haverhals
Video/sound: Tim Larson

10:30

ProPresenter: Sophia Brennan
Video/sound: Micah Broers

All Wednesdays at 6:00: Todd Zinnel and
Micah Broers (except Nov 12)
Wednesday, Nov 12, Kemper Davis will
do slides.

Coffee Bar Schedule

Nov. 2nd - Jane Westphal
Nov. 9th - Pat Penning
Nov. 16th - Jane Westphal
Nov. 23rd - Sheri Oetken
Nov. 30th - Sandy LaBahn

Altar Guild

Nov. 2	8:00	Janice Milne Sandy LaBahn
	10:30	Rhonda Justice Krista Plueger
Nov. 5	6:00	Lynn Breuer
Nov. 9	8:00	Janice Milne Janet Lohafer
	10:30	Lynn Breuer
Nov. 16	8:00	Sandy LaBahn Rod LaBahn
	10:30	Krista Plueger Lynn Breuer
Nov. 23	8:00	Brenda Haverhals Janet Lohafer
	10:30	Elizabeth Brennan Lynn Breuer
Nov. 30	8:00	Brenda Haverhals Rhonda Justice
	10:30	Rhonda Justice Elizabeth Brennan

November Usher Schedule

8:00 am Ken Freyermuth, Capt., Keith Westhoff, Brady Westhoff, Mike Haverhals, Glenn Kellen

10:30 am Adam Schmidt, Capt., Simon Kern, Dan Albert, Doug Carlsen, Karen Carlsen, Graham Forbes



Noisy Offerings will be collected on **November 30th** for “Ministry Money for Mission Trip Chicago 2026.” Remember to mark on your calendars the last Sunday of the month, Noisy Offering Sunday!! Thanks in advance from your Outreach Team!

ST. JOHN’S MINISTRY PARTNERS

St. John’s is supporting the following agencies with Benevolence funds in 2025:

- Lutheran Services in Iowa LSIowa.org
- Lutheran World Relief LWR.org
- Ingham Lake Bible Camp www.okoboji.org/ingham
- Global Health Ministries www.ghm.org

We encourage you to go to each of these agencies websites to read more about the good work they do.



If you wish to stay informed on what is happening in the NALC, you can go to: www.thenalc.org/newsletter and subscribe. You will receive

informative newsletters by email. Sign up today to receive the “NALC News.” You can also go to www.thenalc.org for the main church website.

To stay up to date on what is happening in the LCMC, go to this link to sign up for their e/newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/ed05627605ee/lcmc>

You can also go to www.lcmc.net for the main church website.

Printed materials may also be found on the information tables in the lobby and north entryway.



LCMC 25TH ANNUAL GATHERING & CONVENTION - WHAT TO KNOW

By Kristy Thomas - LCMC - October 17, 2025

It was a time for celebration as 780 people gathered October 5-8 at Hosanna Church in Lakeville, MN for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ’s 25th Annual Gathering & Convention and a celebration of the association’s silver anniversary.

“Our Help and Hope” was the theme of this year’s program, which was based on the hymn O God, Our Help in Ages Past, as well as 1 Corinthians 3:10-13.

HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the four-day experience, participants had the opportunity to hear from speakers, explore areas of interest at breakout sessions, connect with others in the LCMC community through meet and greets and fellowship opportunities, join together in both contemporary and traditional worship, and get to know mission, ministry, and educational organizations in our exhibitor area.

The event was keynoted by Barry Anderson, Julie Smith, Mark Vander Tuig, Anna Tucker, and Danny Housholder, who shared how God has been our help and hope over the past twenty-five years, and continues to be into the future. The opening and closing worship services were preached by Kip Tyler and Lexy Carson respectively, and daily Bible studies were led by Paul Owens.

On Tuesday morning, Mike Bradley gave his farewell address and celebrated his 73rd birthday. Mike held the position of service coordinator for LCMC from 2020-2025.

Considering LCMC’s 25th anniversary, the LCMC staff recognized people who have served in the association and shared a slideshow video celebrating and reflecting on leadership, events, and the life and work of the local church over the past 25 years during the afternoon session.

On the final day of the event, participants celebrated the installation of Service Coordinator Julie Smith. Julie was joined on stage by LCMC’s three previous service coordinators: Bill Sullivan, Mark Vander Tuig, and Mike Bradley.

BUSINESS

During Monday’s business session, delegates approved the 2026 budget and elected Renae Behrends (Area 6), Dave Wollan (Area 3), and Steve Turnbull (Area 5) to serve on the LCMC Board of Trustees.

Susan Gunderson, Joel Kelly, Andrew Potratz, and Andrea Taphorn joined the LCMC Ministry Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next **Annual Gathering & Convention** will take place **October 4-7, 2026**, at **Lutheran Church of Hope** in West Des Moines, Iowa.

As 2025 comes to a close, be on the lookout for two downloadable resources to share with your congregation. Our November e-newsletter will feature an Advent devotional, and our December e-newsletter will feature the kickoff of our new 365 days of prayer initiative.

In the upcoming months, we will also be offering resources and article series geared towards discerning, encouraging, and praying for people in your community who have gifts for ministry. Please consider taking the time to pray for someone you may know.



MISSION CONVOCATION RECAP

Celebrating the Past, Leaning into the Future

God is on the move in the North American Lutheran Church! At this year's Mission Convocation—part of the **2025 Lutheran Week in Pittsburgh, PA**—Lutherans from across North America gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness, renew our vision, and commit ourselves again to the mission of making disciples.

We began by looking back—celebrating 15 years as a church body and more than a decade of faithful ministry through the North American Lutheran Seminary. The opening banquet was a joyful time of remembering and honoring the path God has led us on.

Throughout the week, we reaffirmed the values that continue to shape us: our commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, the authority of Scripture, and discipleship as the heart of our identity. Together, we reflected on how far we have come—and looked boldly ahead with renewed vision and direction.

This year's Convocation embraced our vision of a **disciple-making church committed to:**

- **Renewing congregations** in mission and vitality.
- **Equipping disciples** to live out their faith daily.
- **Transforming communities** with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We also celebrated new leadership at the North American Lutheran Seminary and embraced a renewed focus on preparing future pastors, deacons, and church planters. Attendees connected with global mission workers and seminarians, discovering new ways to support ministry locally, domestically, and globally. Inspiring reports on new North American church plants reminded us of the urgent need to proclaim the gospel in our communities.

From the first session to the closing benediction, our focus remained the same: **mission**. This Church does not exist for itself, but for the world Christ died to save. We move forward renewed, equipped, and transformed through Jesus Christ—trusting in his promises, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and unafraid to speak his name—confident that he will build his Church.

Congratulations to Our Newly Elected Leaders

Please join us in giving thanks for these leaders and praying for them as they serve:

Executive Council

The Rev. Theresa Jacobson (Thornville, OH)

The Rev. Mark Werner (Pittsgrove, NJ)

Kathaleen Lilley (Lebanon, PA)

Jerry Roehr (Winnipeg, MB)

Court of Adjudication

The Rev. Jeff Blain (Fond du Lac, WI)

The Rev. Jeffray Greene (Brooks, GA)

The Rev. Rick Robers (Goose Creek, SC)

The Rev. Terese Whitten (Creston, IL)

Board of Regents—North American Lutheran Seminary

The Rev. Erik Osness (Edmonton, AB)

Constitutional Amendments

Delegates approved several updates to strengthen our governance:

- ♦ **Establish Bylaws**—Delegates approved the establishment of formal bylaws for the NALC, adjusting various sections of the Constitution that better serve the Church as bylaws.
- ♦ **Establish Article and Bylaws for NALS**—Delegates approved to adopt an article and bylaws for the North American Lutheran Seminary.
- ♦ **Establish Article and Bylaws Regarding Financial and Legal Matters**—Delegates approved an article and bylaws clarifying financial and legal procedures for the NALC.

A proposal from the floor to add additional sanctity-of-life language to the Constitution was not adopted, as the NALC's pro-life position is already clearly stated in our official teaching documents. Learn more at thenalc.org/life.

As we move forward, let us remain **Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused**—trusting that God will continue to work through us to make disciples in North America and beyond.

For more details, visit lutheranweek.com.

SHARE THE WORD OF GOD BY SPONSORING

FORTRESS OF FAITH, a half hour recording of the church service broadcast on 1410 KLEM/AM on Sundays at 1 pm. Your name and reason for sponsoring will be included in the broadcast. The cost to sponsor this is \$25. **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED!**



SPONSOR A RADIO MESSAGE, which airs on Fridays on KLEM, advertising our service information for the upcoming weekend, and costs \$10. **CALL THE CHURCH TO SPONSOR!** You can sponsor either (or both!) of these in memory or in honor of a loved one, in honor of an anniversary or birthday, or you can sponsor anonymously as a friend of St. John's. 712-546-8855 **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**



Watch St. John's worship services on **CABLE CHANNEL 12** on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, or on the St. John's website, www.stjohnslemarsia.org listed under Video Sermons on the left side of the home page.

A Little Free Pantry always needs donations. No one needs to know, shop for non-perishable items (quick snacks are best) and drop them off at the Pantry. Please keep in mind as the weather warms up, avoid items that may melt or glass that may break. Thanks!

Rejoice! Food Bank Distribution is the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 4-5 pm. If you are in need, please call 548-4430 or email rejoice@hotmail.com.

Sunnybrook Hope Center Food Pantry Distribution is the 3rd Monday each month from 6 - 8 pm by appt. Located West of Le Mars Fareway. Make a reservation through the QR Code or go to www.sunnybrookchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/399133



PLEASE DONATE TO SAFEPLACE

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Deodorant/Lotions
Hairbrushes and combs
Towels/washcloths
New women's underwear
Women's pajamas/robes
New women's sweatpants
Writing journals
Women's hygiene products

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Pots/pans Dishes/silverware
Paper products Sheets/blankets
Coffee and filters Disposable razors
Canned foods, Pastas
Laundry soap
Zip Lock bags/Garbage bags
Clorox wipes/Bleach
Dish soap/cleaning supplies
Luggage

These are just a few of the ways you can help. For more information go to the website: www.safeplacesiouxland.org

Staff & Contact Information

Office Hours: 8-5 Tue-Fri

Telephone: (712)546-8855

Web Home Page: www.stjohnslemarsia.org

Email: stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven Broers broers@stjohnslemarsia.org

Minister of Music: Michael Rathke mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org

Office Manager: Kim Lang kim@stjohnslemarsia.org

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen
assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org

Sunday School Supt.:
Beth Larson elizabethrgraf@hotmail.com

Church Council

Nicole Jarvis-President, Ed/Youth Becky DeRuyter-V. President

Ashley Bennett - Secretary, Inreach Bill Young-Treasurer

Brenda Haverhals - Mission John Hines - Mission

Tammy Lee - Technology Dick Milne - Property

Joey Posivio - Property Pam Roling - Worship

Doug Carlsen - Endowment Adam Schmidt - Ed/Youth

Cindy Kamies - Outreach

For contact info call 546-8855 or email stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org



Dear Friends at St. John's, On behalf of all of us at Luther House of Study. Thank you so much for your recent donation and continued support throughout the year! Your generosity is so very appreciated, and we are blessed to be in partnership in ministry with you!

Sincerely, The Team at Luther House