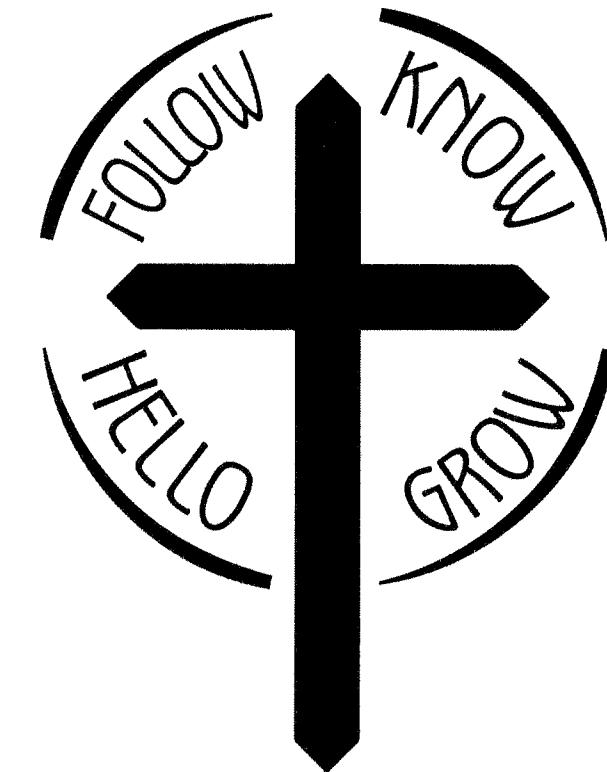


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 1st AVE. NW
LE MARS, IA. 50331

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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PERMIT NO. 110



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

February 2026

What does it mean to attend a Lutheran church and does it really matter? I hope to answer these questions over the next couple of months during my Sunday morning messages. I will be taking some time to go through The Augsburg Confession, which is a document written by the early Lutheran Reformers to explain their basic understandings of faith and where they stood on important spiritual issues. It is a public statement of faith adhered to by all Lutherans around the world to this day, no matter what their particular affiliation. While most of you have probably heard of Martin Luther's Small Catechism, the Augsburg Confession is a little longer and was written by a man named Philip Melanchthon, a theologian who was a contemporary of Luther's. The Small Catechism was written for families to go through at the dinner table to teach children the basics of faith; however, The Augsburg Confession was written to show church leaders how the early reformers differed on certain issues while staying faithful to basic universal Christian teachings.

You are saved by your faith in Jesus Christ alone, **not** because you are a Lutheran. However, **because** St. John's is a Lutheran church, we seek to emphasize in messages, in programs and in teachings that you are saved by your faith in Jesus Christ alone! I believe in this truth of salvation because the Bible says it's so; however, not all churches emphasize this fact and that can lead to some confusion for their members.

For example, in some churches, there is not a lot of emphasis on reading the Bible but rather on trusting in church leaders to interpret scripture on behalf of its members. So, while salvation by faith is still a doctrine in these churches, it might be easy to miss that fact if those leaders don't emphasize its importance. Instead, it might be easier to start putting trust in those leaders rather than in the words of the Bible. In other churches, there is more of an emphasis put on holy living or **sanctification**. Again, salvation by faith alone is still a basic doctrine, but because **how** you live is emphasized so much more, it's easy to start believing that works are more important than faith. So, does attending a Lutheran church matter? I believe that it certainly can matter a lot because it will determine the messages that you hear on a daily, weekly and yearly basis. And what you hear regularly will affect how you see others and view the world around you.

Sometimes I am asked by a parent or a grandparent if it's a problem that their child or grandchild has been attending a church of a different denomination? I always maintain that it is better for that child to attend a church rather than no church at all. However, it **does** still matter. When my child is hungry and we don't have a lot of food in the house, I don't have a problem with feeding them pop tarts, or chips or candy for a snack. However, if I fed them that kind of food every day for their meals, they might experience some health problems. It's still food of course, but maybe not the best or healthiest food for their long-term physical health. In the same way, I believe that the Lutheran understanding of faith is the best and healthiest way of talking

about what it means to be a Christian.

When I was younger, my dad told me that he thought that parents treated their children the way that they thought God treated them. He might have been on to something. What he was describing was that we learn how to think about God at church and then reflect that understanding on to those that we love and care about. He said that, when he was growing up, some people in his town "disowned" their child because of a bad choice that child had made. However, he could never understand that because, in the Lutheran faith, we are taught that God loves His children not because they are "good" but because they are sinners in need of salvation. God's love is unconditional. When a child with Lutheran parents made those same bad choices, their parents would continue to support that child. What you believe about God can affect how you treat other people.

I think that how we think and talk about God can also affect the world around us. In the Lutheran faith, for example, we are taught that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe that we will all be judged on the last day. However, in other denominations, there is a belief that Jesus will come again only to take the "righteous" and leave the rest of humanity to suffer for a time before a final verdict is passed. This concept, called the "Rapture", is a fairly new theological idea (from the 1830's) and it leads to different ways of thinking about the world.

For example, if all the "good" people are going to be raptured away, then it doesn't really matter what happens to the environment because they will **escape** any of the negative consequences. If there is going to be a new earth anyway, we can just let this old one go to pot and not worry about it! However, the Lutheran understanding is that we are called to stay faithful through trials and seek to overcome them by faith alone. We may need to sacrifice some comforts here on earth in order to best steward those resources for future generations to come in order to best love our neighbor.

I hope that you enjoy learning more about Lutheran doctrine as well as how being a Lutheran matters in your daily life. I will continue to insist that I am a **Christian** first; however, I do believe that a Lutheran perspective helps to best express what it **means** to be a Christian. There will be small booklets available that summarize the Augsburg Confession available for those who are interested in taking one home. If we run out, we can always order more. And if the messages bring up more questions, please let me know so that I can better help you understand what it means to attend a Lutheran church and why it matters. God bless you! Pastor Steven Broers

Thank you so much for all the Christmas cards and gifts given to our family throughout December and early January. We have felt so much love and have very much appreciated your generosity as a congregation. It is a pleasure to work alongside you in ministry for Jesus Christ. – Pastor Steven, Kristy, Sophia, Malachi, Micah, Stephen and Zoe Broers

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

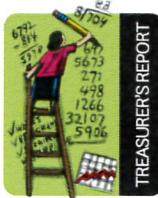


The New Year is a great time to join a music group at St. John's! We would love to see you in Choir, Bells, Brass, or People of Praise. Talk to Mike for more information!

Treasurer's Report

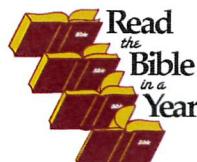
December 2025

1. Great news- Our operating checking account increased \$29,870 to \$46,601 in December. All Benevolences and payroll tax liabilities paid current as of year-end. Our year-end checking balance is about \$7,500 more than our 12/31/24 operating checking account balance.
2. We continue to be debt free.
3. Offerings came in at \$96,092 in December, which is slightly below last year's December offerings of \$96,477. Our past four-year average (2021-2024) for December was \$76,000. Total offerings for 2025 came in at \$544,957 which compares favorably to prior year total offerings of \$520,048 last year, \$491,446 in 2023, \$533,117 in 2022 and \$497,012 in 2021.
4. December operating expenses of \$51,940 as compared to budget of \$47,175. For 2025 we came in \$29,000 under our budgeted amount of \$545,860.
5. Endowment funds total \$673,000 after a December investment gain of \$2,485. 2025 year to date investment gain of \$75,977. Savings and TCDs balance of estate gifts total \$435,623. 2025 interest earnings of \$16,847 on these investments are included in the \$435,623 amount.



Bill Young, Church Treasurer

Have you ever been interested in reading the Bible in a Year? You can find a reading schedule on the information table in the lobby to assist you in studying God's word in 2026. Pick up your copy soon and get started!!!



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. What Does the Bible Say? – Sharon Hodde Miller

The Bible has a lot to say about life, relationships, and how to commune with God. But it's also an epic story of how God, in his love, created the world, sustained it through the evil of sin, and sent his Son to save it. In this six-session series, speaker and author Sharon Hodde Miller will answer the question, "What does the Bible say?" From original creation to new creation, we will learn how God's covenant faithfulness is ultimately displayed in the work of Jesus and the mission of the church.

2. Why Do We Go To Church – Ben Stuart

We know that church is important, but why do we need to go to church? With online access to any sermon anywhere in the world with a click of a button, why does it matter that we are connected to a local body of believers? In this five-session series, author and pastor Ben Stuart explores what the church is, the significance of reading the Bible together, the value and purpose of the sacraments, and what genuine and faithful community looks like.

3. Why Do We Live As Christians – Kyle Idleman

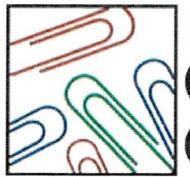
Life as a Christian seems simple enough. After all, "Follow me" (Matt 4:19) is one of the foundational commands we've been given. But follow who? And follow where? Surely there's more to it than that, right? In this six-session series, pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman will help us answer the question, "How do we live as Christians?" While following Jesus is our first and most important marching order, Kyle will help us answer some of the other questions that follow and that are essential to living faithfully as Christians. Regardless of where we're at on our faith journey, Kyle will teach us what it looks like to live a Christian life.

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.





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



CHURCH RECORDS FOR JANUARY

Baptisms:

Bennett Lee Koerselman

Deaths:

Warren Oetken

Service Times for Winter

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.



Remember These People in Prayer: Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Hallie Bunkers, Grace Galles, Brielle Schorg, Nash, Diane K., Phyllis Hamann **Ongoing Prayers:** Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Norm Nielsen, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Shirley, Kathryn, Jen, and Kathy; **Deployed:** Jaime Koopman, Kylie Britt, Brent Jarvis, Mitch Lang, Dale Crabtree

Sympathies to the family and friends of Warren Oetken, who passed away January 11th.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Sue Maack, who passed away January 13th. St. John's family includes Dawn Otto, and Travis and Serena Hansen family.

Sympathies to the family of Dorothy Hoversten, from Algona who passed away January 18th. St. John's family includes Jane & Kent Westphal, and Brad & Amanda Westphal family.

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; Holy Spirit Retirement Home - Alma Willer; Prime Living - Wade & Betty Thompson; Vintage Hills of Indianola - Jane Schultz; Happy Siesta Remsen - Eleanor Westhoff

Please keep them in your prayers and they would love to have visitors.

thrivent®

Are you an eligible **THRIVENT MEMBER WITH CHOICE DOLLARS TO DIRECT?**

Thank you to those members who participated in the Thrivent Choice

program and helped support our church's mission by directing Choice Dollars. Each year, eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars based on their qualifying insurance premiums and contract values. If you're an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to designate, you can help strengthen our community by directing them to St. John's Lutheran Church. **Choice Dollars for 2025 must be directed by March 31, 2026.** Choose to make a difference by directing Choice Dollars today. Simply visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."



Direct Choice Dollars®



MAKING DISCIPLES

NEW SMALL GROUP: MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL

Pastor Broers will be leading a five week small group focused on learning how to share your faith with others. We will watch a twenty minute video each week and discuss how to become disciples who make new disciples. Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm at St. John's starting February 24th. Here is the description of the series:

The Good News of Jesus is the message that everyone needs to hear. Disciple-making isn't just for pastors and church leaders. Helping others know and follow Jesus is something all of us are called to do. The Messengers of the Gospel series, featuring scenes from the hit TV show The Chosen, will equip you to share the Good News of Jesus with confidence. The 5-week series includes compelling biblical teachings, beautiful scenes from The Chosen, and amazing real-life testimonies of men and women who have taken the challenge to live as Messengers of the Gospel.



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!!

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!



Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Please turn in your newsletter articles by February 19.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

SMALL GROUP: Pastor Broers will be leading a small group for people who are interested in learning more about St. John's and about the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. This is a wonderful group to come to if you are interested in joining as a new member! Please contact Pastor Broers at 641-745-7648 or text if you are interested in being a part of this small group so we can plan a good date to start. We will plan to meet for two to three weeks based on everyone's availability. Thanks!

HOME COMMUNION

If you or someone you know is homebound and would like visits and communion from Pastor Broers and our Visitation Team, please contact the office and let us know. Our phone number is 712-546-8855. Thanks!



ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us Wednesday, February 18th at 6 pm for the Ash Wednesday Service. Imposition of Ashes will be administered to those who wish to receive them. As we begin the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need for grace and the hope we have in Jesus. Let's walk together toward the cross and the joy of Easter.

The following Wednesday's, (Feb. 25 – Mar. 25) we will be serving special meals, prepared by our St. John's Teams, as we have done in the past. Serving time will begin at 5 pm. Freewill offerings designation is yet to be determined. The 6 pm worship time will include Holden Evening Prayer Service, a traditional setting of evening prayer set to music.

ASH
WEDNESDAY



Remember that
you are dust, and to
dust you shall return.
Ecclesiastes 3:20

GROW February Schedule

Feb. 4 -

- Lesson 7 NT - Tempted
- Scripture - Luke 4:1-13
- 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 - Donna Duque
- 4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
- 4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
- Rhonda Justice

Feb. 25 -

- Lesson 10 NT - The Light of the World
- Scripture - John 3:14-21
- PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
- PreK-K Helper - Pam Roling, Sophie Pauling
- 1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
- 1-2 Helper - Becca Peyton
- 3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
- 3 Helper - Donna Duque
- 4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal
- 4-5 Helper - Donna Duque
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
- Rhonda Justice

Mar. 4 -

- Lesson 11 NT - Woman at the Well
- Scripture - John 4:5-42
- PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
- PreK-K Helper - Becca Peyton, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
- 1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto
- 3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
- 3 Helper - Sophie Pauling
- 4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
- 4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
- Greeters - Kate Braband
- Sonya Hanisch

Feb. 11 -

- Lesson 8 NT - Walking on Water
- Scripture - Matthew 14:22-33
- PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
- PreK-K Helper - Becca Peyton, 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 - Donna Duque
- Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
- Kate Braband

Feb. 18 -

- Lesson 9 NT - Wedding at Cana
- Scripture - John 2:1-11
- PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
- PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals, Kaden Royalty
- 1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
- 1-2 Helper - Sophie Pauling
- 3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
- 3 Helper - Donna Duque
- 4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
- 4-5 Helper - Cindy Kamies
- Greeters - Rhonda Justice
- Kate Braband



FEBRUARY GROW MEALS

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

Pizza

Taco in a Bag

Hot Dogs

Lenten Supper - TBD

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25



Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp Season Is Right Around the Corner!

It is not too early to be thinking about registering for camp this summer. In fact, early registrations need to be in **before - March 1st**. Remember, there are also other discounts that can be taken when registering, as St. John's is in partnership with the camp.

St. John's **WILL BE** offering to cover **half of the cost of camp** for each camper! Families will need to turn in the final paid receipts to the church office for reimbursement.

Here are some helpful tips that will hopefully make registration a little easier for everyone and help you get the best pricing.

Early Bird Registration: Before March 1st, 2026 \$30.00 discount
No discount for Day Camps

Member Church: St. John's is a member Church \$10.00 discount

Choose from the drop down box when registering online or type in St. John's
Le Mars, 201 1st Ave NW

1. REGISTRATION - A non-refundable deposit will need to be made at registration. Families will need to be responsible for this amount, as it is non-refundable and will eliminate confusion if the camper is not able to go.

2. NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF REGISTRATION - Families then need to contact the church and let Kim know which dates your camper will be attending.

3. DAY CAMPERS - Because of the minimal cost of Camp in a Day, these families may be reimbursed for the cost of this camp. (This camp is for those completing grades K, 1st & 2nd.)

4. TURN IN YOUR FINAL PAID RECEIPT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE - St. John's will reimburse you up to half of the camp's cost.

Go to www.okoboji.org to register online and see all the camp dates and fees for 2026.

St. John's wants all children to have this special opportunity to experience camp, and we don't want cost to be the factor that keeps your child from going to camp. Please call Pastor Broers or the church office to speak confidentially about receiving a "Full Campership" for your child. 712-546-8855



ecumenical fellowship for kids and adults. It is also a great opportunity to introduce kids to camp, who might later come to a weekend recharge or summer youth camp. An evening of Outreach Night includes dinner, worship, a message, and of course games! Everyone is welcome. No charge to attend. Students must tell Pastor Broers if they plan to attend by Wednesday February 11 so that arrangements can be made for enough drivers. Parent drivers are needed.

Middle Schoolers be sure to join us in the Youth Room on February 4th for pizza & games before church and catechism.



THIS COULD BE YOU!!!!

INGHAM OKOBOJI CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED:

College Students...Please consider becoming a Camp Counselor at Ingham Okoboji this summer. St. John's Endowment Team is offering a **\$1000.00 stipend** to help supplement your summer income. Talk to Pastor Broers or Kim in the office to find out more details. Ingham Okoboji is accepting applications now.

>>> February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	LifeWise 2 6 pm Outreach Mtg L/L	LifeWise 3 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L 7 pm Men's Study Group Y/R
8 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	LifeWise 9 7 pm Church Council D/R	LifeWise 10 9 am Do-Day 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Study Group Y/R
15 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 3:30 pm HS Ingham Okoboji Outreach	LifeWise 16 <i>President's Day</i> 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L	LifeWise 17 9:30 am Hannah Circle-L/L 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Study Group Y/R
22 NOISY OFFERING 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 4 – 8 pm HS Movie Night at the Broers	LifeWise 23	LifeWise 24 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel L/L 7 pm Men's Study Group Y/R
		

>>> February 2026

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LifeWise 4 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal/Pizza & Games YR 6:00 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	5 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	6	7
LifeWise 11 9:30 am – 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 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 Group	12 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	13	14 
LifeWise 18 9:30 am – 10:30 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Ash Wed. Service 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	20	21
LifeWise 25 1 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L 2 pm Elderberries F/H 5:00 pm Bells/Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	26 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	27	28 
			



Study Hour for ages Pre-K through Adults
happens every Sunday,
from 9:15 am - 10:15 am.



WOMEN'S CIRCLES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

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, FEBRUARY 10TH 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.



QUILTING MATERIALS WANTED

Do-Day women are looking for white sheets (mostly cotton) for bandages and fabric pieces for the quilts. Donations can be left at the office.

MEN'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY FEBRUARY 3 - MARCH 3 TUESDAY NIGHTS @ 7 PM YOUTH ROOM/OR LIBRARY



STUDY SERIES: EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE by Kyle Idleman (RightNow Media)

Join us as we learn how to take control of our thoughts and align them with God's truth. All men welcome!

ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE! St. John's Endowment Team will be accepting Grant Applications until April 15th. Students attending higher education, service groups, church groups, special needs throughout the community, are invited to fill out an application. Please use the form found on this page, pick up a form on the bulletin board, or go online to St. John's website. click on "Publications," then click on the button, "Endowment Grant Application."

St. John's Lutheran Church Endowment Grant Request Form

Today's Date: _____ **Application Deadline April 15, 2026**

Name/Group Making Request: _____

Project Title/Scholarship (Lutheran College Name) _____

Contact Phone/Email: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Expected benefit of this request: _____

Date Grant Money is Needed: _____

--- For Endowment Committee Use Only ---

Category Request:

Request # _____

Date Acted Upon: _____

Motion By: _____

Second By: _____

Vote: Approve _____ : Deny _____

Request Amount: _____ : Amount Granted: _____

Chair's Signature: _____

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

Worship Assistants

Sunday, February 1:

8:00 AM Greeter: Arlene Wiener
Lector: Todd Zinnel
Communion Server: Arlene Wiener
Mark Kehrberg
Aleigha Bohiken
10:30 AM Greeter: Cindy Kamies
Lector: Kayla Foelske
Communion Server: Cindy Kamies
Journey Keleher
Cheryl Peyton

Sunday, February 8:

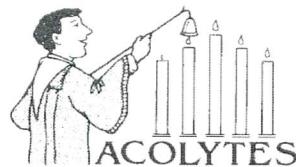
8:00 AM Greeter: Rod & Sandy LaBahn
Lector: Sandy LaBahn
Communion Server: Ellen Russell
Rod LaBahn
Pam Roling
10:30 AM Greeter: Dave Brennan Family
Lector: Sophia Brennan
Communion Server: Dave Brennan
Elizabeth Brennan
Ethan Rachuy

Sunday, February 15:

8:00 AM Greeter: Gabe & Amy Davis Family
Lector: Elvira Nielsen
Communion Server: Steve Breuer
Lynn Breuer
Iris Hemmingson
10:30 AM Greeter: Steve & Rhonda Justice
Lector: Lauren Forbes
Communion Server: Mary Roder
Emma Ryan
Krista Plueger

Sunday, February 22:

8:00 AM Greeter: Jo Ellen Cronin
Lector: Sandy LaBahn
Communion Server: Jo Ellen Cronin
Sandy LaBahn
Rod LaBahn
10:30 AM Greeter: Joyce Brownmiller
Lector: Aynslee Schmidt
Communion Server: Brad Pick
Harold Lee
Tammy Lee



Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, February 1:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Autumn Jelken
Acolytes: Bentley Hightree
Norah Kellen

10:30 AM Acolytes: Keyanna Miller
Ethan Rachuy

Sunday, February 8:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Avery Bogh
Acolytes: Kemper Davis
Luke Britt

10:30 AM Acolytes: Kenzie Harms
Riley Harms

Sunday, February 15:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Saylix Farmer
Acolytes: Tim Larson
Aubrey Jelken

10:30 AM Acolytes: Chesney Keleher
Journey Keleher

Sunday, February 22:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Carter Westphal
Acolytes: Aiden Fintel
Owen Fintel

10:30 AM Acolytes: Zoey Junck
Emma Ryan

Sound Board

1st

8:00 Becky DeRuyter - ProPresenter
Brenda Haverhals - sound/video

10:30 Megan Brennan - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - sound/video

8th

8:00 Carter Westphal - ProPresenter
Tim Larson - video/sound

10:30 Megan Jeneary - ProPresenter
Jacob Jeneary - video/sound

15th

8:00 Brenda Haverhals - ProPresenter
Keith Westhoff - video/sound

10:30 Becky DeRuyter - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - sound/video

22nd

8:00 Tim Larson - ProPresenter
Brenda Haverhals - sound/video

10:30 Sophia Brennan - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - video/sound

All Wednesdays at 6:00 - Todd Zinnel



Altar Guild

Feb 1

8:00 Jeannette Davis, Connie Kellen
10:30 Paula Kommes, Carolyn Strub

Feb 4 - Cindy Kamies

Feb 8

8:00 Jeannette Davis, Connie Kellen
10:30 Paula Kommes, Carolyn Strub

Feb 15

8:00 Sandy & Rod LaBahn
10:30 Janet Lohafer, Cindy Kamies

Feb 22

8:00 Sandy & Rod LaBahn
10:30 Janet Lohafer, Cindy Kamies

Coffee Bar Schedule

February 1 Amy Kruse

February 8 Lynn Breuer

February 15 Chris Knapp

February 22 Chris Knapp

ELDERBERRIES

Join St. John's fellow seniors 55+

▪ for an afternoon of fun and
▪ fellowship. February 25 at 2 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

Birthday blessings to:

02/01: Fern Schulz, Brynlee Den Ouden
02/02: Autumn Heitritter
02/03: Kaden Wingert
02/04: Rodney LaBahn
02/05: Nancy Hettinger, Mary Roder, Shawnee Herzberg
02/06: Margaret Schmidt, Glenda Schmidt, Diane Utesch
02/07: Jon Fintel, Barbara Kruse, Robert Pigg
02/08: Gary Berkenpas, Druell Erickson, Shari Hargens
02/09: Jack McInnis, Jane Schultz, Nicholas Donohue, Marilyn Plueger
02/10: Sierra Reuter, Cassandra Hines, Caroline Nelson
02/11: Melvin Heeren, Danielle Rolling
02/13: Lindsey Van Voorst
02/14: Jameson Acevedo, Jordan Roder
02/15: Correa Cochran
02/16: Abby Foster, Kathy Hargens
02/17: Bruce Hanno, Donna Westhoff, Declan Posivio, Addison Niehus
02/18: Ellie Clark, Keaton Koerselman
02/19: Renea Panzer, Devin Kruse, Lois Graf
02/20: Brookelyn Britt, Dylan Taylor
02/22: Rynlee Albert, Becky Klohs, Stacie Heitritter, Lisa Tingwald
02/23: Lillian McNaughton
02/24: Mark Schmidt, Jane Westphal, Adam Wendt
02/25: Anthony Larson
02/26: Anne Jeneary
02/27: Christena Knapp, Jill Wells, Keon Ufken
02/28: Janet Wiener



FOSTER GRANDPARENTS & SENIOR COMPANIONS

of Greater Siouxland

Foster Grandparents

When no longer able to be in the classroom, Foster Grandparent volunteers were connecting in other ways.

- Wrote pen pal letters
- Assisted teachers with student prep work
- Made small crafts to send to schools to be distributed
- Created a drop zone for teachers to deliver work
- Found ways to continue volunteering in schools safely

For Senior Companion volunteers, connecting looked different too through creative solutions.

- Made phone calls to stay in touch and video chats when able
- Went to the store and delivered clients' groceries
- Drove clients to appointments with social distancing
- Kept activities going with a client just by purchasing two of the same crossword book

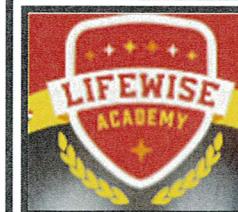
Rock Valley Office

- 1510 14th Street
Rock Valley, IA 51247
- 712-476-2628
- Fax: 712-451-6889

Sioux City Office

- 313 Cook Street
Sioux City, IA 51103
- 712-476-2628
- Fax: 712-451-6889

If you're interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion, contact one of the offices or visit the website <https://rvrseiorvolunteerprograms.org/>



We would like to thank St. John's for allowing us to set up a LifeWise tree in your hallway. A special thank you to those who took time to select a tag and donated in some way. We truly appreciate your support, donations, and prayers!

Sincerely, LifeWise Le Mars Team



If you have a child between the ages of 3 & 4 years old you may qualify for the **FREE Head Start or Child Development Program** through Mid-Sioux Opportunity. For more information on this free preschool program contact 800-859-2025.

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Early Head Start is currently taking applications for their **FREE family support and resource program**. Early head Start serves expectant families and children up to the age of three. For more information on this free home based program call 800-859-2025

Dear Friends of St. John's

How wonderful it was to have received another donation from you this year! Thank you so much for including Luther House of Study in your giving. May God bless you so richly as you have blessed us!

Sincerely,

The Team at Luther House of Study



8TH GRADE CATECHISM SERVICE PROJECT



Clark, Franklin, and Kluckhohn were all very appreciative of the donations we dropped off in December. Comments from the schools:

“This is fantastic” ~ “We are so appreciative” ~ “I feel like we just won a million dollars” ~ “They will be great, thank you so much”

“Thank you for thinking of the students at Kluckhohn this holiday season. Your donation is greatly appreciated by all.”

“Students & teachers, thank you so much for your generous donation of winter gear for the students at Clark Elementary! We appreciate you helping to make sure all the students are safe and warm and have their needs met so they can be successful at school.”

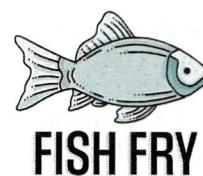


Guiding Star Siouxland invites you to join us for our Annual Gala Fundraiser on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Prairie Winds Event Center in Orange City. The evening will include a catered meal, inspiring testimonies, and powerful stories from families whose lives have been impacted through fertility, pregnancy, postpartum, and parenthood. Doors open at 5:30 PM, with dinner and the program beginning at 6:30 PM, and semi-formal attire is requested. This event supports Guiding Star Siouxland’s mission to provide life-affirming support and education to women and families in our community. To learn more or to register, visit guidingstarsiouxland.org and click “Gala.”

REMSEN ST. MARY'S FISH SUPPER

Come join us at the annual St. Mary's Activity Club Fish Supper on Friday, February 20 at St. Mary's High School Cafeteria in Remsen. The menu includes those wonderful homemade salads and desserts, as well as fried and baked fish, corn, and cheesy potatoes.

Serving will be from 4:30 to 6:45 p.m. Carry outs & deliveries are available.



FISH FRY



MARRIAGE RETREAT February 13-15, 2026

Whether you have been married many years or just one year, life happens. Things Change. We Change. Join us and take time to laugh, remember, and re-vision your marriage together. Enjoy a wonderful weekend with a banquet dinner, evening entertainment, free couples photo shoot and great sessions. Register online at Okoboji.org



Noisy Offerings will be collected on **February 22nd** for “Ministry Money for Mission Trip Chicago 2026.” These funds will help offset costs of mission projects the youth will be helping with in Chicago next Summer.

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 2026:

- Lutheran Services in Iowa
- Lutheran World Relief
- Ingham Lake Bible Camp
- Global Health Ministries

LSIowa.org
LWR.org
www.okoboji.org/ingham
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 LCBC, 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.



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

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

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

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

-President, Ed/Youth

Becky DeRuyter-V. President

- Secretary, Inreach

Bill Young-Treasurer

- Mission

- 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

Congratulations and thank you to the following individuals for agreeing to serve your St. John's family. Newly elected include: Council Members - Milo Duque, Lisa Erdmann, Katie Gerloff, and Hope Majeres; Gerald Klemme - Endowment Team; and Nominating Committee - Paula Kommes, Amy Schmidt, Greg Jeneary, Joel Johnson, and Amy Davis.