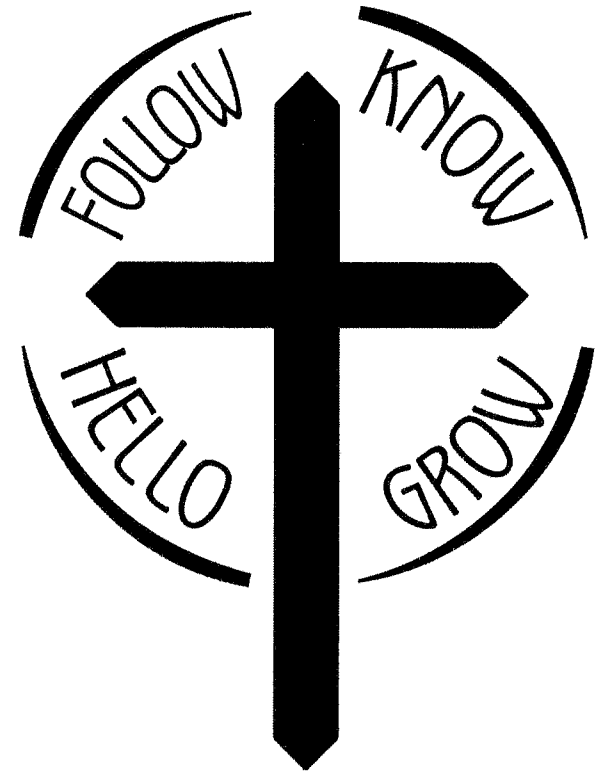


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 1st AVE. NW  
LE MARS, IA. 51031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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 Melancthon, 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

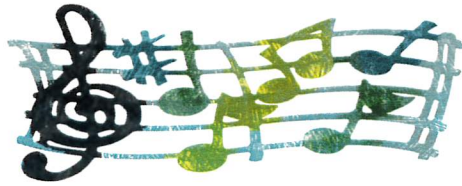
5:30-6:30 People of Praise

### Wednesdays

5:00-5:50 Handbell Choir

6:00-6:30 Wednesday Worship

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



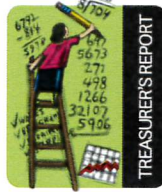
=====

**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

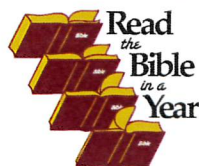
December 2025

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



## 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.

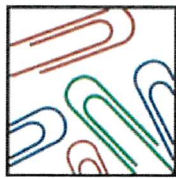
I hope that you will take advantage of these videos and the over 25,000 other videos on all kinds of spiritual topics. They can really help you grow in your faith! – Pastor Broers

## 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



Record  
Keeping

## 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."



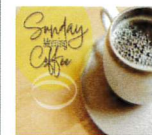
Direct Choice Dollars®



**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!

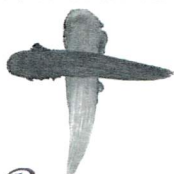


## ASH WEDNESDAY

Please join us Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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. 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

February 4  
February 11  
February 18  
February 25

Pizza  
Taco in a Bag  
Hot Dogs  
Lenten Supper - TBD





## 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 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.)
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](http://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*



**February 15<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 - 9 pm**  
**Outreach Event at Okoboji**  
(Hoonting) An Outreach Night is an opportunity for those in High School to join with other youth of all denominations around the area to fellowship, grow in faith, and have fun together! Outreach Night provides a chance for great

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	2 LifeWise 6 pm Outreach Mtg L/L	3 LifeWise 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	9 LifeWise 7 pm Church Council D/R	10 LifeWise 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	16 LifeWise <i>Presidents' Day</i> 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L	17 LifeWise 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 <b>NOISY OFFERING</b> 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 4 – 8 pm HS Movie Night at the Broers	23 LifeWise	24 LifeWise 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
4 LifeWise 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
11 LifeWise 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 
18 LifeWise 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 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 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
25 LifeWise 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!

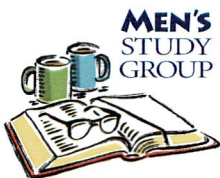
**Please save your gently used Bibles and canceled postage stamps for Do-Day.** These items can be placed in the designated baskets which are currently in the north entryway of the church.



### 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 Bohlken  
10:30 AM Greeter: Cindy Kamies  
Lector: Kayla Foelske  
Communion Server: Cindy Kamies  
Journey Keleher  
Cheryl Peyton

#### Sunday, February 8:

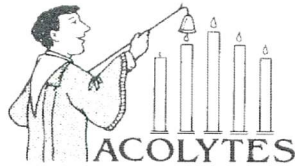
8:00 AM Greeter: Rod & Sandy LaBahn  
Lector: Sandy LaBahn  
Communion Server: Ellen Russell  
Rod LaBahn  
Pam Roling  
10:30 AM Greeter: Dave Brennan Family  
Lector: Sophia Brennan  
Communion Server: Dave Brennan  
Elizabeth Brennan  
Ethan Rachuy

#### 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

### February Usher Schedule

**8:00 AM** Rod LaBahn, Capt.  
Joel Johnson, Henry Herrig, Mark  
Kehrberg, Lowell Penning

**10:30 AM** Gary Borchers, Capt.  
Harold Lee, Jeff Jelken., Levi TeBrink

### 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

### Senior Companions

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

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

- 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

- 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

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

### 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



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*

*Now 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.”

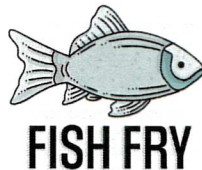


Guiding Star Siouxland invites you to join us for our Annual Gala Fundraiser on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Prairie Winds Event Center in Orange City. The evening will include a catered meal, inspiring testimonies, and powerful stories from families whose lives have been impacted through fertility, pregnancy, 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](http://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.



## 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](http://Okoboji.org)



**MAKE A  
"JOYFUL  
NOISE!"**

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 | LSIowa.org   |
| • Lutheran World Relief     | LWR.org  |
| • Ingham Lake Bible Camp    | <a href="http://www.okoboji.org/ingham">www.okoboji.org/ingham</a> |
| • Global Health Ministries  | <a href="http://www.ghm.org">www.ghm.org</a>                       |

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



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

If you wish to stay informed on what is happening in the NALC, you can go to: [www.thenalc.org/newsletter](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.safeplacesiouxland.org)

### Staff & Contact Information

**Office Hours: 8-5 Tue-Fri**

Telephone: (712)546-8855

Web Home Page: [www.stjohnslemarsia.org](http://www.stjohnslemarsia.org)

Email: [stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven Broers [broers@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:broers@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Minister of Music: Michael Rathke [mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Office Manager: Kim Lang [kim@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:kim@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen  
[assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken [custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Sunday School Supt.:  
Beth Larson [elizabethrgraf@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.