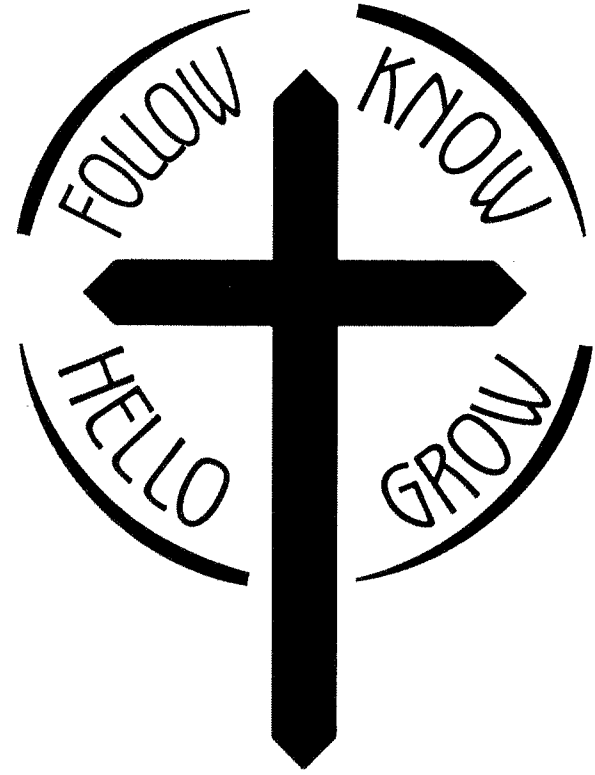


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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**St. John's Lutheran Church**



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

March 2026



*“If you would be perfect, go, sell all you have and follow Me.” – Matthew 19:21*

I recently listened to a podcast where author/pastor/theologian John Mark Comer was talking about his experience of spending twenty-one days in the desert. He wanted to experience solitude and silence in a way that he had never done before. This has been a common practice for Christians ever since the 3<sup>rd</sup> century when the movement was initiated by Saint Gregory the Great. These Christians were the first ones to start monasteries and are often referred to as “the desert fathers”. They sought a closer union with God and wanted to be free from the distractions filling their daily lives.

But notice that this was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. They didn’t have smart phones, Tiktok, TV or even the radio! What possible distractions could they have been dealing with?! And yet, throughout every age, Christians have always struggled with staying focused on Jesus. On the one hand, that’s a comforting thought—it’s not just us! On the other hand, it’s disconcerting to realize that there was never a time that following Jesus was ever very easy.

The person leading Comer’s time in “the desert” told him that he was not allowed to bring any electronics or books. Well, actually, he was allowed to read the Bible, but only if it didn’t distract him from focusing on God. That comment stood out to me. Isn’t reading the Bible always a **good** thing to do? And yet, I have to admit, that I have sometimes read the Bible to distract myself too. I was trying to get my mind focused away from something else. How much of our lives do we spend trying to escape pain? Trying to stay busy so that we don’t have to deal with a problem or a difficult person in our lives?

This time of the church year is called Lent and it is a time to focus on repentance—turning away from our sinful behaviors and turning back to God. After listening to Comer, I realized how much time I spend intentionally trying to distract myself. I **always** have a podcast on, or am listening to Spotify, or checking out the news or listening to a book. It’s like I am **afraid** of silence. Why? Because, in the silence, I sometimes have to deal with feelings that I would rather not feel. Or deal with problems that I would rather not deal with right then. God might have a lot to say to me, but I am so busy, and I make the world around me so loud, that I would never be able to hear Him! I bet that some of you do the same thing because Christians have been doing it since the beginning.

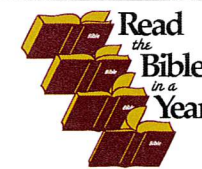
Have you ever noticed that, in old pieces of art, the Christians

portrayed often seem sad? They almost have frowns painted on their faces! In that same podcast, Comer said that the reason artists portrayed Christians in this way wasn’t because they were sad, but that the painters were trying to convey **peace**. Christians were different than other people because they were at peace. Not too high and not too low. Instead of violence, Christians were called to forgive. Instead of being afraid of the “gods”, Christians were called to be in a relationship based on love with Jesus. Would people describe you with the word “peaceful”? Perhaps focusing more on silence and solitude in our lives would help us to find that peace.

In this month’s newsletter, I gave some ideas for videos that you might be able to watch on Right Now Media. It’s free and there are instructions for how to get into it if you haven’t already. I suggest listening/watching two videos that John Mark Comer has available. One is on how to stop being and feeling so busy and the other is how to practice solitude. Of course, if all you do is watch more technology, that kind of defeats the purpose. But if you need a little help in how to find the solitude that you are seeking, these are two great resources that can help you put it into practice.

I believe that Silence and Solitude are two spiritual disciplines worth looking into more during this Lenten season. Listening to this podcast helped me to see that just being alone wasn’t enough to bring about solitude. You have to be willing to get rid of distractions. Being quiet also isn’t enough when our brains are constantly busy and going one-hundred miles an hour! I hope that I can begin to become a person of peace after the example of Jesus and the early Christians; however, I have to be honest, it’s probably going to take a few more weeks than Lent will give me this year. But I believe this is a still a great opportunity to start practicing something that can help me grow closer to Jesus for the rest of my life. I would invite you to begin as well. Amen.

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!!!



### 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!

## 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



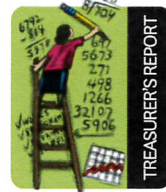
### **Easter Brass**

If you are interested in playing with St. John's Brass on Easter Sunday, April 5 at the 8:00am service, please contact Mike Rathke. Adult and high school brass players are welcome to participate!

## Treasurer's Report

January 2026

- 1) Our operating checking account decreased \$9 in January to \$46,592. Unpaid benevolences of \$5,325 as of month end.
- 2) We continue to be debt free.
- 3) Offerings were \$49,558 for January which compares favorably to January 2025 offerings of \$45,471. Our Building Capital Fund had an increase of \$7,739 in January and the fund balance now stands at \$11,334.
- 4) January operating expenses of \$51,179 as compared to budget of \$45,952. Items which contributed to being above budget were the \$3,000 spent on ceiling tiles in Building and Grounds plus the \$2,400 spent on car wash cards in Youth fund.
- 5) Endowment funds total \$686,329 after a January investment gain of \$11,781.



Bill Young  
Church Treasurer

Now is the time to place your order for an Easter Lily!

\$16.00 per **Easter Lily** # of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: **March 20th**

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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



rightnow MEDIA



## RightNow MEDIA

Welcome to "Pastor Steven's Picks." You can find these in the St. John's Lutheran Church Custom Library under "Pastor Steven's Picks" when you login to your RightNow Media account.

### 1. **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry - John Mark Comer**

We are all busy. Some of us can't remember the last time we rested or even had free time. Our busyness can feel productive but it is a toxic distraction, sapping our spiritual, physical, and emotional vitality. It may seem like we have no choice but to live at a frantic pace, but God has a better path for us.

Join pastor and author John Mark Comer in this five-part series as he addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives: hurry. Instead of allowing our calendars and screens to control our lives, Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life, overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty.

### 2. **The Solitude Practice - John Mark Comer**

In an increasingly distracted and noisy world, we need solitude more than ever. The practice of solitude mimics Jesus' rhythm of retreat and return: retreat from people and distractions to be with God, in order to return to community in love and service.

### 3. **AI and Identity. Called. Known. Created - Justin Lester**

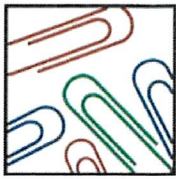
We live in a world where almost anything can be imitated. But you know what's missing? Breath. Artificial intelligence is generated but we are *created* by the very breath of God. In this six-part series, Rev. Dr. Justin Lester walks us through what it means to be made in God's image, how to reclaim our imago dei mindset and set our identity in Christ despite the worldly culture of AI. Rev. Dr. Lester wraps up by showing us how we can use AI as a tool without letting it infiltrate our identity. 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](mailto: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




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

**Sympathies** to the family of Alma Willer, who passed away January 28th. St. John's family includes Judy Schulz, Violet Weaver and Jason Peters families.

**Sympathies** to the friends and family of Gene Pageler, who passed away January 30th. His funeral was Monday, February 9th at Rexwinkel Funeral Home @ 1 pm.

**Sympathies** to the family and friends of Judy Berkenpas, who passed away February 12th. St. John's family includes her husband, Gary and sister-in-law, Bonnie Harms.

**Sympathies** to the family and friends of Jane Schultz, who passed away February 20th. Jane's obituary can be found at Overton Funeral Home, Indianola.

*Record Keeping* **CHURCH RECORDS FOR FEBRUARY**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Brett Bennett, Troy & Victoria Caswell, Bill & Angie Schilmoeller, Megan Hansen

**Deaths:** Alma Willer, Gene Pageler, Judy Berkenpas, Jane Schultz

### 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.*



**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®



**MAKINGDISCIPLES**

**NEW SMALL GROUP: MESSENGERS OF THE GOSPEL**

Pastor Broers is 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. It's not too late to start. 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!!

Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

**Please turn in your newsletter articles by  
March 19.**



## SEASON OF LENT

Each Wednesday during the season of Lent, (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 have been designated to the "Then Feed Just One" project.

The 6 pm worship time will include Holden Evening Prayer Service, a traditional setting of evening prayer set to music. Please join us!

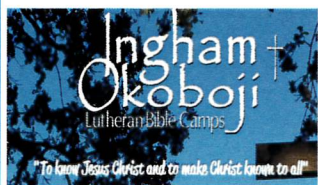
### LENTEN MEALS serving 5:00—5:45 pm

**March 4 (Outreach & Inreach)** Lally's chicken, beans, salad, dessert  
**March 11 (Youth Min & Spiritual Growth)** Egg bakes & rolls  
**March 18 (Property & Endowment)** Scalloped Potatoes & Ham  
**March 25 (Church Council)** TBD



The St. John's catechism youth and High School students will be participating in a "Then Feed Just One" event on March 25 from 6:30

pm till 8 pm. Other St. John's members are also encouraged to join us. Donations for this project will be collected throughout the month of March and can be left in the offering plate or dropped off at the office. Please notate your gift for "Then Feed Just One." Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby if you would like to help. Thank you for your attendance and generosity!



Don't forget to register for **Summer Camp!** St. John's will be covering half of the cost of camp for each St. John's Camper. Register by March 1st to receive a \$30 discount and don't forget to claim the "member church" discount of \$10. Notify the church office of registration

and dates of camp. After your student has attended, St. John's will reimburse you for up to half of the cost of the camp. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more details. Don't delay!!! 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

## GROW March Schedule

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

Mar. 11 -

-Lesson 17 NT - Palm Sunday  
-Scripture - Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;  
Luke 19:28-40  
-PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller  
-PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals,  
Kaden Royalty  
-1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis  
-1-2 Helper - Megan Jeneary  
-3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary  
-3 Helper - Jacob Jeneary  
-4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal  
-4-5 Helper - Cindy Kamies  
-Greeters - Rhonda Justice  
- Kate Braband

Mar. 18 -

-Lesson 18 NT - The Last Supper/Jesus is Betrayed  
-Scripture - Matt. 26:17-75; Mark 14:10-72;  
Luke 22:14-71; John 13:1-20  
-PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers  
-PreK-K Helper - Becca Peyton, Kayden Royalty  
-1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis  
-1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto  
-3 Teacher - Kristy Broers  
-3 Helper - Donna Duque  
-4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn  
-4-5 Helper - Simon Kern  
-Greeters - Sonja Hanisch  
- Rhonda Justice

Mar. 25 -

-Lesson 19 NT - The Day Jesus Died  
-Scripture - Matt. 27:27-66; Mark 15:21-47;  
Luke 23:26-56  
-PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller  
-PreK-K Helper - Becca Peyton, Kaden Royalty  
-1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis  
-1-2 Helper - Kate Braband  
-3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary  
-3 Helper - Sophie Pauling  
-4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal  
-4-5 Helper - Donna Duque  
-Greeters - Kate Braband  
- Sonja Hanisch

Apr. 1 -

-Lesson 20 NT - The Empty Tomb  
-Scripture - Luke 24:1-12; Matt. 28:1-10;  
Mark 16:1-8  
-PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers  
-PreK-K Helper - Pam Roling, Sophie Pauling  
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch  
-1-2 Helper - Donna Duque  
-3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis  
-3 Helper - Becca Peyton  
-4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn  
-4-5 Helper - Simon Kern  
-Greeters - Rhonda Justice  
- Kate Braband

Congratulations to **Gavin Detloff**, son of Katie Detloff, grandson of Denny & Marilyn Plueger, who made the 11 year olds state bowling team. Way to go Gavin!



**ROOSTER** — The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn" (Mark 13:35, NIV).



**March 15<sup>th</sup> – 3:30 - 9 pm**  
**Outreach Event at Okoboji**  
 (Gargoyles) 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 March 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 March 4th for supper & games before church and catechism. 5 - 5:50 pm**



**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.



**Cards still available. See Kim in the office.**

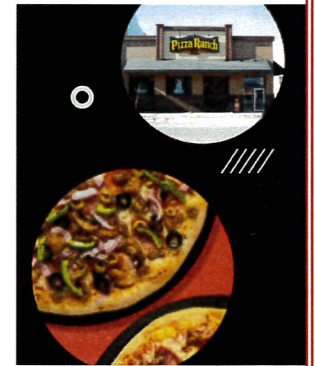
**YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER**

**5 car washes for \$36.00**

**Help fund the Youth Mission Trip 2026**

**PIZZA RANCH TIP NIGHTS**

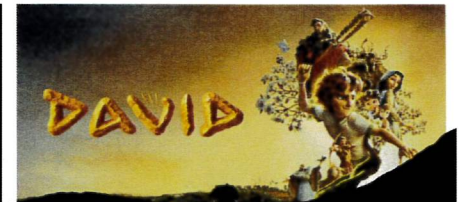
The St. John's High School Mission Trip team will be holding two tip nights at Pizza Ranch to fundraise for their trip to Chicago this upcoming summer. We will be working **Tuesday night, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** as well as Tuesday night, **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. Remember that Tuesday night is always kids night at Pizza Ranch when they eat for free with one paying adult! Thank you for supporting our youth!



**MOVIE MATINEE**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**  
**2 - 4 PM**

**St. John's Auditorium**

**PreK - 5<sup>TH</sup> GR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**  
**All St. John's members are welcome to attend.**  
**Sign up on the bulletin board.**



# >>> March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 11:30 am Mission Trip Mtg Y/R 2 -4 pm David Movie Matinee	2	3 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel L/L 7 pm Men's Small Group Y/R
8 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour/ Property Mtg	9 6 pm Spiritual Growth Mtg L/L 6:30 pm New Council Members Mtg D/R 7 pm Church Council D/R	10 9 am Do-Day 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel L/L
15 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 3:30 pm HS Ingham Okoboji Outreach	16 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L 6 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L	17 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 4:30 pm Mission Team Mtg. L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel L/L
22 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	23	24 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel L/L 7 pm Men's Small Group Y/R-Walking Barefoot
<b>NOISY OFFERING</b> 29 Palm Sunday 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 10:30 am SS Kids Sing	30 <b>Blood Drive</b> 12 - 6 pm Blood Drive	31 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Small Group Y/R-Walking Barefoot

# >>> March 2026

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 5:00 pm Bells/Lenten Meal/MS Fun & Games YR 6:00 pm Worship/Comm/ Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	5 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	6 2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	7
11 9:30 am - 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 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	12 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	13 2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	14
18 9:30 am - 10:30 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 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	19 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	20 2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	21
25 2 pm Elderberries F/H 5:00 pm Bells/Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism-TFJO Event/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	26 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	27 2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	28
			



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



**WOMEN'S CIRCLES**

**MONDAY, MARCH 16**

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

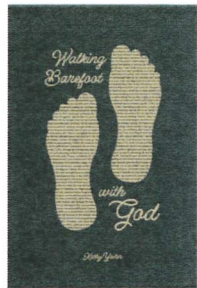
1:30 PM Dorcas Circle, Library

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 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.



**MEN'S SMALL GROUP BEGINNING MARCH 24TH**

In "Walking Barefoot With God," Kathy Yoder opens her heart through two decades of columns-over 1,000 stories published in the "Sioux City Journal"-brimming with love, loss, and unwavering faith. Her words weave hope into life's rawest moments: her husband Dave's leukemia battle from 2005 to 2009, a 2020 car crash that claimed her second husband Melvin yet revealed God's radiant light, and a tender new chapter with Lyle in 2023. This collection of over 60 handpicked columns

traces Kathy's journey through hospital rooms, haylofts, and tear-soaked nights. With raw honesty, she shares the ache of the "The Blue Plaid Blanket," the comfort of angels in her darkest hours, and Lyle's gentle nudge of "one more step." Blending laughter with sorrow and gratitude with grief, Kathy's stories form a tapestry of resilience, anchored by Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good."

All men are welcome to join us for this 5 week study in the library at 7 pm, beginning March 24th. Sign up on the bulletin board and request a book.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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, March 1:

8:00 AM Greeter: Iris Hemmingson  
Lector: Iris Hemmingson  
Communion Server: Iris Hemmingson  
Brenda Haverhals  
Roma Lancaster

10:30 AM Greeter: Karla Hansen  
Lector: Karla Hansen  
Communion Server: Dan Albert  
Julie Albert  
Lisa Erdmann

Sunday, March 8:

8:00 AM Greeter: Joel Johnson  
Lector: Dick Milne  
Communion Server: Joel Johnson  
Elvira Nielsen  
Janys Schroeder

10:30 AM Greeter: Jean Heeren  
Lector: Karol Holton  
Communion Server: Anne Jeneary  
Chris Knapp  
Rex Knapp

Sunday, March 15:

8:00 AM Greeter: Shirley Lang  
Lector: Kyleigh Bohlken  
Communion Server: Aleigha Bohlken  
Steve Breuer  
Lynn Breuer

10:30 AM Greeter: Scott & Paula Kommes  
Lector: Cheryl Peyton  
Communion Server: Nicole Jarvis  
Paula Kommes  
Cheryl Peyton

Sunday, March 22:

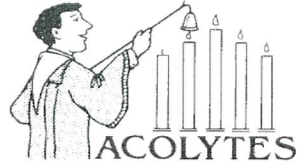
8:00 AM Greeter: Dean & Lynette Borchers  
Lector: Kristy Broers  
Communion Server: Dean Borchers  
Jane Arnold  
Mark Kehrig

10:30 AM Greeter: Jeff & Mary Roder  
Lector: Kristy Broers  
Communion Server: Hope Majeres  
Krista Plueger  
Cindy Kamies

Sunday, March 29:

8:00 AM Greeter: Chris Gerloff Family  
Lector: Arlene Wiener  
Communion Server: Arlene Wiener  
Marylyn Muecke  
Jane Westphal

10:30 AM Greeter: Adam Schmidt Family  
Lector: Alisha Jelken  
Communion Server: Adam Schmidt  
Amy Schmidt  
Brad Pick



Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, March 1:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Norah Kellen  
Acolytes: Audrina Schoenrock  
Mia Petsch

10:30 AM Acolytes: Lauren Forbes  
Kinley Tingwald

Sunday, March 8:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Cameron Pauling  
Acolytes: Kylee Den Ouden  
Kasen Niehus

10:30 AM Acolytes: Rylan Schmidt  
Aynslee Schmidt

Sunday, March 15:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Quentin Ranschau  
Acolytes: Carter Westphal  
Gavin Rolling

10:30 AM Acolytes: Kyleigh Bohlken  
Aleigha Bohlken

Sunday, March 22:

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

10:30 AM Acolytes: Kenna Grage  
Harper Grause

Sunday, March 29:

8:00 AM Crucifer: Tim Larson  
Acolytes: Saylix Farmer  
Bentley Hightree

10:30 AM Acolytes: Kaden Brownmiller  
Sophia Brennan

Sound Board Schedule

March 1st

8:00  
Becky DeRuyter - slides  
Tim Larson - video/sound

10:30

Megan Brennan - slides  
Micah Broers - video/sound

March 8th

8:00  
Tim Larson - slides  
Micah Broers - video/sound

10:30

Megan Jeneary - slides  
Jacob Jeneary - video/sound

March 15th

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

10:30

Sophia Brennan - slides  
Micah Broers - video/sound

March 22nd

8:00  
Micah Broers - slides  
Keith Westhoff - video/sound

10:30

Megan Jeneary - slides  
Jacob Jeneary - video/sound

March 29th

8:00  
Becky DeRuyter - slides/video/sound

10:30  
Megan Brennan - slides  
Carter Westphal (and Becky DeRuyter) - video/sound

All Wednesdays at 6:00 - Todd Zinnel

**ELDERBERRIES**

Join St. John's fellow seniors 55+ for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. March 25 at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



March 1st

8:00 Elvira Nielsen  
Roma Lancaster

10:30 Kay Powell  
Roma Lancaster

March 4th

6:00 Sherri Harms

March 8th

8:00 Janet Lohafer  
Arlene Wiener

10:30 Kay Powell  
Tammy Lee

March 15th

8:00 Elvira Nielsen  
Arlene Wiener

10:30 Roma Lancaster  
Sherri Harms

March 22nd

8:00 Janet Lohafer  
Arlene Wiener

10:30 Tammy Lee  
Sherri Harms

March 29th

8:00 Connie Kellen  
Jeannette Davis

10:30 Connie Kellen  
Jeannette Davis

Coffee Bar Schedule

**March 1** Sandy LaBahn  
**March 8** Ginny Freyermuth  
**March 15** Ginny Freyermuth  
**March 22** Pat Penning  
**March 29** Pat Penning

March Usher Schedule

8:00 AM Tracy Wingert, Capt., Greg McInnis, Doug Schultz, Rob Sudtelgte, Jay Dunn

10:30 AM Bryce Tingwald, Capt., Nathan Pauling, Joey Posivio, Jeremy Ferguson, Graham Forbes

**Birthday blessings to:**

- 03/01:** Daniel Oetken, Brandon Neyens,  
Barbara Ludwigs, Quentin Ranschau,  
Blake Erdmann
- 03/02:** Lynette Borchers, Ivy Donohue,  
Emery Donohue, Derek Ufken,  
Verity Vollmer
- 03/03:** Dennis Zubrod, Maria Harman,  
Raven Hansen
- 03/04:** Ashley Koopman
- 03/06:** Mary Fuller, Daniel Vacura
- 03/07:** Zoey Junck
- 03/08:** Teresa Herrig, Marylyn Muecke, James McNaughton
- 03/09:** Phyllis Bates, Addison Bogh, Zach Heitritter
- 03/10:** Emma DeRuyter, Brittany Jackowiak, Arebella Hernandez
- 03/11:** Braxton Niehus
- 03/12:** Nancy Zubrod, Jason Vacura, Aaron McNaughton,  
Wayne Winterfeld
- 03/14:** Melinda Zubrod, Jeannette Davis, Ashley DenOuden,  
Benjamin Hernandez
- 03/15:** Roma Lancaster, Dianne Baack
- 03/16:** Kaden Rolling, Braelynn DenOuden, Addison DenOuden
- 03/17:** Kristina Hargens, Chesney Keleher, Shane Grause
- 03/18:** Dean Varenhorst, Brenda Kray, Muriel Miller
- 03/19:** Kyle Schmidt, Jarett Forbes, Ophelia Te Brink
- 03/20:** Dave Klohs, Bruce Kruse, Keira Hessenius, Micah Broers
- 03/21:** Louis Westhoff, Brittany Petsch, Eleanor Kellen, Steve Utesch,  
Jagger Posivio
- 03/22:** Dorothy Luschen, JoAnne Kay
- 03/23:** Richard Hessenius, Jonathan Kramer, Hailey Plueger, Brett  
Bennett
- 03/24:** Amy Ranschau
- 03/25:** Kim Lang
- 03/26:** Carmen McNaughton, Paul Kellerson, Harper Grause, Kaden  
Royalty
- 03/28:** Marilyn Neyens, Josie Gardner, Ronald Detloff, Iversyn  
Anthony, Dan Bohlken, Lyla Hansen
- 03/29:** Elizabeth Brennan
- 03/30:** Karlee Anderson
- 03/31:** Sydney Schurr, Brent Hartman



You are invited to join us for the 2026

**LIFEWISE**  
*Evening of Impact*



Thursday, March 26, 2026



Doors and Silent Auction Open - 5:30 PM  
Dinner Served - 5:30PM - 6:15PM  
Program - 6:30PM - 7:30PM  
Silent Auction and Fundraising Celebration



**Le Mars Bible Church**

1550 7th Ave. SE  
Le Mars, IA 51031



**With providing a meal, we are requesting an RSVP.**

Please scan this QR code to RSVP or  
send a text message to  
(712) 526-4416 stating your name,  
total number of adults and total  
number of children attending.



*For more information, please see our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/LifeWiseLeMars](http://www.facebook.com/LifeWiseLeMars)*



Global  
Health  
Ministries

On behalf of Global Health Ministries, we thank you for your continued support of our mission to help the hands that heal throughout the world. Each day our medical partners are able to provide lifesaving medical procedures and vital health & wellness initiatives because of your generous giving.

In 2025, we are on track to send 16 containers filled with medical supplies and equipment to our partner countries with 11 already completed. GHM is now active in 16 countries due to the increased engagement of individuals, congregations and groups who are investing more deeply in the work we share.

Thank you for being a part of this miraculous work.



Some of the church women are supporting the gathering of items to donate to Safe Place. We have received \$250 from Thrivent to kickstart the project and invite you to donate items from the list below. There is a box labeled Safe Place in the church lobby. Please have items at

church by March 18 so we can begin to assist people in our area who are victims of domestic violence. Contact Janet Wiener if you have questions.

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

**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)**



**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

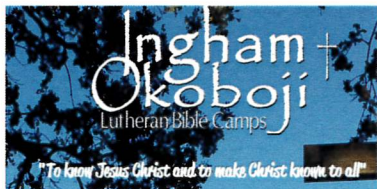
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**March 30th**

**12 - 6 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Severe Blood Shortage...** Donors are urgently needed now. Seconds count in emergencies, and it's the blood on hospital shelves that help save lives. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to sign up for a time to donate. Thank you!



Check out the Bible Camp website: [okoboji.org](http://okoboji.org)

There are a lot of fun events happening! For all ages coming up.

Spring Crafting Retreat Apr. 17-19  
Travel Camp to Mackinac Island Oct. 4-10

**Noisy Offerings** will be collected on **March 29th** 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      [www.okoboji.org/ingham](http://www.okoboji.org/ingham)
- Global Health Ministries      [www.ghm.org](http://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](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)



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.

**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**

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Becky DeRuyter - President       | Adam Schmidt - V. President    |
| Pam Roling - Secretary, Missions | Bill Young-Treasurer           |
| Tammy Lee - Spiritual Growth     | Dick Milne - Property          |
| Joey Posivio - Property          | Doug Carlsen - Endowment       |
| Cindy Kamies - Outreach          | Milo Duque -                   |
| Lisa Erdmann - Inreach           | Katie Gerloff - Youth Ministry |
| Hope Majeres - Worship           |                                |

For contact info call 546-8855 or email [stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org)



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8