



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

April 19th, 2026 3rd Sunday of Easter

St. John's Office Hours: 8-5 Tues.-Fri. **Building Hours:** 8-5 Mon.-Fri.
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 St. John's Lutheran Church of Le Mars, IA.
 Senior Pastor: Steven Broers
 Minister of Music: Mike Rathke
 Office Manager: Kim Lang
 Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen
 Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken
 Sunday School Superintendent: Beth Larson

FORTRESS OF FAITH and **RADIO ADS** are in memory of Todd Lancaster by Roma Lancaster.

GROW MEAL on April 22nd is mac & cheese.

ELDERBERRIES ARE GOING TO "OH, MY IOWA!"

You're invited, 55 and older to the Brown's show, "Oh, My Iowa!" on May 13th. Price for dinner and show is \$44.15 payable to The Brown's Theatre. Bring your check to the office by April 27th. See the flyers for the meal menu.

APRIL 20TH: Newsletter Deadline.

CONFIRMATION NEWS Wednesday, April 22nd, at 6:30 pm, the 8th and 9th grade Confirmands will be sharing their Faith Statements with their parents and Prayer Partners. An ice cream reception will follow in the fellowship hall, where the Prayer Partners will be revealed to their students they have been praying for during their 3 years of Catechism.

CONFIRMATION will be held on Sunday, April 26th, at 2 pm in the sanctuary. Students should be at church by 1:15 pm and meet in the Fellowship Hall. The congregation is invited to attend.

NOISY OFFERING will be collected next weekend. Don't forget your loose change or bills. Thank you.

ELEVATOR REPAIR WORK has begun. However, the main work on the elevator, which will take the elevator out of commission is now scheduled for May 11th.

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

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

SALUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE presents their Spring concert "Echoes of Wonder" on Sunday, April 26. There will be two performances - at the Sioux City Art Center (225 Nebraska Street) at 2pm and the Le Mars Plymouth County Historical Museum (335 1st Ave SW) at 5pm. Mike Rathke is a baritone and accompanist in this group and Jack McInnis sings tenor.

SAFE PLACE A big thank you from the staff at Safe Place, on behalf of their clients, for the donations from St. John's. With the grant from Thrivent and generous donations from many of you, we were able to provide them with 425 items of clothing, personal care products, and household products.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING: June 8-11 from 9 am - 2 pm for pre-k through 5th grades. Okoboji Bible Camp will be leading this years VBS, but we will still need guides, helpers, housing and food. Be watching for a sign up in the coming weeks and also be watching for information on how to register your child.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DONATIONS

If you have donations that you'd like to drop off for Operation Christmas Child, please put them in the marked box near the Resource Room.

SAVE THE DATES: See the bulletin board for more info.

- MAY 1 - Le Mars Comm. Blood Drive at YMCA 9 am- 2:30 pm
- MAY 10 - Le Mars Wasmer Post Mother's Day Breakfast 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
- MAY 17 - Graduates Reception at 9:15 am, the congregation is invited to celebrate the Class of 2026.
- MAY 28 - Knevel/Kearney Duo Organ Concert at St. John's 7 pm
- MAY 31 - Ingham Lake Bible Camp Ice Cream Social 3:30 - 6 pm

THE SIOUX COUNTY ORATORIO CHORUS, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Holm, will perform Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 pm in Christ Chapel at Northwestern College. Make plans today to attend! Tickets for adults are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available through Northwestern College's Music Department and Windmill Park Jewelers in Orange City, the Dordt University Music Department in Sioux Center, or from any SCOC member.

MID-SIOUX OPPORTUNITY The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay a portion of their primary heating costs. Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2026. Call 546-6603 Mon-Tues-Thurs from 8-4:30. See the bulletin board for more information.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Jay & Vicki Dunn	Tony & Cheryl Peyton
Lector	Rose Heeren	Nicole Jarvis
Comm Serv	Brenda Haverhals Iris Hemmingson Joel Johnson Tim Larson	Denise Anthony Eliese Hoffman Journey Keleher
Crucifer	Audrina Schoenrock	Autumn Jelken
Acolytes	Gavin Rolling	Aubrey Jelken
ProPresenter	Keith Westhoff	Sophia Brennan
Video/Sound	Carter Westphal	Micah Broers
Altar Guild	Janys Schroeder Janice Milne	Janys Schroeder Elizabeth Brennan
Coffee Bar	Jane Westphal	
Ushers	Denny Plueger, Chr., Milo D., Steve U., Ron S., Tony L., Neal O.	Adam Schmidt, Chr., Simon K., Dan A., Doug & Karen C.

Remember These People in Prayer: John, Karla Hansen, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Nash, Diane K., Denise, Angie, Carolyn, Bryan Utesch; **Ongoing Prayers:** Blake Plueger, Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Shirley, Jen, Kathy, and Diane Riediger; **Deployed:** Kylee Britt, Brent Jarvis, Nathan Jester; **Care Facility Residents:** Good Samaritan - Russ Martfeld, Lorraine Luksan, Dennis Asche; Accura Health - Patty Lubben, Bob & Nancy Potter; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Happy Siesta - Eleanor Westhoff, Wade Thompson
Sympathies to the friends and family of Dorothy Luschen, who passed away on April 14th. St. John's family includes Curt & Renae Buss family and Keith Luschen. Celebration of Life service will be held on April 25th at 10:30 am at St. John's.

Sun April 19	Mon April 20	Tues April 21	Wed April 22	Thurs April 23	Fri April 24	Sat April 25	Sun April 26
8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour	Newsletter Deadline LifeWise 1:30 pm Anna Circle L/L	LifeWise 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 2 pm 40 Day Study Y/R 5:30 pm P.o.P. 7 pm Men's Small Group Study L/L	LifeWise 5 pm Bells/Grow Meal 6 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmands Faith Stmt & PP Reveal /Grow 6:45 pm Sr. Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	9 am Prayer Time 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	10:30 am Dorothy Luschen Funeral	Noisy Offering 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 2 pm Confirmation

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First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹ I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

² **Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.**

³ The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called on the name of the Lord: "Lord, save me!"**

¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.**

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.

¹⁷ **I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the Lord - in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23 ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

Please rise for the reading of the holy Gospel.

The holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 ¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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

Apostles' Creed

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

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

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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