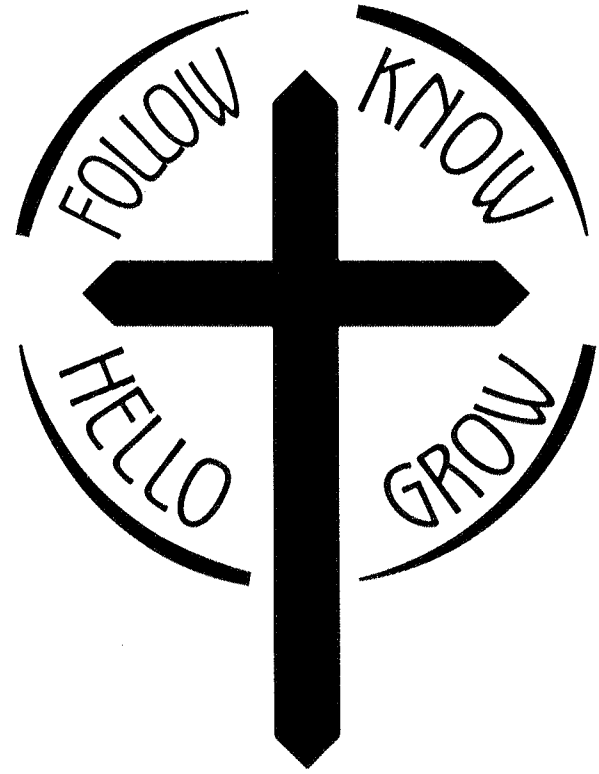


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 1st AVE. NW
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St. John's Lutheran Church



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

September 2025



The Christian church began as a small group: Jesus and twelve men who He called His disciples. Why have we accepted Sunday morning worship as the only spiritual part of our week when Jesus wanted our entire lives to be transformed—not just a single day! I maintain that **everyone** at St. John's could and should be a part of a small group of people seeking to learn the Bible together and grow closer as a community.

That means that we need small group leaders. Most of the small groups that began last year have decided to continue meeting starting again in the Fall because they enjoyed the time together. That makes me **so** happy! I **love** hearing that these groups are adding value to your life and helping you grow spiritually. However, this means that, in order to involve more people in these groups, we need more people to lead! I believe that God may be calling **you** to be one of those leaders.

You don't need to be an expert in the Bible to lead a Bible study. You just need to be curious about learning more about God's Word. A leader doesn't know everything; they encourage others to ask questions and learn together! You can meet whenever you'd like and wherever you'd like. Many people meet at the church, but others meet in their home or at the homes of different group members. I encourage you to meet weekly or at least every two weeks. You can begin this Fall and, after 8-10 meetings, take a break for the Christmas holiday. If your group wants to keep meeting, you can plan to start again in January.

What will you study? The Bible! But there are **lots** of fun and interesting ways to study the Bible. I prepare a study guide with reflection questions each week based on the weekly sermon and you are welcome to use that with your group. Each of you also has access to RightNow Media where you can find thousands of video Bible studies that you can watch and discuss with your group. Finally, a couple of small groups are reading books together that are supporting their faith. If you are feeling God nudge you to start a group, please answer that call! These groups can impact your life and the lives of others in countless ways.

If you are not interested in being a small group leader yet that's okay! Please find a small group to join! It's a one-hour commitment that will help you grow spiritually stronger and more closely connected to other Christians. Friendship with other Christians is important and this is a great way to nurture those relationships. God encourages us in the Bible to share our joys and sorrows with one another and this is a great way to do that.

There will be a list of small group leaders who are looking for people to join posted on the bulletin board as well as on the new St. John's website (stjohnslemarsia.org). On the website, go to "Small Group Bible Studies" by following the "Ministries" tab in the navigation bar and clicking "Small Group Opportunities". If you don't know the leader, please reach out to the church office for contact information. We are all busy. But small groups are how God built His church and I believe it is how

He wants to help us continue to follow Him today.

Once again, **please** prayerfully consider being a small group leader. Let Pastor Broers know if you are interested so that He can help you get started. If you aren't leading a group, please consider joining a small group and inviting a friend to attend with you! Invite friends from outside of St. John's whether they already go to church or not. Small group Bible studies are a great place to ask questions and find out more about Jesus! After Jesus ascended into heaven, the first thing His followers did was get together and start living out the new life Jesus had given them. They were transformed and their lives would never be the same again. I pray that through our attention to small group ministry, we will experience that same powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church.

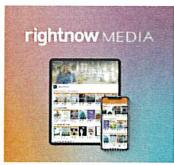
"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47



LCMC National Gathering at Hosanna Lutheran in Lakeville, MN

One of my favorite times of the year is when I attend the National Gathering for LCMC. It's an amazing opportunity to connect to other Christians from around the world, be inspired by great speakers and learn more about how God is working in the church. This year, the gathering takes place pretty close to St. John's (only four hours away in Lakeville, MN) and I want to encourage you to attend!

The gathering lasts from Sunday, October 5th through Wednesday, October 8th. The registration deadline is September 15th. There are daily Bible studies, worship services, breakout sessions, missionaries, speakers and lots of time to get to know other Christians who are seeking to live out their faith just like we are. I always come back inspired and excited, but I have found that it's a lot more helpful if people I know go along as well so that there are others who have caught the vision of what God can do in our church! St. John's can help with costs if you would like to attend. Please contact Pastor Broers for more information or with interest.



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. RightNow Media

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. Apologetics – Matt Chandler

Answering tough questions about God and Christianity

Why does God allow suffering and tragedy? Does science disprove Christianity? Is Jesus really the only way? Why are Christians so hypocritical? Christians throughout the ages have wrestled with questions like these, and chances are, so do you. Having faith isn't always easy. You may not always have the "winning" answer that makes you popular. Sometimes believing the Bible might make you feel like everyone's against you. But it's critical that you don't run from these types of questions.

In these four challenging sessions, students share real-life stories about their own struggles in coming to terms with what Scripture teaches about God, sin, creation and Jesus. Matt Chandler provides powerful teaching from Scripture and helps teens understand why believing in God and the Bible is not only reasonable, but also essential. And that's what apologetics is all about. Knowing what you believe and why you believe it, and then being able to share with others why you think your beliefs are reasonable.

3. Mom's, Let's Talk: Conversations We Must Have With Our Kids –

Jenny Worsham

Moms, you are already talking to your kids a lot, but are you talking to them about the topics they need to hear about the most? How do you know what to say, and when and how to say it?

In this nine-session series from Gather Moms, learn how to have some of the most challenging conversations you need to have with your kids. The timely topics covered in this series include gender identity, screens, emotions, trauma, and faith. Discover how to navigate these difficult and sensitive topics with wisdom, love, and grace.

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.



Excel in The Grace of Giving!

We don't give because God needs the money. God already owns everything! Giving reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God and giving helps us to reflect His character of generosity.

"God isn't interested in you giving out of a sense of guilt. Give when you are inspired by the vision here at St. John's because you want to be a part of what God is doing in this place!"

What should you give if you aren't ready to tithe? First of all, God loves a cheerful giver, so whatever amount you give, do it out of gratitude and not begrudgingly. Second, give consistently. Make a plan and stick to it. Finally, give sacrificially—do not just give whatever you have leftover for the month, but give to God first and trust Him to provide for the rest of your needs.

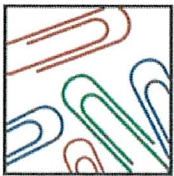
"You'll never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul. You can't take your money with you when you die, but you can take your money and make an impact in this life!"

Treasurer's Report

- 1) Good news, our operating checking account (PrimeBank) balance increased \$13,124 to \$6,900 in July. We have \$5,247 of unpaid benevolences as of 7/31/25.
- 2) We are debt free.
- 3) Goods news, monthly offerings of \$50,008 best month of the year. However, last year the July offerings were \$61,555. 2025 Year-to-date offerings of \$272,392. This compares to \$286,377 last year, \$271,102 in 2023, \$216,989 in 2022, and \$279,411 in 2021.
- 4) July operating expenses came in almost \$4,000 under budget and we are now about 23,000 under budget with \$12,500 of this in salary/benefits.
- 5) Endowment funds now total \$637,000 after expenditures of \$8,000 and an investment gain of \$2,968. Overall investment gain in 2025 is now \$37,507.

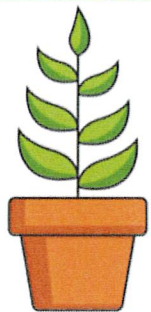
Bill Young
Church Treasurer





FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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



St. John's Sunday School

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18*

Join us for
Sunday School!

September 7 - Rally Day

9:15 am —10:15 am

3 year olds—5th grade
Meet in the Auditorium

Middle School meet in
the Youth Room

Backpack Blessing &
Catechism Service of
Promise

@
8:00 & 10:30 am

Sept. 7th

CHURCH RECORDS FOR AUGUST

Baptisms: Raven Rose Hansen
Cooper Alan Royalty

Deaths: Stephen Bates
LaDonna Stangby

Service Times for Fall Beginning Sept. 3rd

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.*

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



Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

**Please turn in
your newsletter
articles by
September 19**

FOUND A collapsible lawn chair was
left at the park a month ago. If it is
yours, you can find it in the office
hallway.



Remember These People in Prayer: Alex Hines,
Richard Miller, Mason Sitzmann, Taelynn Ortmann,
Michael, Kendra, Terri Clinton, James, Scott, Logan,
Norm Nielsen, Jen, Kathy, Bob Pick, Kay Allen, Shirley,
Karla Hansen, and Kathryn

Ongoing Prayers: Roma Lancaster, Louis Westhoff,
Sherry Jo Wittkop, Robert, Ali, Paula Parkin, Brady Plucker, Diane Riediger,
and Missy Rarrat

Sympathies to the family of **Stephen Bates**, who passed away on August 5.
St. John's family includes his wife, Phyl. Services will be at St. John's on
September 6th @ 1 pm.

Sympathies to the family & friends of **Steven Kolker**, who passed away on
August 11. St. John's family includes his wife, Jan.

Sympathies to the family & friends of **LaDonna Stangby**, who passed away
on August 17. St. John's family includes his wife, Jan.

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

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1:30 PM Anna & 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, SEPTEMBER 9 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.

WEEKLY MUSIC SCHEDULE

(beginning September 3)

Tuesdays

5:30-6:30 People of Praise

Wednesdays

5:00-5:50 Handbell Choir

6:00-6:30 Wednesday Worship

6:30-7:30 St. John's Choir



There's a place in St. John's music ministry for you! Even if you can't be here every week, we hope you'll join when you can!

St. John's Choir sings during the 8:00am worship service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and for special occasions, including our annual Christmas cantata. We are especially in need of more male singers - basses and tenors.

People of Praise leads contemporary worship weekly at 10:30am on Sundays and 6:00pm on Wednesday nights. We are always seeking singers and those who play drums, bass, or guitar to join us.

Handbell Choir rings in worship once a month, typically at our 10:30 am worship service. No experience with bells is needed to join - we'll teach you how to play. The ability to read music can be helpful, but is not necessary to start ringing.

Thank you to those who shared special music this summer: Adam Curry, Carter Westphal, Brad Pick, and members of our bell choir!

NEW SMALL GROUP FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS!

If you are interested in finding out more about St. John's or if you would like to join our church community, please contact Pastor Broers. He will be starting a small group to help you get to know one another, learn more about the church and find out what we teach and believe. Once we have a list of people interested in attending, we will set up times to meet. If you know someone who is not a member but you think that they would be a great addition, tell them about this opportunity! It is always a pleasure to welcome new people into this community of faith! **Pastor Broers**

NEW SMALL GROUP BEING OFFERED ON MISSIONS!

Iris Hemmingson will be leading a small group this Fall using the book "Hearts on Fire" which tells the story of eight women who were missionaries in the underground church around the world. These women overcame extreme adversity to emerge as leaders and ministers in the global body of Christ. Learn their stories and see how the Bible encourages us to share the good news of Jesus with others around the world and in our own neighborhoods as well. Contact the office, Iris or Pastor Broers with questions and interest.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES STARTING SOON!

If your child is in 5th grade (or older) and has not had first communion yet, Pastor Broers will be leading first communion instruction classes between services (9:30-10:15am) for three Sundays (September 21st, 28th and October 5th). Students will celebrate their first communion on Sunday, October 12th.



COMMUNION BREAD SERVERS NEEDED!

If you are willing to distribute bread (and wine) for the second line during communion time, please contact the office. We will need volunteers for both services throughout the month, so the more the merrier!

WE WANT YOUR SILLY DRESS UP CLOTHES!

Do you have an ugly shirt that is two sizes too big? Or a weird old hat that somebody gave you as a gag gift? Maybe some big plastic glasses that you wore on Halloween? Donate your silly dress up clothes and accessories to St. John's for use our Confirmation classes. Talk to Pastor Broers if you have any questions. Thanks!



LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE

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



DITCH CLEANING...WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Sunday, September 28 meet at church at 1 pm in the parking lot. Wear gloves, long pants and closed toe shoes. We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

SEPTEMBER 3

- ⇒ 5:00 pm Bells
- ⇒ 6 pm Worship/Communion
- ⇒ 6:30 pm Catechism Student/Parent Orientation and Acolyte Training
- ⇒ 8:15 pm HS Student/Parent Youth Group Meeting.

SEPTEMBER 10

- ⇒ 5 pm Bells
- ⇒ 5 pm - 5:45 pm Wednesday Meal & Catechism Pizza and Game Night
- ⇒ 6 pm Worship
- ⇒ 6:30 pm Catechism
- ⇒ 6:30 pm GROW Stories, Activities, and Games (pre-k - 5th gr)
- ⇒ 8:15 - 9:30 pm HS Youth Group

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

Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 7:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Katie Gerloff

Lector: Jane Arnold

Comm. Server: Jane Arnold & Joel Johnson

10:30 AM

Greeter: Harold & Tammy Lee

Lector: Cheryl Peyton

Comm. Server: Dave & Elizabeth Brennan

Sunday, September 14:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Dean & Lynette Borchers

Lector: Dianne Baack

C. Server: Dean Borchers & Iris Hemmingson

10:30 AM

Greeter: Brad & Kaylyn Pick Family

Lector: Kent Westphal

Comm. Server: Anne Jeneary & Brad Pick

Sunday, September 21:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Megan Dimmick Family

Lector: Todd Zinnell

Communion Server: Henry & Teri Herrig

10:30 AM

Greeter: Nicole Jarvis

Lector: Hope Majeres

Comm. Server: Hope & Jackson Majeres

Sunday, September 28:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Elvira Nielsen

Lector: Elvira Nielsen

Comm. Server: Rose Heeren & Arlene Wiener

10:30 AM

Greeter: Dan & Julie Albert

Lector: Ian DeRuyter

Communion Server: Dan & Julie Albert

Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, September 7:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Cameron Pauling

Acolytes: Lauren Forbes & Kinley Tingwald

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Riley Harms & Harper Grause

Sunday, September 14:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Aleigha Bohlken

Acolytes: Kyleigh Bohlken & Quentin Ranschau

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Rylann Schmidt & Aynslee Schmidt

Sunday, September 21:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Gavin Rolling

Acolytes: Luke Britt & Kaden Brownmiller

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Sophia Brennan & Kenna Grage

Sunday, September 28:

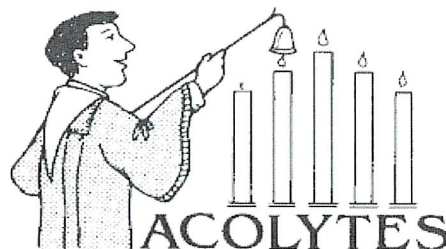
8:00 AM

Crucifer: Kylee Den Ouden

Acolytes: Ethan Rachuy & Bentley Hightree

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Keyanna Miller & Journey Keleher



Sound Board

September 7th

8:00 Brenda Haverhals - slides

Tim Larson - video/sound

10:30 Megan Jeneary - slides

Jacob Jeneary - video/sound

September 14th

8:00 Ian DeRuyter - slides

Becky DeRuyter - video/sound

10:30 Larry Brangwin - slides

Micah Broers - video/sound

September 21st

8:00 Becky DeRuyter - slides

Micah Broers - video/sound

10:30 Megan Brennan - slides

Larry Brangwin - video/sound

September 28th

8:00 Brenda Haverhals - slides

Keith Westhoff - video/sound

10:30 Sophia Brennan - slides

Micah Broers - video/sound

All Wednesdays at 6:00: Todd Zinnel



Website update! www.stjohnslemarsia.org

In today's technological world, a church's website is often considered the new "front door" for people who are interested in attending church. Everybody who is even thinking about coming to worship services or programs will often check out a church first online before ever stepping a foot inside the building. St. John's is in the process of updating the website, and there will be a lot of great resources you can find (service times, bulletins, newsletters, sermons, calendars, upcoming events) as well as information about activities and groups (Sunday School, GROW and small groups opportunities). You can also point people who are interested in St. John's to the website if they want to learn more about our vision and our beliefs or to give them a sense of what our services look like. There are a lot of great pictures and videos to give people a sense of what our faith community is all about! Please keep in mind some pages are still under construction. Enjoy!!

Coffee Bar Schedule

September 7

Sheri Oetken

September 14, 21, 28

Chris Knapp

Altar Guild

September 3rd

6:00 Brenda Haverhals

September 7th

8:00 - JoEllen Cronin & Arlene Wiener

10:30 - Jane Arnold & Ashley Bennett

September 14th

8:00 - Sandy & Rod Labahn

10:30 - Jane Arnold & Ashley Bennett

September 21st

8:00 - Brenda Haverhals & Krista Plueger

10:30 - Elizabeth Brennan & Krista Plueger

September 28th

8:00 - JoEllen Cronin & Arlene Wiener

10:30 - Elizabeth Brennan & Krista Plueger

September Usher Schedule

8:30 am

Tracy Wingert, Capt.

Greg McInnis, Doug Schultz, Rob Sudtelgte

10:30 am

Bryce Tingwald, Capt.

Nathan Pauling, Joey Posivio, Jeremy Ferguson




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!!

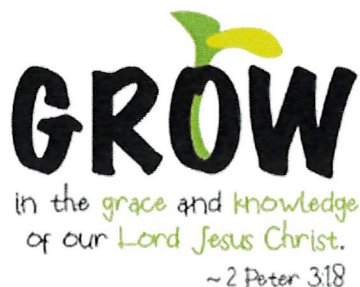
>> September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	1 Labor Day Building Closed	2 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
7 RALLY DAY/BACKPACK BLESSINGS 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 10:30 am Rolling Baptism	8 7 pm Church Council D/R	9 9 am Do-Day 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
14 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm/3 rd Grade Bibles Distribution 9:15 am Study Hour 9:30 am Bible Reading Class for 3 rd Grade	15	16 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L
21 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 9:30 am Pre-Communion Class for 5 th Grade	22	23 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
Noisy Offering 28 8:00 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 9:30 am Pre-Communion Class for 5 th Grade 1 pm Hwy 3 Ditch Clean Up	29	30 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise

>>> September 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 5:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm Catechism Student/Parent Orientation /Acolyte Training/SJ Choir/GROW 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp Parent/Student Mtg	4 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	5	6 1 pm Stephen Bates Funeral
10 9:30 am – 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal/Catechism Fun & Game Night 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism /SJ Choir/GROW 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	11 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 11 am Imagine Study Group L/L	12	13 8 am - 1 pm Koerselman Event F/H
17 9:30 am Prime Living Chap. 10 am Accura Chapel 1:30 pm Anna & Dorcas Circle L/L 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism /SJ Choir/GROW 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	18 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 8 am - 4 pm NALC Convocation
24 2 pm Elderberries D/R 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism /SJ Choir/GROW 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	25 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	26	27
		 St. John's Sunday School	

JOIN US THIS FALL TO



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

SEPT 10- MAY 6

~ DINNER ~ SERVICE ~ EDUCATION ~

GROW KICK OFF



WED. SEPT. 10, 2025
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

All Pre-K through 5th grade students are invited to our new Wednesday night program at St. John's Lutheran, to come GROW in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

NEW THIS YEAR!!!

Evening Highlights

Dinner 5:00- 5:45 ◀

Check our schedule to see what meals will be served each week. All are welcome.

Worship 6:00-6:30 ◀

Meet in the sanctuary for our Wednesday night worship service.

Catechism & GROW 6:30- 8:00 ◀

Bible education for Catechism students 6th-9th and GROW students Pre K-5th.

High School Youth Group ◀

All High School students are welcome to join us in the Youth Room from 8:15PM - 9:15PM each Wednesday.

Contact us:
712-546-8855
www.stjohnslmarsia.org

St. John's Lutheran
201 1st Ave NW
Le Mars, IA 51031

Help Wanted

We're looking for people that love God, love kids and are willing to spend their Wednesday nights growing the kingdom of God. Positions to prayerfully consider: **Teachers/Guides ~ Helpers ~ Greeters** ~ Please pray and ask God if He is wanting you to step out in faith and join us! Contact Kristy or Pastor Broers. Thanks!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®

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

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

Each month between August-November we will be working as a church to gather items for the kids to pack in the shoeboxes come mid-November. These boxes will go to children between the **ages of 2-14** all over the world. All donations can be placed in the OCC box located by the church office. For a quick and easy way to shop for appropriate items, there is an Amazon link listed on the website <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ> under "gift suggestions". If you would rather donate **money**, we are also seeking the funds to ship the boxes (\$10 each), for the discipleship program for each recipient (\$6 each), and for the designated plastic shoe boxes (12 for \$25). Simply write "Operation Christmas Child" on your check or envelope and put it in the offering plate. Please keep in mind that all items donated need to fit inside a shoebox, so they must be small.

September Collection Items:

Personal care items

• Toothbrush • Washcloth • Comb and brush • Nail clipper and file • Water bottle • Flashlight

A "Wow" item

• Small backpack or purse • Doll • Soccer ball and pump • Stuffed animal • Jewelry making or hobby kit • Large toy

Please do not include any of the following: • Soap • Food, candy, or gum • Toothpaste • Used or damaged items • Scary or war-related items • Wearable traditional camouflage • Seeds or organic matter • Liquids • Medication • Money • Breakable items • Matches, fire starters, or aerosols • Knives, saws, or razor blades

Thank you for your generosity and for helping to show our youth the joy of sharing Jesus with others while providing for their needs.

YOU GOT MAIL! COLLEGE WRITING MINISTRY

What college student doesn't love to receive mail? We need St. John's members to join in a new writing ministry for our college students.



Life after high school graduation and throughout the college years can be difficult. This ministry is designed to encourage and help our college students during the school year. Through this ministry we will connect each college student with adults from our church who will send them a note/card (once per month) to remind them that someone from home loves and cares about them!

What does this require?



- College Students - need to provide contact information, likes, birthday, and parent information.

- St. John's members - need to commit to sending a note/card once per month – September thru April. Each month you will receive (via email) a different student to write, so by the end of the school year you will have blessed eight students!



Let's show our students that they are in our thoughts and in our prayers even while they are away at school.

Paper forms can be found in the lobby by the bulletin board, or sign up with the QR Codes. Questions, please contact Elizabeth Brennan via phone/text at 540-7315.

PRAYER PARTNERS WANTED! We are looking for Prayer Partners for the incoming 6th graders, who will be starting Catechism this fall. Call the office to sign up or for more information. Thanks! 546-8855

THE GIFT OF MUSIC



I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them. Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song. Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther



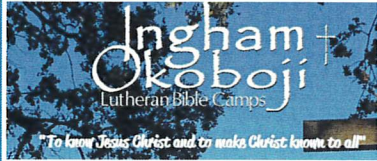
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS WHO HAVE SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1: Haley Stinton, Miles Kruse
- 2: Cheryl Peyton, Dacia Fuentes
- 3: Brendan Anthony, Margie Pigg, Rose Heeren
- 4: Betty Van Sickle, Britt Hessenius, Kari Niehus, Kari Weitl
Ella Kramer, Serna Hansen
- 5: Kathleen Braband
- 7: Adalee Foelske
- 8: Kaden Brownmiller, Mark Beitelspacher
- 9: Henry Herrig, Katie Gerloff, Matt Albert, Taije Posivio,
Brooks Wurth
- 10: Jackson Sudtelgte, Jason Sudtelgte, Sam Wacker
- 13: Tyler Westphal
- 14: Lowell Penning
- 15: Hadley Klein, Sophia Brennan
- 16: Christian Meier, Dean Borchers, Dia Jester
- 17: Eric Isebrand, Tom Grosenheider, Taylor Roder
- 18: Brenda Rose, Todd Oetken
- 19: Collins Roder
- 20: Tate Ferguson
- 21: Caitlin Sudtelgte, Brenda Haverhals, Justin Junck
- 22: Melinda Shipley
- 23: Susan Klemme
- 24: Alexandria Stamer-Fuentes, Kellie Grause
- 25: Donna Vander Well
- 26: Carol Mairose, Carter Westphal
- 27: Brad Westphal, Patricia Rachuy
- 28: John Rexwinkel, Stacey Hoss, Steve Panzer,
Amanda Heitritter
- 29: Ellaina Pick, Tracy Wingert, Callie Westphal
- 30: Amy Isebrand, Nick Knapp

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



LIFEWISE LE MARS PRAYER NEED We are hoping to offer 15 classes each week (1st-5th grade) this fall. We are still in need of teachers and volunteers for some classes. Schedule is flexible and teachers can be paid. Do you have 1-2 hours per week to invest in these students? Please contact Lindy Dohman at 320-292-0591 or lindydohman@lifewise.org to learn more.



Check out the Bible Camp website:

okobojo.org

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

Thank you to all who helped to make the Ingham-Okobojo Quilt Auction a success! The camp raised over \$64,000 through the generosity of quilt donations and the people who bid on them. In live bidding, there were two quilts donated by St. Johns that were featured and raised \$400 for the camp! There was an additional quilt donated by St. John's that was featured online for silent bidding. It was a wonderful weekend and a great event!

Dear generous donors to our Quilt Auction, **thank you!!** On behalf of IOLBC, I want to offer our sincere thanks to you for your donation to our 38th annual quilt auction. The work time and creativity that you put into each item is truly appreciated. This money enables the camp to continue providing excellent youth and family programs. Thanks again for your great support! I wish you God's richest blessings in every way!

For all the camper blessed because of you,
Rod Quanbeck

Fall Elderversity September 7-9, 2025 @ Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp

Women's Day Away October 11, 2025 @ Ingham Lake Bible Camp



We'll Be Closed
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

GET YOUR SMILES ON!

The NEW St. John's Directory is in the making!

Beginning Monday, September 8th, you will be able to sign-up online for your photo session. Photo sessions will be

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15-SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2025

HOURS: 2:00PM- 8:30PM WEDNESDAY- FRIDAY

10:00AM- 4:00PM SATURDAY

To schedule your photography appointment, simply go to **www.ucdir.com**. Click on "**Photography Session Sign-up**" on the right side. Enter **ia371** in the "Church Code" field and enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have six or more in your family, please use two consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

Appointment times fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. You are an important member of the St. John's church family so be sure to sign-up, show up, smile, and... **SAY CHEESE!**



COMING FAST—NEEDS FOR MISSIONS **FOR LWR**

School supplies for 2025 are showing up in stores, so now is the time to purchase them. Please leave the items in the basket in the entryway. Here is the needed list for the kits.

Each school kit contains:

- 4 - 70 sheet notebooks (no loose leaf paper)
- 1 - wooden ruler
- 1 - pencil sharpener
- 1 - blunt scissors
- 5 - black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- 1 - 24 count box of crayons

Thank you!

No pencils or erasers are needed at this time.



Her Health Women's Center Run/Walk Diaper Dash



September 20th at the Municipal Park
Le Mars @ 9:30 am

Grab your friends and put a team together and help raise funds for Her Health programming. To register go to PartnersofHerhealth.org or call McKenzie at 712-276-0237 with questions.



We're excited to share some wonderful news! Jill Miller and friends will be performing a special benefit concert to support the work of our ministry. This will be a great afternoon of uplifting music, fellowship and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Sept. 28 @ 3 p.m.

Elevate Church, 1421 Geneva St, Sioux City. Call 712-255-1769 to reserve a ticket.



St. John's Lutheran Church, **thank you** so much for your extremely generous donation of the beautiful quilt, for our quilt auction! It is because of wonderful donors like you that we were able to not only meet but exceed our fundraising goals and do what we do for our very special and amazing clients here at Life Skills!

Thanks, Tasha Hemmingsen and the Life Skills Foundation Board



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Todd Lancaster Memorial Golf Tournament Saturday, September 27

Location: Willow Creek Golf Course, Le Mars, IA

Shotgun Start: 12:00 PM

Register In Person: Registration forms are located at the YMCA or at Willow Creek Golf Course

- Le Mars YMCA: 241 12th Street SE, Le Mars, IA 51031 / 712-546-6655
- Willow Creek Golf Course: 935 Park Lane, Le Mars, IA 51031 / 712-546-6849



Noisy Offerings will be collected on **September 28** for The Gospel Mission. Remember to mark on your calendars the last Sunday of the month, Noisy Offering Sunday!! Thanks in advance from your Outreach Team!

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRY PARTNERS

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

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

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



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

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

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

You can also go to www.lcmc.net for the main church website. Printed materials may also be found on the information tables in the lobby and north entryway.



SHARE THE WORD OF GOD BY SPONSORING

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



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



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

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

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

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



PLEASE DONATE TO SAFEPLACE

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

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

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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

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

Staff & Contact Information

Office Hours: 8-5 Tue-Fri

Telephone: (712)546-8855

Web Home Page: www.stjohnslemarsia.org

Email: stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org

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

Minister of Music: Michael Rathke mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org

Office Manager: Kim Lang kim@stjohnslemarsia.org

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

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org

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

Church Council

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

Ashley Bennett - Secretary, Inreach Bill Young-Treasurer

Brenda Haverhals - Mission John Hines - Mission

Tammy Lee - Technology Dick Milne - Property

Joey Posivio - Property Pam Roling - Worship

Doug Carlsen - Endowment Adam Schmidt - Ed/Youth

Cindy Kamies - Outreach

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

Mark Your Calendars -- New Fall Worship Schedule

Worship times will be changing beginning September 3rd. Service times will be:

6:00 PM Wednesday Worship

8:00 AM Sunday Worship w/Communion

9:15 - 10:15 AM Study Hour

10:30 AM Sunday Worship w/Communion

