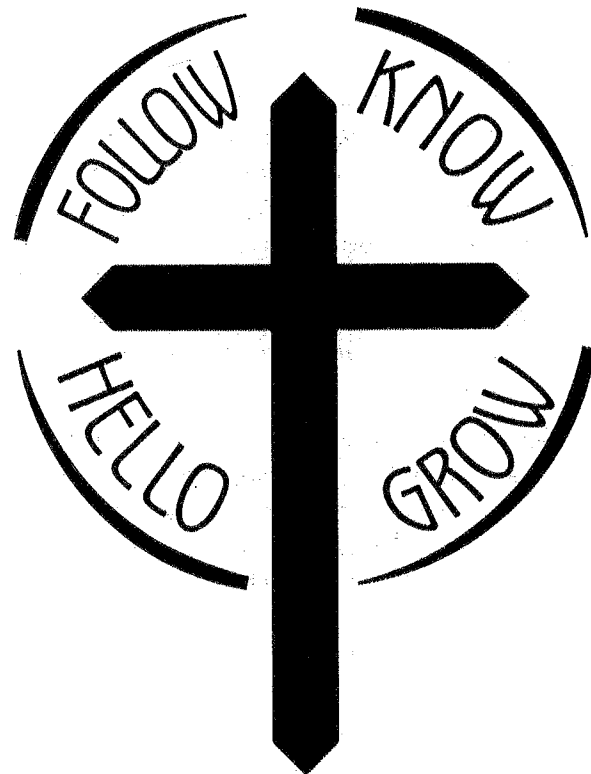


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 1st AVE. NW  
LE MARS, IA. 51031

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PERMIT NO. 110



**St. John's Lutheran Church**



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

**July 2025**



As I am writing this article for the newsletter, we have just completed a week of Vacation Bible School. I am simultaneously exhilarated and exhausted. It was a great week! We averaged 57 students each day (preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade) with our biggest day being 64 students. It was an awesome opportunity to impact families with the love of Jesus! And one of the highlights of the week was seeing the generosity of our youth as they raised \$522.15 for Lutheran World Relief and helped make four quilts and lots of bandages that will go toward Missions. I feel like our VBS kids had a really fun time growing in their knowledge of God this last week but that they also grew in their ability to serve others which was an awesome thing to see!

These numbers were a tremendous success, but they were not the **most** exciting thing that I saw this week! A week ago, I was listening to a speaker talk about the differences between healthy, growing churches and unhealthy, declining churches. The speaker said that their research showed that one of the signs of a healthy, growing church was that there was a high level of volunteerism. At declining churches, the staff did most of the work of ministry, but at growing churches the work of ministry was done primarily by volunteers.

This week at Vacation Bible School, people of all ages were taking part in every aspect of what was happening. Grandmas and grandpas, high school and confirmation students as well as moms and college students were all part of the team and it wouldn't have been the same without every single one of them. Not only do I want to thank all of you who were here to volunteer for VBS, but I also want you as a congregation to recognize how special it is to be a part of a church that has such commitment from its members. I believe that this showed the kids who came to St. John's for the week a great example of how we don't just **talk** about Jesus in this church, but we are **following** His call to love and serve others in a real way.

Ephesians 4 says, "So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." As a pastor, I **love** feeling like I am a part of a **team** of people, all striving for the same goal: to share the love of Jesus with people who need to hear about Him.

And that's how it felt this last week. My role here at St. John's is to encourage, equip and empower **you** as followers of Jesus to live out your callings and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in service to others. That is what I saw happening at Vacation Bible School.

I know that not everyone was able to help this past week due to various conflicts, including vacations and work schedules. Thankfully, as part of a congregation of people, we all have different gifts and opportunities to serve. In the coming months, you are going to have more chances to volunteer at St. John's and I hope that you prayerfully consider stepping out in faith and making an impact on the lives of the people in this community.

For example, starting in the Fall, we will be focusing on small groups again and we will be looking for people who are willing to lead those groups. It's a great opportunity to grow closer in relationship with God and one another. If you feel like God might be calling you to lead a group, please talk to me. In addition, starting Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we are starting a new youth program called GROW that will serve families with preschool-5<sup>th</sup> graders. We are looking for people who can read the Bible stories for each class and guide them by asking the night's questions, helpers for each class as well as kitchen workers for nightly food and greeters to help with registration. If you can help for a couple hours once a week or even a couple times each month, your presence will be a great addition to this ministry. We would love to continue reaching out to the community all year long just like we do for the week at VBS.

Everyone has different spiritual gifts, but the same Holy Spirit is at work in each one of you. If you are unsure how you might become involved here at St. John's, please reach out and let's talk so that we can find a place where you can find joy in serving. Volunteering not only makes a difference in the lives of the people that you serve, but it also makes a difference in your faith life as well. It is a great way to experience God's love at work **through** you toward others, but it is also a way that you can experience God's love **for** you in a powerful way.



**Prayer Book** Please sign your name in the notebook outside of the sanctuary if you are committed to praying for Alex Hines in his battle against Leukemia. We want him to see how many people are lifting him and his family up in prayer!





## 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.

### What is a Christian? – Francis Chan

This is a great series to study on your own or as part of a small group. Chan does a great job of explaining how being a Christian is not just about what you believe but how the Holy Spirit transforms your life. If you want to be a small group leader in the Fall, you might watch this on your own over the summer so that you can see if you might like to watch it with your group!

### 2. Can I Trust the Bible? – Wesley Huff and Andy Steiger

Earlier this year, Wesley Huff made a name for himself by debating skeptic Billy Carson and then being featured on the Joe Rogan show to talk about Jesus, faith and the Bible. This is a short video series but it is packed with powerful information about why the Bible is truly a one-of-a-kind book that we can trust to lead us to the truth about Jesus.

### 3. Untangle Your Emotions – Jennie Allen

Mental Health is a huge issue in our society today and Jennie Allen helps us to connect our emotions and feelings to God's Word. She talks about how our feelings are meant to be **felt**—not **fixed**. That God **blessed** us with feelings and that they have a purpose. This six session series is meant to help you make sense of your emotions and see how God might help you see them as blessings again rather than problems.

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.



android chromecast iPhone & iPad Roku Apple TV fireTV

**Excel in The Grace of Giving!** "Why 'Give until it hurts'? Why not 'Give until it feels good' instead? After all, 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, 'God loves a cheerful giver!'"

On average, 20% of congregation members give 80% of a church's annual budget. At St. John's, are you part of the 20% or the 80%? Imagine what the church could do if members shared the cost of ministry?

"Many of us feel so strapped for money that we can't imagine giving any more to the church. But you might not realize how much you are already spending on little things. For instance, if you visit Scooters three or four times a week, at \$7-8 a visit, you are spending \$1300 a year! How might you prioritize your money to be able to support the ministry of St. John's and make a bigger impact on your community?"

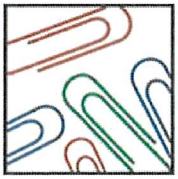
"Have you considered giving to St. John's electronically? It's convenient and guarantees that you stay up to date with your giving goals. Look at the yellow laminated card in your pew for information on how to use the 'Tithe.ly' giving app or scan the QR code to give a one-time or recurring donation."

## May 2025 Treasurer's Report

- 1) Cash in Operating Checking Account decreased \$5,069 to \$6,143 in May. We have \$10,942 of unpaid benevolences and payroll tax liabilities as of 5/31/25.
- 2) We continue to be debt free.
- 3) May offerings of \$34,993 and year to date offerings total \$188,031 as compared to \$195,899 in 2024, \$203,275 in 2023, \$159,738 in 2022, and \$201,686 in 2021.
- 4) Operating expenses in April of \$45,640 were about \$250 over budget and for year to date we are about \$4,000 under budget.
- 5) Endowment funds now total \$625,847 after a net market investment gain of \$20,488 in May. The year-to-date investment market gain for 2025 is \$17,554.

Bill Young  
Church Treasurer





# FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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

## CHURCH RECORDS FOR JUNE

No Changes



Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

**Please turn in  
your newsletter  
articles by  
July 21**

## Service Times for July

*One Service*  
**9:30 am Worship Service**  
*With Communion*

*All services are now  
Live Streaming to Facebook and  
YouTube.*



Please Help us  
"shower" Dale Cook  
with Birthday  
greetings, as he will be  
turning 90 on July 17th.  
Cards & well wishes  
can be sent to:

**Dale Cook**  
**327 6th Avenue SW**  
**Le Mars, IA 51031**

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:** Alex Hines,  
Richard Miller, Mason Sitzmann, Gavin, Katie,  
Taelynn Ortmann, Michael, Kendra, Terri Clinton,  
James, Scott, Jeannette, and Logan

**Ongoing Prayers:** Roma Lancaster, Steve Bates,  
Darrell Wiener, Louis Westhoff, Steve Kolker,  
Sherry Jo Wittkop, Robert, Ali, Jenn, Paula Parkin, Brady Plucker,  
Diane Riediger, and Missy Rarrat

**Sympathy** to the family of Holly Kurth Kinning who passed away on  
June 21. St. John's family includes her sister Krista Pluger.



## WOMEN'S CIRCLES



### WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

1:30 PM Dorcas Circle, Library

### MONDAY, JULY 21

1:30 PM Anna 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.

Join us the 2nd Tuesday of the month from Sept.-Nov. & Jan.-Jun. from **9 am-3 pm**. 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!

**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. We will **no longer** be collecting pop tabs. Individuals can deliver these to McDonald's at any time.

**Taelynn Ortmann Benefit** A cancer benefit was held on Friday, May 30th to help with the expenses of Taelynn's cancer treatment. Taelynn is the infant daughter of Cody & Addison Ortmann and was baptized at St. John's last year. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Kathy Rollins at 712-540-3907. Thank you.

**Meals on Wheels** Thank you to Dianne Baack, Ron & Twila Borchers, Ken Freyermuth, Iris Hemmingson, Brenda & Mike Haverhals, Bradley Kleinhesselink, Janice Milne, Dean & Linda Oloff, Loren Pageler, John & Lorene Rexwinkel, Brenda Rose, Monte & Ellen Russell, Ron Schulz & Denny Plueger. **Great Job everyone! Thanks So Much!**

**T-shirt for sale** 1 red, size large \$10. Contact the office if you wish to purchase.







**Summer Special Music** - Do you sing? Play an instrument? We would love to hear you share your musical talents with us during worship. Please contact Mike to sign up.

**People of Praise** practices have moved to Tuesday at 5:30pm. Talk to Mike if you would like to play or sing in the band. Summer is a great time to join!

**Update from John S. Dixon** - Many of you may remember organist and composer John Dixon of Virginia, who performed at St. John's in May 2022 as part of his goal to play organ recitals in all 50 states. At that time, our Iowa concert was his 23rd state. John writes to say he has since published several new collections of organ music and will soon be playing concerts in North Dakota and Wyoming, states 42 and 43.

THANK YOU  
VOLUNTEERS

#### VBS Volunteers 2025

Thank you to all of our Volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you!

Anthony, Denise  
Baack, Dianne  
Bogh, Avery  
Bohlken, Aleigha  
Bohlken, Kyleigh  
Breithaupt, Gloria  
Brennan, Sophia  
Britt, Alli  
Britt, Luke  
Broers, Kristy  
Broers, Pastor  
Carlsen, Karen  
Clarey, Harper  
De Ruyter, Emma  
Detloff, Gavin  
Fey, Gwendolyn  
Graf, Lois

Hanisch, Sonya  
Heintz, Nancy  
Hemmingson, Iris  
Hines, Cassie  
Jelken, Autumn  
Jeneary, Jacob  
Jeneary, Megan  
Justice, Rhonda  
Kellen, Connie  
Kruse, Amy  
LaBahn, Sandy  
Lancaster, Roma  
Lang, Kim  
Larson, Beth  
Larson, Tim  
Miller, Bette  
Muecke, Marylyn  
Nell, Eliza  
Oetken, Todd  
Pauling, Terri  
Penning, Pat  
Peyton, Becca  
Plueger, Marilyn

Rachuy, Ethan  
Rathke, Mike  
Rexwinkel, Kaylee  
Rexwinkel, Lorene  
Roder, Mary  
Roling, Pam  
Russell, Ellen  
Ryan, Emma  
Schietzelt, Jan  
Schmidt, Aynslee  
Schmidt, Glenda  
Walsh, Ava  
Westhoff, Mikayla  
Westphal, Amanda  
Westphal, Carter  
Westphal, Jane  
Westphal, Kent  
Wiener, Lee



- 7/1: Brad Pick, Iris Hemmingson, Sheri Beitelspacher
- 7/2: Rob Sudtelgte, Paulette Detloff, Marilyn Palmer
- 7/3: Ronald Borchers
- 7/4: David Mairose, Tammy Lee
- 7/5: Donna Heeren, Rick Kray
- 7/6: Byron Osterbuhr, Jackson Majeres, Jason Jauron, Charlie Junck
- 7/7: Codie Kellen, Leroy Schulz, Patricia Schultz
- 7/9: James Brownmiller, Mike Hoffman, Dave Becker
- 7/10: Rhonda Justice, Toni Lewis
- 7/11: Quinton Gengler, Kylie Jensen
- 7/12: Bobbie Cray, Kylie Hessenius, Ned MaComb
- 7/13: Ande Burdette, Elvira Nielsen, Travis Hansen
- 7/14: Dylan Harms, Nolan Grage
- 7/15: Michael Ladenthin, Atosha Sturgeon, Linda Oloff, Barrett Oetken
- 7/17: Robert Hoffman, Walt Kleinhesselink, Erica Witt, Braya Niehus
- 7/18: Bonnie Harms, John Erdmann, Lux Westhoff
- 7/19: Carly Ladenthin, Bette Miller
- 7/20: Allison Kruse
- 7/21: Hanna Francksen-Small, Conner Hargens, Brittany Kern, Hadlee Hall,
- 7/22: Rhett Kern, Janet Lohafer, Adam Heitritter
- 7/23: Carol Fischer, Rhonda Tammen
- 7/24: Julie Sargisson, Maisie Britt, Paul Williams, Twila Borchers
- 7/25: Avery Bogh, Jo Ellen Cronin, Kennedy McInnis, Oliver Carpenter
- 7/26: Gabe Davis, Todd Brownmiller, Wayne Heien, Blakely Niehus, Allan Witt, Devin Royalty
- 7/27: Brittney Farmer, Emily Reinking, Mary Shea
- 7/28: Gwen Hart
- 7/29: Ken Freyermuth, Alonso Hernandez, Maslyn Meyers
- 7/30: Theresa Brownmiller

**Noisy Offerings** will be collected on **July 27** 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!





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

### Worship Assistants

**Sunday, July 6:**

**9:30 AM**

**Greeter:** Shirley Lang

**Lector:** Dick Milne

**Communion Server:** JoEllen Cronin  
Karla Hansen

**Sunday, July 13: @ Le Mars Municipal Park (The Pit)**

**10:00 AM**

**Greeter:** Scott & Paula Kommes

**Lector:** Cheryl Peyton

**Communion Server:** Cheryl Peyton  
Cindy Kamies

**Sunday, July 20:**

**9:30 AM**

**Greeter:** Steve & Rhonda Justice

**Lector:** Kent Westphal

**Communion Server:** Dan & Julie Albert

**Sunday, July 27:**

**9:30 AM**

**Greeter:** Julie Hulstein

**Lector:** Aleigha Bohlken

**Communion Server:** Mark Kehrberg  
Aleigha Bohlken

### July Usher Schedule

**9:30 am** Rod LaBahn, Capt.  
Joel Johnson  
Henry Herrig  
Mark Kehrberg  
Gary Borchers, Capt.  
Harold & Aaron Lee  
Jeff Jelken  
Levi Te Brink

### Acolyte Schedule

**July 6**

Crucifer: Aleigha Bohlken

Acolytes: Riley Harms, Kyleigh Bohlken

**July 13**

Crucifer: Ryan Hanisch

Acolytes: Aubrey Jelken, Journey Keleher

**July 20**

Crucifer: Jonathan Kramer

Acolytes: Ethan Rachuy, Braya Niehus

**July 27**

Crucifer: Jackson Jauron

Acolytes: Alivia Gengler, Keyanna Miller

### Altar Guild

**July 6**

Lynn Bruer & Nancy Thomas Mouw

**July 13 10:00 am Outdoor service**

Sherri & Rick Harms

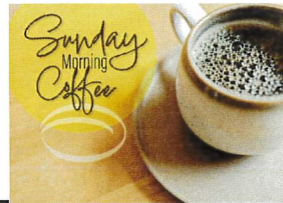
Sandy & Rod LaBahn

**July 20**

Rhonda Justice & Linda Oloff

**July 27**

Elise Hoffmann & Elvira Nielsen



**COFFEE IS ON!!!** The coffee bar will be ready at 9 am Sunday mornings during the summer months! Come early or stay after. Grab a cup of coffee and a Lally's donut hole, or two! Free will donations are appreciated. Enjoy!!

### Sound Board Schedule

**July 6:**

Megan Jeneary - ProPresenter

Jacob Jeneary - Video/sound

**July 20:**

Andrea Hessenius - ProPresenter

Brock Hessenius - Video/sound

**July 27:**

Megan Brennan - ProPresenter

Larry Brangwin - Video/sound

### Coffee Bar Schedule

**July 6**

Ginny Freyermuth

**July 20**

Jane Westphal

**July 27**

Sandy LaBahn



Outdoor  
Worship  
Service  
& Picnic



BRING YOUR  
**BYOC**  
OWN CHAIR

**Sunday, July 13 ~ 10 am**  
**Le Mars Municipal Park Shelter House**

Immediately following will be a catered chicken dinner in the shelter house. No need to hassle with bringing a dish, a freewill offering will be accepted in its place. The park and an inflatable will be available for the kids. **There is a signup sheet on the church bulletin board.** Signup is not required, but much appreciated as it helps us know what to tell the caterer. **Mark your calendar and we will see you at the park on July 13th!**







## Send a Note to Bible Campers

St. John's members would love to hear from you! Please consider sending a note of encouragement & well wishes to them, letting them know you are keeping them in your prayers! Thank you for remembering them!

Please mail notes of encouragement early to insure they receive it while at camp. A couple of days before the kids camp dates should work out well.

**JULY 6 - 8**      **#2 PATHFINDERS (2-5<sup>th</sup>)**      **Ingham Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Avery Bogh** Mail to: Attn: *Avery Bogh*, ILBC, 2258 450<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wallingford, IA 51365

Avery is 11 years old and has 4 siblings: Haley, Addison, Jacob and Tegan. Parents are Phil and the late Shannon Bogh.

**Jacob Bogh** Mail to: Attn: *Jacob Bogh*, ILBC, 2258 450<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wallingford, IA 51365

Jacob is 9 years old and has 4 siblings: Haley, Addison, Avery and Tegan. Parents are Phil and the late Shannon Bogh.

**JULY 6 - 11**      **#2 TRAILBLAZERS (4-6<sup>th</sup>)**      **Ingham Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Kali Gerloff** Mail to: Attn: *Kali Gerloff*, ILBC, 2258 450<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wallingford, IA 51365

Kali is 10 years old and has 3 siblings: Kayla, Colten, and Caleb. Parents are Chris & Katie.

**JULY 6-11**      **#2 Jr. High Camp (6-9<sup>th</sup>)**      **Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Sophia Brennan** Mail to: Attn: *Sophia Brennan*, OLBC, 1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA 51351

Sophia is 13 years old and has 2 sisters: Emma & Megan. Parents are Dave & Elizabeth.

**Lauren Forbes** Mail to: Attn: *Lauren Forbes*, OLBC, 1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA 51351

Lauren is 14 years old and has 1 brother, Jarett. Parents are Graham & Marissa.

**JULY 17**      **#6 Camp in a Day (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)**      **Ingham Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Alaina TeBrink** Mail to: Attn: *Alaina TeBrink*, % Levi TeBrink, 407 N Greenwood Dr, Le Mars, IA 51031

Alaina is 6 years old and has 2 siblings: Ophelia and Emmett. Parents are Levi & Alexis.

**Landon Westhoff** Mail to: Attn: *Landon Westhoff*, % Brady Westhoff, 426 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Le Mars, IA 51031

Landon is 8 years old and has 2 siblings: Lux and Lyanna. Parents are Brady & Mikayla.

**Lyanna Westhoff** Mail to: Attn: *Lyanna Westhoff*, % Brady Westhoff, 426 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Le Mars, IA 51031

Lyanna is 6 years old and has 2 siblings: Lux and Landon. Parents are Brady & Mikayla.

**JUNE/JULY**      **COUNSELOR**      **Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Malachi Broers** Mail to: Attn: *Malachi Broers*, OLBC, 1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA 51351

**JUNE/JULY**      **SUPPORT STAFF**      **Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Micah Broers** Mail to: Attn: *Micah Broers*, OLBC, 1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA 51351



The 3rd Quarter  
**Portraits of Prayer are in.**  
Please pick up a copy soon!

## Blood Drive

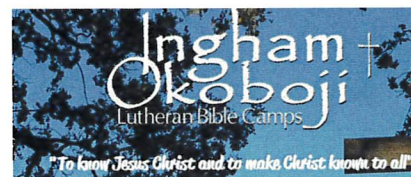


**American Red Cross**

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.™

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

July 2  
12-5 pm  
Fellowship  
Hall



## Summer Outdoor Worship

Sundays 9:30 am  
Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Amphitheater  
Memorial-Labor Day

Join us for worship every Sunday from Memorial Day-Labor Day! Worship will take place at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Amphitheater at 9:30 am. We also invite you to join us for a delicious brunch following the worship service from 10:30 am - 11:45 am in the dining hall. Brunch is free will offering. We hope to see you there!

## Live Stream Option

We will be live streaming our service on Facebook Live each Sunday at 9:30 am. <https://www.facebook.com/IOLBC/>





# >>> July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		<b>1</b> 10 am Staff Mtg 10 am Imagine Study Group L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship w/Comm 10:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10 am Staff Mtg 10 am Imagine Study Group L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise
<b>13</b> 10 am Worship & Picnic @ Municipal Park 	<b>14</b> 10 am Imagine Study Group L/L 7 pm Church Council D/R	<b>15</b> 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship w/Comm 10:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>21</b> 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L	<b>22</b> 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise
<b>Noisy Offering 27</b> 9:30 am Worship w/Comm 10:30 am Fellowship Time	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10 am Imagine Study Group L/L 10 am Staff Mtg 5:30 pm People of Praise

# >>> July 2025

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 12-5 pm Blood Drive  6 pm Alpha Class	<b>3</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i>  <b>Building Closed</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30 am - 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 6 pm Alpha Class	<b>10</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 am Prime Living Chap. 10 am Accura Chapel 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 6 pm Alpha Class 6:30 pm MS Scavenger Hunt	<b>17</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>23</b> 2 pm Elderberries D/R	<b>24</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary	<b>25</b> 5 pm Weaver Wedding	<b>26</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9 - 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary		



JOIN US THIS FALL TO

**GROW**

in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ 2 Peter 3:18

**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 5<sup>th</sup>  
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!!!**

Contact us:  
712-546-8855  
[www.stjohnslemarsia.org](http://www.stjohnslemarsia.org)

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

**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  
6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and GROW students Pre K-5<sup>th</sup>.

**High School Youth Group** ◀

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

**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: **Readers/Guides ~ Helpers ~ Kitchen 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!



**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.

Registration forms will be ready in early August. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Brennan via phone/text at 540-7315





VER HOEF AUTOMOTIVE, INC  
AND THE TRI-STATE CHEVY DEALERS PRESENTS



# FAMILY FUN NIGHT

WHERE FOOD & FAMILY FUN COME TOGETHER!



MONDAY JULY 28, 2025  
05:00 PM - 07:00 PM



Veteran's Park Shelter House  
906 5th St. SW  
Orange City, IA 51041

## About Our Event!

We warmly invite you to join us for a FREE night of fun and fellowship with other families around a meal and fun activities in Veteran's Park in Orange City. Donations welcome.

(Event is held rain or shine)

## Event Highlights

### Supper Meal (Cena) ◀

Enjoy a pulled pork sandwich or brat with a side from Woustra Meat Market food truck (first 450 people).

### Obstacle Course (Carrera de obstáculos) ◀

Children and parents are welcome to run through an inflatable obstacle course.

### Airplane Craft (Artesanía de arte de avión) ◀

Assemble a mini foam airplane glider and see how far it soars!



Contact us  
712-266-3282

Online

guidingstarsiouxland.org



## 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](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.





## From Orphanage to Expansive Outreach The Journey of Lutheran Services in Iowa

As we celebrate 160 years of ministry through Lutheran Services in Iowa, we are filled with gratitude, for the lives changed, the communities strengthened, and the faithful support that has sustained this work for generations.



What began as a small orphanage has grown into a statewide mission of compassion and care. The story of **Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)** is one of transformation, deeply rooted in the Lutheran commitment to serve our neighbors in need.

### 1864: A Humble Beginning

LSI's story starts with the opening of the Lutheran Children's Home in 1864. In 1900, the home relocated to Waverly and was renamed the Bremwood Children's Home, becoming a place of refuge for countless children over the years.

### 1939–1945: Expanding the Mission

The mission widened in 1939 with the founding of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa. By 1945, this ministry reached across the state, with offices in Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City—bringing help and hope to more Iowans.

### 1963: A New Name, Broader Services

In 1963, the organization became Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Its ministries grew to include child welfare, foster care, and chaplaincy services—touching more lives and deepening its commitment to families.

### 2003: Uniting in Purpose

A major milestone came in 2003, when LSS merged with the Bremwood Children's Home, creating the organization we know today: Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). While Bremwood ceased functioning as a children's home, it became a residential treatment facility for youth serving faithfully until 2024.

### 2024: A Shift in Focus

Due to rising operational costs, LSI discontinued residential services in Waverly in 2024. However, the spirit of care lives on, LSI continues to provide a variety of services in the Waverly area and throughout Iowa.

### A Mission That Grows with Grace

"We have evolved significantly from an orphanage that believed in being there for children who were in need to, now, a multi service Lutheran mission organization," says our President & CEO Renee Hardman.

Today, LSI serves Iowans through Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, Mental Health, Services for People with Disabilities, Immigrant & Refugee Services.

### The Journey Continues: Our Mission Today

We look forward to continuing this vital work for the next 160 years and beyond, responding to God's call to love and serve our neighbors in need. Whether it's walking alongside families in crisis, supporting children in foster care, or empowering individuals with disabilities, LSI's mission depends on the support of faithful partners like you.

We are proud to share the incredible impact we made in 2024 alone:

### 10,000 Early Childhood Home Visits

Providing in-home support and care to thousands of families across our region.

### 726 New Arrivals Resettled

Helping individuals and families build new lives with safety, dignity, and hope.

### 366,400 Hours of Disability Services

Empowering people with disabilities through hundreds of thousands of hours of dedicated care and support.

### 19,000 Therapy Sessions

Delivering essential mental health care to individuals and families when they needed it most.

### 620 Families Served in Foster & Adoptive Care

Supporting loving homes and brighter futures for children through foster and adoptive care services.

### Over 1 Million Pounds of Produce Grown

Global Greens farmers grew more than a million pounds of fresh produce—consumed at home, sold at local markets, or donated to LSI's Elder Pantry and community fridges to nourish neighbors in need.

None of this would be possible without you. Your prayers, generosity, and unwavering belief in our mission fuel every visit, every session, every seed planted. Together, we are building stronger families, welcoming new neighbors, and creating communities where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Now accepting quilt donations for the

# Annual Quilt Auction

At the Plymouth County Fair  
Benefiting Life Skills Training Center

To donate your quilt, enter your quilt  
information using the QR code or request a  
form by calling 712-546-9554.

Quilts can be dropped off  
before July 9 at  
1510 Industrial Road SW



**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 QRcode or go to [www.sunnybrookchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/399133](http://www.sunnybrookchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/399133)



#### PLEASE DONATE TO SAFEPLACE

##### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

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

##### **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

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

**These are just a few of the ways you can help. For more information go to the website: [www.safeplacesiouxland.org](http://www.safeplacesiouxland.org)**

#### **Staff & Contact Information**

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

Telephone: (712)546-8855

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Church Council**

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](mailto:stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org)

#### **Mark Your Calendars -- New Fall Sunday Worship Schedule**

Sunday morning worship times will be changing beginning

September 7th. New service times will be:

**8:00 AM** Worship w/Communion

**9:15 - 10:15 AM** Study Hour

**10:30 AM** Worship w/Communion (no change)

