



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

March 29th, 2026 Palm Sunday

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 sponsored in memory of the fallen soldiers of the 103rd Sustainment Unit by the Jarvis family.

NOISY OFFERINGS will be collected TODAY. Don't forget your loose change or bills. Donations will help fund the mission projects during the Chicago Youth Mission Trip.

POTTED FLOWER FUNDRAISER Hanging Potted Petunias and Geraniums are being sold by the kids heading to Chicago this summer. \$25 per pot. Sign up in the lobby or see one of the youth to purchase your flowers today! Deadline is April 1st.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE It's not too late to sign up! Help us save a life! Monday, March 30th from 12-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Blood supplies are low! Please consider donating. Contact Julie Albert (540-1455) or visit www.redcross.org to schedule a time.

APRIL 1ST There are no activities or worship on Wednesday April 1st. (no foolin') Please join us as we journey through Holy Week by attending the following services:

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Maundy Thursday Service - 7 pm April 2nd
 Good Friday Service - 7 pm April 3rd
 Easter Services - 6, 8 & 10:30 am April 5th
 Easter Breakfast - 7 am - 10:30 am April 5th

The church building will be closed on April 6th.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS WANTED FOR HOLY WEEK

Please contact the office if you are willing to serve:

April 2 - Acolyte & Crucifer 1 of each
 April 5 -
 6 am Acolyte & Crucifer 1 of each
 8 am Communion Servers 3 needed
 Acolyte & Crucifer 1 of each
 10:30 am
 Greeter 1 needed
 Lector 1 needed

THANK YOU to everyone who donated support for the food packaging event last Wednesday! We raised \$2500 and were able to pack 13,500 meals! These meals help malnourished children around the world.

ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS for 2026 are available on the bulletin board. Students attending higher education, service groups, church groups, or if you know of a special need in the community, fill out an application. Applications are due April 15th.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS for 2025 should be directed by March 31st. Thank you for choosing St. John's!

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.

PORTALS OF PRAYER The new devotionals are here. Pick up your copy soon.

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!

SAVE THE DATE! 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. Using familiar scriptural texts spanning the Old and New Testaments and beautiful word painting, this well-loved oratorio tells the story of Christ's birth, passion, death, resurrection, and glorification in heaven. The chorus will be joined by the Northwestern A Cappella Choir, chamber orchestra, and soloists: soprano Suna Gunther, alto Michelle Monroe, tenor Mackenzie Whitney, and bass Mitchell Widmer. 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.

SAVE THE DATE Adopt-a-Hwy Clean up will be April 12th at 1 pm. Closed toe shoes and gloves will be needed.

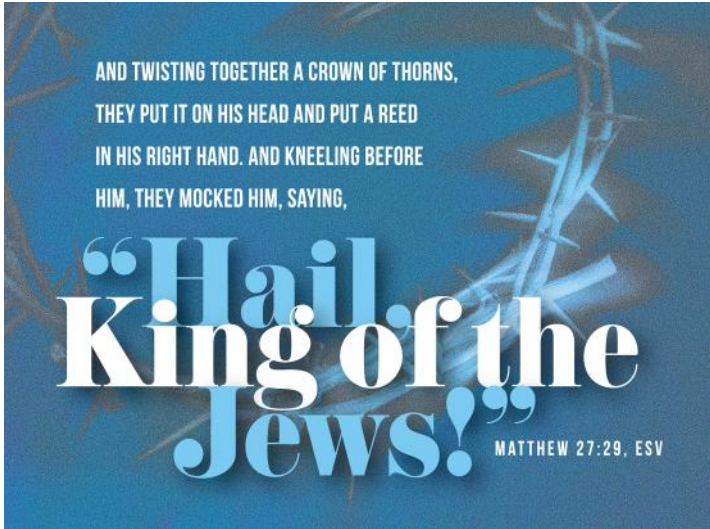
Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Chris Gerloff family	Adam Schmidt family
Lector	Arlene Wiener	Alisha Jelken
Comm Serv	Arlene Wiener	Adam Schmidt
	Marylyn Muecke	Amy Schmidt
	Jane Westphal	Brad Pick
Crucifer	Tim Larson	
Acolytes	Saylix Farmer	Kaden Brownmiller
	Bentley Hightree	Sophia Brennan
ProPresenter	Keith Westhoff	Megan Brennan
Video/Sound	Keith Westhoff	Carter Westphal(BDR)
Altar Guild	Connie Kellen	Connie Kellen
	Jeannette Davis	Jeannette Davis
Coffee Bar	Pat Penning	Bryce Tingwald, Chr.,
Ushers	Tracy Wingert, Chr.,	Nathan P., Joey P.,
	Greg M., Doug S.,	Jeremy F., Graham F.
	Rob S., Jay D.	

Remember These People in Prayer: Dave Brennan, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Hallie Bunkers, Grace Galles, Brielle Schorg, Nash, Diane K., Denise, Angie, Nancy & Bob P., Bryan Utesch, Dorothy Luschen;
Ongoing Prayers: 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; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens, Dorothy Luschen; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Happy Siesta - Eleanor Westhoff, Wade & Betty Thompson
Sympathies to the family and friends of Bob Scheitler, who passed away March 22nd. St. John's family includes Jean Heeren.

Sun March 29	Mon March 30	Tues March 31	Wed April 1	Thurs April 2	Fri April 3	Sat April 4	Sun April 5
Noisy Offerings 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Comm 8 am SS Kids Sing 9:15 am Study Hour 11:30 am Drama Rehearsal	LifeWise 12 - 6 pm Blood Drive	LifeWise 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm 40 Day Study L/L 5:30 pm P.o.P. 6:30 pm Messenger's of the Gospel F/H 7 pm Men's Small Group Study L/L	LifeWise No evening activities or services.	9 am Prayer Time 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L 7 pm Good Friday Service	10:30 am Brass Rehearsal	Easter 6, 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 7 - 10:30 am Easter Breakfast

March 29th, 2026 Palm Sunday



PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40 ²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

C: ³⁸ **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” ⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a ⁴ The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵ The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹ It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me?

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 31:9-16

⁹ Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.

¹⁰ **My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.**

¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends - those who see me on the street flee from me.

¹² **I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.**

¹³ For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” They conspire against me and plot to take my life.

¹⁴ **But I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.”**

¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

¹⁶ **Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unflinching love.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” ²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is

wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

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. Matthew the 27th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54 ¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. ¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge - to the great amazement of the governor. ¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. ²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews. ³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.” ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. ⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). ⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” ⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

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