



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

April 12th, 2026 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

FORTRESS OF FAITH is in memory of Marilyn Cook and Glenda Haverhals by Dale Cook. **RADIO ADS** are sponsored by a friend of St. John's.

ADOPT-A-HWY CLEAN UP TODAY! We need walkers! Today at 1 pm we will meet in the parking lot and then travel to the stretch of Hwy 3 St. John's sponsors. Please wear closed toe shoes and gloves will be needed. Thank you in advance for helping care for God's creation!

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

GROW MEAL on April 15th is ham & cheese sandwiches.

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.

HS SENIORS AND THOSE ATTENDING COLLEGE NEXT YEAR St. John's Endowment Team is offering \$500 Scholarships to St. John's members attending a school of higher education. Fill out an application and return it to the office by April 15th. Forms can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby.

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

APRIL 20TH: Newsletter Deadline and the Elevator repair work is scheduled to begin and will be out of service for a couple of weeks.

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

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

HER HEALTH 2026 VISION DINNER April 14th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Marriott Center, South Sioux City. Join hundreds of friends from churches and communities all across Siouxland at this annual fundraising dinner. Call for reservations 712-276-0237. *Life is Beautiful!*

GUIDING STAR SIOUXLAND is hosting our *Introduction to Womanhood Class* on April 27 at 7pm in Orange City! Premenstrual girls aged 9-13 and their mothers or trusted female guardians are welcome to join for this fun and interactive 90 minute workshop where they will learn to cultivate a healthy respect for bodies as God intended, foster open communication between parents and children, and learn about puberty and fertility with confidence! To register, email info@guidingstarsiouxland.org or call 712-266-3282.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DONATIONS

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

YOUTH LEADER RETREAT April 28-30 at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. We'll be streaming one of the country's most-known youth and children's ministry conferences. Connect with other youth leaders, relax, plan, and discuss. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Dean Bohlken	Harold & Tammy Lee
Lector	Roma Lancaster	Tammy Lee
Comm Serv	Dianne Baack Rod LaBahn Sandy LaBahn	Harold Lee Tammy Lee Kyleigh Bohlken
Crucifer	Norah Kellen	Ethan Rachuy
Acolytes	Mia Petsch	Megan Jeneary
ProPresenter	Brenda Haverhals	Jacob Jeneary
Video/Sound	Micah Broers	Kay Powell
Altar Guild	Lynn Breuer Donna Duque	Elizabeth Brennan
Coffee Bar	Sheri Oetken	
Ushers	Denny Plueger, Chr., Milo D., Steve U., Ron S., Tony L., Neal O.	Adam Schmidt, Chr., Simon K., Dan A., Doug & Karen C.

Remember These People in Prayer: Karla Hansen, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Nash, Diane K., Denise, Angie, Carolyn Schmidt, 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, Bob & Nancy Potter; 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 Thompson
Sympathies to the friends and family of Betty Thompson, who passed away on April 7th. St. John's family includes Wade Thompson, Josh & Nicole Thompson family and Bill & Angie Schilmoeller. Visitation will begin at 1 pm, at Rexwinkel Funeral Home on April 12th, with the Celebration of Life service to follow at 2 pm.

Sun April 12	Mon April 13	Tues April 14	Wed April 15	Thurs April 16	Fri April 17	Sat April 18	Sun April 19
8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 1 pm Adopt-a-Hwy Ditch Cleaning 3:30-9 pm HS Okoboji Outreach Night	LifeWise 6 pm Outreach Team Mtg L/L 7 pm Council Meeting F/H	LifeWise 9 am Do-Day 9:30 am Unstuck Grp Meeting L/L 2 pm 40 Day Study Y/R 5:30 pm P.o.P. 7 pm Men's Small Group Study L/L	LifeWise/Chapel Services at Care Fac. 1:30 pm Dorcas L/L 5 pm Bells/Grow Meal 6 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism/ Grow 6:45 pm Sr. Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	9 am Prayer Time 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L	Iowa State Mission Volunteers Sleep Over	8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour

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First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." ²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 16

¹ Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

² **I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."**

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."

⁴ **Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.**

⁵ Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

⁷ I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.**

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith

are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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. John the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 20:19-31 ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

Apostles' Creed

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

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

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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