



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

**May 17th, 2026 7th Sunday of Easter**  
**St. John's Office Hours:** 8-5 Tues.-Fri. **Building Hours:** 8-5 Mon.-Fri.  
 201 1st Ave NW, Le Mars IA 51031 Ph-(712)546-8855  
 Email-stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org Web-www.stjohnslemarsia.org  
 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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Enzo Javier Hoffman, son of Tristan & Hallie (Zamora) Hoffman, who will be baptized this morning at the 10:30 am service. Enzo's Baptism Sponsors are Angel Zamora and Alma Rodriguez. God's blessings to this family as they begin this faith journey!

**FORTRESS OF FAITH** is in memory of Marilyn Cook and Glenda Haverhals by Dale Cook. *Fortress of Faith will be played at 12:30 pm today, due to graduations.*

**GRADUATES RECEPTION** The Congregation is invited to join the 2026 graduates and their families for a time of celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am TODAY, May 17th. Refreshments will be served and a short program will be shared. The graduates will also be recognized during worship. St. John's graduates include: Logan Anderson, Tegan Bogh, Megan Brennan, Maisie Britt, Kyndal Davis, Ian DeRuyter, Jarett Forbes, Kasey Grause, William Hartman, Caiden Heitritter, Keira Ladenthin, Jackson Majeres, Quinton Niehus, Kougar Sargisson, and Mya Skov. Congratulations and God's blessings as you move forward into your next season of life!

**PRACTICING THE WAY** A new study will be beginning soon, on May 19th. The Practicing the Way Course is an 8 - week course and will be held on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 pm till 8 pm. Plan to join us. Sign up on the bulletin board.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING:**

**June 8-11**  
**9 am - 2 pm**  
 pre-k through 5th grades.

Okokoji Bible Camp Counselors will be leading this years VBS, with the theme, **"TO KNOW HIS NAME."** Volunteer and donations sign up is in the lobby. Use this QR Code to register or pick up a form from the lobby. Thank you to Ashley Koopman for being our Director this year! Ashley's # is 605-350-9057 or ashleylcremers@gmail.com.



Here are some specific needs, please consider helping:

- ◇ Lunch for counselors at VBS
- ◇ Snacks for students
- ◇ Volunteer/Guides: Prek-K ~ 1 adult, 1 youth  
 K-1st ~ 1 adult, 1 youth  
 2nd-3rd ~ 1 adult, 1 youth  
 4th-5th ~ 1 adult, 1 youth

We can't wait to see you all at **"To Know His Name"!!!**

**DIRECTORIES** Be sure to check your emails for a code to set up the "Online" directory through the "MyUCD" App or on your desktop. If you did not have your picture taken, you can now purchase a hard copy from the office for \$15.00. Call the office with questions.

**CONFIRMATION PICTURES** are here. Confirmands, be sure to pick yours up today. They are located in the office hallway.

**FLOWER FUNDRAISER** We still have 3 plants for sale. 2 petunias and 1 geranium. Please see Cassie Hines if you are interested.

**FLAG EXCHANGE CEREMONY** Plan to join us at the flag pole May 24th, as we retire the flag flown in honor of Bill Wruck's service and a new flag will be raised in honor of Ron Schultz's service. Ron served in the US Army as a Buck Sergeant from Jan. '64 to Jan. '66. The Boy Scouts Troop 186 will be leading this ceremony.

**DUO ORGAN CONCERT**

Thursday, May 28th at 7 pm, St. John's will be hosting a duo organ concert by the following organists:



**André Knevel** is an internationally acclaimed Dutch-Canadian organist and composer. He regularly gives many recitals in Canada, the USA, and the Netherlands. Concert tours have also taken place in such places as South Africa, Germany, Romania, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, and Russia.

**Dr. Michael R. Kearney** is Assistant Professor of Communication at Dordt University and an organist, pianist, and composer. His website and YouTube channel URC Psalmody includes more than 600 recordings of psalms, hymns, and organ music.

**SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS BEGIN JUNE 7TH.**

**Sundays at 9:30 am ~ One Service Only**

Final Wednesday worship is May 27th.

Wednesday worship will begin again after Labor Day.

**Thank you to our worship assistants!**

	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	Steve & Rhonda Justice	Joyce Brownmiller/Jean Heeren
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Westhoff	Ian DeRuyter
<b>Comm Serv</b>	Keith Westhoff Dean Borchers Janys Schroeder	Brad Pick Krista Plueger Denise Anthony
<b>Crucifer</b>	Quentin Ranschau	Kinley Tingwald
<b>Acolytes</b>	Audrina Schoenrock Kemper Davis	Lauren Forbes Sophia Brennan
<b>ProPresenter</b>	Tim Larson	Keith Westhoff
<b>Video/Sound</b>	Micah Broers	Sherri Harms
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Larson Arlene Wiener	Rhonda Justice
<b>Coffee Bar</b>	Jane Westphal	
<b>Ushers</b>	Tracy Wingert, Chr., Greg M., Doug S., Rob S., Jay D.	Bryce Tingwald, Chr., Nathan P., Joey P., Jeremy F., Graham F.

**Remember These People in Prayer:** Karla Hansen, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Nash, Diane K., Denise, Angie, Carolyn, Bryan Utesch; **Ongoing Prayers:** Blake Plueger, Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Shirley, Jen, Kathy, and Diane Riediger; **Care Facility Residents:** Good Samaritan - Russ Martfeld, Lorraine Luksan, Dennis Asche; Accura Health - Patty Lubben, Bob & Nancy Potter, Karla Hansen; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Happy Siesta - Eleanor Westhoff, Wade Thompson

Sun May 17	Mon May 18	Tues May 19	Wed May 20	Thurs May 21	Fri May 22	Sat May 23	Sun May 24
Graduates Recognition 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Graduates Reception 10:30 am Hoffman Baptism	Elevator Project Continues 1:30 pm Anna Circle L/L	9 am Unstuck Group L/L 2 pm Imagine Study Y/R 5:30 pm P.o.P. 6:30 pm Practicing the Way F/H	Newsletter Deadline 9 am Unstuck Group L/L 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle Y/R 6 pm Worship	9 am Prayer Time		12:30 pm Bryant Event	8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Flag Exchange

May 17th, 2026  
7th Sunday of Easter



**First Reading: Ruth 2:1-23** <sup>1</sup> Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. <sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." <sup>3</sup> So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek. <sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" they answered. <sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" <sup>6</sup> The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi." <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter." <sup>8</sup> So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." <sup>10</sup> At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me - a foreigner?" <sup>11</sup> Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband - how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." <sup>13</sup> "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant - though I do not have the standing of one of your servants." <sup>14</sup> At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. <sup>15</sup> As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. <sup>16</sup> Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." <sup>17</sup> So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. <sup>18</sup> She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. <sup>19</sup> Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. <sup>20</sup> "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers." <sup>21</sup> Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'" <sup>22</sup> Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed." <sup>23</sup> So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

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

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9, 11-13, 19** <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be

anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

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 6th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34** <sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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.