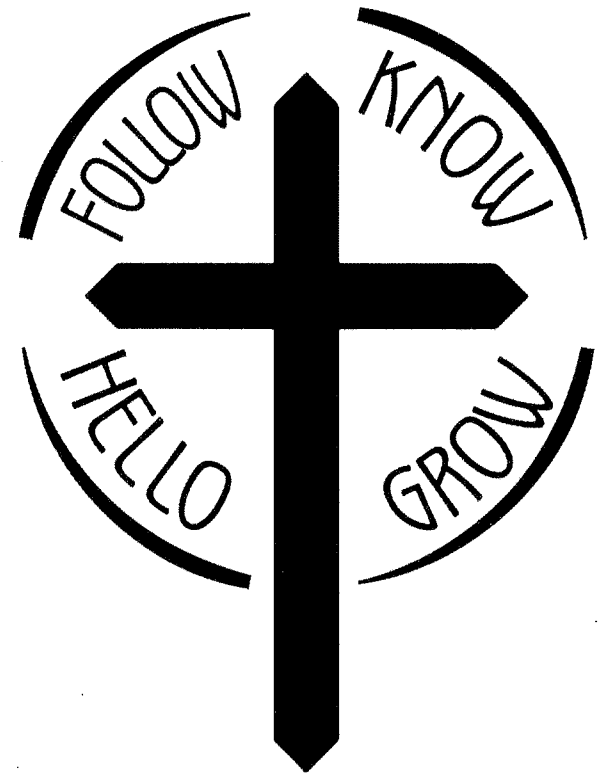


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 1st AVE. NW
LE MARS, IA. 51031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

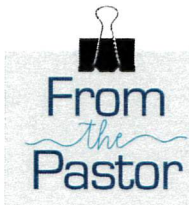
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St. John's Lutheran Church
+

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

October 2026



“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
– Luke 19:10

I have a horrible sense of direction. It’s genetic. When I was a kid and my dad was driving, he would sometimes stop at an intersection, look left, then right, and say, “Well, I really think that we should turn right . . . so that probably means that we should turn left.” Thankfully, God has provided me with an amazing wife who has an invisible map in her head. Some people have a Garmin in their car telling them directions, but I have a Kristy! I just start driving and she tells me when to turn. But, if she isn’t with me, and, if I am not following Apple or Google maps, I have **no idea** where I am.

Am I lost? Well, yes in a sense. If Kristy were not with me, I would be lost. But **with** Kristy I can trust that I will get where I need to go. Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” Being lost is not a character defect. It’s not a judgment on the goodness of a person. Being lost simply means that you don’t know where you are or, perhaps, you don’t know where you are going. You might be heading in a direction you don’t intend to be going to at all!

Once, when Kristy and I were living in Cincinnati, I was driving by myself and I took a wrong turn and ended up driving into a different state: Kentucky! I didn’t realize until I saw the “Welcome to Kentucky!” sign, but I had been lost for quite a while. In the same way, we can be heading down a very dangerous road **spiritually** and be completely oblivious. We can be **lost** and not even realize it. *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* Matthew 7:13-14

According to the Bible, **all** of us, **all** of humanity, is **lost**. The only way that we can find our way is to have Jesus by our side guiding our lives. In John 14:6, He says, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” Left by myself, without my phone and without Kristy, I am not sure that I would **ever** make it to my destinations. In the same way, without Jesus, I would **never** make it to heaven. I would **never** know how to be a good husband or father. I wouldn’t know how to find meaning and purpose in my life and I would become very easily focused on myself and forget about the needs of those around me. And this applies not just to me, but to **everyone** on this earth!

When we follow Jesus to “seek and save the lost” we are pointing people to the One who came to lead them to eternal life and help them

find a life of purpose and meaning. You can do this by sharing your faith, inviting people to Bible study and helping them become a part of a Christian community, like St. John’s. Because **all** of us are lost without Jesus. Amen.



The new HELLO welcome desk is ready to welcome first-time guests to St. John’s! Be sure to say HELLO to our visitors and warmly invite them to stop by the Welcome Desk, located just outside the church office doors. Thank you for helping us make every guest feel welcome and at home at St. John’s!

DISCIPLESHIP

Join us on the path to discipleship! This is for anyone new to the church or current members wanting to learn more about St. John’s.

October 4: Follow - Making Disciples...Five minutes after service to get to know people.

October 11: Know - Trusting Jesus...Fifteen minutes to learn more about our church’s beliefs and activities.

October 18: Grow - Empowering Leaders...Between services to find out more about ways to get involved.

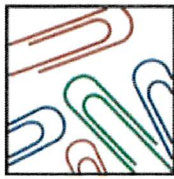
October 25: Follow - Making Disciples...Five minutes after service to get to know people.

HOSPITALITY

Want to get more involved at church but just don’t have time to add another big commitment to your schedule? We have just the thing for you!

We’re looking for friendly volunteers to help at the Welcome Desk and wander the lobby looking for first time guests. Invite them to stop at the coffee bar for some coffee and donut holes and be sure to point them toward the Welcome Desk for a special gift.

The shifts are short - just 15-20 minutes before service and 15 minutes afterward. That’s it! All you need to bring is a friendly smile and a welcoming heart! Stop by the desk this Sunday and let one of our Hospitality crew know you are interested in volunteering.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

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

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



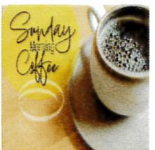
Remember These People in Prayer: Barb Ebel, Regyn Lloyd, Lyn, Phyllis Hamann, Diane Z., Pat Gollhofer, Tammy Meier, Rex, Scott, Joyce Gronemyer, Angie, Denise, Carolyn, and Randy Stream;

Ongoing Prayers: Nash, Diane K., Tim Lohafer, Nancy H., Hanna Francksen-Small, Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Sherry Jo Wittkop, and Diane Riediger. **Deployed:** Blake Erdmann; **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; **Floyd Senior Living** - Diane Utesch; **Happy Siesta** - Eleanor Westhoff, Wade Thompson;

Sympathies: to the family of Doug Kafka, who passed on August 19th. St. John's family includes Paul & Kathy Schwader.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

**Please turn in your newsletter articles by
October 21.**



COFFEE IS ON!!! The coffee bar will be ready at 9:15 am Sunday mornings! Come early or stay after. Grab a cup of coffee and a Lally's donut hole, or two! Free will donations are appreciated. Enjoy!!



CHURCH RECORDS FOR SEPTEMBER

Baptism: Carol Ann Mairose
Wedding:
Michael & Madisyn Albert

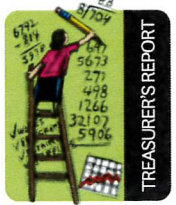
Fall Schedule

Sunday @ 8:15 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School Hour 9:25-10:20 am

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



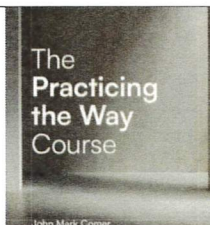
Treasurer's Report August 2026



- 1) Our Operating Checking Account decreased \$614 to \$6,204 in August. Benevolence Liabilities of \$9,909 due as of 8/31/26.
- 2) We continue to be debt free.
- 3) Offerings of \$47,991 in August with year-to-date offerings totaling \$334,188. Comparisons to previous years are \$322,049 in 2025, \$311,894 in 2024, and \$303,946 in 2023.
- 4) August operating expenses were \$47,663 as compared to budget of \$45,134.
- 5) Endowment funds had a \$7,910 investment gain in August. Year-to-date market gain now stands at \$68,723. Total endowment funds under investment total \$728,145.
- 6) Total estate funds invested in TCDS and Savings total \$356,497.

Bill Young
Treasurer

THURSDAY
EVENINGS
6 - 7:30 PM
BEGINNING
OCTOBER 8TH
8 WEEK
COURSE



**PRACTICING THE
WAY COURSE
BEGINNING
OCTOBER 8TH, 6:00-7:30**

Pastor Broers will be leading The Practicing the Way Course featuring eight sessions of teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual exercises designed to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus. You will be hearing about the nine spiritual disciplines during Sunday messages this Fall and this is an excellent way to learn more about them and start actually putting them into practice! This Bible study is starting Thursday, October 8th from 6-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Let Pastor Broers know if you are planning to attend or sign-up on the bulletin board.



MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir Cantata practices will begin on Wednesday, October 28 from 6:30-7:30pm in the choir room. We invite all interested singers from our congregation to share their talents with us for this special event! If you love to sing, but can't commit to regular choir practices during the year, please join us for the cantata over six weeks. We'll be sharing "Night of Wonders: A Folk Cantata for Christmas" by Joseph Martin at both services on Sunday, December 13.

We will be starting a **Ukulele Choir** this fall at St. John's. This group, for youth and adults alike, will be a chance to learn the ukulele and have fun playing praise songs and hymns together. You do not need experience to join! The church has a few ukuleles that you can borrow if you would like to try it out first before purchasing your own (a good quality beginner instrument is \$65-85.) Rehearsals will be Tuesday nights 6:30-7:15 **starting October 20**. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Rehearsals:

Tuesdays: 5:30-6:30 pm People of Praise
6:30-7:15 pm Ukulele Choir (Oct. 20)

Wednesdays: 5:30-6:25 pm Handbell Choir
6:30-7:30 pm St. John's Choir

NURSERY COMING IN OCTOBER!

We are excited to be working toward offering a nursery during our **10:30 Contemporary Service**, beginning **Sunday, October 4!**



To make this possible, we are looking for **adults and middle school/high school students** who would be willing to serve on a rotating schedule and care for children during the service. **Adult volunteers will need to complete a background check.**

If you would be willing to help make our worship services more welcoming and accessible for families with young children, please sign up on the **bulletin board**.

Thank you for helping us create a place where every family feels welcome!



RightNow MEDIA

Pastor Steven's picks
for October.

Get Access

Scan the QR code to create
your free account and start
browsing.



1. How Do We Read the Bible – Beth Moore

We have the very words of God in the Bible, which is why interacting with Scripture is important for our faith. But what does it look like to engage the Bible effectively? Is there a right way to read Scripture? In this five-session series, author and Bible teacher Beth Moore will teach us that transformative Bible reading involves more than just our minds—it involves our hearts and our actions.

2. How Do We Live As Christians – Kyle Idleman

Life as a Christian seems simple enough. After all, "Follow me" (Matt 4:19) is one of the foundational commands we've been given. But follow who? And follow where? Surely there's more to it than that, right? In this six-session series, pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman will help us answer the question, "How do we live as Christians?" While following Jesus is our first and most important marching order, Kyle will help us answer some of the other questions that follow and that are essential to living faithfully as Christians. Regardless of where we're at on our faith journey, Kyle will teach us what it looks like to live a Christian life.

3. Scatter the Seed – Kevin Freeman

From the moment of Christ's ascension, followers of Jesus have been given one key mission: make disciples. However, in the twenty-first century, this mission often gets lost amid hectic calendars, the clutter of well-meaning ministry programs, and a bevy of congregational priorities. Join Pastor Kevin Freeman as he explores how Christians can revive disciple-making in the modern church and orient themselves toward the mission Christ has called them to by returning to the simple process of sowing the seed of God's Word.

ELDERBERRIES



Join St. John's fellow seniors 55+ for an afternoon of fun and fellowship on October 14 @ 2 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



WOMEN'S CIRCLES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

1:30 PM 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, OCTOBER 13 SHIPPING DAY Be watching the bulletins for a rescheduled Do-Day for October.

Please save your gently used Bibles and canceled postage stamps for **Do-Day**. These items can be placed in the south Do-Day closet in the basement or left in the office hallway.



COMMUNION CUPS AND WAFERS AVAILABLE!

If you are unable to join us in person but follow along with our LiveStream service Sunday mornings, you can still participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion if you normally receive communion in church. St. John's has individual communion cups and wafers available just for you. If you plan to be out of town or are worshipping from home, please stop by the church office to pick up your supply. Additionally, if you are homebound and would prefer a direct visit from one of our home communion servers, let the office staff know so we can arrange a time. We look forward to sharing this holy sacrament with you, near or far.



Mission Trips aren't only for youth groups! If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to the Twin Cities next summer as a part of St. John's, there will be a Mission Trip Interest Meeting after church on Sunday,

October 11th in the Fellowship Hall. There are lots of different activities that we could choose to be a part ranging from helping with VBS or prayer ministry to work projects and food distribution. Children 8-years old and above, adults and seniors would all be welcome! We have signed up for a trip that tentatively would take place from June 19th - 25th, 2027. The cost is \$599 per person and we will be using Praying Pelican Ministries. The cost includes all meals and lodging while we are staying there. This is a great opportunity to put your faith into action!

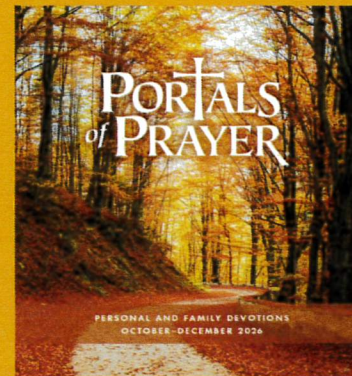


THRIVENT CHOICE UPDATE All Thrivent members will now receive Choice Dollars, that can be directed to thousands of non-profits. St. John's is one of them. Choice Dollars will be available at the beginning of the year and can be directed anytime through December 31. To see if you have Choice Dollars available, log in or register at thrivent.com/thriventchoice and please consider directing your funds to: **St John Lutheran Church**. Thanks.



St. John's next **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held on **October 5th, 12:30 - 6 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up for a time go to: www.redcross.org.

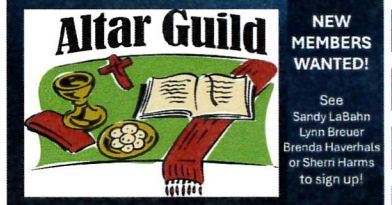
St. John's contacts are Terri Pauling (712) 898-2307 and Sheri Oetken (712) 540-2223.



**The new
Portals of
Prayer
are in
the lobby.
Pick one
up today!**

ALTAR GUILD HELPERS WANTED

Join today or wait to start in 2027. The work is easy, scheduling time off is not a problem, snow birds can help during the Summer months. HS students are welcomed. Serve the Lord and your fellow St. John's members. Contact Sandy LaBahn, Brenda Haverhals, Lynn Breuer, or Sherri Harms for more information and get signed up.



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

Sunday, October 4:

8:15 AM Greeter: Gabe & Amy Davis Family
Roma Lancaster
Lector: Joel Johnson
Communion Server: Aleigha Bohlken
Elvira Nielsen
Pam Roling

10:30 AM Greeter: Adam Schmidt Family
Nicole Jarvis
Lector: Lisa Erdmann
Communion Server: Lisa Erdmann
Adam Schmidt
Amy Schmidt

Sunday, October 11:

8:15 AM Greeter: Rod & Sandy LaBahn
Wanda MaComb
Lector: Lowell Penning
Communion Server: Rod LaBahn
Sandy LaBahn
Ellen Russell

10:30 AM Greeter: Judy Schulz
Cheryl Peyton
Lector: Kayla Foelske
Communion Server: Journey Keleher
Cheryl Peyton
Chris Knapp

Sunday, October 18:

8:15 AM Greeter: Joyce Roeser
Janys Schroeder
Lector: Keith Westhoff
Communion Server: Janys Schroeder
Iris Hemmingson
Dianne Baack

10:30 AM Greeter: Dan and Julie Albert
Karla Hansen
Lector: Karol Holton
Communion Server: Ethan Rachuy
Dan Albert
Julie Albert

Sunday, October 25:

8:15 AM Greeter: Kent & Jane Westphal
Arlene Wiener
Lector: Arlene Wiener
Communion Server: Arlene Wiener
Jane Westphal
Jane Arnold

10:30 AM Greeter: Jeff & Mary Roder
Harold & Tammy Lee
Lector: Hope Majeres
Communion Server: Harold Lee
Tammy Lee
Hope Majeres

Sound Board Schedule

October 4th

8:15 Tim Larson - slides
Micah Broers - video

10:30 Becky DeRuyter - slides
Keith Westhoff - video

October 11th

8:15 Micah Broers - slides
Tim Larson - video

10:30 Becky DeRuyter - slides/video

October 18th

8:15 Brenda Haverhals - slides
Keith Westhoff - video

10:30 Megan Jeneary - slides
Jacob Jeneary - video

October 25th

8:15 Carter Westphal - slides
Micah Broers - video

10:30 Sophia Brennan - slides
Larry Brangwin - video

Altar Guild

October 4th

8:15: Connie Kellen
Jeannette Davis
10:30: Carolyn Strub
Paula Kommes

October 11th

8:15: Connie Kellen
Jeannette Davis
10:30: Carolyn Strub
Paula Kommes

October 18th

8:15: Roma Lancaster
Brenda Haverhals
10:30: Elizabeth Brennan
Rhonda Justice

October 25th

8:15: Roma Lancaster
Brenda Haverhals
10:30: Elizabeth Brennan
Nicole Jarvis



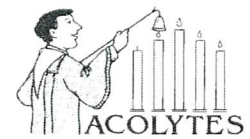
October Usher Schedule

8:15 am Ken Freyermuth, Capt.,
Keith Westhoff, Brady Westhoff,
Mike Haverhals, Glenn Kellen

10:30 am Adam Schmidt, Capt.,
Simon Kern, Dan Albert, Doug
Carlsen, Karen Carlsen

Nursery Schedule

October 4th Hope Erdmann
October 11th Cassie Hines
October 18th Alexis TeBrink
October 18th @ 11:45 am Meeting to
plan November schedule
October 25th Hope Erdmann



Acolytes Schedule

Sunday, October 4:

8:15 AM Crucifer: Gavin Detloff
Acolytes: Avery Bogh
Saylix Farmer

10:30 AM Acolytes: Aynslee Schmidt
Karlee Anderson

Sunday, October 11:

8:15 AM Crucifer: Kali Gerloff
Acolytes: Norah Kellen
Aiden Fintel

10:30 AM Acolytes: Chesney Keleher
Anna Ferguson

Sunday, October 18:

8:15 AM Crucifer: Anna Larson
Acolytes: Tim Larson
Hadley Klein

10:30 AM Acolytes: Druaiya Erickson
Autumn Jelken

Sunday, October 25:

8:15 AM Crucifer:
Acolytes: Kemper Davis
Josie Kroll

10:30 AM Acolytes: Zoey Junck
Arabella Hernandez

Coffee Bar Schedule

October 4th Sandy LaBahn
October 11th Pat Penning
October 18th Sheri Oetken
October 25th Jane Westphal

>>> October 2026

>>> October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 12:30 pm Imagine Small Group L/L 5:30 pm TH in the Word L/L	2	3
4 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:25 am Study Hour 9:30 am 5 th Gr Pre-Comm. Class 10:30 am Kids Sing LCMC Convo-Des Moines	5 LCMC Convo-Des Moines 12:30 – 6 pm Blood Drive	6 LCMC Convo-Des Moines 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Small Group L/L	7 LCMC Convo-Des Moines 5:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm GROW Meal/MS Fun & Games 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW/ SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	8 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 12:30 pm Imagine Small Group L/L 5:30 pm TH in the Word L/L 6 pm Practicing the Way F/H	9	10
11 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:25 am Study Hour 9:30 am 5 th Gr Pre-Comm. Class 11:30 am Mission Trip Mtg F/H	Columbus Day 12 6 pm Hospitality Mtg L/L 7 pm Church Council F/H	13 9 am Do-Day Shipping 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm New Member Small Group F/H 7 pm Men's Small Group L/L	14 9:30 – 11am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 2 pm Elderberries 5:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm GROW Meal 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW/ SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	15 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 12:30 pm Imagine Small Group L/L 5:30 pm TH in the Word L/L 6 pm Practicing the Way F/H	16 8 pm HS Lock-In  Youth Lock-In	17
18 First Communion 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:25 am Study Hour	19 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L 6 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L	20 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 6:30 pm Ukulele Choir 6:30 pm Mission Team Mtg 7 pm Men's Small Group L/L	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30 – 10:30am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 5:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm GROW Meal 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW/ SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	22 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 12:30 pm Imagine Small Group L/L 5:30 pm TH in the Word L/L 6 pm Practicing the Way F/H	23	24
NOISY OFFERING 25 8:15 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:25 am Study Hour 11:30 am Pastor Appreciation Potluck F/H	26	27 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm People of Praise 7 pm Men's Small Group L/L	28 5:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm GROW Meal 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW/ SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group	29 9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 12:30 pm Imagine Small Group L/L 5:30 pm TH in the Word L/L 6 pm Practicing the Way F/H	30	31

GROW October Schedule

Oct. 7 - Lesson - Out of Egypt - Exodus 13-15
 -PreK-K Teacher - Becca Peyton
 -PreK-K Helper - Cheyenne Grause
 -1-2 Teacher - Micah Broers
 -1-2 Helper - Kathy Braband
 -3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
 -3 Helper - Brenda Erickson
 -4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
 -4-5 Helper - Donna Duque
 -Greeters - Rhonda Justice, Bette Miller

Oct. 28 - Lesson - A Big Mistake - Numbers 13-14
 -PreK-K Teacher - Becca Peyton
 -PreK-K Helper - Cheyenne Grause
 -1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
 -1-2 Helper - Kathy Braband
 -3 Teacher - Micah Broers
 -3 Helper - Brenda Erickson
 -4-5 Teacher - Simon Kern
 -4-5 Helper - Donna Duque
 -Greeters - Jean Heeren, Cheryl Peyton

Oct. 14 - Lesson - Food in the Desert - Exodus 16-17
 -PreK-K Teacher - Becca Peyton
 -PreK-K Helper - Cheyenne Grause
 -1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
 -1-2 Helper - Kathy Braband
 -3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
 -3 Helper - Jacob Jeneary
 -4-5 Teacher - Simon Kern
 -4-5 Helper - Brenda Erickson
 -Greeters - Sonya Hanisch, Muriel Miller

Nov. 4 - Lesson - Into the Promised Land - Joshua 1-6
 -PreK-K Teacher - Becca Peyton
 -PreK-K Helper - Cheyenne Grause
 -1-2 Teacher - Micah Broers
 -1-2 Helper - Kathy Braband
 -3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
 -3 Helper - Brenda Erickson
 -4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
 -4-5 Helper - Donna Duque
 -Greeters - Rhonda Justice, Cassie Hines

Oct. 21 - Lesson - God's Laws - Exodus 19-32
 -PreK-K Teacher - Becca Peyton
 -PreK-K Helper - Cheyenne Grause
 -1-2 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
 -1-2 Helper - Micah Broers
 -3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
 -3 Helper - Brenda Erickson
 -4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
 -4-5 Helper - Jacob Jeneary
 -Greeters - Cassie Hines, Mary Rieken

GROW Meal

10/7 Taverns, Baked Beans, Chips
 10/14 Papa Murphy's Pizza
 10/21 Taco in a Bag, Chips & Nacho Cheese
 10/28 Chili Dogs & Tator Tots

SAVE THE DATE - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Families are welcome to come to St. John's on Friday, November 20th from 6pm-8pm for a night of pizza, popcorn and to watch the movie The Prince of Egypt. This is an animated movie about Moses and the Exodus from Egypt which is what the youth have been studying at Sunday school and GROW for the last month. Hope to see you there!



Friday, October 16th - Saturday, October 17th from 8 pm - 6 am, the St. John's High School Students are invited to join us for a lock-in at the church. Friends are welcome. **Chaperones are needed.** Please see Pastor Steven if you can help.

MS FUN & GAMES Grab supper from the Fellowship Hall and join us in the Youth Room for some game time before catechism on October 7th at 6 pm.

NEW SMALL GROUP FOR THOSE NEW TO THE COMMUNITY!



If you are interested in finding out more about St. John's or if you would like to join our church community, you are invited to be a part of a small group to help you get to know one another, learn more about the church and find out what we teach and believe. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30pm downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you know someone who is not a member, but you think that they might be interested, tell them about this opportunity! Contact Pastor Broers if you would like to join or have any questions. Thanks!



PASTOR APPRECIATION POTLUCK



Sunday, October 25th immediately following second service. Tableware and beverages will be provided. We ask everyone to bring either a main dish, side dish, or dessert. See you on the 25th! ~ Inreach Team

A BROWN FAMILY CHRISTMAS

December 3rd, join your St. John's family for an evening of food and entertainment with the Brown's. This evening will include dinner and the Christmas show for \$60 per person. Tickets will go on sale October 12th, and can be reserved at the St. John's office. Checks need to be made out to "The Browns Century Theater." So save the date and get ready for an uplifting Christmas extravaganza at the New Browns Music Theater!



LIFEWISE Another year of LifeWise has begun here at St. John's, so we are reminding everyone of their safety policy. Safety of the children is a top priority. Doors will be locked and we ask members to refrain from using the building during the times LifeWise is in the building.

Please adjust your schedule accordingly. Hours include: Tuesdays 11am-1:15pm, Wednesdays 11:30am-1:15pm, and Fridays 11:30am-12:45pm.



Psalm 103 (ESV) begins: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his _____." What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness B. kindness C. gifts D. benefits



THE ART OF MARRIAGE EVENT COMING SOON!

Pastor Broers and his wife Kristy will be hosting The Art of Marriage November 6th and 7th at St. John's Lutheran Church. The Art of Marriage is a video event to help couples find out how to best love one another. The videos are funny, informative, practical and varied in how they present the material. Over the six sessions, they talk about God's plans for marriage, how to survive conflict, how to communicate better with your spouse, Gender roles, sex and how to make your marriage last a lifetime. **There is no group discussion time.** We watch the videos together and you work on various projects one-on-one with your spouse. The weekend starts Friday night, November 6th at 7:00pm and will continue Saturday from 9:00-4:00. It costs \$50 and will include two workbooks as well as Saturday's lunch. The cost of not working on your marriage is much steeper and a lot more painful.

The Art of Marriage is open to everyone: both married and unmarried couples. If you are not married yet, this event will open your eyes to how to be a better spouse when the time comes. It doesn't matter if this is your first marriage or if you were previously married before; the creators of this event wrote it with all people in mind. Whatever situation you are in, God will bless this time you give to learn more about yourself and how a good marriage will not only bless your family but will affect the world in a positive way.

Event Information

Time - 7:00 pm Friday, November 6th - 4:00 pm Saturday, November 7th

Place – St. John's Lutheran Church, Le Mars Iowa

Cost - \$50 per couple (Covers two The Art of Marriage workbooks and Saturday lunch)

How to Register?

1. Call our church office (712) 546-8855. Leave your name and contact information, or go to <https://forms.gle/rtqaEZYaZM4JxmKB6>, or scan the QR Code.

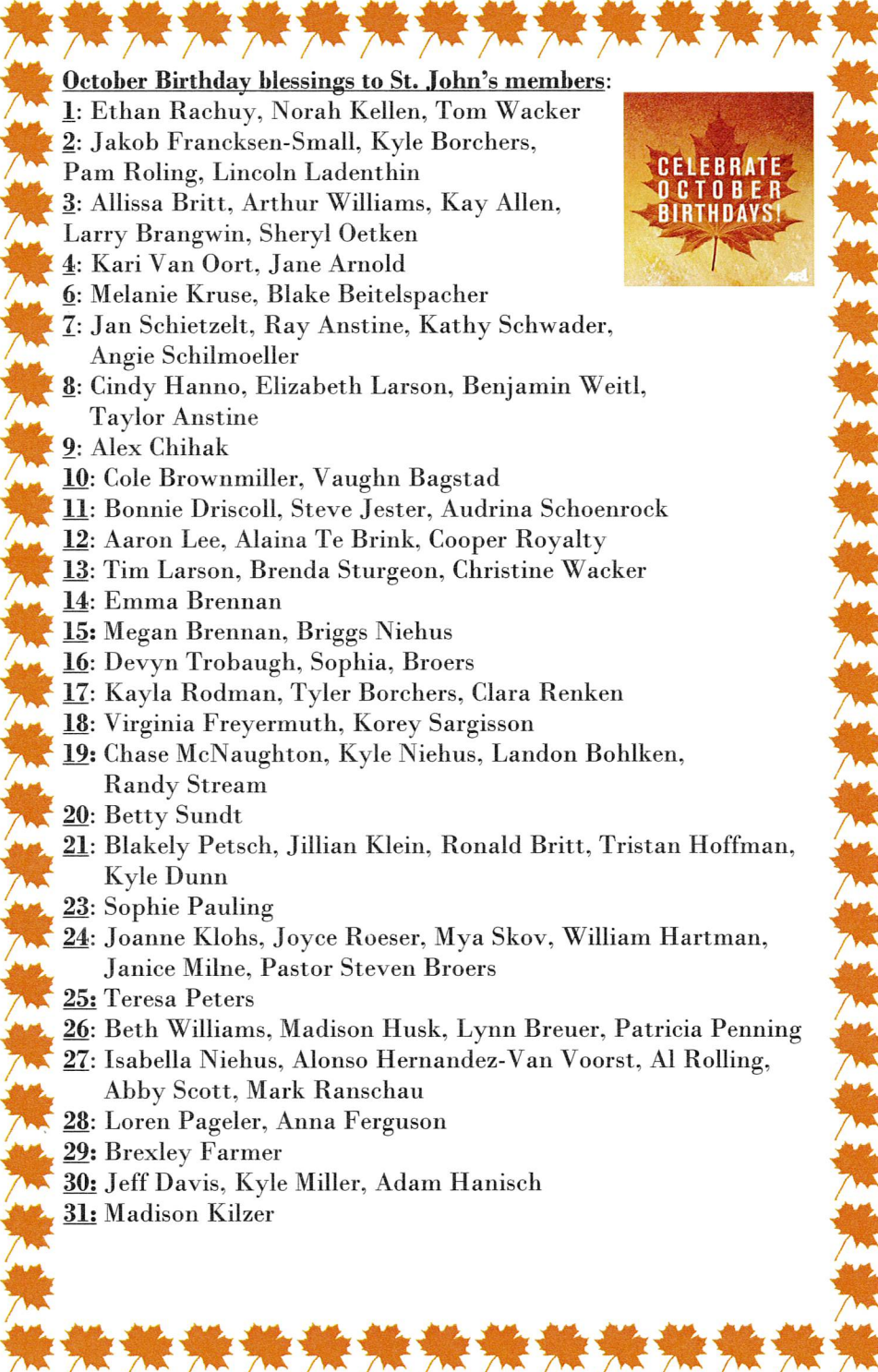
2. Send your registration fee along with your name and information to our church address: St. John's Lutheran Church, 201 1st Ave NW, Le Mars, IA 51031.

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 26th.

(Please turn in both your contact information and \$50 registration fee by this date to ensure plenty of time to order workbooks)



Questions? Please call 712-546-8855 or email us at stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org





October Birthday blessings to St. John's members:

- 1:** Ethan Rachuy, Norah Kellen, Tom Wacker
- 2:** Jakob Francksen-Small, Kyle Borchers, Pam Roling, Lincoln Ladenthin
- 3:** Allissa Britt, Arthur Williams, Kay Allen, Larry Brangwin, Sheryl Oetken
- 4:** Kari Van Oort, Jane Arnold
- 6:** Melanie Kruse, Blake Beitelspacher
- 7:** Jan Schietzelt, Ray Anstine, Kathy Schwader, Angie Schilmoeller
- 8:** Cindy Hanno, Elizabeth Larson, Benjamin Weigl, Taylor Anstine
- 9:** Alex Chihak
- 10:** Cole Brownmiller, Vaughn Bagstad
- 11:** Bonnie Driscoll, Steve Jester, Audrina Schoenrock
- 12:** Aaron Lee, Alaina Te Brink, Cooper Royalty
- 13:** Tim Larson, Brenda Sturgeon, Christine Wacker
- 14:** Emma Brennan
- 15:** Megan Brennan, Briggs Niehus
- 16:** Devyn Trobaugh, Sophia, Broers
- 17:** Kayla Rodman, Tyler Borchers, Clara Renken
- 18:** Virginia Freyermuth, Korey Sargisson
- 19:** Chase McNaughton, Kyle Niehus, Landon Bohlken, Randy Stream
- 20:** Betty Sundt
- 21:** Blakely Petsch, Jillian Klein, Ronald Britt, Tristan Hoffman, Kyle Dunn
- 23:** Sophie Pauling
- 24:** Joanne Klohs, Joyce Roeser, Mya Skov, William Hartman, Janice Milne, Pastor Steven Broers
- 25:** Teresa Peters
- 26:** Beth Williams, Madison Husk, Lynn Breuer, Patricia Penning
- 27:** Isabella Niehus, Alonso Hernandez-Van Voorst, Al Rolling, Abby Scott, Mark Ranschau
- 28:** Loren Pageler, Anna Ferguson
- 29:** Brexley Farmer
- 30:** Jeff Davis, Kyle Miller, Adam Hanisch
- 31:** Madison Kilzer

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column of letters to complete the hidden phrase below.

FEAST, KHAKI, MOUTH,
ESSAY, LLAMA, ORBIT, CARRY,
UDDER, BRUSH, ITEMS,
~~APPLE~~, LEARN, CIDER

A	P	P	L	E



P

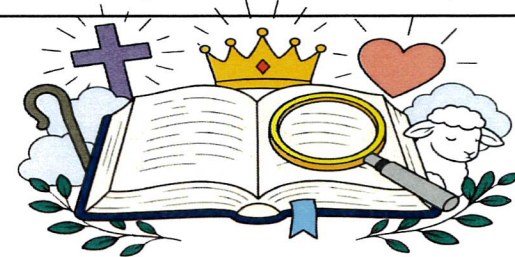
_____!

Answer: Praise the Lord!

Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A ____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

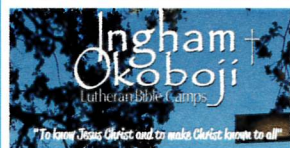


OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Donations can be left in the marked box near the Resource Room. We are gearing up for the Samaritan's Purse Project which is 3 months away. We have a list of requested items for both boys and girls, on the box near the resource room. Special needs include: small water bottles, youth underwear, youth socks, and children's scissors. All items are appreciated. If you have any questions contact Jane Westphal or Pam Roling.

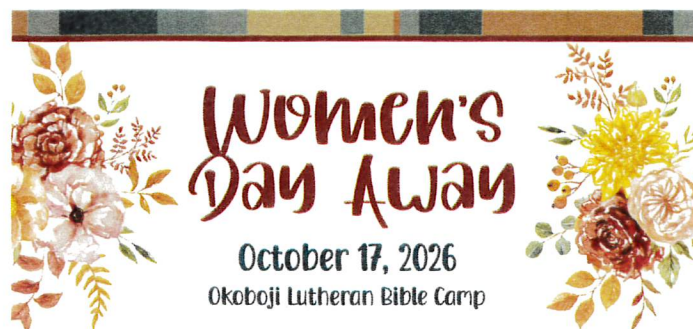
LE MARS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, October 2, from 9 am till 2:30 pm at the YMCA - upper level fitness room. Text lifeserve to 515.815.7242 or call 800.287.4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org to schedule an appointment.



There is a lot happening at Ingham/Okoboji Bible Camp for all ages. Check out the website to find more information on all that is happening this Fall or to register for any of the activities.

WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG



Enjoy...

Wonderful Sessions and discussion
A Banquet Meal
Worship
Paraphrasing stations
Crafts
Nature Trails
Pontoon rides
Time to relax and connect with other women!!

Theme: "Following Jesus with Hope"



With Speaker:
Laura Fever



HOME COMMUNION

If you or someone you know is homebound and would like visits and communion from Pastor Broers and our Visitation Team, please contact the office and let us know. Our phone number is 712-546-8855. Thanks!



MAKE A
"JOYFUL
NOISE!"

Noisy Offerings will be collected on **October 25th**. Designations are TBD. 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 2026:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • 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 in the library.

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.

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. **The Table** at Rejoice has new hours. They are open every Tuesday, except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 5 - 6 pm. Every Wednesday from 12 - 2 pm. Only once a month visits are allowed to The Table.

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: <https://sunnybrookchurch.org/hope-center>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED....Please consider becoming a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion.

If you love to spend time with children, the **Foster Grandparent** program may be what you are looking for. Foster Grandparents assist and spend time with children at local schools and childcare centers.

Would you like to make a difference for adults in your community? **Senior Companions** assist adults to remain independent by providing socialization, visitation, and transportation services.

Here are some benefits that also come with working with this organization: Tax-free stipend, transportation reimbursement, meal reimbursement and friendship and lasting relationships. Call 712-476-2628 to find out more information!

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 Coordinator: rachuypatricia@gmail.com

Church Council

Becky DeRuyter - President	Adam Schmidt - V. President
Pam Roling - Secretary, Missions	Bill Young - Treasurer
Tammy Lee - Spiritual Growth	Dick Milne - Property
Joey Posivio - Property	Doug Carlsen - Endowment
Cindy Kamies - Missions	Milo Duque - Spiritual Growth
Lisa Erdmann - Inreach	Katie Gerloff - Youth Ministry
Hope Majeres - Worship	

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

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 avoid items that may melt or glass that may break. Thanks!