



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

March 15th, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Ilo Jean Erdmann, who will be baptized at the 10:30 am service this morning. Ilo's family includes parents, Ben & Hope Erdmann and big brother, John. Baptism sponsors are Brock Wallace and Camryn Chambers. Blessings and welcome to the family of God and St. John's.

RADIO ADS are sponsored in appreciation by a friend of St. Johns.

LOST & FOUND/FREE TABLE Please check the table in the lobby for any items that may be yours. And, help yourself to the free items.

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!

LENTEN MEAL will be Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Salad, and Dessert on Wednesday, March 18th. A freewill offering will be collected and has been designated to Then Feed Just One.

THEN FEED JUST ONE EVENT The St. John's catechism youth and High School students will be participating in a Then Feed Just One food packaging event on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30-8pm. Other St. John's members are encouraged to join us. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby if you would like to help. Donations for this project will be collected throughout the month of March at the Lenten suppers and can also be left in the offering plate or dropped off at the office. Please notate your gift for "Then Feed Just One". It costs us 18.5 cents per meal we package. Each bag contains six meals and costs \$1.11. Each box contains 216 meals and costs \$39.6. Last year, we packaged 6,480 meals which cost about \$1,200 but had to stop once we ran out of money. We can only package as much food as we buy so thank you in advance for your generosity! Hopefully we can raise more money this year and do even more good! These meals will be sent to places where children are suffering from malnourishment such as Honduras, Haiti, East Africa and Sudan.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES have begun. Join us at 6 pm in the sanctuary. This will include the Holden Evening Prayer Service, a traditional setting of evening prayer set to music. These services will continue through March 25th.

WHAT THE WOMEN SAW Join us Thursday's at 5:30 pm in the library. Study guide in in RightNow Media. Here is the link: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/content/details/388292>

WALKING BAREFOOT WITH GOD A new Men's Small Group Study will begin Tuesday, March 24th at 7 pm. This is a 5 week study. Sign up on the bulletin board, so we can be sure to have enough books for everyone.

EASTER BRASS PLAYERS WANTED If you are interested in playing with the St. John's Brass on Easter Sunday, April 5th at the 8 am service, please contact Mike Rathke. Adult and high school brass players are welcome to participate!

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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Help us save a life! Monday, March 30th from 12-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Julie Albert (540-1455) or visit www.redcross.org to schedule a time.

SAFE PLACE SPECIAL COLLECTION Some of the church women are supporting the gathering of items to donate to Safe Place. We have received \$250 from Thrivent to kickstart the project and invite you to donate items from the list on p. 22 in the church newsletter. There is a box labeled Safe Place in the church lobby. Please have items at church by March 18 so we can begin to assist people in our area who are victims of domestic violence. Contact Janet Wiener if you have questions.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS WANTED FOR HOLY WEEK Please contact the office if you are willing to serve as a greeter, lector or communion server during any of the holy week services. There will be a 7 pm Maundy Thursday (greeter, comm. Server), 7 pm Good Friday (lector), Easter 6, 8, 10:30 am (greeter, lector, communion servers). Acolytes and Crucifers are also needed.

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!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS for 2025 should be directed by March 31st. Please consider choosing St. John's as a recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars. This is a gift that helps our ministries throughout the year. Thank you.

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.

LIFEWISE EVENING OF IMPACT Thursday, March 26th at the Le Mars Bible Church. Dinner, silent auction, and program beginning at 5:30 pm. Message 712-546-4416 to RSVP.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Shirley Lang	Cindy Kamies
Lector	Kyleigh Bohlken	Cheryl Peyton
Comm Serv	Aleigha Bohlken Steve Breuer Lynn Breuer	Nicole Jarvis Cindy Kamies Cheryl Peyton
Crucifer	Quentin Ranschau	
Acolytes	Carter Westphal Gavin Rolling	Kyleigh Bohlken Aleigha Bohlken
ProPresenter	Keith Westhoff	Sophia Brennan
Video/Sound	Brenda Haverhals	Micah Broers
Altar Guild	Elvira Nielsen Arlene Wiener	Roma Lancaster Sherri Harms
Coffee Bar	Ginny Freyermuth	
Ushers	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: 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:** Jaime Koopman, Kylee Britt, Brent Jarvis, **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; Prime Living - Wade & Betty Thompson; Happy Siesta - Eleanor Westhoff

Sun March 15	Mon March 16	Tues March 17	Wed March 18	Thurs March 19	Fri March 20	Sat March 21	Sun Mar 22
8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 10:30 am Ilo Erdmann Baptism 3:30 pm HS Ingham Okoboji Outreach	LifeWise 1:30 pm Anna Circle L/L 6 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L	LifeWise 9:30 am Hannah Circle L/L 10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm 40 Day Sugar Fast L/L 4:30 pm Missions Team Mtg L/L 5:30 pm P.o.P. 6:30 pm Messengers of the Gospel Study L/L	LifeWise/Chapel Services at Care Fac. 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 5 pm Bells/Lenten Meal 6 pm Holden Evening Service/Comm 6:30 pm Catechism/ Grow 6:45 pm Sr. Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Grp	Newsletter Deadline 9 am Prayer Time 5:30 pm Thursday in the Word Small Group L/L	2 pm Hearts of Fire 2 L/L		8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour/ Property Team Mtg

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First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-14 ⁵This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. ⁷"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ¹⁰"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve." ¹¹Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay are those who gain riches by unjust means. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools. ¹²A glorious throne, exalted from the beginning, is the place of our sanctuary. ¹³Lord, you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the Lord, the spring of living water. ¹⁴Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 119:9-16

⁹How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

¹⁰**I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.**

¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

¹²**Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.**

¹³With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

¹⁴**I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.**

¹⁵I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

¹⁶**I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-3 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

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 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 7:13-27 ¹³"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ¹⁵"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' ²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

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.

\$16.00 per Easter Lily # of Lilies _____

Deadline: **March 20th**

In memory/honor of: _____

By: _____

Drop this this form w/payment in the offering plate OR call the office-546-8855

