



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

St. John's Lutheran Church



Welcoming Everyone
Making Disciples
Trusting Jesus
Empowering Leaders

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – NALC/LCMC
LE MARS, IOWA

January 25, 2026
Annual Meeting – 1:00 PM

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AGENDA

2026 ANNUAL MEETING
January 25th, 2026 1:00 pm

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO ORDER

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

OVERVIEW OF 2025

APPROVAL OF 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

- Annual Meeting - January 26, 2025

REPORTS

ELECTIONS

- Report of Nominating Committee
 - Council Member Nominations
 - Endowment Member Nominations
 - Nomination Committee
 - Nominations from the floor
- Introduction of Candidates
- Casting of Ballot

NEW BUSINESS

- NALC Constitution Amendments
- Proposed Budget for 2026

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY NICOLE JARVIS

Dear St. John's Family,

It has truly been a privilege to serve as your Council President over the past two years. I want to thank everyone who serves on the Church Council, our ministry teams, and our dedicated staff. Each of you plays a vital role in helping our church operate smoothly and remains a welcoming place for worship. I am continually inspired by your commitment to our mission: ***Welcoming Everyone, Making Disciples, Trusting Jesus, and Empowering Leaders.***

This year we continued to live out this mission through the start of new small group studies and the GROW program. With a variety of topics available, I encourage everyone to join a group or even consider leading one. I also invite you to volunteer for GROW as we support our youth in deepening their faith. I am excited to see how both ministries continue to flourish in the years to come.

Our Sunday School, catechism, and adult education programs continue to strengthen our connection with one another and with God. I am deeply grateful for all our teachers and volunteers who give their time and talents so faithfully.

I also want to extend heartfelt thanks for your ongoing financial support. Your generosity allows us to maintain our facilities, sustain our ministry programs and reach out to our community both locally and globally. Together this year, we gathered supplies and built beds for **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, served free Wednesday meals, packed nearly **100 Operation Christmas Child** boxes, and continued supporting our **Benevolence partners**.

This year also marked the beginning of our new **Missions Team**, which will help guide both local and global outreach efforts. Their first Missions Sunday highlighted opportunities to serve near and far. I encourage everyone to take part in at least one mission effort as your willingness to serve reflects the heart of our faith.

As we enter a new year, I invite you to set goals that help us live out our vision: ***Hello, Follow, Know, Grow.*** Together, we can deepen our faith, support one another, and share God's love in our community. Please prayerfully consider how your gifts and talents can help St. John's continue to thrive.

Let us continue to lift one another in prayer, asking for God's guidance, strength, and wisdom as we look toward the future. May we be a light to those around us and share the love of Christ in all that we do.

Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your steadfast dedication to our church family. May God bless you and your loved ones in the year ahead.

In Christ's love,

Nicole Jarvis

Council President

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

OFFICERS

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	Nicole Jarvis	(1/26)
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	Becky DeRuyter	(1/28)
<u>SECRETARY</u>	Ashley Bennett	(1/26)
<u>TREASURER</u>	Bill Young	

Brenda Haverhals	(1/26)
John Hines	(1/26)
Tammy Lee	(1/27)
Richard Milne	(1/27)
Joesph Posivio	(1/27)
Pam Roling	(1/27)
Doug Carlsen	(1/28)
Cindy Kamies	(1/28)
Adam Schmidt	(1/28)

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Steven Broers

Some of you may remember the story of Zaccheus the Tax Collector. He was a short and wealthy man who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus who was coming his way. After his interaction with Jesus, he turned his life around. “‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything I will pay back four times that amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too, is a son of Abraham.’ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” – Luke 19:8-10

That story shows us two important things about our lives as Christians. First, when we encounter Jesus, our lives **change**. Second, when we become followers of Jesus, we will **also** be sent out to seek and save the lost.

Over the past year, there have been a lot of wonderful changes happening here at St. John’s and I hope that you have been experiencing them in your own life as well. We have seen many more people worshipping and being involved here at church over the past year and one of the most wonderful comments I hear from visitors and new members is that they love how welcoming the church is. People not only say “Hello!” but they actually seem to care about one another! You are all doing a wonderful job of **Welcoming Everyone** which is one of the priorities in our Vision Statement. We have also been welcoming a lot of new people in the kingdom of God which is very exciting! Toward the end of the year, I felt like I was doing one baptism every weekend!

Another big change this last year was the number of people involved in small groups. As I mentioned in a recent Newsletter article, I counted 82 new people who are active on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in a small group and that doesn’t even count the groups that were already in existence before the year started, such as the women’s circles and the catechism small groups. It’s not an exaggeration to estimate that we probably have 100 people involved in small groups each week! I believe that, as a Christian, you will experience important life changes by being involved in a small group. Small groups are where we **Make Disciples**, another priority in our Vision Statement, by supporting one another and challenging each other to live out faith in important ways. If you have not gotten involved in a small group yet, I would recommend that you do that as soon as you can!

But God does not just call us to take care of ourselves. In Matthew 20:28, Jesus said, “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” The book of Philippians says that we are to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, “Who, being in nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking on the very nature of a servant.” (Phil. 2:5-7) We are called into our community of faith in order to be sent back out to share the good news with people who have not heard of or experienced the new life Jesus provides.

In the upcoming year, I believe that we need to be focused on how to share the message of Jesus more with people **outside** of our church. The third priority of our Vision Statement is **Trusting Jesus**. We need to challenge ourselves not to simply learn about God and talk about Him with one another, but to put our faith into action and share these great blessings with others. One way that we are already doing this is by starting the GROW program on Wednesday nights as an opportunity to reach out to families who don’t currently attend church or Sunday School. By stepping out in faith and finding ways to reach out to our community, I believe that we will come to know what it means to be a follower of Jesus in ways that many of us have never imagined before.

But in order to share the message of Jesus with others, we will need all hands on deck! I believe that God has sent every member of St. John’s to this community for a purpose, but many members are still not involved very much in the ministry. What skills and ideas are we missing when you do not participate? If you are only worshipping God at St. John’s but not involved in any other way, I believe that you are not experiencing the full and abundant life God has for you.

The final priority of our Vision Statement is **Empowering Leaders** and we will need to double down on that focus. I would like to see more new people serving on our ministry teams in the upcoming year and people willing to lead these teams as well. Jesus called us to **follow** Him and it's tough to do that if you are only sitting in a pew for an hour once a week. How might God be inviting you to be more involved in this faith community?

In order to help us accomplish all of these goals, we have hired a consultant with The Unstuck Group to work with our church to find ways to reach out to the city of Le Mars and better live out our calling as a faith community. Our staff and key leaders will be meeting with them in late Spring to discover how we might become a church that is focused on seeking to save the lost and bringing the light of Jesus more fully into our community. The message of salvation through faith in Jesus is a message that changes lives and we want to share that good news with **everyone!** We hope that this process will help us to do just that.

Thank you for your prayers, support and commitment to the ministry here at St. John's. Whether you are just saying "**Hello**" to Jesus for the first time, or have been a **Follower** for years, I hope that in the year to come you take another step toward **Knowing** Him more and **Growing** in your faith. God bless you! – Pastor Steven Broers

Pastor's 2025 Ministry Task Report

Alpha Class – 15
 Annual Meeting – 1
 Ash Wednesday Service – 1
 Baptism – 16
 Benevolence – 4
 Blue Christmas Worship Service – 1
 Catechism Caroling – 1
 Catechism Class – 25
 Catechism (Individual teaching) – 5
 Catechism Faith Statement Night – 1
 Catechism Guide Training – 1
 Catechism Individual Faith Statement Meetings – 11
 Catechism Meeting with Guides – 1
 Catechism Orientation – 1
 Catechism Pizza Night – 1
 Ceremony for Soldier Send-Off -1
 Christmas Eve Worship Services – 4
 Christmas Day Worship Service – 1
 Coffee with Local Pastors – 21
 Confirmation Worship Service – 1
 Council Meeting – 12
 Council Potluck – 1
 Couples Bible Study – 6
 Discipleship Zoom Call – 1
 Elderberries – 7
 Endowment Meeting – 1
 Executive Team Meeting (Budgeting) -1
 Family Bowling Event – 1
 Fifth Quarter -2
 First Communion Class – 4
 Funeral – 19
 Funeral Planning – 20
 Good Friday Service – 1
 Graduate Recognition – 1
 Graveside Service – 17
 GROW planning – 6
 GROW Closing Music - 13
 Heaven Bible Study – 1
 High School Bible Study – 29
 High School Lock-In- 1

High School Movie Night – 2
 High School Outreach Event – 2
 Home Visit – 55
 Hospital- 11
 Human Trafficking Seminar – 1
 In-reach Meeting – 5
 Iowa District Zoom Meeting – 2
 Jocelyn Olivia Concert – 1
 LCMC Iowa District Board Meeting – 1
 LCMC Leadership Event – 1
 LCMC National Gathering – 1
 LifeWise Meeting – 1
 Lunch with Mentor Pastor – 1
 Lunch with Okoboji Representative – 1
 Maundy Thursday Service – 1
 Meeting with Council President – 2
 Meeting with Kim – 13
 Meeting with Mike (Worship Planning) – 6
 Meeting with Treasurer - 1
 Ministerial- 6
 Missions Team Meeting – 4
 NALC Convocation – 1 day
 NALC Dinner – 1
 National Day of Prayer – 1
 National Day of Prayer Planning Meeting – 1
 New Member Small Group – 5
 Northwestern College Outreach – 1
 Nursing Home Services- 51
 Office Visits – 41
 Okoboji Summer Bible Camp – 3 days
 Outreach Meeting – 3
 Pastors Meeting in Spencer – 1
 People of Praise Practices (Nights and Sundays)– 72
 Personnel Meeting – 3
 Phone calls – 139
 Prayer Group – 39
 Prayer Service – 4
 Pre-baptism meeting - 11
 Premarital Counseling – 9
 Property Meeting – 1
 Recharge Event at Okoboji – 4 nights and 4 days

Right Now Media Calls – 4
 Sermon Prep Meeting – 9
 Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build – 1
 Spiritual Growth Meeting – 3
 Staff Meeting – 43
 Staff Reviews – 5
 Sunday School Meeting – 4
 Sunday School Opening - 11
 "Then Feed Just One" Event – 1
 Third Grade Bible Class – 1
 Unstuck Zoom Meeting – 1
 Vacation Bible School – 4 days
 VBS Volunteer Meeting – 1
 Visitation Team Meeting – 1
 Webinar on Small Groups – 1
 Website Meeting – 3
 Wedding – 4
 Wedding Rehearsal – 3
 Wednesday Worship – 30
 Women's Bible Study - 6
 Worship Services – 85
 Youth Event at All Seasons in Sioux Center – 1
 Youth/Ed Meeting – 9
 Youth Mission Trip Informational Meeting – 1
 Youth Mission Trip Meeting – 2
 Youth Mission Trip Phone Meeting – 3
 Youth Scavenger Hunt – 1
 Zoom Meeting about New Website – 1

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ACTIVITY

	<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>CONFIRMED</u>
<u>January 1, 2025</u>	889	711
Accessions in 2025		
Baptisms	13	0
Baptisms (Adult)	1	0
Confirmation Youth	0	11
Transfers/Affirmation of faith	14	13
Other Additions	4	4
	32	28
SUB-TOTAL	921	739
Losses in 2025		
Deaths	13	13
Transfers/Releases	3	3
Members placed on "inactive" status	5	3
Other subtractions	6	3
	27	22
TOTAL	894	717

(Number in parentheses indicates 2024 figures)

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	255	(246)
COMMUNION ATTENDANCE (according to communion registration)		
Attended at least once in 2025 (this includes 49 unconfirmed youth)	565	(585)
Did not commune in 2025 (this includes 14 unconfirmed youth)	276	(230)
NUMBER OF CHILDREN BAPTIZED	13	(6)
NUMBER OF ADULTS BAPTIZED	1	(1)
NUMBER OF YOUTH CONFIRMED	11	(15)
NUMBER OF MARRIAGES	1	(4)
NUMBER OF FUNERALS	11	(8)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND ACTIVITY CONT'D

CHILDREN/ADULT BAPTIZED:

Caelee Ann Husk	Georgia Elizabeth Kellen	Jordan Vincent Congelliere	Verity Cecila Marie Vollmer
Ermilo Sandoval Duque	Collins Marie Roder	Raven Rose Hansen	Cooper Alan Royalty
Everly Lynn Marie Neyens	Jack Vernon Bennett	Lincoln Michael Ladenthin	Jett Tanner Anthony
Emmett John Te Brink	Mia Nicole Schuett		

YOUTH/ADULT CONFIRMED:

Alivia Kay Gengler	Cheyenne Marie Grause	Ryan Patrick Hansen	Landen Dallas Hightree
Jackson James Jauron	Jonathan Edward Kramer	Miles Devin Kruse	Chase Merrill McNaughton
Braya Kay Niehus	Samuel Arnold Wacker	Aaliyah Rae Warner	

THOSE TRANSFERRING IN , AFFIRMATIONS & REINSTATEMENTS:

Lloyd Braband	Kathleen Braband	Travis Hansen	Serena Hansen
Dawn Otto	Chris Royalty	Devin Royalty	Kaden Royalty
Ermilo Duque	Donna Duque	Tristan Hansen	Michael Kowalke
Gina Dimig	Paul Schwader	Kathy Schwader	Bruce Erickson
Brenda Erickson	Zach Schuett		

MEMBER WEDDINGS HELD AT ST. JOHN'S:

Michael Kowalke & Tammra Bunn

MEMBERS LOST IN DEATH:

Gladys Kock	Garry Rachuy	Darrell Wiener	LaDonna Stangby
Stephen Bates	Ronald Miller	Ellen Utesch	Robert Pick
Ronald Smith	Margaret Adler	Brenda Rose	Daniel Hystad
Judith Schmidt			

THOSE TRANSFERRING OUT, REMOVED OR PLACED ON INACTIVE:

Cory Isebrand	Nancy Isebrand	Gina Dimig	Dustin Arens
Amie Arens	Adison Arens	Claire Arens	Cheyenne Arens
David Becker	Simon Becker	Levi Becker	Jackson Becker
Randy Boetger	Ardis Boetger		

MINUTES FROM 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

St. John's 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2025
1:00 p.m. St. John's Sanctuary
Le Mars, IA

Pastor Steven Broers delivered an opening prayer.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Nicole Jarvis.

John Hines was appointed Parliamentarian. Becky DeRuyter, Cindy Kamies, Ashley Bennett, and Bill Young were appointed tellers.

Nicole Jarvis provided an overview of 2024.

Simon Kern motioned to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting [to include the special Congregation Meeting – January 28, 2024, the Annual Meeting – January 28, 2024, and the Special Congregation Meeting – July 21, 2024]. Harold Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The nominations were presented as follows. Council members: Doug Carlsen, Becky DeRuyter, Cindy Kamies, and Adam Schmidt. Endowment Fund Committee: Nate Pauling and Carolyn Schmidt. Nominating Committee: Amy Davis, Greg Jeneary, Joel Johnson, Paula Kommes, and Amy Schmidt.

Simon Kern motioned to approve the 2025 ballot of nominees. Kent Westphal seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bylaws Adoption – Cindy Kamies motioned to amend the proposed changes to the bylaws to have the annual meeting remain the 4th Sunday in January. Pam Roling seconded the motion. Motion passed. Brenda Haverhals motioned to approve the amended bylaws, as amended by the previous motion. Rex Knapp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bill Young, Treasurer, presented the 2025 budget. The vote was taken by paper ballots with 69 YES votes and 1 NO vote. The budget passed.

Cindy Kamies motioned to adjourn the meeting. Denny Plueger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Haverhals, Church Council Secretary

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee: Paula Kommes, Amy Schmidt, Greg Jeneary, Joel Johnson, and Amy Davis submit the following slate for:

NOMINEES FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Milo Duque
Katie Gerloff
Lisa Erdmann
Hope Majeres

NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:



ERMILO DUQUE

SPOUSE: Donna Duque

MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S: 7 months

OCCUPATION: I work in the cardiopulmonary department at Floyd Valley Healthcare as a registered respiratory therapist.

CHILDREN: We are a blended family, oldest to youngest; Cody (32), Dylan (27), Kaitlyn (26), Jadon (26), Ben (19) and Will (17)

YOUR GIFTS FOR MINISTRY: I am better suited as a behind the scenes asset. I enjoy making sure that things are well organized and efficient for those involved. I have lived a well-rounded life and have a lot of life/work experiences ranging from manual labor to healthcare to fitness.

MY VISION FOR ST. JOHNS: Being relatively new to St. John's I greatly appreciate the welcoming environment. Ideally, we foster an environment where those interested can participate and expand their involvement at their own pace. St. John's has a diverse cross section of members, all with different skills and specialties. If we bring those skills and specialties to the table, we will create a dynamic environment where we can all learn and grow together.



KATIE GERLOFF

SPOUSE: Chris

MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S: 44 years

OCCUPATION: IT/Marketing

CHILDREN: Colten - living in Ames, Caleb - living in Tucson, AZ, Kayla - Senior in college, and Kali - 5th grade elementary

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY: As a member of St. John's, I was involved with the LYO growing up. I went on various mission trips and traveled with the church to Germany as well. I spent a lot of time doing weeklong camps and recharges up the Bible camp, both Ingham and Okoboji. In

recent times I served on the youth team for a term and now I help with the GROW program, and I started my first year as a catechism guide.

MY VISION FOR ST. JOHN'S: To help our church live our vision statement by welcoming everyone, making disciples, trusting Jesus, and empowering leaders. I would like to see all members get involved in our many activities we have to choose from. I feel there is something for everyone. I would like to see our youth program grow so we are the church they want to go to. Also, for the students as they go off to college, they will be able to defend their Christianity against the ever growing hatred for Christians and keep their faith. I feel I am ready to take on a bigger role in the church and look forward to serving with the council.



LISA ERDMANN

SPOUSE: John

MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S: 3 years (moved from Menville to Le Mars in 2024)

OCCUPATION: Owner of Loess Hills Monument Co., LLC

CHILDREN: Kayla (Kyle) Foelske, their children, Adalee and Abel; Ben (Hope) Erdmann, their son, John; Blake (Paytin) Erdmann (All are members of St. John's)

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY: I am new to St. John's Lutheran Church but in my previous church, Trinity Lutheran in Menville, I was very involved. I served many positions on the church council, served on the Board of Education and was the church secretary for 8 years. I want to get more involved with St. John's and use my knowledge and experiences here.

MY VISION FOR ST. JOHN'S: There are so many great things happening at St. John's! I would like to see our members get involved where they best see fit. Whether behind the scenes or in front of church, all are needed and welcome to get involved! I think growth of our congregation is important, but it is also very important to minister to those that are here and be sure they are receiving the support, help, enjoyment, encouragement and visions they would like.



HOPE MAJERES

SPOUSE: Andy

MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S: 50 years

OCCUPATION: Pharmaceutical Sales Representative

CHILDREN: Haley Kass (Dylan, Husband), Ashley, and Jackson

GIFTS FOR MINISTRY: Lector, Communion Server, Worship Committee Member, Past Catechism Guide, Prayer Partner with Catechism Students, Vocal Soloist, Church Choir for the Cantata, Past People of Praise Member, helped with Bethlehem Revisited organization as well as acting in it, substitute teacher

for Sunday School, Bible School teacher and music leader. Growing up at St. John's I was involved in youth group and attended the youth gathering in San Antonio, sang in the youth choir, acted with the Terrible Parable Players, and loved the church sleepovers.

MY VISION FOR ST. JOHN'S: My vision is to maintain and further develop the welcoming atmosphere we have already created at St. John's with Jesus at the center. I see us bringing not only our church family together through service and worship but bringing our entire community into the fold. I am blessed to have been with St. John's practically my entire life and have seen the many ways that we have changed while also keeping some things constant. We can learn from our past and strive to do even more through our beloved church.

NOMINEE FOR ENDOWMENT TEAM:

Gerald Klemme

NOMINEES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Paula Kommes

Amy Schmidt

Greg Jeneary

Joel Johnson

Amy Davis

NALC Constitutional Ratifications

At the 2025 Mission Convocation (August 6–8, Pittsburgh), delegates approved three amendments to the NALC Constitution. **Each member congregation now votes to ratify.**

Information on the Ratification of Three Amendments to the NALC Constitution Ratification Votes due by **February 8, 2026**

Amendment One: The movement of some language in the Constitution to Bylaws, clean up Scrivener's errors. See Appendix: *Amendment 1 – Constitution & Bylaws* for the full changes, beginning on page 9 of the packet.

Amendment Two: Addition of Article on the North American Lutheran Seminary

Article # – North American Lutheran Seminary

- X.01 The North American Lutheran Seminary, hereinafter referred to as “the NALS,” shall exist to form pastors and church leaders for the NALC.
 - X.01.01 There shall be an NALS Center.
 - X.01.02 The NALS may partner with institutions that are aligned with the mission, values, and model of the NALS and the NALC.
 - X.01.03 The NALS Center and partner seminaries will together comprise the NALS Network.
 - X.01.04 The NALS Network shall function as one faculty, comprised of NALC faculty at the NALS Center and full-time NALC faculty at partner seminaries.

- X.02 The NALS President shall lead the NALS.
 - X.02.01 The primary ministry of the NALS President is to grow, strengthen, and support all aspects of theological education and pastoral formation for the NALC.
 - X.02.02 The President of the NALS is called by the Executive Council upon recommendation by the Board of Regents.
 - X.02.03 The President is a staff member of the NALC and directly reports to the NALC Bishop.
 - X.02.04 The President shall direct the relationship between the NALS Center and partner seminaries.

- X.03 A Board of Regents shall be the primary governing body for the NALS.
 - X.03.01 The Board of Regents shall have operating policies and procedures approved by the Executive Council.
 - X.03.02 The Board of Regents is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, and oversight of fiscal, academic, and student affairs.
 - X.03.03 The Board of Regents communicates changes regarding budgets and strategic initiatives to the NALC Executive Council.
 - X.03.04 The Board of Regents is accountable to the NALC Executive Council.

Amendment Three: Addition to current Article 16 entitled, "Indemnification" to be renamed, "Legal and Financial Matters."

Article 16 –Legal and Financial Matters

- 16.02 The Executive Council shall approve policies concerning all financial and legal matters of the NALC.
 - 16.02.01 The NALC fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
 - 16.02.02 The NALC shall receive funds, grants and other real or personal property contributed by individuals, congregations, foundations, and other entities with the approval of the Executive Council.
 - 16.02.03 Funds shall be held in reputable banks, trust companies or other depositories selected by the officers with approval of the Executive Council.
 - 16.02.04 Funds shall be received and disbursed by the Treasurer, the General Secretary and their designees as set forth in policies and resolutions approved by the Executive Council.
 - 16.02.05 The officers of the NALC shall be authorized signers for all legal documents.
 - 16.02.06 The Executive Council may authorize any officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the NALC, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
 - 16.02.07 Notification by electronic means is considered written notification.

- 16.03 Validity of meetings of the NALC shall be determined by the Executive Council.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

	2025 Actual Expenses	2025 Wkly Envelope Giving	2025 Other Giving	2025 Total Budget	2026 Expenses	2026 Wkly Envelope Giving	2026 Other Giving
Benevolence							
NALC, LCMC, ETC - Envelopes	21,798.20	21,798.20	0.00	24,960.00	24,960.00	24,960.00	0.00
Service Benevolence - Envelopes	32,697.12	32,697.12	0.00	37,440.00	37,440.00	37,440.00	0.00
Special Offerings - Special Envelopes	5,585.71	5,585.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Benevolence	60,081.03	60,081.03	0.00	62,400.00	62,400.00	62,400.00	0.00
Programs Oper & Maint							
Administration Oper, Maint & Progs	20,550.83	13,684.95	6,865.88	22,800.00	35,050.00	22,800.00	12,250.00
Property Oper, Maint & Progs	176,638.24	58,993.35	117,644.89	85,500.00	178,000.00	88,000.00	90,000.00
Outreach Team Programs	2,231.78	1,056.78	1,175.00	2,900.00	3,000.00	1,700.00	1,300.00
Inreach Team Programs	9,111.06	5,078.83	4032.23	10,000.00	13,550.00	8,050.00	5,500.00
Spiritual Growth Team Programs	1,049.91	708.91	341.00	1,000.00	4,000.00	2,500.00	1,500.00
Education Team Programs	8,150.57	3,426.32	4,724.25	8,000.00	12,000.00	8,800.00	3,200.00
Salaries	379,022.74	378,722.74	300.00	401,310.00	406,090.00	406,090.00	0.00
Missions Team Programs	440.60	440.60	0.00	2,250.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	0.00
Worship Team Programs	15,059.34	8,845.00	6,214.34	12,000.00	14,925.00	12,725.00	2,200.00
Youth Team Programs	13,371.25	1,731.99	11,639.26	10,050.00	19,750.00	8,750.00	11,000.00
Bethlehem Revisited Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Prog, Oper & Maint	625,626.32	472,689.47	152,936.85	555,810.00	688,115.00	561,165.00	126,950.00
Estimated Giving Needed for 2025 Budget							
Current - 87% + Building - 3%	\$ 561,165.00						
Benevolence - 10%	<u>\$ 62,400.00</u>						
Total Giving	\$ 623,565.00						

10% of Total 2026 general offerings will be designated for Benevolence.

Of that 10% :

4% will be gifted to NALC, LCMC, NALC Theological Ed Fd, Luther House of Studies

6% will be gifted to the following 4 Benevolent Ministry Partners:

- A. Global Health Ministries
- B. Ingham Lake Bible Camp
- C. Lutheran Services in Iowa
- D. Lutheran World Relief

2026 PROPOSED SALARY BUDGET

	Salaries	Overheads	Other	Total
Administrative Pastor	94,600.00	45,030.00	7,450.00	147,080.00
Supply Pastor	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Minister of Music	53,220.00	26,960.00	4,570.00	84,750.00
Office Manager	56,430.00	7,870.00	4,320.00	68,620.00
Part-time Office Assistant	7,800.00	0.00	600.00	8,400.00
Facilities Manager	51,900.00	27,360.00	3,970.00	83,230.00
Part-time Facilities Manager	2,000.00	0.00	150.00	2,150.00
Contemporary Pianist	7,040.00	0.00	540.00	7,580.00
Sunday School Director	3,050.00	0.00	230.00	3,280.00
Honorarium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Totals	277,040.00	107,220.00	21,830.00	406,090.00

2025 SALARY BUDGET

	Salaries	Overheads	Other	Total
Administrative Pastor	90,960.00	42,790.00	7,450.00	141,200.00
Supply Pastor	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Minister of Music	51,170.00	25,540.00	4,410.00	81,120.00
Office Manager	54,260.00	7,340.00	4,150.00	65,750.00
Part-time Office Assistant	14,460.00	0.00	1,110.00	15,570.00
Facilities Manager	49,900.00	25,960.00	3,820.00	79,680.00
Part-time Facilities Manager	2,000.00	0.00	150.00	2,150.00
Contemporary Pianist	6,770.00	0.00	520.00	7,290.00
Sunday School Director	2,930.00	0.00	220.00	3,150.00
Sub Organists/Pianist	400.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Grand Totals	277,850.00	101,630.00	21,830.00	401,310.00

Key:

Salaries: Salaries, Housing, FICA Allowance

Overheads: Health Insurance, Disability, Group Life & Admin Fees, Pension

Other: Pastoral Resource, Continuing Ed., Conf/Conventions, Mileage, Employee FICA

TREASURER'S REPORT

BENEVOLENCE FUND

	Income	Expense
Service Benevolence (Offering Envelopes)	32,697.12	
Lutheran Services in Iowa		8,174.28
Ingham Lake Bible Camp		8,174.28
Lutheran World Relief		8,174.28
Global Health Ministry		8,174.28
	32,697.12	32,697.12
Denom. Benevolence (Offering Envelopes)	21,798.20	
North American Lutheran Church		5,449.55
Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ		5,449.55
NALC Theological Education Fund		5,449.55
Luther House of Studies		5,449.55
	21,798.20	21,798.20
Special Benevolence		
<i>Sunday School Offerings/Missions</i>	70.52	
Sleep in Heavenly Peace		39.00
Samaritan's Purse/OCC Shipping		18.52
To PB Savings for 2026 Disbursement		13.00
<i>Noisy Offerings</i>	2,456.44	
The Gospel Mission		2,102.92
To PB Savings for Youth/Mission Chicago 2026		353.52
<i>Lenten Suppers</i>	1,440.00	
LifeWise Academy		1,440.00
<i>Others</i>	1,618.75	
VBS Offerings - Lutheran World Relief		520.04
GROW Offerings-Samaritan's Purse/OCC Shipping		1,063.26
GROW Offerings-PB Sav for 2026 Disbursement		35.45
	5,585.71	5,585.71
Total 2025 Benevolence	60,081.03	60,081.03

PRIMEBANK ACCOUNTS

	Income	Expense
Checking Account		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	39,078.35	
Envelopes & Loose Plate Offerings	474,113.02	
Other Receipts	24,059.28	
Benevolence Funds	60,081.03	
Trsf of Funds from Savings	253,714.11	
Matured CD's	345,886.12	
Ambank Cetera Investment	0.14	
CD's Purchased		300,000.00
CD's Matured Moved to Savings		141,691.25
Miscellaneous Missions		23,326.66
Benevolence Funds		60,081.03
General Acct Expenses		625,626.32

TREASURER'S REPORT, CONT'D

	Income	Expense
Liabilities Payroll/Taxes	26,966.44	26,572.25
Current Operating Notes - Primebank	5,000.00	5,000.00
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		46,600.98
Savings Accounts	Income	Expense
Building Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	41,528.92	
Contributions	16,348.54	
Savings Account Interest	1,621.98	
Disbursements		19,596.90
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		39,902.54
Thrivent Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	191.16	
Deposits	3,240.00	
Savings Account Interest	66.35	
Disbursement-Confirmation Crosses & Baptism Shells		194.26
Disbursement-Welfare Fund		1,700.00
Disbursement-Safe Place Meat Certificates from Fareway		1,000.00
Disbursement-Samaritan's Purse/OCC Shipping		500.00
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		103.25
Memorial Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	4,133.58	
Memorials Donated	1,310.00	
Savings Account Interest	69.04	
Disbursements		4,643.48
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		869.14
Organizations Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	13,857.80	
Deposits	15,174.45	
Savings Account Interest	453.62	
Disbursements		5,916.31
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		23,569.56
Reichle Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	0.00	
Deposits	701.90	
Savings Account Interest	9.87	
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		711.77
Building Usage Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	543.75	
Wedding Deposits	1,000.00	
Savings Account Interest	39.19	
Disbursements		500.00
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		1,082.94

TREASURER'S REPORT, CONT'D

	Income	Expense
Youth Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	6,447.71	
Deposits	10,865.79	
Savings Account Interest	439.89	
Disbursements		
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		17,753.39
Capital Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	17,412.93	
Donations	10,701.50	
Savings Account Interest	130.19	
Disbursements		24,649.72
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		3,594.90
Estate Gifts Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	144,338.79	
Estate Fund Donations	0.00	
Savings Account Interest	5,121.19	
CD Matured	168,003.02	
10% Estate Gifts Tithe		5,389.84
Disbursements		178,662.00
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		133,411.16
Lundgren Scholarship Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	2,831.50	
CD Interest	2,742.62	
Savings Account Interest	105.47	
Disbursements		2,000.00
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		3,679.59
NORTHWEST BANK ACCOUNTS		
	Income	Expense
Welfare Fund		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	6,265.64	
Donations	2,548.00	
Disbursements		3,265.73
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		5,547.91
PRIMEBANK INVESTMENTS		
	Income	Expense
CD's		
Estate CD's	51,103.36	
Lundgren Scholarship CD	51,000.00	

TREASURER'S REPORT, CONT'D

AMBANK INVESTMENTS

	Income	Expense
Ambank Cetera Investments		
Beginning Balance on 01-01-25	0.14	
Cash		
Transfer of Funds		0.14
Ending Balance on 12-31-25		0.00
CD's		
Estate CD's	251,109.45	

PRIMEBANK & AMBANK ACCOUNTS

	Income	Expense
Endowment Fund		
PB Endow. Sav Beginning Bal on 01-01-25	1,536.43	
Donations/Memorials Received	55.00	
American Investment Int Transfer to Savings	30,000.00	
Savings Account Interest	523.97	
Grant - Emma Brennan-Mission Trip		750.00
Grant - Grandview University-D. Hurt EPIC Grant		1,000.00
Grant - RightNow Media Subscription		1,708.40
Grant - Food Pantry Garden Plants-A Lee		500.00
Grant - Flood Relief-Faith Lutheran Church Spencer		5,000.00
Grant - IOLBC Worker/Counselor Stipend - Broers Boys		2,000.00
Grant - Harvest Workers Tuition-Kent Westphal		1,800.00
Primebank Savings Ending Balance on 12-31-25		19,357.00
AB Invest Mutual Fds Beginning Bal 01-01-25	607,474.55	
Investment Gains	80,701.33	
Donations/Memorials Received		
Interest Moved to PB Money Market Savings		30,000.00
Investment Fees		4,724.68
Ambank Endowment Funds(Principal & Int) on 12-31-25		653,451.20
Total Endowment Funds(Principal & Int) on 12-31-25		672,808.20

TEAM REPORTS

ENDOWMENT TEAM

Committee Members: Darrell Wiener (2026), Dianne Baack (2027), Carolyn Schmidt (2028), Rex Knapp (2029), Todd Brownmiller (2030), Nathan Pauling (2031) Council Liaison – Doug Carlsen – Terms end with the January Annual Congregational Meeting.

The team awarded the following grants in 2025: \$1,000.00 Lutheran College Grant, \$750.00 for a youth mission trip to Jamaica, \$500.00 for a special plant project helping food banks, \$1,658.40-RightNow Media Subscription-This gives all St John's members, small groups, and families access to a huge video library of Christian Spiritual growth videos and Bible studies, \$5,000 to Faith Lutheran, Spencer, IA, to help with ongoing flood relief from June 2024, 2 - \$1,000.00 stipends for working at Okoboji Summer Camps, \$2,400 for 2 semesters of Lay Pastor training for a member of St. John's.

The team updated the bylaws to remove 'ELCA' language and eliminate the “Renken” addendum 2021-1.

\$30,000.00 of interest was moved from investments to Primebank savings to cover grants awarded.

INREACH TEAM

Members: Denise Anthony (chairperson), Kathi Brodersen, Lynn Breuer, Karen Carlsen, Ginny Freyermuth, Brenda Haverhals, Eliese Hoffman, Chris Knapp (secretary), Amy Kruse, Sandy Labahn, Sheri Oetken, Pat Penning, Jane Westphal

Council Link: Ashley Bennett

Advisor: Pastor Steven Broers

It has been a fun and busy year for the InReach Team. We are very appreciative of our congregation for participation and willingness to help when asked. We are thankful for the church staff for all their help in making our events a success. To Kim and Connie for all the reminders, collecting, ordering, publishing, copying...to name just a few things. Todd for all your fixing, putting together, moving things around, cleaning up and more. Michael for all the sound, video, music expertise, etc. at our events. You are appreciated, and *we are blessed!*

January

- Undecorated church and packed Christmas decorations
- Organized Soup/Salad Volunteer Appreciation luncheon January 26th

February

- Assigned St. John's teams for Lenten Suppers
- Purchased new coffee bar using funds from the Denny Lundgren estate gift

March

- Prepared to serve Lenten Supper on March 19th, however, weather cancelled evening activities. Donated purchased meat and supplies to another group.

April

- 56 members attended the Browns Easter Celebration Concert April 11th
- 42 members attended the showing of King of Kings at the Royal III theater April 16th

May

- Began operating the Sunday morning coffee bar May 18th with Lally's donut holes.
- Organized flag ceremony. Rod Tammen's flag was retired, and Lee Wiener's was raised May 25th. Thanks to Boy Scouts, Harold Lee for helping make this memorable for the honorees

July

- Beautiful morning for outdoor worship service, catered chicken dinner, and bounce house for the kids was held at the municipal park July 13th

September

- We began signing up for photo sessions for new church directory. Sign-ups were online during the week and in the lobby on the weekends
- Prepared and served food and snacks for the NALC Convocation hosted by St. John's on September 20th
- Secured shelter house at the Municipal Park for 2026 outdoor worship service July 12, 2026

October

- Photo sessions for new church directory were held October 15-18th. Organized and maned check-in table
- Co-Hosted Mission Sunday/Surprise Pastor Appreciation potluck October 19th. Thanks to Mrs. Anthony's Sunday school kids for providing the entertainment!! Great Job!!!
- Helped clean up after pizza luncheon for catechism classes October 26th. They had a service project at Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Sioux City
- Hosted Human trafficking educational event for church and community October 30th. Approximately 150 people attended.

November

- Organized flag ceremony. Lee Wiener's flag was retired, and Bill Wruck's was raised November 9th. Thanks to Boy Scouts and Harold Lee for helping make this memorable for the honorees

December

- Organized and helped with decorating the church for Christmas December 1st
- Planned and attended Brown's Christmas show and dinner December 11th

MISSIONS TEAM

Matthew 28:19:20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

The Missions Team was formed to plan and coordinate mission opportunities for St. John's members so that we might better welcome everyone, both within and outside of our community, and seek to make disciples of all nations.

The Missions Team's duties include:

1. Identify mission opportunities (both domestic and international) for St. John's members to share their faith with others.
2. Identify missionaries (domestic and international) and mission organizations that our congregation might choose to support.
3. Organize a yearly mission festival to stimulate awareness of God's work throughout the world and His love for all God's people.

Current team members include Pastor Broers, Iris Hemmingson, Sheri Oetken, Terri Pauling, Cassie and John Hines, Andrea Britt, and Brenda Haverhals (Council Liaison).

News...

*On September 8, 2025, St. John's Missions Team members, Iris Hemmingson and Terri Pauling, along with volunteers, Lorene Rexwinkel and Ellen Russell, supported the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City by making 30 meals for parents of patients in the hospital. It was a wonderful experience, and the team hopes other members of the congregation can be a part of this mission work in the future.

*Missions Sunday was held October 19, 2025, in conjunction with pastor appreciation and an all church potluck. Pastor Mark Vander Tuig gave the sermon message. Between services congregants could visit the missions' tables in the narthex; Voice of the Martyrs (VOM), Compassion International, Her Health, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (Minot, ND), Operation Christmas Child, High School Mission Trip to Chicago Summer 2026.

OUTREACH TEAM

Team members: Glenn Kellen as chairperson, Roma Lancaster, Julie Albert, Iris Hemmingson, Cindy Kamies, and Eliese Hoffman

The team held 3 Red Cross blood drives in 2025, Spring, Summer and Fall. The Summer drive was directed by a St. John's youth and was extremely successful. Thank you to all who continue to donate!

We continue to sponsor a section of Hwy 3, in the states Adopt a Highway Program. We arrange for ditch clean up twice a year. The Boy Scout Troop continues to work with us in this endeavor. Thank you to those who have helped with this project.

We participated in the Ice Cream Days Parade and passed out flyers inviting people to learn about St. John's by following a QR code to our website and Facebook page. We also participated in the Lighted Christmas Parade.

We continue to participate during Lent by providing a meal on one of the Wednesdays evenings.

Several meetings included discussions regarding team responsibilities now that St John's has a Missions team and which tasks fall under Outreach.

Outreach team is proposing to continue with the same designations from 2025. Here are the following proposed Benevolence designations for the 2026 budget:

10% of total 2026 general offerings will be designated for Benevolence.

Of that 10%:

4% will be gifted to NALC , LCMC, NALC Theological Ed Fd, Luther House of Studies

6% will be gifted to the following 4 Benevolent Ministry Partners:

- A. Global Health Ministries
- B. Ingham Lake Bible Camp
- C. Lutheran Services in Iowa
- D. Lutheran World Relief

In 2025, we supported for the first 10 months The Sioux City Gospel Mission with our Noisy Offerings, collected on the last Sunday of the month. The last 2 months we began collecting for the Chicago 2026 Mission Trip, which will help fund the mission projects our youth will be helping with. We will continue to collect for the Mission Trip in 2026.

PROPERTY TEAM

Team members: Doug Carlsen, Mike Haverhals, Henry Herrig, Eliese Hoffman, Dean Oloff, Denny Plueger, Arlene Wiener, Dianne Baack, Dave Brennan, Lowell Penning, Council link-Dick Milne

Completed projects in 2025 include a tabletop oven was added to the kitchen and the Office Managers office and hallway were renovated. Including carpeting, paint, lights and ceiling tiles.

Ongoing projects include:

1. Property has collected estimates and will have Todd replace the ceiling tiles in the lobby at the beginning of the year in 2026.
2. Updating the Elevator, as we can no longer get repair parts. A deposit was made in 2025 for the repairs and work will be completed in early 2026.
3. Plans are being made to repair the south entrance in the parking lot in the spring of 2026. Estimates have been collected.

A big thank you to all team members and Todd for their time and talents.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

Team Members: Nicole Jarvis, Beth Larson. Council Representative: Tammy Lee

The Spiritual Growth Ministry Team began partway through the year and met three times throughout the year. We wrote up a ministry team description with the following goals in mind:

- a. The Spiritual Growth Ministry Team is focused on helping the people of St. John's follow Jesus by becoming disciples and empowering members to grow into spiritual leaders.
 - i. Specific Duties:
 1. Provide a variety of learning opportunities for adults of all ages to learn about Jesus, strengthen their faith in Jesus and become disciples who make disciples. (ex. Alpha)
 2. Support small group ministries at St. John's by identifying possible leaders, building awareness of small group opportunities, providing resources for groups, providing support for groups and organizing times throughout the year for groups to meet.
 3. Empowering leaders throughout the church by helping people identify their gifts for ministry, investing in their spiritual education and encouraging opportunities for these gifts to be used in all parts of the church.

We have been very excited to see so many people stepping up to lead worship and give sermons as well as share their time and talents with the congregation. We made it a priority to hand out Time and Talents Sheets to everyone in order to empower people to get involved in different ways within the church. These were sent out in the newsletter, handed out at worship services, filled out during the directory picture times and posted on our new church website.

We are also trying to find ways to encourage people to use the RightNow Media subscription. Currently, we have 93 registered users, which is really great since the goal was 35% (or 70) people to begin with. According to the engagement report, people have been visiting the site increasingly in each quarter since we began. We will be talking about it again at Christmastime and trying to get visitors signed up so that they might start using it in the New Year. In the monthly newsletter, Pastor Broers gives three suggestions as to what videos to check out to encourage people to continue using the platform. We are hoping to get more youth engagement as well and will find ways to make that happen.

Small groups have been doing really well, and we have over 100 people involved in them currently. We want to find more ways to publicize these groups on our website and find more small group leaders, especially for groups of people who are not currently being reached such as parents of young children, especially dads. We would like to see some people share video testimonies to encourage others to get involved as well. Pastor Broers led one Alpha course during the summer for about 6-8 people each week and hopes to have one or two of these courses offered every year.

St. John's hosted the NALC Mission District Convention in September, and we were grateful for those who were able to take part in one way or another. We were also happy that our Council President, Nicole Jarvis, was able to go to the LCMC National Convention in October. We would like to encourage more people from the congregation to attend the National LCMC Convention in the Fall of 2026 since it will be taking place in Des Moines, Iowa and is a great way to get inspired and become more involved in church activities.

We are hoping to get more people involved on the Spiritual Growth team and find more people to lead the various ministry team groups in the future. Hopefully 2026 will be a year where we see the congregation get a lot more active in leadership activities and make sure that everyone is serving in some way within the congregation.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS REPORT

Since 2010, Thrivent Financial members have used this program to direct more than \$550 million in Thrivent Financial charitable funds to churches and nonprofits nationwide. Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Many of St. John's members who participate in Thrivent Financial have directed their Choice Dollars to St. John's.

Carried forward from 2024	\$ 191.16
Donations and interest during 2025	3,306.35

Below is a listing of where Thrivent Choice money directed to St. John's has been used in 2025.

Confirmation Crosses & Baptism Shells	194.26
Operation Christmas Child	500.00
St. John's Welfare Fund	1,700.00
Grocery Certificates for Safe Place	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Contributions Allocated	<u>\$3,394.26</u>
Carried forward to 2026	\$ 103.25

Also, several Thrivent members from St. John's sponsored Action Teams using the Thrivent \$250 credit card program.

WORSHIP TEAM

Members: Twila Borchers, Jean Heeren, Rhonda Justice, Hope Majeres, Linda Oloff, Michael Rathke, Jill Young
Council Link: Pam Roling

With the launch of the GROW program and extended time needed for Sunday School, 2025 saw several changes to the weekly worship and music rehearsal schedule. On Wednesdays, Handbells practiced from 5:00-5:50pm, with worship beginning earlier at 6:00-6:30pm. Choir rehearsals moved to 6:45-7:45pm. People of Praise also moved our rehearsals from Thursday to Tuesday evenings at 5:30-6:30pm. The first service on Sunday moved earlier to 8:00am while second service remained at 10:30am.

This fall, St. John's hosted the Iowa Mission District NALC Convocation attended by clergy and lay members of area congregations. In November, singer/songwriter Jocelyn Olivia performed an amazing concert at St. John's as part of her "Work Hard, Pray Hard" album tour. In addition to guest preachers from several mission organizations, we heard sermons from members of the congregation - Alisha Jelken, Kent Westphal, Nicole Jarvis, and Mike Rathke. We also shared a "Hymn Sing Sunday" where the congregation was able to choose favorite hymns and hear about the faith journeys and inspirations of these hymn writers and composers.

During the summer, St. John's held one blended worship service each week at 9:30am using both traditional hymns and praise songs. On July 13, we enjoyed beautiful weather for outdoor worship at the Pit Shelter House with a catered meal afterwards. The Christmas season is always a particularly busy time for worship and music. Blue Christmas was held on Sunday, December 7 at 2pm - planned and led by members of the Worship Team. On December 14 at both services, St. John's Choir presented a choir cantata entitled "The Glory of the Newborn King" by Lloyd Larson. On Christmas Eve, a contemporary worship service was offered at 1pm, in addition to traditional services at 3, 5, and 8pm. At Easter, we also had a contemporary worship service at 10:30am for the first time in addition to the 6:00am and 8:00am services.

St. John's Choir, People of Praise, and the Handbell Choir continued to share musical offerings regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. We welcomed several new members to our music groups this year including four new ringers, two People of Praise participants, and two new choir members. St. John's Brass played seasonally for Christmas and Easter services. In November, we had a special Band/Orchestra Sunday which allowed high school and adult musicians to play the prelude on their instruments. GROW and Sunday School students have been singing and sharing memory verses once a month in worship. Throughout the year we heard special music offerings from the congregation, especially during the summer and at Christmas time.

St. John's is blessed by the unique gifts that our music volunteers, altar guild members, ushers, sound and video operators, readers, and staff bring to worship as we share the good news of Christ's love with our community and world.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday School

Sunday school for the 2nd semester of the 24/25 year ended with a spring Sunday school program on April 27, 2025. Attendance remained steady throughout the second semester, with an average of 27 children attending weekly. The decision was made not to renew the subscription for Grow Curriculum, but to work with Pastor and Kristy Broers to develop one more suited to the needs of St. John's.

25/26 Sunday school year kicked off on September 7, using a curriculum developed by Kristy Broers uniquely suited to the needs of St. John's. This curriculum focuses on the truth of God's Word, the Bible, and teaches important lessons in a three year rotation. Children attending Sunday school from preschool through fifth grade will complete the rotation twice. Middle school Sunday school continues to use a curriculum focused on applying God's Word to every-day situations. Average weekly attendance is 36, which is an increase from last year, with 48 being the highest attendance and 18 being the lowest attendance. The Christmas program was written by Marylyn Muecke and was held on December 7. Forty-eight students participated in the program. The last day of Sunday school for 2025 was December 14, and classes resumed in the new year on January 4. Sunday school offerings were collected through November 16 to pay for Operation Christmas Child shipping costs. Subsequent offering is being collected for Compassion International, with a goal of \$100 to buy a Bible, vegetable seeds, fruit trees, and a hygiene kit for those in need.

Vacation Bible School

VBS was held June 16-June 19 and used the VBS Program Breaker Rock Beach. Much of the preparation had been done with Cassie Hines as director, but she stepped down at the end of April and was replaced by Beth Larson. The Lord provided for all VBS needs, with new volunteers, decorations from another congregation, and people going above and beyond to make sure it was a successful week. Sixty-four attended VBS, with an average of 57 each day, learning that truth comes from God, God's plan is best, Jesus is the only way to heaven, and to speak the truth in love. As the mission focus, children learned about Lutheran World Relief. Volunteers helped them cut quilt squares and supervised as the children sewed the squares together into quilts. They made four quilts by the end of the week! The children were also challenged to bring offerings for LWR and raised a grand total of \$522.15.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Larson
St. John's Lutheran Sunday School Superintendent

GROW

We started our first year of GROW this Fall as an additional youth program to help reach out to those families who either do not come to church or don't make it to Sunday School classes regularly. We offer food from 5-5:45pm to everyone who comes. Then we offer a thirty-minute family-friendly worship service from 6-6:30pm. Finally, the youth are taught Bible lessons from 6:30-8:00pm. GROW is a program for Preschool-5th grade youth that helps students "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."
– 2nd Peter 3:18.

Kristy Broers is writing a three-year curriculum covering the Old and New Testaments so that the youth learn some of the most important Bible stories over the three year rotation. The lessons complement the Sunday School lessons at St. John's and help the youth go more in-depth in the material, especially when it's a longer story to cover. They learn songs each week, do crafts and activities, and go through the lesson in their small groups. We have averaged 18 kids a week and have served a total of 28 youth over the first 13 weeks.

So far this year, we have had 28 adults volunteer to help in all kinds of ways from greeting the families each night to leading small groups. This volunteer number does not include the people we are very grateful for in the kitchen each Wednesday night that prepare meals for everyone. We are excited to see how we might continue reaching out to the wider Le Mars community and share God's Word with families both inside and outside of St. John's in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Broers

You Got Mail! College Writing Ministry

This new ministry is designed to encourage and help our college students during the school year. Through this ministry we will connect each college student with adults from our church who will send them a note/card (once per month) to remind them that someone from home loves and cares about them! We were excited to have 12 people writing letters to 12 college students.

Catechism

Pastor Broers continues to lead our Catechism classes with a lot of help from our youth ministry team and confirmation guides. We ended the 24/25 school year with 40 students (6th-9th grades) and 18 guides. The Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, April 27th and we confirmed eleven students. These students shared their faith statements at a special service earlier in the week for their families and prayer partners.

For the start of the 25/26 school year, we currently have 38 students (6th-9th grades) and Pastor Broers is writing his own curriculum. The focus this year is the Old and New Testaments where the youth are learning the books of the Bible and the big stories. They meet for one hour in the upstairs auditorium for a lesson and then break into small groups with their guides to go over discussion questions and share highs and lows.

Throughout the year, the students have been involved in many service projects such as the "Then Feed Just One" event, a bed build for Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Sioux City, Christmas Caroling and other service projects led by their small groups. In the Spring, they served at the Coffee Bar while collecting funds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

The youth had a fifth quarter get together in January after a basketball game at the Red Shed and one at the Alberts Farm in October after a football game. Two students attended the Spring Recharge at Okoboji, and seven youth attended the Fall Recharge where they were able to spend the weekend with other kids their age learning about Jesus and having a great time doing camp activities.

High School Youth Report

This has been an exciting year for our high school youth! We had about 8-12 youth attend weekly High School Bible studies in the Spring and have now been averaging between 12-15 youth each week in the Fall. These weekly meetings start at 8:15 and last till 9:30. Pastor Broers leads the lesson, and we have one parent chaperone attend each week with snacks. We study the Bible for half the time and then play some type of group game until it's time to leave. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and learn more about Jesus.

We have gone on several trips to Ingham-Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp for their Outreach Events on Sunday evenings where they are involved in a short worship service, dinner together and large group game. These events happen each month and we make it to about every other one depending on interest. Last Spring, the youth were also involved in a "Then Feed Just One" food packaging event here in Le Mars where they packed food that will be sent around the world to fight hunger. We are grateful for the leadership of Denise Anthony and Eliese Hoffman who helped them serve the Easter Breakfast in the Spring to hopefully start that tradition again. They also had a movie event in the Summer at Pastor Broers' house.

So far this Fall, they have had a great turnout at their events which included a video scavenger hunt around the church as well as an overnight lock-in that 83 high schoolers attended! This group is great at inviting friends to both events and weekly Bible studies! We are also excited that so many high schoolers are going to be involved in our Mission Trip to Chicago through Praying Pelican Ministries in the Summer of 2026. Currently, we have eleven youth and four adults planning on making the trip where we will serve the people of that city and share the good news of Jesus Christ with them. This group is currently meeting monthly and raising funds to make the trip happen. We hope that it will be a life-changing event for those we serve and for those of us serving. It will be a great opportunity to put our faith into action!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

The Board of St John's Women consists of Jo Ellen Cronin and Arlene Wiener for 2025.

Our Purpose:

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promise healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Organization:

All women of St John's church are members of the St John's Lutheran Women Organization. Circle meetings are held monthly for Bible Study and any other business or discussion pertaining to the women's organization. We are presently studying "Through This Vain World," a study of the book of Ecclesiastes.

Circles consist of 3 groups which meet the 3rd week of the month on Monday at 1:30 pm, Tuesday at 9:30 am, and Wednesday at 1:30 pm. There were no unit meetings held in 2025.

Service:

We held Do-Days in 2025 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from January through June, and September through November. Workers make quilts, roll bandages, and cut stamps. We no longer collect tabs for Ronald McDonald House but ask that the tabs be taken directly to McDonalds. Many more hours were spent working on projects individually at home or church. We wish to thank all who helped with our projects through donations of materials, supplies, money and time. Also, donations of used Bibles and Portals of Prayer are greatly appreciated as they are given to the Gospel Mission. Thank you also to the following who helped load and deliver the projects to Sioux City: Tim & Janet Lohafer, Denny Plueger, LeRoy Schulz. Loren Pageler, Arlene Wiener and JoEllen Cronin.

We collected the following items in 2025 for Lutheran World Relief. 117 Quilts, 14 Baby Care Kits, 26 Fabric Kits, 14 Personal Care Kits, 105 School Kits, and 50 Pillowcases. For Global Health Mission we collected 48.9 pounds of Rolled Bandages (880 bandages), 6 Hospice Kits and 34 Newborn Kits.

Additional projects of our women include:

1. Visit (when possible) or send cards to members who are either home bound or in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
2. Keep appliances in the church kitchen clean, towels laundered and supplies purchased as needed.
3. Sent memorial of \$20.00 to Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in honor and memory of all women of St John's who passed away during the year.
4. Donated extra clothing and supplies to Safe Place. We have funds in our benevolence which will be divided between St John's Welfare Fund and other organizations determined by our circle members.

Plans for 2026:

To engage and encourage more women to join circle meetings and our Bible study. Also, to continue with our Lutheran World Relief and Global Health projects; recycling Bible and Portals of Prayer to Gospel Mission; visit and send cards to our home bound and those living in assisted living and nursing homes members; and encourage all women to join in our activities.

Submitted by Arlene Wiener and Jo Ellen Cronin

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2025

ANNUAL REPORT

St. John's Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ