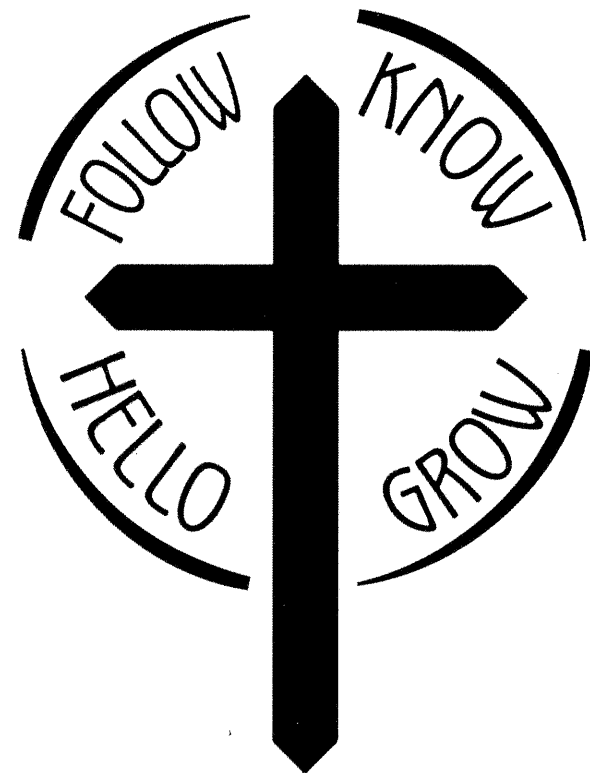


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 1st AVE. NW  
LE MARS, IA. 51031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

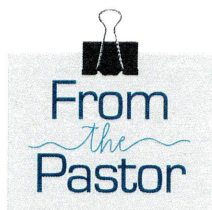
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT NO. 110



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
+

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

**August 2026**



*“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2*

When Kristy and I first moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, we visited a small church on the outskirts of town called Gloria Dei. We got there about ten or fifteen minutes early and sat in a pew together waiting for the service to start. There were probably only a handful of other people in the sanctuary at the time. Pretty soon, someone came to welcome us and asked us some questions about who we were. After they left, someone else came and introduced themselves. A few minutes later, someone else told us how glad they were that we were there. By the time the service started, six different people had welcomed us, introduced themselves and told us how glad that they were to see us! They weren't pushy or nosey, they just organically showed us how loving this congregation was. It shouldn't be any surprise that we kept going there and were active for as long as we lived in Cincinnati.

When we moved to St. Paul for seminary, we went to another church ironically named Gloria Dei as well. We had Sophia with us by that time and there were so many people processing down the aisle during the opening hymn that Sophia asked if they were going to pass out candy (she had just been to a parade and it must have reminded her of that experience). After the service, we stood around and wandered but, surprisingly, nobody said hello. Finally, after looking around for a while, we just left. It shouldn't be any surprise that we never went back there.

I wouldn't be surprised if you had some stories of your own about hospitality. I remember one lady telling me that the first time she went to her church with her husband and little kids in tow, she was told to move because she was sitting in someone else's pew! What a greeting **that** must have been! I also wonder how it would feel to step foot inside a church if you really didn't have **any** experience as a Christian? Going to a new place is **always** a little uncomfortable and awkward, but your first impression can often make or break your chances of ever giving it another try.

Starting this Fall, we will be focusing on finding the best ways that we can welcome first-time guests and bring them back again to St. John's. We are also seeking to discover methods to help **all** people, members and non-members alike, become more engaged on their path to discipleship.

Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, has a famous quote on the importance of focus,

*“People think focus means saying yes to the thing you've got to focus on. But that's not what it means at all. It means saying no to the hundred other good ideas that there are. You have to pick carefully. I'm actually as proud of the things we haven't done as the things I have done. Innovation is saying no to 1,000 things.”*

One way that we can help focus our hospitality and outreach efforts is to make sure that every experience a first-time guest has here at St. John's is a great one! When people come on Sunday mornings, we need to do everything that we can to put our best foot forward so that people might encounter Jesus. With that in mind, our Council has approved discontinuing our Wednesday night service so that we might focus on giving people the best Sunday morning experience possible. We already have two different types of services on Sunday morning for people to choose from and I believe that inviting people to those options will be the clearest and easiest way to encourage them to attend. I also believe that this will help me focus my time and energy on giving the best sermons I can on Sunday mornings when most people are attending services. During the school year, I was spending a lot of time preparing the Wednesday night sermon and I would like to spend more of that time doing other important tasks like visiting people.

Wednesday nights will now be focused on our many youth groups and musical groups. For those who are still interested in a mid-week time of fellowship and spiritual growth, we will also be offering small group Bible studies on Wednesday nights to hopefully meet that need; however, our hope is that we can focus our outreach efforts on inviting families to come **BACK** for a great Sunday morning worship experience **after** they have already begun to engage on Wednesdays with children's groups, food, music and/or education. Finally, during Lent, we will still have worship services that start at 6:30pm with a meal beforehand.

On Sunday mornings, you should start **expecting** to see people that you have never met before at St. John's because we are always finding new ways to invite people to experience the love of Jesus. When you don't know someone, just be yourself and welcome them! And if they've been coming for years, the two of you can just laugh about it and be grateful that you finally met! Welcoming people is a great way to help them to know the love of God and to start learning what it means to be a Christian and to follow the way of Christ. I hope that you will join me in praying that God uses St. John's to reach out more and more to those who don't know Jesus and to help us do everything in our power to welcome everyone in the kingdom of God! Amen.





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



Record Keeping

## CHURCH RECORDS FOR JULY

**Death:** Sandy Curry  
LeAnn Hurlbut  
**Remove:** Allison Pyzel  
**Baptism:** Josie Rose Kroll  
Jacoby Railynn Kroll

### Service Times for Summer

**9:30 am Blended Worship**

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

*Fall Schedule begins September 13th  
Sunday @ 8:15 am & 10:30 am  
Wednesday Worship discontinued*



**Remember These People in Prayer:** Scott, Tim Lohafer, Jae'cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Sharen, Vicky Jurgenson, Nash, Diane K., Joyce Gronemeyer, Denise, Angie, Carolyn, and Kevin Durr

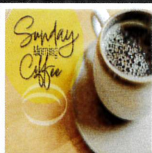
**Ongoing Prayers:** Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat,

Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Jen, and Diane Riediger

**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 and friends of Sandy Curry, who passed away July 5th. St. John's family includes her husband, Don Curry.

**Sympathies** to the family and friends of LeAnn Hurlbut, who passed away July 20th. Family includes Sheryl & Brad Brooks family.



**COFFEE IS ON!!!** The coffee bar will be ready at 9:30 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!!

## Treasurer's Report

1. Our Operating Checking Account decreased \$23,054 to \$5,006 in June. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter benevolence liabilities were paid in full at quarter end.
2. We continue to be debt free.
3. Offerings of \$31,818 in June. This amount is the average for the previous 3 Junes. Year-to-date offerings at \$240,142 and this compares favorably to 2025 amount of \$222,384, 2024 amount of \$224,822, and 2023 amount of \$234,794.
4. June operating expenses of \$50,871 compared to budget of \$48,921 which puts us under budget by about \$10,000.
5. Continued good news on our Endowment fund as we had an investment gain of \$6,504 in June. 2026 year-to-date gain now at \$57,967.



**Bill Young**  
Church Treasurer

A quick reminder...Church expenses don't take a Summer Vacation. When you are traveling this summer, why not try Tithely or our ACH Giving Program. These are a great way to be sure your offerings get to church, even when you aren't able to. See Kim in the office to sign up!



**Students and teachers** be sure to bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, **August 23rd**, when we will have a special blessing for you to start the new school year and a special keychain for your backpack!



## Fall Worship Schedule

Sundays at **8:15 am** and **10:30 am**  
Starting Sunday, **September 13th**

**Wednesday Worship Services** have been discontinued. But, be watching for new Small Group Opportunities.



## FALL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Rehearsals for St. John's Choir and Handbell Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 2. People of Praise continues to rehearse on Tuesday nights throughout the entire year. These three music groups are a great way to share beautiful music, make new friends, relieve stress, and have fun while praising God together and enriching our worship services. Your hands and voices are needed in St. John's music ministry! Please contact Mike Rathke with any questions.



### **Fall Music Schedule**

#### **Tuesdays**

5:30-6:30 People of Praise

#### **Wednesdays** (beginning September 2)

5:30-6:25 Handbell Choir

6:30-7:30 St. John's Choir

## **ELDERBERRIES**

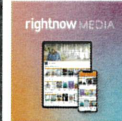


Join St. John's fellow seniors 55+ for an afternoon of fun and fellowship on August 26th @ 2 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and have a presentation about "Chair Yoga." Please join us!



All current, past or any one interested in possibly being a **SMALL GROUP LEADER** are invited to meet on Sunday, August 23, at 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll gather for a time of encouragement, conversation and planning as we continue growing together in faith and helping others connect through small groups.

Please contact Nicole Jarvis at 712-389-1221 with any questions.



## **RightNow MEDIA**

Welcome to "Pastor Steven's Picks." You can find these in the St. John's Lutheran Church Custom Library under "Pastor Steven's Picks" when you login to your RightNow Media account.

I hope that you will take advantage of these videos and the over 25,000 other videos on all kinds of spiritual topics. They can really help you grow in your faith! – Pastor Broers

### **1. Can I Trust the Bible?: Wesley Huff and Andy Steiger**

\*\*\*EPISODE 3 NOW AVAILABLE\*\*\* - The Bible is the most important book of the last two millennia. From sitting at the formation of governments, cultures, and law, this collection of ancient documents has shaped the modern world in ways you may have never realized. However, while the Bible's influence has remained, central attitudes towards it have radically shifted. Once referred to as "the Good Book," there has been a growing skepticism and downright distaste for the Bible.

Are there good reasons to take the Bible seriously? Can we have confidence that it hasn't been altered, adapted, influenced, and edited since its last book was penned nearly two thousand years ago?

### **2. Keep It Simple - Marie Aitken**

You have a unique story to tell about your past without Jesus and your present with Him. But perhaps the thought of telling that story is scary, confusing, or complicated. You don't know who to tell or how. You're afraid you don't have all the answers or that you'll be rejected. In this five-part series, Marie Aitken will help you get over those barriers to craft and deliver your supernatural story naturally, by keeping it simple.

### **3. Unashamed - Lecrae - Living Out Loud for Christ**

Being confident in our faith isn't always easy. Culture wants us to conform rather than stand out and church culture often glorifies perfection and power, making us want to hide our flaws and weaknesses. So how do we proclaim the gospel when it is much easier to stay silent? Can we live boldly for Jesus when we know we are weak and flawed? Join Grammy and Dove Award-winning hip-hop artist Lecrae in this six-session series as he equips, empowers, and encourages us to live unashamed of our faith and of who God created us to be.

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



Don't Miss the  
**DEADLINE!**

**Please turn in your newsletter articles by  
August 20.**





## WOMEN'S CIRCLES

**MONDAY, AUGUST 17**

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19**

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, AUGUST 11TH DO-DAY TIME TBD

Join us as we put together quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health. If you can iron, sew, tie a knot, or use a scissors, we want you to join us! Please call the church office if you would like more information or pick up a booklet from the information table in the entryway or lobby to learn more about this women's ministry!

**Please save your gently used Bibles and canceled postage stamps for Do-Day.** These items can be placed in the designated baskets which are currently in the north entryway of the church.

### MISSIONS FOR LWR



School supplies for 2026 are showing up in stores, so now is the time to purchase them. Please leave the items in the basket in the entryway. Here is the needed list for the kits.

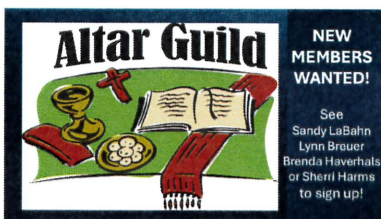
#### **Each school kit contains:**

4 - 70 sheet notebooks (no loose leaf paper), 1 - wooden ruler, 1 - pencil sharpener, 1 - blunt scissors, 5 - black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink), 1 - 24 count box of crayons

**No backpack, erasers, or pencils are needed at this time.** Thank you!

### 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.



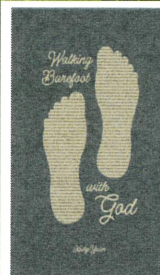
**THRIVENT CHOICE UPDATE** All Thrivent members will now receive Choice Dollars, that can be directed to thousands of non-profits. St. John's is one of them. Choice Dollars will be available at the beginning of the year and can be directed anytime through December 31. To see if you have Choice Dollars available, log in or register at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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 August 10th, from 1-6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.**

**To sign up for a time to donate, go to: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).**

### MEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP



We will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be 7 Tuesday night meetings with the last meeting on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>. Meetings will begin at 7pm in the Church Library. The study will continue with Kathy Yoder's Book- "Walking Barefoot with God," which was the center of the group's discussion this past spring when the group met for 5 weeks. We had twelve members this past spring with average attendance of 9 to 10 per meeting. We are looking for new members and if anyone is interested, please contact Bill Young at 540-3749. Kathy Yoder has written a weekly devotional article since 2005 for the Sioux City Journal. "Walking Barefoot with God" has sixty-four of these handpicked columns which explore love, profound loss, and resilience with references to Bible verses. The common thought from our group was that these stories connected with each of us to where it was easy to have a meaningful discussion which brought us all closer to Jesus. *Sign up on the bulletin board to join us and we will get you a book.*



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

### Worship Assistants Schedule

#### Sunday, August 2nd

Greeter: Karla Hansen/Iris Hemmingson

Lector: Karla Hansen

Comm. Server: Iris Hemmingson

Rex Knapp

Chris Knapp

#### Sunday, August 9th

Greeter: Dean & Lynn Borchers/Joel Johnson

Lector: Sandy LaBahn

Comm. Server: Rod LaBahn

Sandy LaBahn

Anne Jeneary

#### Sunday, August 16th

Greeter: Dianne Baack/Dean Bohlken

Lector: Dick Milne

Comm. Server: Cindy Kamies

Steve Breuer

Lynn Breuer

#### Sunday, August 23rd

Greeter: Adam & Amy Schmidt/Elvira Nielsen

Lector: Elvira Nielsen

Comm. Server: Elvira Nielsen

Janys Schroeder

Jane Westphal

#### Sunday, August 30th

Greeter: Shirley Lang/Mary Rieken

Lector:

Comm. Server: Kyleigh Bohlken

Aleigha Bohlken

Eliese Hoffman

### August Usher Schedule

Denny Plueger, Bryce Tingwald, Milo Duque, Capt's., Steve Utesch, Ron Schulz, Tony Larson, Neal Oetken, Nathan Pauling, Joey Posivio, Jeremy Ferguson, Graham Forbes

### Sound Board Schedule

#### Sunday, August 2nd

Tim Larson - slides

Keith Westhoff - video/sound

#### Sunday, August 9th

Becky DeRuyter - slides

Brenda Haverhals - video

#### Sunday, August 16th

Keith Westhoff - slides

Tim Larson - video

#### Sunday, August 23rd

Becky DeRuyter - slides

Carter Westphal - video

#### Sunday, August 30th

Megan Jeneary - slides

Jacob Jeneary - video

### Acolytes Schedule

#### Sunday, August 2nd

Crucifer: Audrina Schoenrock

Acolytes: Keyanna Miller

Carter Westphal

#### Sunday, August 9th

Crucifer: Aynslee Schmidt

Acolytes: Kenna Grage

Ryalnn Schmidt

#### Sunday, August 16th

Crucifer: Saylix Farmer

Acolytes: Avery Bogh

Lauren Forbes

#### Sunday, August 23rd

Crucifer: Zoey Junck

Acolytes: Emma Ryan

Sophia Brennan

#### Sunday, August 30th

Crucifer: Ethan Rachuy

Acolytes: Kaden Brownmiller

Harper Grause

### Altar Guild

#### Sunday, August 2nd

Janice Milne

Janet Lohafer

#### Sunday, August 9th

Janice Milne

Janet Lohafer

#### Sunday, August 16th

Beth Larson

Lynn Breuer

#### Sunday, August 23rd

Sheri Oetken

Donna Duque

#### Sunday, August 30th

Nicole Jarvis

Lynn Breuer

### Coffee Bar Schedule

#### Sunday, August 2nd

Jane Westphal

#### Sunday, August 9th

Sheri Oetken

#### Sunday, August 16th

Brenda Haverhals

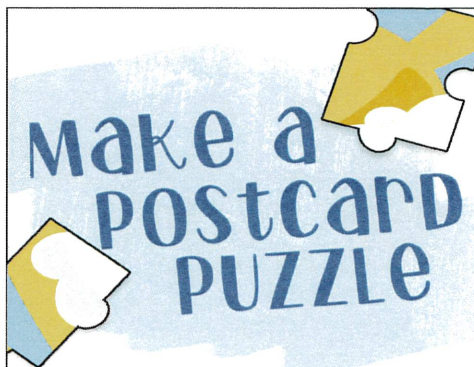
#### Sunday, August 23rd

Jane Westphal

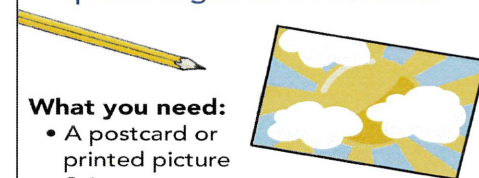
#### Sunday, August 30th

Jane Westphal

**The Sunflower**, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

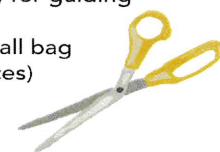


Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.



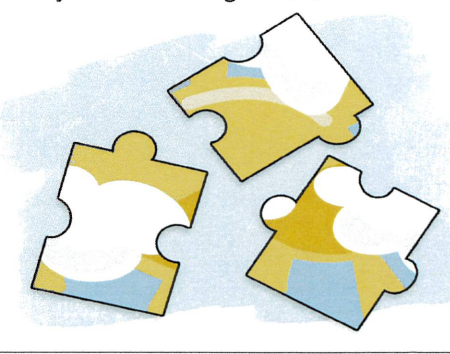
#### **What you need:**

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)



#### **What you do:**

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.

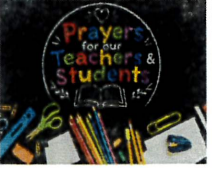




# >>> August 2026

| SUNDAY                                                                                        | MONDAY                                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|              |  American Red Cross |           |
| 2<br>9:30 am Worship w/Comm                                                                   | 3                                                                                                    | 4<br>10 am Staff Meeting<br>5:30 pm People of Praise                                       |
| Pastor on Vacation _____                                                                      |                                                                                                      |                                                                                            |
| 9<br>9:30 am Worship w/Comm                                                                   | 10<br>1 – 6 pm Blood Drive<br>7 pm Church Council D/R                                                | 11<br>10 am Staff Meeting<br>1 – 4 pm Do-Day<br>5:30 pm People of Praise                   |
| Pastor on Vacation _____                                                                      |                                                                                                      |                                                                                            |
| 16<br>9:30 am Worship w/Comm                                                                  | 17<br>1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L<br>6 pm Youth Ministry Mtg L/L                                         | 18<br>10 am Staff Meeting<br>5:30 pm People of Praise<br>6:30 pm Outreach/Missions Mtg L/L |
| 23<br>BACKPACK BLESSINGS<br>9:30 am Worship w/Comm<br>10:30 am Small Group<br>Leaders Mtg F/H | 24                                                                                                   | 25<br>10 am Staff Meeting<br>5:30 pm People of Praise                                      |
| NOISY OFFERING 30<br>9:30 am Worship w/Comm<br>10:30 am Catechism Guide Training F/H          | 31                                                                                                   |         |

# >>> August 2026

| WEDNESDAY                                                                               | THURSDAY                                                                                        | FRIDAY                                                                                | SATURDAY                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|      |              |    | 1                                   |
| 5                                                                                       | 6<br>3 pm Imagine Small Group L/L                                                               | 7                                                                                     | 8                                   |
| 12                                                                                      | 13<br>3 pm Imagine Small Group L/L                                                              | 14                                                                                    | 15                                  |
| 19<br>9:30 – 10:30am Chapel<br>Services at Care Facilities<br>1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L | 20<br>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary<br>3 pm Imagine Small Group L/L | 21                                                                                    | 22                                  |
| 26<br>2 pm Elderberries                                                                 | 27<br>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary<br>3 pm Imagine Small Group L/L                        | 28                                                                                    | 29<br>11 am LeBlanc & Wurth Wedding |
|    |            |  |                                     |



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT WANTED

St. John's is looking for a new Sunday School Superintendent. The SS Superintendent oversees all Sunday school activities and operations. A stipend is available. Please speak with Pastor Broers if interested. Thank you! And many thanks to Beth Larson who has passionately gone above and beyond to make sure that our kids know Jesus!

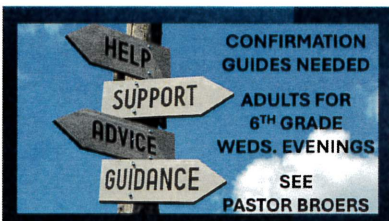
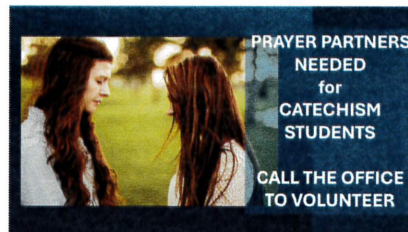


## **CONFIRMATION GUIDES SUNDAY SCHOOL/GROW TEACHER/HELPER TRAINING**

Sunday, August 30th, all that are involved with the upcoming Education Programs at St. John's are requested to attend a training session in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am. Thank you.

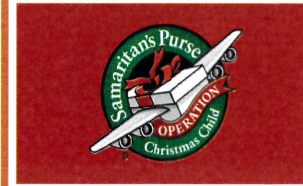
## CATECHISM PRAYER PARTNERS WANTED!

If you would be interested in becoming a "Prayer Partner" for the incoming Catechism students, or have any questions about what is needed as a Prayer Partner, give Kim a call and she can fill you in! 712-546-8855.



## CATECHISM GUIDES NEEDED!

We are looking for adults, male or female, to commit to being Catechism Guides for our 6th grade classes starting this Fall. We meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8 pm. Please contact Pastor Broers with interest or questions. Thank you!



## 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. All items are appreciated. If you have any questions contact Jane Westphal or Pam Roling.

## COLLEGE STUDENT MAIL MINISTRY

What college student doesn't love to receive mail? We need St. John's members to join in a writing ministry for our college students for the upcoming school year.



Life after high school graduation and throughout the college years can be difficult. This 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!

What does this require?

- College Students - need to provide contact information, likes, birthday, and parent information.
- St. John's members - need to commit to sending a note/card once per month – September thru April. Each month you will receive (via email) a different student to write, so by the end of the school year you will have blessed eight students!

Let's show our students that they are in our thoughts and in our prayers even while they are away at school. Registration will be ready in mid-August.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Brennan via phone/text at 540-7315.



# GROW WITH US

in the *grace* and *knowledge* of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ 2 Peter 3:18



**Free Supper | Bible Learning | Activities**

## Come Join Us!

St. John's Lutheran Church invites all Pre-K through 5th grade students to GROW, our FREE Wednesday night children's ministry! From **September 9, 2026 - April 28, 2027**, kids can come enjoy free food, fun activities, and learning about Jesus together.

### Interested in Learning More?

Call us at (712) 546-8855  
Email us at [StJohns@StJohnsLeMarsIA.org](mailto:StJohns@StJohnsLeMarsIA.org)  
Check out our website at [StJohnsLeMarsIA.org](http://StJohnsLeMarsIA.org)  
Scan the QR code to register



## Schedule

### Free Supper

6:00 - 6:30 PM

The whole family is invited!

### Bible Time & Activities

6:30 - 7:45 PM

Pre-K through 5th grade

## Help Wanted for GROW

We're looking for people that love God, love kids and are willing to spend their Wednesday nights *GROW*ing the kingdom of God.

Positions to prayerfully consider:

- Teachers (PreK-5th grade)
- Helpers (PreK-5th grade)
- Kitchen Helpers
- Greeters

Volunteers can be scheduled weekly, twice a month, or monthly.

Please pray and ask God if He is wanting you to step out in faith and join us!  
Contact Kristy or Pastor Broers with questions or to volunteer. Thanks!



## Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



reDcti



ym



efoopstst



cgcdianro



ot



oryu



dowr



elt



on



nsi



lreu



rvoe



em.

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."



## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO:**

- 1:** Shirley Lang (Estill), Kelli Schoenrock
- 2:** Earl Draayer, Jacquelynn Panzer, Genevieve Hanisch, Keyanna Miller, Kristy Broers
- 3:** Cleo Ahrendsen, Maverick Niehus
- 4:** Kent Westphal, Jean Wilken
- 5:** Palmer Anthony, Kristina Dreckman
- 6:** Ian Ferguson, Meredith Arnold, Treyton Miller
- 7:** Chase Hammons, Dan Plueger, Nichole Heitritter
- 8:** Ryker Cochran, Nancy Heintz
- 9:** Cindy Kamies, Rosalie Ellefson, Tanya Hightree, Rebecca Hines
- 10:** Ciara Nelson, Debbie Kellerson, Jordan Schleis, Alaina Koerselman
- 11:** Jacob Ahrendsen, Mary Grosenheider
- 12:** Kyler Albert, Kinley Tingwald, Hope Erdmann
- 13:** Amy Schmidt, Nicholas Rolling
- 14:** Logan Anderson, Judd Herzberg
- 16:** Eliese Hoffman, Jeff Jelken, Michael Schleis, Rich Ellefson, Kyle Van Oort
- 18:** Oaklyn Acevedo, Natasha Mairose
- 20:** Judy Bultman, William Hines
- 21:** Vincent Kruse, Chris Schuett
- 22:** Julie Albert, Kyle Foelske, Emma Wendt, Logan Wendt
- 23:** Neal Anthony, Adam Curry, Lexi Sturgeon
- 24:** Joyce Gronemeyer, Lacey Kern, Dayton Rand
- 25:** Don Curry, Hannah Zubrod, Kynlee Schmidt, Roger Neyens
- 26:** Simon Kern, Tate Candor
- 27:** Brittany Cochran
- 28:** Eric Athens, Sherri Harms, Tyler Niehus, Ty Westhoff, Taylor Wulf
- 29:** Adelita Stamer-Fuentes, Delana Ihrke, Sonya Hanisch, Quinn Posivio, Wanda MaComb
- 30:** Emily Chihak, Taelyn Ortmann, Troy Caswell
- 31:** Shirley Lang (Norm), Mikayla Westhoff



**Bible Quiz...** Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.



## **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!



**Noisy Offerings** will be collected on **August 30th**. 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    | <a href="http://www.okoboji.org/ingham">www.okoboji.org/ingham</a> |
| • Global Health Ministries  | <a href="http://www.ghm.org">www.ghm.org</a>                       |

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lcmc.net) for the main church website. Printed materials may also be found in the library.





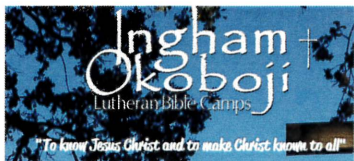
FOR KIDS 55+  
**Fall Elderversity**  
Aug. 28-30, 2026



Elderversity is a great chance for those 55 and older to be young at heart and enjoy camp. This event provides opportunities to listen to engaging speakers, and times to get together with new and old friends. Registration includes meals, lodging and program.

Participate in many different camp activities such as:

Singing  
Campfires  
Great Sessions  
Pontoon ride  
And much more!



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

CELEBRATING  
**75 YEARS**  
INGHAM LAKE BIBLE CAMP

**AUG. 22-23** **AT INGHAM LAKE**  
2258 450<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wallingford

FAMILY FUN- 1-5 PM. BOATING . ARCHERY . AND MORE .  
EVENING MEAL- 5:30 PM . CAMPFIRE- 7:30 PM. BRUNCH- 11 AM.  
WORSHIP SERVICE- 2 PM . HOG ROAST- 4 PM . PIE AUCTION- 6 PM .

HOPE YOU WILL HELP US CELEBRATE!  
CHECK OUT ALL THE DETAILS AND RSVP  
AT [WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG/75](http://WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG/75)



Bible Quiz Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)



Dear members of St. John's,  
Thank you for your generous donation. Your support helps us provide vital services to thousands of children and families. Because of donors like you, we can offer help across all 99 counties in Iowa through five key programs:

- ◆ High-quality mental health services.
- ◆ Important educational resources and guidance for parents of young children.
- ◆ Dignified services for individuals with disabilities.
- ◆ Resettlement and hospitality for our immigrant and refugee neighbors.
- ◆ Safe and loving homes for children in the foster care or adoption system.

With gratitude,  
Michael Knipp

### Le Mars Community Blood Drive



Friday, August 7th, from 9 am till 2 pm at the YMCA - upper level fitness room.

Text lifeserve to 515.815.7242 or call 800.287.4903 or visit [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org) to schedule an appointment.

28th Annual  
Ingham Okoboji  
**Golf Classic**



**Saturday, August 15, 2026**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Register by August 1st and receive a free golf shirt or cap!

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

**STEVE ANGRISANO**  
Concert Tour  
Benefiting



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026**

All Saints, St Joe's site, 605 Plymouth St. NE, Le Mars  
6:00 p.m. Concert, Mary's Meals presentation

7:30 p.m. Wine and cheese

Sponsored by Arts at All Saints

Contact: Danna - [dannarhs@aol.com](mailto:dannarhs@aol.com)



**FREE WILL OFFERING**  
All Proceed Go To Mary's Meals



**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](http://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](mailto: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

[www.sunnybrookchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/399133](http://www.sunnybrookchurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/399133)



**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](http://www.stjohnslemarsia.org)

Email: [stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven Broers [broers@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:broers@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Minister of Music: Michael Rathke [mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Office Manager: Kim Lang [kim@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:kim@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen  
[assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken [custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org)

Sunday School Supt.:

Beth Larson [elizabethrgraf@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethrgraf@hotmail.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 - Outreach

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](mailto: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!