



December 21st, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent

St. John’s Office Hours: 8-5 Tues.-Fri. Building Hours: 8-5 Mon.-Fri.

201 1st Ave NW, Le Mars IA 51031 Ph-(712)546-8855

Email-stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org Web-www.stjohnslemarsia.org

St. John’s Lutheran Church of Le Mars, IA.

Senior Pastor: Steven Broers

Minister of Music: Mike Rathke

Office Manager: Kim Lang

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken

Sunday School Superintendent: Beth Larson

FORTRESS OF FAITH and **RADIO ADS** are in honor and gratitude of our veterans and deployed military by Karol Holton.

NOISY OFFERINGS will be collected next weekend, December 28th. Collections are helping to fund the mission projects next summer, when the youth travel to Chicago. Thank you for your donations.

MISSION TRIP CHICAGO 2026 – KWIK STAR CAR WASH CARDS FUNDRAISER If you ordered a car wash card, be sure to stop at the table to pick up your order. Thanks for your support of the Mission Trip 2026!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULES

- Dec 24 - 1 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship
- 3 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship
- 5 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship
- 7:30 PM Brass Prelude
- 8 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec 25 - 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship

The Building will be closed on December 26th.

FINAL DONATIONS for 2025 need to be made by **12 pm on December 31, 2025**. The building will be closing at noon on December 31.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please pick up your 2026 Offering Envelopes from the lobby. If you would like a set of envelopes, please let Kim know. 546-8855. If you no longer require a set, also let Kim know. These should not be used until after the 1st of the year. Thank you.

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!

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC OFFERINGS We need volunteers to provide special music offerings for all Christmas Eve services at 1, 3, 5, and 8 pm. If you would like to share your musical gifts please talk to Mike Rathke or sign up in the narthex.

CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS CARD Help us fund the St. John’s Welfare Fund. Save the money you would spend on cards sent to your St. John’s family and sign the card on the bulletin board. Then leave a donation in the box next to the card. Thank you Karol Holton, for designing this years bulletin board.

USHERS NEEDED: We still need ushers for all Christmas Services. Let us know you can help by signing up in the Narthex.

LIFEWISE GIVING TREE Please stop by the LifeWise Giving Tree and pick a tag from the tree. Any and all donation are appreciated. The tree is located at the north end of the lobby, near the Resource Room. Thank you for your help.

HEARTS OF FIRE 2 BOOK STUDY If you would like to join this study after the new year, please sign up on the bulletin board, so we will know how many books to order. Books will be \$5. Start date is Wed. January 14 at 2 pm in the Library. Sign up by December 19th.

Excel in The Grace of Giving! Thank you for sharing your time, your talents and your treasures with St. John’s! Your generosity has made a huge impact both on this church and the community this year. God bless you!

QUILTING MATERIALS WANTED Do-Day women are looking for white sheets (mostly cotton) for bandages and fabric pieces for the quilts. Donations can be left at the office.

GROW MEAL There will be no Grow meals until after the 1st of the year.

NEW BUSINESS NOTICE FOR ANNUAL MEETING New business items for the Congregation’s Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026 must be submitted in writing to the church office no later than 12 pm on December 31, 2025. Per St. John’s C10.07 and Bylaws Part V.12, items presented after Dec. 31, 2025 require a 2/3rds vote to “suspend the rules in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.”

SIGN A COMMUNION CARD / USE AN ENVELOPE FOR GIFTS!

Reminder: In accordance with St. John’s Constitution Chapter 8.02.c *Voting* members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year and at least thirty (30) days prior to notice of any regular or special meeting at which the member intends to vote. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation. *St. John’s Annual Meeting will be held on January 25th, 2026.*

THE SIOUX COUNTY ORATORIO CHORUS is about to kick off a new season, and all are invited to sing! Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30 pm, beginning January 6, in the choir room at Northwestern College. This season we will sing the well-loved Handel’s *Messiah*, featuring professional soloists and orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Holm. Our concert will be held on Saturday, April 25 at Northwestern’s Christ Chapel. Contact Mike Ochsner at mkchsnr@gmail.com with any questions.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

Greeter Lector Comm Serv	8:00 AM Steve & Rhonda Justice Ken Freyermuth Mark Kehrberg Iris Hemmingson Aleigha Bohlken	10:30 AM Harold & Tammy Lee Nicole Jarvis Lisa Erdmann Krista Plueger Mary Roder
	Crucifer Acolytes	Aynslee Schmidt Rylann Schmidt
	ProPresenter Video/Sound Altar Guild	Megan Jeneary Jacob Jeneary Janet Kolker Cindy Kamies
Coffee Bar Ushers	Amy Kruse Tracy W., Greg M. Doug S., Rob S.	Bryce T., Nathan P, Joey P., Jeremy F.

Remember These People in Prayer: Tim Lohafer, Jae’cion, Nancy H., Bellamy, Hanna Francksen-Small, Hallie Bunkers, Grace Galles, Brielle Schorg, Nash, Kent W. and Diane K.: **Ongoing Prayers:** Mason Sitzmann, Missy Rarrat, Alex Hines, Taelynn Ortmann, Kendra, Norm Nielsen, Sherry Jo Wittkop, Shirley, Kathryn, Jen, and Kathy; **Deployed:** Jaime Koopman, Kylie Britt, Blake Erdmann, Brent Jarvis, Mitch Lang **Care Facility Residents:** Good Samaritan - Russ Martfeld, Lorraine Luksan, Dennis Asche, Warren Oetken; Accura Health - Patty Lubben; Stonebridge Suites - Joanne Klohs, Lynne Bogh, Roger Athens, Dorothy Luschen; Floyd Senior Living - Diane Utesch; Heartland Care Center - Le Ann Hurlbut; Holy Spirit Retirement Home - Alma Willer; Prime Living - Wade & Betty Thompson; Vintage Hills of Indianola - Jane Schultz

Sun Dec 21	Mon Dec 22	Tues Dec 23	Wed Dec 24	Thurs Dec 25	Fri Dec 26	Sat Dec 27	Sun Dec 28
8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 am Fellowship Hour	4:30 pm P. o. P. Rehearsal 6 pm Brass Rehearsal	10 am Staff Meeting 2 pm Schuett Baptism	Office Closes at noon 1 pm Contemporary Christmas Service 3, 5, 8 pm Traditional Christmas Services 7:30 pm Brass Prelude	9:30 am Christmas Day Worship	Building Closed		Noisy Offering 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Fellowship Hour

December 21st, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent



First Reading: Habakkuk 3:17-18 ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.
² **Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**
³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.
⁴ **Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev.**
⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.**

Second Reading: James 1:2-4 ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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

Please rise for the reading of the holy Gospel.

The holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:8-20 ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this

child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS ASSISTANTS NEEDED:
Christmas Day
9:30 am Service 1 Greeter & 2 Communion Servers

ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER ASSISTANTS
Christmas Eve December 24
3 pm Acolytes: 2 Needed
5 pm Acolytes: 1 Needed
8 pm Acolytes: 2 Needed
Christmas Day
9:30 am Crucifer: 1 Needed
Acolytes: 2 Needed
Please call the office and let Kim know if you can help:
546-8855

Radio Ad and Fortress of Faith sponsors are needed for next year. Please contact Kim if you would like to honor/memorialize someone. Radio Ads are \$10 a week and Fortress of Faith spots are \$25.00. Thank you!