



December 28th, 2025 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

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

Senior Pastor: Steven Broers

Minister of Music: Mike Rathke

Office Manager: Kim Lang

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken

Sunday School Superintendent: Beth Larson

THANK YOU to Kent Westphal for sharing the message with us this morning.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mia Nicole Schuett, who was baptized at St. John’s on Tuesday, December 23rd. Mia’s parents are Zach & Lexi (Barthman) Schuett. Sponsors are Matthew Barthman and Alex Schuett. Blessings to this family.

FORTRESS OF FAITH is in memory of Lyle & Shirley Heien by Kathy & Delmer Otten & family and Wayne Heien. **RADIO ADS** are sponsored by a friend of St. John’s.

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!

NOISY OFFERINGS will be collected TODAY, 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!

The Building will be closing at noon on December 31st and closed on January 1st.

FINAL DONATIONS for 2025 need to be made by **12 pm on December 31, 2025.**

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!

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.

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 30th.

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 at 1 pm.**

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.

INGHAM OKOBOJI YOUNG ADULT RETREAT It’s not too late to register for this fun weekend retreat for young adults 18 yrs and older. January 2 - 4 at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. Take a break. Catch your breath. Rest, relax, and be renewed by God. Register online at www.okoboji.org/abide.

WINTER CRAFTING RETREAT at Okoboji Bible Camp January 23 - 25. Come to camp for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and accomplishment! There will be plenty of space for you to spread your project out and let your ideas takeover. Attendees must be 13+ years old. Register online at www.okoboji.org.

Thank you to our worship assistants!

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeter	Ned & Wanda MaComb	Brad Pick Family
Lector	Keith Westhoff	Tammy Lee
Comm Serv	Dianne Baack	Brad Pick
	Ellen Russell	Nicole Jarvis
	Jane Westphal	Haylee Jarvis
Crucifer	Hadley Klein	
Acolytes	Kasen Niehus	Kinley Tingwald
	Cameron Pauling	Lauren Forbes
ProPresenter	Becky DeRuyter	Megan Brennan
Video/Sound	Tim Larson/Carter W	Keith Westhoff
Altar Guild	Beth Larson	Elizabeth Brennan
	Janice Milne	Tammy Lee
Coffee Bar		
Ushers	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 **Sympathies** to the family of Harry Kibler, who passed away on December 21st. Harry is the brother-in-law to Julie Hulstein.

Sun Dec 28	Mon Dec 29	Tues Dec 30	Wed Dec 31	Thurs Jan 1	Fri Jan 2	Sat Jan 3	Sun Jan 4
Noisy Offering 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 am Fellowship Hour		10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm P.o.P.	Building Closes at noon	New Year’s Day Building Closed			8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour

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First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-11; 62:1-3 ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. ^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ² The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. ³ You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Please join in a responsive reading of Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created,

⁶ **and he established them for ever and ever - he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ **lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,**

⁹ you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ **wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,**

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² **young men and women, old men and children.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 ⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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 2:22-40 ²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." ³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

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.