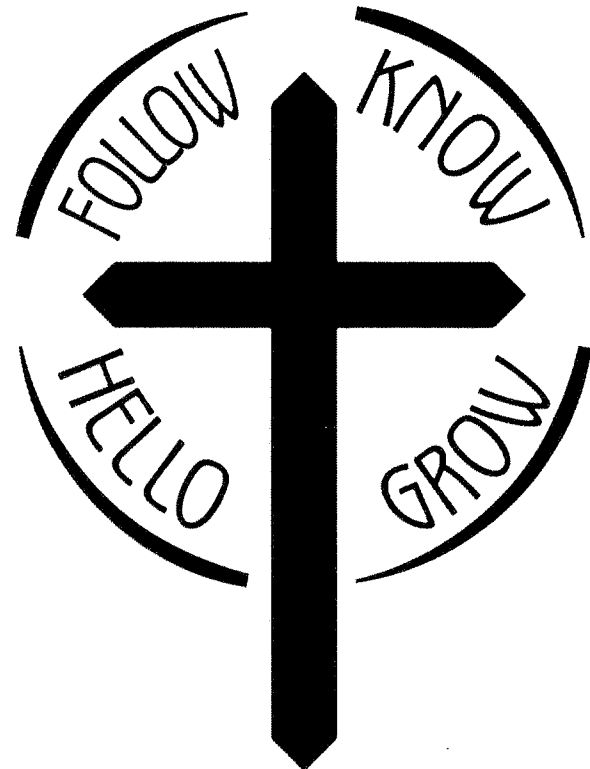


ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 1st AVE. NW
LE MARS, IA. 51031

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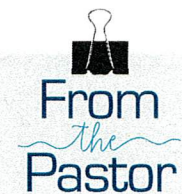


St. John's Lutheran Church



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

January 2026



“My payer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You.” – John 17:20-21

The verse above is a part of a much longer prayer that Jesus prayed for His disciples. But, in this passage, Jesus shows that His heart was focused, not just on the disciples that He already had, but desired for the message of the gospel to be spread to more and more people over the course of time. In the gospel of Luke, chapter 19, we read a similar sentiment, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

This year, I would like our focus at St. John’s to reflect this aspect of God’s heart: “to seek and save the lost.” To reach out beyond our walls to the community of Le Mars and get the message of salvation through Jesus out to those who might be feeling **very** lost in this world right now. How might we invite people to be a part of God’s kingdom and experience His joy, His peace and His presence in their lives? How might we serve them and show them that God’s truly cares for them and their families? What are we doing as a church that might be creating obstacles to reaching new believers and what might we **start** doing that would help people commit to follow Jesus?

I would like all of you to first answer for yourself **WHY** you follow Jesus. If you can’t answer this question, it’s going to be really hard to share with anyone else why **they** should follow Jesus too. Is it the hope of eternal life that inspires you to follow Jesus? Then you will be most passionate about sharing that truth if someone asks you about your faith. Or, maybe it’s the promise of unconditional love that Jesus gives that matters most to you. If you have come from a dark place in your past and experienced a new life through Jesus, that story might be a wonderful place to enter into conversations with others. On the other hand, perhaps it’s the meaning and purpose being a follower of Jesus gives to your life that strengthens your faith. So many people today are searching for a purpose in their life and they might be just waiting to hear about what makes you excited to follow Jesus!

Once you know **WHY** you are a follower of Jesus, the next step is to have something to say. 1 Peter 3:15 says, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” Write down your **WHY**. Write a sentence of two about why Jesus matters to you. Memorize it. I promise you that if you are prepared to share, God will provide the opportunities to use it!

Finally, pray. If you already have someone in mind who you wish was a Christian, or someone who seems to have lost their faith, ask God to provide you the perfect time and place to share your faith with them. Maybe it will be a simple invitation for them to come to church with you, or maybe you just share the church website and encourage them to watch a service on their own. You don’t have to argue with them about some deep theological controversy. Just share what Jesus means to you and invite them to find out more. Remind them that coming to church is like “kicking the tires” on a new car . . . they don’t have to commit to buying the whole car after one visit!

Throughout this year, I hope to give you lots of encouragement and practical ways to share your faith with others. As a church, I hope that we can look at our building and ministries with new eyes and ask ourselves what coming to a service for the first time at St. John’s would be like if we had never stepped foot into a church before? What would be inviting and what would be scary? How might we best take someone from being a first-time visitor to a committed follower of Jesus? How can we best encourage a long-time attender to become a leader for others?

Jesus loves you and that care and compassion will never change. He has blessed us at St. John’s so many times over! Now, I pray that we can take that blessed assurance of salvation and find new ways of sharing that good news with others. Amen.

Excel in The Grace of Giving!

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” -Anne Frank

“The most truly generous persons are those who give silently without hope of praise or reward.” – Carol Ryrie Brink

“Everyone can experience the joy and blessing of generosity; because everyone has something to give.” – Jan Grace

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!

WEEKLY MUSIC SCHEDULE

Tuesdays

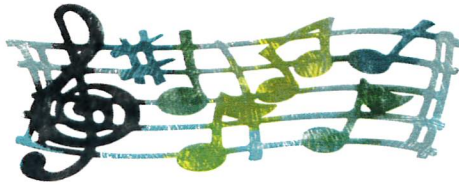
5:30-6:30 People of Praise

Wednesdays

5:00-5:50 Handbell Choir

6:00-6:30 Wednesday Worship

6:45-7:45 St. John's Choir



Our sincere thanks to all who provided special music during our Christmas Eve services - St. John's Choir, Brass, People of Praise, and Handbells, Genevieve Hanisch, Carter Westphal, Caroline Larson, Pastor Broers, Micah Broers, and Malachi Broers.

Congratulations to the choir for all their great work on this year's cantata! Participants included Twila Borchers, Lois Graf, Sonya Hanisch, Janet Lohafer, Deb Wilson, Janet Kolker, Muriel Miller, Jill Young, Paul Freking, Scott Ihrke, Gerald Klemme, Bill Young, and Phil Hochsprung.

The New Year is a great time to join a music group at St. John's! We would love to see you in Choir, Bells, Brass, or People of Praise. Talk to Mike for more information!

Treasurer's Report

November 2025

- 1) Our Operating checking account decreased \$1,191 to \$16,730 in November. We have about \$9,600 of unpaid benevolences and payroll tax liabilities as of 11/30/25.
- 2) We continue to be debt free.
- 3) Offerings dropped in November to \$33,115 but this amount is similar to what we took in the previous two Novembers. Year to date offerings now total \$448,865 which compares favorably to last year's offerings of \$423,571, 2023 offerings of \$431,379, 2022 offerings of \$433,417, and 2021 offerings of \$437,132.
- 4) November operating expenses were \$36,758 as compared to a budget of \$42,190. We are now about \$35,000 under 2025 budgeted amount. Salary and benefits account for \$22,000 of this \$35,000 overall savings.
- 5) Endowment funds total \$670,000 after a November investment gain of \$5,985. Year-to-date investment gain now totals \$72,952.



Bill Young, Church Treasurer



RightNow MEDIA

Thanks to everyone who has signed up for an account with Rightnow Media! Next, I want to encourage you to **use** it! In order to make that happen, I thought that I would give you all a few suggestions on some videos that I believe are really good.

Some of these are meant to be used for personal devotions while others would work best in a small group. You can also find them in the St. John's Lutheran Church Custom Library under "Pastor Steven's Picks" when you login to your RightNow Media account.

1. The Book of 1st Corinthians Devotional – Jennie Allen

Christianity calls us to sacrifice instead of living for oneself. We have to choose one or the other—we can't do both. The Christians in Corinth tried to live the Christian life in a worldly way. Paul wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to a divided and self-centered people to remind them to follow Jesus and only Jesus.

In this 12-week devotional, author and speaker Jennie Allen walks into the messy lives of the Corinthians and takes us through Paul's words to the conflicted church. We'll see how the truth of the gospel and the Spirit of God can empower us to choose to follow Jesus every day of our lives.

2. The Gospel of Mark Daily Devotional – Francis Chan

The Gospel of Mark chronicles Jesus's journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. Along the way, the Messiah gathers a ragged band of disciples. As crowds grow and dwindle on the road to Jerusalem, only a few stick by the Suffering Savior on the road of discipleship.

In this 11-week devotional on the Gospel of Mark, author and speaker Francis Chan invites us to walk with him along the ancient ways of the Master. Tracing the steps of Jesus and the Twelve through Israel, Francis explores the major themes of the Gospel of Mark, and asks: Are we willing to take this journey to embrace discipleship?

3. Your Bible – Zach Zehnder

Join Zach Zehnder for God Speaks, a 30-day journey through the Bible exploring how God's voice still teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us to live with purpose. Created in partnership with Lutheran Bible Translators, this series invites you to rediscover the life-changing power of God's Word.

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

Get Access

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



Are you an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars to direct?

Thank you to those members who participated in the Thrivent Choice program and helped support our church's mission by directing Choice Dollars.

Each year, eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars based on their qualifying insurance premiums and contract values. If you're an eligible Thrivent member with Choice Dollars available to designate, you can help strengthen our community by directing them to St. John's Lutheran Church. Choice Dollars for 2025 must be directed by March 31, 2026.

Choose to make a difference by directing Choice Dollars today. Simply visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice** or call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."



Direct Choice Dollars®



St. John's Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026** in the **Sanctuary @ 1:00 pm**.
All confirmed members are encouraged to attend.

Annual Reports will be available in the lobby on Sunday, January 11th.

Appreciation Lunch We have so much to be thankful for, so please join us in the fellowship hall on January 25, @ 11:45 am. A catered luncheon will be served before the annual meeting. Sign up on the bulletin board. Deadline is Sunday, Jan. 11 **Everyone is welcome.**

Council Nominees: Ermilo Duque, Lisa Erdmann, Katie Gerloff, and Hope Majeres

Endowment Nominee: Gerald Klemme

Nominating Committee Nominees: Amy Davis, Greg Jeneary, Joel Johnson, Paula Kommes, and Amy Schmidt



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



COFFEE IS ON!!! The coffee bar will be ready at 9 am Sunday mornings this fall! Come early or stay after. Grab a cup of coffee and a Lally's donut hole, or two! Free will donations are appreciated. Enjoy!!



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

Sympathies to the family of **Harry Kibler**, who passed away December 21. Harry is the brother-in-law of St. John's member, Julie Hulstein.

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
Please keep them in your prayers and they would love to have visitors.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Please turn in your newsletter articles by January 19.

Record
Keeping

**CHURCH RECORDS
FOR DECEMBER**

Baptisms:

Jett Tanner Anthony
Emmett John TeBrink
Mia Nicole Schuett

Service Times for Winter

8:00 am Traditional
9:15 am Study Hour
10:30 am Contemporary
Weds @ 6 pm Contemporary

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

Are you going away this winter? PLEASE help keep our expenses down and notify us with your temporary address OR let us know to withhold your newsletter and other mailings during the time you are gone. Returned mail incurs expenses that the church has to cover. Thanks for your help!



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026

are available to pick up in the lobby. If you have not used offering envelopes in the past and would like a set, please call Kim at 546-8855 to make arrangements. Also, if you no longer wish to receive a set, also call Kim. If you are a new member, you will also find a set with your name on it.



Please do not begin using these envelopes until after the 1st of the year.

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!



Please pick up your poinsettia by January 9th.



Sunday School will resume beginning January 4th.

Study Hour for ages Pre-K through Adults happens every Sunday, from 9:15 am - 10:15 am.

Come join us!

GROW January Schedule

Jan. 7 -

-Lesson 3 NT - Wise Men
-Scripture - Matthew 2:1-12
-PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
-PreK-K Helper - Bette Miller, Kaden Royalty
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
-1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto
-3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
-3 Helper - Donna Duque
-4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
-4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
-Greeters - Dianne Baack
-Sonya Hanisch

Jan. 14 -

-Lesson 4 NT - The Boy at the Temple
-Scripture - Luke 2:41-52
-PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
-PreK-K Helper - Dawn Otto, Kaden Royalty
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
-1-2 Helper - Megan Jeneary
-3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
-3 Helper - Jacob Jeneary
-4-5 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
-4-5 Helper - Donna Duque
-Greeters - Kate Braband
-Rhonda Justice

Jan. 21 -

-Lesson 5 NT - John the Baptist
-Scripture - Matt. 11:2-11; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:6-8, 19-28
-PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
-PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals, Kaden Royalty
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
-1-2 Helper - Kate Braband
-3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
-3 Helper - Donna Duque
-4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
-4-5 Helper - Cindy Kamies
-Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
-Kate Braband
-Extra Help - Nicole Jarvis

Jan. 28 -

-Lesson 6 NT - Jesus' Baptism
-Scripture - Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:4-11; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
-PreK-K Teacher - Bette Miller
-PreK-K Helper - Pam Roling, Kaden Royalty
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
-1-2 Helper - Megan Jeneary
-3 Teacher - Anne Jeneary
-3 Helper - Jacob Jeneary
-4-5 Teacher - Kent Westphal
-4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
-Greeters - Dianne Baack
-Rhonda Justice

Feb. 4 -

-Lesson 7 NT - Tempted
-Scripture - Luke 4:1-13
-PreK-K Teacher - Micah Broers
-PreK-K Helper - Brenda Haverhals, Kaden Royalty
-1-2 Teacher - Melissa Utesch
-1-2 Helper - Dawn Otto
-3 Teacher - Nicole Jarvis
-3 Helper - Donna Duque
-4-5 Teacher - Sandy LaBahn
-4-5 Helper - Simon Kern
-Greeters - Sonya Hanisch
-Rhonda Justice



JANUARY GROW MEALS

Join us for Wednesday Night Meals
serving 5:00—5:45 pm

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

Pizza
Ham & Cheese Sandwiches
Mac & Cheese
Taverns

CANCELLATION/ANNOUNCEMENT ALERTS

St. John's uses **"TextCaster"** to get the word out quickly when services or activities get changed due to weather or other circumstances.

Are you a "TextCaster" subscriber?

Call the LeMars Sentinel Office at 546-7031 or email: proder@iowainformation.com to request a link for TextCaster.

Once you receive your email link, follow the instructions.

If you are already receiving messages, click on [Update Message Preferences/Unsubscribe](#)

- **Daily Weather Forecast** - Receive the local weather forecast as a text message each morning.
- **School Closings & Notices** - Get important information from your school.
- **Local Sports News** - Get news and scores from all your favorite area teams.

Already receiving messages? [Update Message Preferences / Unsubscribe](#)

Step 1: Sign-Up - Test Your Phone

Then, under **Message Groups** click on **St. John's Lutheran Church**, located under the heading **Church Closing/Announcements**.

New subscribers will need to fill out the form as instructed.

If St. John's has an announcement or cancellation, you will receive a text message with the information.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS:



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthday blessings to:

- 1/1: Katie Detloff
- 1/2: Charlotte Marra
- 1/3: Mary Rieken, Krista Plueger, Rachael Miner
- 1/4: Greg Frerichs, Sullivan Petsch
- 1/5: Mia Petsch, Violet Weaver
- 1/7: Carole Orban, Loretta Lubben
- 1/8: Drake Brownmiller, Janet Kolker, Jacob Bogh
- 1/9: Gregory McInnis, Terri De Vos, Christopher Weitl
- 1/10: Kristen Bultman, Terry Ahlrich, Vickie Dunn
- 1/11: Austin Jarvis, Diane Jones, Lisa Chihak, Sonja Harms, Dean Oloff, James Loraditch, Jordan Congelli, Ermilo Duque
- 1/12: Karen Fischer
- 1/13: Jacob Jeneary, Kyler Dimmick, Megan Jeneary, Cindy Hahn Samuel Kruse
- 1/14: Kenzie Harms, Sawyer Schoenrock, Gerrit Marra
- 1/16: Christine McInnis, Kris Singer, Kurt Kellen, Lois Hessenius, Mike Fischer
- 1/17: Jeffery Bohlken
- 1/18: Bill Wruck, Tegan Bogh
- 1/19: Carolyn Schmidt, Joann Rowenhorst, Owen Fintel
- 1/20: Ed Utesch
- 1/22: David De Ruyter, Zaidyn De Mey
- 1/24: Caiden Heitritter, Graham Forbes, Jeremy Ferguson, Randall Jelken, Jaxston Acevedo
- 1/25: Zachary Wingert, Lisa Erdmann
- 1/26: Ian De Ruyter, Mike Haverhals
- 1/27: Karen Carlsen
- 1/29: Marissa Forbes, Abel Foelske
- 1/30: Jackson Jauron, Bill Young
- 1/31: Matthew Beeck, Dominic Varenhorst, Steve Breuer

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.

>>> January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
<p>4</p> <p>8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour</p>	<p>5</p> <p>LifeWise 5 pm Spiritual Growth Mtg L/L 6 pm Outreach Mtg L/L</p>	<p>6</p> <p>LifeWise 5:30 pm People of Praise</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 10:30 am Koerselman Baptism</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LifeWise 7 pm Church Council D/R</p>	<p>13</p> <p>LifeWise 9 am Do-Day 4:30 pm Missions Mtg L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 5:30 pm HS Praise/Worship NW College</p>	<p>19</p> <p>LifeWise <i>M L King Day</i> 1:30 pm Anna Circle-L/L 5:30 pm Lay Visitors Mtg L/L</p>	<p>20</p> <p>LifeWise 9:30 am Hannah Circle-L/L 5:30 pm People of Praise</p>
<p>25</p> <p>NOISY OFFERING 8 & 10:30 am Worship w/Comm 9:15 am Study Hour 11:30 am Volunteer Luncheon 1:00 pm Annual Meeting 3:30 pm HS Ingham Okoboji Outreach</p>	<p>26</p> <p>LifeWise</p>	<p>27</p> <p>LifeWise 5:30 pm People of Praise</p>

>>> January 2026

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1</p> <p><i>New Year's Day Building Closed</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>7</p> <p>LifeWise 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal/Pizza & Games YR 6:00 pm Worship/Comm 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 7 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>14</p> <p>LifeWise 9:30 am – 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 2 pm Hearts of Fire II L/L 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 7 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>21</p> <p>LifeWise 9:30 am – 11 am Chapel Services at Care Facilities 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle L/L 2 pm Hearts of Fire II Y/R 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 7 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>28</p> <p>LifeWise 1 pm Hearts of Fire II Y/ 2 pm Elderberries F/H 5:00 pm Bells/Weds Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm Catechism/GROW 6:45 pm SJ Choir 8:15 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9 – 10 am Prayer Time in Sanctuary 2 pm Sugar Fast Study L/L 7 pm Jarvis Small Group L/L</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>



FOSTER GRANDPARENTS & SENIOR COMPANIONS of Greater Siouxland

Foster Grandparents

Senior Companions

When no longer able to be in the classroom, Foster Grandparent volunteers were connecting in other ways.

For Senior Companion volunteers, connecting looked different too through creative solutions.

- Wrote pen pal letters
- Assisted teachers with student prep work
- Made small crafts to send to schools to be distributed
- Created a drop zone for teachers to deliver work
- Found ways to continue volunteering in schools safely

- Made phone calls to stay in touch and video chats when able
- Went to the store and delivered clients' groceries
- Drove clients to appointments with social distancing
- Kept activities going with a client just by purchasing two of the same crossword book

If you're interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion, contact one of the offices or visit the

website <https://rvrseniorvolunteerprograms.org/>

Rock Valley Office

- 1510 14th Street
Rock Valley, IA 51247
- 712-476-2628
- Fax: 712-451-6889

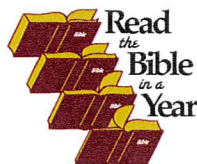
Sioux City Office

- 313 Cook Street
Sioux City, IA 51103
- 712-476-2628
- Fax: 712-451-6889



Are you curious about volunteering for LifeWise? Maybe seeing a class in action would help you decide. We'd love to have you come and observe a class. Contact Lindy Dohman at 320-292-0591 or lindydohman@lifewise.org to find out options that will work for your schedule!

Have you ever been interested in reading the Bible in a Year? You can find a reading schedule on the information table in the lobby to assist you in studying God's word in 2026. Pick up your copy soon and get started!!!



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant



Answer: (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

Puzzle!

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



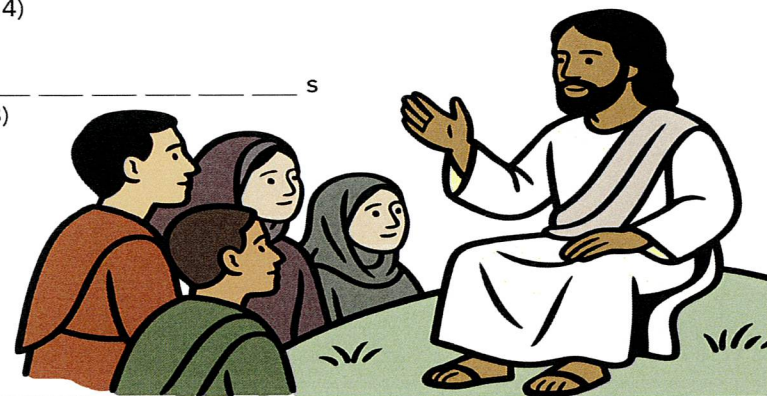
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11:26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)



Answers: Disciples; Chosen People; Servants of Christ; Christians; Brothers and Sisters; Believers; Witnesses



St. John's High School students are invited to attend **Dinner, Praise and Worship** at NW College in Orange city, on January 18th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Be sure to let Pastor Broers know you are interested in going. We will also need parent drivers. Again, please speak to Pastor if you can drive.

January 25th – 3:30 - 9 pm Outreach Event at Okoboji (Glow in the Dark Party) An Outreach Night is an opportunity for those in High School to join with other youth of all denominations around the area to fellowship, grow in faith, and have fun together! Outreach Night provides a chance for great ecumenical fellowship for kids and adults. It is also a great opportunity to introduce kids to camp, who might later come to a weekend recharge or summer youth camp. An evening of Outreach Night includes dinner, worship, a message, and of course games! Everyone is welcome. No charge to attend. Students must tell Pastor Broers if they plan to attend by Wednesday January 21 so that arrangements can be made for enough drivers. Parent drivers are needed.

Middle Schoolers be sure to join us in the Youth Room on January 7th for pizza & games before church and catechism.



**Middle School
Pizza & Game
Night**
**January 7th
Youth Room
5:00 – 6:00
PM**

INGHAM OKOBOJI CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED: College Students...Please consider becoming a Camp Counselor at Ingham Okoboji this summer. St. John's Endowment Team is offering a **\$1000.00 stipend** to help supplement your summer income. Talk to Pastor Broers or Kim in the office to find out more details. Ingham Okoboji is accepting applications now.



ELDERBERRIES

Elderberries will meet on January 28th, at 2 pm in the fellowship hall. We will have a speaker Jade Bunkers from Modified in Remsen to talk about staying healthy.



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.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES



MONDAY, JANUARY 19

1:30 PM Anna Circle, Library

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

9:30 AM Hannah Circle, Library

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

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, JANUARY 13TH DO-DAY 9 AM

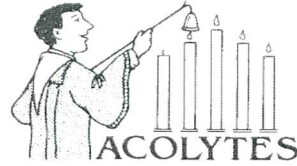
Join us from 9 am-3 pm as we put together quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health. If you can iron, sew, tie a knot, or use a scissors, we want you to join us! Please call the church office if you would like more information or pick up a booklet from the information table in the entryway 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.

REMINDER: QUILTING MATERIALS WANTED Our bandage program and quilts rely on fabric donated by people like you. If you are cleaning out a space from a parent or your own home, please donate your old fabric or sheets. Thank you.

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

Worship Assistants



Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, January 4:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Dianne Baack

Lector: Dianne Baack

Communion Server: Steve & Lynn Breuer
Pam Roling

10:30 AM

Greeter: Dan & Julie Albert

Lector: Ian DeRuyter

Communion Server: Dan & Julie Albert
Kyleigh Bohlken

Sunday, January 11:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Karla Hansen

Lector: Joel Johnson

Communion Server: Joel Johnson
Karla Hansen & Arlene Wiener

10:30 AM

Greeter: Kent & Jane Westphal

Lector: Kent Westphal

Communion Server: Adam & Amy Schmidt
Paula Kommes

Sunday, January 18:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Roma Lancaster

Lector: Jane Arnold

Communion Server: Roma Lancaster
Jane Arnold & Dean Borchers

10:30 AM

Greeter: Nicole Jarvis

Lector: Hope Majeres

Communion Server: Anne Jeneary
Hope & Jackson Majeres

Sunday, January 25:

8:00 AM

Greeter: Janys Schroeder

Lector: Janet Wiener

Communion Server: Marylyn Muecke
Janys Schroeder & Elvira Nielsen

10:30 AM

Greeter: Mel & Donna Heeren

Lector: Lisa Erdmann

Communion Server: Lisa Erdmann
Rex & Chris Knapp

Sunday, January 4:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Kasen Niehus

Acolytes: Hadley Klein
Tim Larson

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Zoey Junck
Emma Ryan

Sunday, January 11:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Quentin Ranschau

Acolytes: Gavin Rolling
Carter Westphal

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Kyleigh Bohlken
Aleigha Bohlken

Sunday, January 18:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Bentley Hightree

Acolytes: Owen Fintel
Aiden Fintel

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Kenna Graze
Harper Grause

Sunday, January 25:

8:00 AM

Crucifer: Norah Kellen

Acolytes: Audrina Schoenrock
Saylix Farmer

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Sophia Brennan
Kaden Brownmiller

Sound Board

Sundays:

4th:

8:00 Brenda Haverhals - ProPresenter
Keith Westhoff - video/sound

10:30 Sophia Brennan - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - video/sound

11th:

8:00 Tim Larson - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - video/sound
Kemper Davis video/sound
(training)

10:30 Ian DeRuyter - ProPresenter
Becky DeRuyter- video/sound

18th:

8:00 Becky DeRuyter - ProPresenter
Tim Larson - video/sound

10:30 Megan Brennan - ProPresenter
Micah Broers - video/sound
Carter Westphal - ProPresenter
(training)

25th:

8:00 Brenda Haverhals - ProPresenter
Keith Westhoff - video/sound

10:30 Megan Jeneary - ProPresenter
Jacob Jeneary - video/sound

All Wednesdays at 6:00 - Todd Zinnel



Altar Guild

Sunday, January 4:

8:00 AM

Rod & Sandy LaBahn

10:30 AM

Tammy Lee & Janys Schroeder

Wednesday, January 7

Krista Plueger

Sunday, January 11:

8:00 AM

Janet Kolker & Roma Lancaster

10:30 AM

Sherri Harms & Krista Plueger

Sunday, January 18:

8:00 AM

Jane Arnold & Janys Schroeder

10:30 AM

Cindy Kamies & Janys Schroeder

Sunday, January 25:

8:00 AM

Janet Kolker & Roma Lancaster

10:30 AM

Cindy Kamies & Sherri Harms

January Usher Schedule

8:00 AM Ken Freyermuth, Capt.
Keith Westhoff, Brady Westhoff,
Mike Haverhals, Glenn Kellen

10:30 AM Adam Schmidt, Capt.
Simon Kern, Dan Albert,
Doug & Karen Carlsen

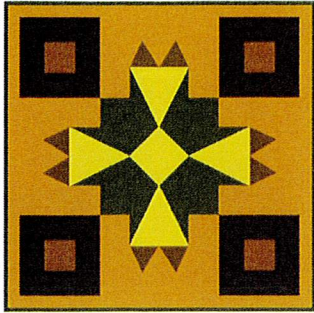
Coffee Bar Schedule

January 4 Sheri Oetken

January 11 Jane Westphal

January 18 Chris Knapp

January 25 Sandy LaBahn



Women of St. John's Comparison

What great blessings to report from our **Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Shipment** this past fall of 2025.

Total Amount of Items Shipped from St. John's.

LWR

Quilts – 117

School Kits – 105

Personal Care Kits – 14

Fabric Kits – 26

Baby Care Kits – 14

Pillow Cases – 50

GLOBAL HEALTH

Rolled Bandages – 48.9 lbs

Newborn Kits – 34

Hospice Kits – 6

A total of 16 churches participated, and the following items were shipped.

LWR

Quilts – 790

Baby Care Kits – 208

Fabric Kits – 47

Personal Care Kits – 326

Twin Sheets – 32

Pillow Cases – 160

GLOBAL HEALTH

Rolled Bandages – 60.9 #'s

Hospice Kits – 6

Newborn Kits – 54

LWR

School Kits – 611

Blankets – 4

Thank you, to all who helped, in anyway, with these projects. This included donations of items, material, money, and working with your hands. We are looking forward to accomplishing even more for the year of 2026.

Women of St. John's



**MAKE A
"JOYFUL
NOISE!"**

Noisy Offerings will be collected on **January 25th** for "Ministry Money for Mission Trip Chicago 2026." **These funds will help offset costs of mission projects the youth will be helping with in Chicago next Summer.**

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 2025:

- Lutheran Services in Iowa LSIowa.org
- Lutheran World Relief LWR.org
- Ingham Lake Bible Camp www.okoboji.org/ingham
- Global Health Ministries www.ghm.org

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 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 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 for the main church website. Printed materials may also be found on the information tables in the lobby and north entryway.



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 listed under Video Sermons on the left side of the home page.

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 keep in mind as the weather warms up, avoid items that may melt or glass that may break. Thanks!

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.

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



PLEASE DONATE TO SAFEPLACE

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Deodorant/Lotions
Hairbrushes and combs
Towels/washcloths
New women's underwear
Women's pajamas/robes
New women's sweatpants
Writing journals
Women's hygiene products

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Pots/pans Dishes/silverware
Paper products Sheets/blankets
Coffee and filters Disposable razors
Canned foods, Pastas
Laundry soap
Zip Lock bags/Garbage bags
Clorox wipes/Bleach
Dish soap/cleaning supplies
Luggage

These are just a few of the ways you can help. For more information go to the website: www.safeplacesiouxland.org

Staff & Contact Information

Office Hours: 8-5 Tue-Fri

Telephone: (712)546-8855

Web Home Page: www.stjohnslemarsia.org

Email: stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven Broers broers@stjohnslemarsia.org

Minister of Music: Michael Rathke mrathke@stjohnslemarsia.org

Office Manager: Kim Lang kim@stjohnslemarsia.org

Part-time Office Assistant: Connie Kellen
assistant@stjohnslemarsia.org

Facilities Manager: Todd Oetken custdn@stjohnslemarsia.org

Sunday School Supt.:
Beth Larson elizabethrgraf@hotmail.com

Church Council

Nicole Jarvis-President, Ed/Youth Becky DeRuyter-V. President

Ashley Bennett - Secretary, Inreach Bill Young-Treasurer

Brenda Haverhals - Mission John Hines - Mission

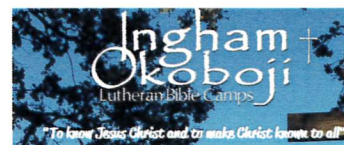
Tammy Lee - Technology Dick Milne - Property

Joey Posivio - Property Pam Roling - Worship

Doug Carlsen - Endowment Adam Schmidt - Ed/Youth

Cindy Kamies - Outreach

For contact info call 546-8855 or email stjohns@stjohnslemarsia.org



Check out the Bible Camp website:
okoboji.org

There are a lot of fun events happening! For all ages coming up in January and February!