

Established 1900

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

208 E. Washington St.
Farmersburg, Iowa 52047
PHONE: 563-536-2800
E-MAIL: stjohn87@neitel.net

307 Church Street
Luana, Iowa 52156
PHONE: 563-539-2321
stjohnluana@neitel.net

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe
pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com
563-258-2936



Established 1893

VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2026 ISSUE 86

Can you believe it? It feels like Christmas was yesterday but Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent is right around the corner. We start our Lenten journey on Wednesday February 18th with an Ash Wednesday service and meal. Then begins forty days of reflection and preparation for the most important event in history: the sacred season where Jesus laid down his life and picked it back up again through his death and resurrection. Our Lenten journey is patterned after the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness and the hope is that we can all keep our eyes and focus on Jesus during that time.

Lent is a bittersweet season. Yes, we have celebrations inside of it. Easter and Palm Sunday are the most obvious but for the most part it's a somber journey. We become more mindful that the king of all creation came to earth and then suffered and died for you and me. It's supposed to sting us a bit. We are supposed to wince a little as we recount the sufferings that Jesus bore on our behalf. We are supposed to mourn our shortcomings and sin that made his death on the cross necessary. It's deliberately bittersweet and our goal should be to use the season to help us crucify sin in our own lives and draw near to God.

During our Lenten services—both Sunday mornings and our midweek gatherings—I'll do my best to give you tools to deepen your relationship with God both during the Lenten season and beyond. My sermon series for the season will be "The Rhythm of Lent". I'll use it to explore the various spiritual practices that we can use to get closer to God. Worship is one of those practices but we need more than that. We need daily time with God and everybody has different strengths and weaknesses in their prayer life. I have trouble sitting still! So clearing my mind and removing distractions before prayer is really important for me. Others connect well to music, Bible study, devotions, or specifics like Lectio Divina or the Lutheran Rosary. Yes, Lutherans use a rosary!

We get so busy, so focused on tasks, and screens and other distractions eat up so much of our time. Let's get back to the old ways:

Jeremiah 6:16 (NRSV)

Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

I'm looking forward to taking the journey with you. Stay warm and as always God's blessings to you!

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe

Pastor Jeremy



FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Bill Scherf III. (25)
V. Pres: Bruce Glawe (25)
Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)
Treas: Linda Schoulte (26)
Council Members: Ken Erickson (27),
 Crystal Goltz (27) & Dave Hageman (25)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

OUTSIDE JANITOR:

Loren Scherf

INSIDE JANITOR:

Mary Beth Tielbar

WELCA:

Pres: Shirley Marmann
V. Pres: Velma Kuehl
Sec: Nancy Moon
Treas: Becky Fuelling
Mission Action: Bev Moon,
 Nancy Moon, Marlene Glawe,
 Linda Friedlein & Ethel Lenth

MEN'S GROUP:

Pres: Ryan Moon
V. Pres: Brad Hoth
Sec/Treas: Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD:

Directress: Cheryl Bossard
Sec: Heather Crogan
Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Linda Schoulte (26)
Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)
Members: Janelle Smith (25)
 Becky Fuelling (25)
 Aaron Smith (26)
 Amanda Goltz (27)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

<http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org>

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.

FARMERSBURG NEWS

St. John Annual
 Church Meeting
 Is **February 1st**
 following Worship
 Plan Now to
 Attend.

Annual
 Church
 Meeting



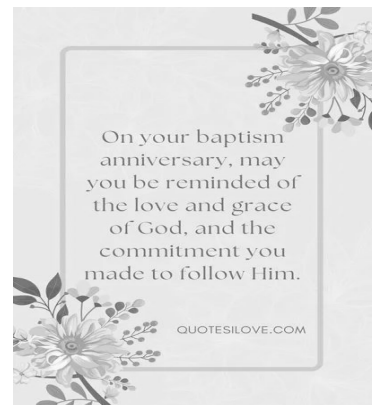
The following acolytes were installed on January 4th:
 Scarlet Scherf,
 Annabelle Palmersheim,
 Dominic Schoulte,
 Rylan Hoth.

HONORING 2025 BAPTISMS

On January 11 (celebration of Jesus' Baptism) the 2025 baptisms were honored. Jackson Dean Glawe son of Wyatt & Olivia Glawe and Bodie James Forsythe son of Danny and Lizzy Forsythe. A candle for each boy was lit in his honor.

February Baptisms Anniversaries

7 – Olivia Kirby
 11 – Samantha Howard
 Autumn Shaw
 15 – Tammy Muller
 17 – Marlene Glawe
 22 – Matthew Scherf
 23 – Brian Glawe
 23 – Bruce Glawe
 23 - Jackson Dean Glawe
 28 – Garrett Lnenicka
 Valerie Kurth



Yearbook Update for 2026

It's almost time to prepare the 2026 yearbook! *If your group or committee has scheduled meetings or activities, please share those dates with us.*

If you would like to make any changes to ushers, greeters, or other committees for 2026, please contact **Tammy Muller**, **Shirley Marmann**, or **Cheryl Bossard**.

Thank you for helping us keep everything accurate and up to date!

FARMERSBURG NEWS

USHERS

February 1 & February 8
Captain Jason Klinge Matt Goltz
Bill Scherf III Jamie Tielbar

February 15 (*February 18 Ash Wed.
@ Luana*) & February 22

Captain Ken Crogan Jim Lenth
Brad Hoth John Klinge

GREETERS

February

- 1 Nick & Samantha Kirby
- 8 Kenny & Velma Kuehl
- 15 Lisa Berns & Beth Bries
- 22 Clark & Kris Wikner

ACOLYTES

February

- 1 Annabelle Palmersheim
- 8 Dominic Schoulte
- 15 Scarlett Scherf
- 22 Connor Kirby

THANKS!

Thanks for
the cards,
letters,

pictures, and telephone calls for
my 100th birthday.

It made it a very special birthday.

Glenda Henkes

PO Box 932

Monona, IA 52159

ALTAR GUILD COMMITTEE

Shirley Marmann
Deb Tidwell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

February 1 Loretta Weipert

February 15 Ken Erickson

Sunshine Committee

Becky Fuelling



February

- 2 Alexandra (Ali) Moran
- 3 Dave Hageman
- 4 John Suhr
Jeffrey Scherf
Ron Tayek
- 7 Connor Kirby
Carsen Kirby
Foster Wolfe
Wayne Wyatt Glawe
- 8 Linda McMillin
Noah Klinge
- 9 Kelly (Schoenfeldt) Titel
Cierra Weipert
- 10 Elizabeth Forsythe
- 12 Miranda Looby
Matthew Erickson
Chris Schmidt
Emily (Moon) Palmersheim
- 13 Desirae Henning
- 14 Kenneth Crogan
Jeremy Howard
- 15 Dantae Henning
- 16 Randall Wiedenman
- 19 Kathy Kluth
- 20 Shirley Wagner
- 21 Paul Weipert
Dominic Schoulte
- 22 Elissa Gardner
- 23 Linda Friedlein
- 24 Kurt Kessler
- 25 Rylan Hoth
- 27 Julie (Scherf) Morley

Fascher Scholarship Program

St. John Lutheran Church with gift monies from Otto & Ardee Fascher has established a scholarship fund. \$1000 is awarded annually. Applicants must be in the top half of the class, must exemplify high moral standards, academic achievement, and have a need for financial assistance. Applicant must be an active member in good standing of the St. John Lutheran Church of Farmersburg, Iowa. Contact the church office or Tammy Muller for an application. Application deadline is March 15.

Schoenfeldt Scholarship Program

St. John was graciously given monies from the estate of Marilyn Schoenfeldt to be used for scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are members of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmersburg. Each year graduating high school seniors who are members of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmersburg may apply for a scholarship. All members who apply will receive some funding. Contact the church office or Tammy Muller for an application. Application deadline is March 15.

December Attendance

7- 16
14- 52
21- 36
24- 64
28- 19



FARMERSBURG NEWS

November 2025 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

1963.00
1070.00
740.00
225.00
151.44 (PayPal Offering)

Missions:

NE Iowa Synod: 270.00
SOTH: 232.00
Food Shelf: 122.00
St. Pt. Home: 35.00
LSI: 50.00
EWALU: 35.00

Staff Compensation:

Pastor: 2636.37 + 592.96 + 351.38
(Portico) (Housing from different Account: 707.58)
Inside Cust.: 215.48
Outside Cust.: 126.98
Organists: 129.28

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas): 48.19
Alliant (elec): 235.49
NEIT: 116.40
Church Mutual 773.00
Quill 138.00
Quillins 121.30
Augsburg 48.03

Total Income: 4149.44
Total Expenses: 6276.86

General Checking Balance –

November 1, 2025: 2851.09
November 30, 2025: 723.67

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer

December 2025 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

1335.00
1284.00
693.00
550.00
2225.00
397.23 (Newsletter Reimb)
346.97 (PayPal Offering)
189.48 (CD Interest)
12.00 (Thrivent Choice Dollars)

Missions:

NE Iowa Synod: 270.00
SOTH: 232.00
Food Shelf: 122.00
St. Pt. Home: 35.00
LSI: 50.00
EWALU: 35.00

Staff Compensation:

Pastor: 2636.37 + 530.40 + 351.38
(Portico) (Housing from different Account: 707.58)
Inside Cust.: 215.48
Outside Cust.: 126.98
Organists: 193.93

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas): 114.76
Alliant (elec): 195.43
NEIT: 116.40
Church Mutual 773.00
Franklin Street Liqu. 67.71
Interchurch Council 50.00
USPS 370.00
Fisks Farm & Home 96.29
Augsburg Fortress 100.00 (Sundays & Seasons License)

Total Income: 7032.68
Total Expenses: 6682.13

General Checking Balance –

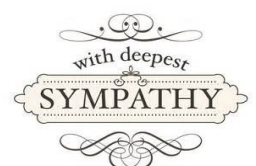
December 1, 2025: 723.67
December 31, 2025: 1074.22

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer



February
20 Don & Cheryl
Bossard

Sympathy to the family and
friends of Harold Vogt who
passed away.



FARMERSBURG NEWS

ST JOHN CHURCH COUNCIL

Date: 1/11/2026

Present: Bill Scherf, Linda Schoulte, Loretta Weipert, Ken Erickson, Ryan Moon, Dave Hageman and Jeremy Wolfe. Absent: Bruce Glawe and Crystal Goltz.

Meeting called to order by President Bill at 1120. Opening devotions given by Jeremy Wolfe.

Linda moved to approve the amended agenda; Ken seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2025 secretary minutes made by Dave, seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Loretta moved to approve the treasurer report for November and December, second by Linda. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

*Christmas meal - Great attendance. Todd Olson at Luana Tavern donated all the ham, Loretta will send him a thank you card. Donations from the meal were given to Clayton Co. food shelf and SOTH, \$800 given to each organization. Currently the funds for future Christmas Meals are in an account at St John in Luana. The money will be moved to a separate account that the Ministry Team will oversee. A member of the Ministry Team from each church will be signers of the account. Linda Schoulte from Farmersburg and Vicki Baade from Luana will set the account up at Luana Savings Bank. Linda Schoulte made a motion for the account to be made by the Ministry Team, Loretta second. Motion carried. We will continue to alternate between St John Farmersburg & Luana church locations for Christmas meals every year.

*Youth Group Trip - Recently took a trip to Bear Foot bay and Pizza Ranch. PEEPS, Confirmation and Sunday School students were invited. There were 8 students from PEEPS group and confirmation students. Loretta made a motion that the funds from PEEPS and Farmersburg youth group account split the cost of the trip to reimburse Jeremy.

*Continues to record video clips when he visits.

Old Business: None

New Business:

*Annual Meeting Agenda discussed. Bill mentioned that the Nominating Committee met. Dave Hageman, Lindelle Scherf and Becky Fuelling accepted nomination for position on council. Bruce and Bill will be going off council.

*A design for a new nativity set was shared with the council. Linda made a motion to get a new nativity set, seconded by Dave.

*Luana would like to do an outdoor joint worship there the weekend of Luana Daze. Council agrees that would be a great idea. Will discuss further at the Worship committee meeting as we approach August.

*Loretta mentioned that at the Altar Guild meeting yesterday it was questioned if piano could be repositioned to allow more room around the baptismal font, Altar Guild asked that it be brought up at council meeting. Questions on whether piano will remain in the position year around? Does it affect the tuning of the piano when it is moved? Council members agree that this should be discussed at the next worship committee meeting.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism - None

Parish Ed - updates given. Report submitted for Annual meeting. Ryan informed council that he won't be helping with the Sunday School Program next year.

Property - Dave plans to replace lights on the outdoor cross.

Stewardship - None

Worship - Crystal and Jeremy will be setting up a worship meeting soon.

Memorial - No updates

Men's Group - No report

Women's Group - No report

Motion to adjourn made by Ken, second by Dave. Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for February 8, 2026

Submitted by Loretta Weipert, secretary.



LUANA NEWS

LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY &

FINANCIAL TREAS.: Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Jerry Schroeder (26)

V. Pres: Loren Lenth (27)

Sec: Vicky Baade (27)

Cur. Treas: Cindy Landt (28)

Bene. Treas: Luke Steege (27)

Financial Counters: Council

DEACONS:

Jerry Schroeder (26)

Tim Donlon (26)

Loren Lenth (27)

TRUSTEES:

Heath Landt (26)

Vicky Baade (27)

Luke Steege (27)

Cindy Landt (28)

Linda Davis (28)

Jim Meyer (28)

WELCA:

Leaders:

January—March: Lisa Meyer

April—June: Vicky Baade

July—September: Karla Schrader

October—December: Mel Lenth

ALTAR GUILD:

Pres: Sherri Johnson (26)

Sec: Darci Engelhardt (26)

Lisa Meyer (28)

Diane Kraus (28)

Banners/Linens/Candles:

Mary Schroeder (27)

Special Services/Flowers:

Betty Handke (27)

Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

Seasonal Banners:

Mary Schroeder

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Linda Schoulte (26)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)

Members: Janelle Smith (28)

Becky Fuelling (25)

Aaron Smith (26)

Amanda Goltz (27)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Jeff & Janelle Smith

Read Lessons & Prayers: Feb. 1- Vicky Baade

Feb. 8 - Duaine Davis

Feb. 15 – Loren Lenth

Feb. 22 – Karla Schrader

Acolyte: Feb. 1- Ty Wikner

Feb. 8 - Karsten Stege

Feb. 15 – Dayne Anderson

Feb. 18 Ash Wed. - Livia Steege

Feb. 22 – Josh Schierholz

Communion Servers: Feb. 1 – Tim Donlon & Cindy Landt

Feb. 15 – Jerry Schroeder & Linda Davis

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday – Loren Lenth & Jim Meyer

Altar Guild: Darci Engelhardt

Flowers: Chris Landt



Do Day is Feb. 6 8:30a.m. till 12:00p.m.
Quilt tying event! "Together for Christ"
Everyone Welcome.

Baptisms Birthdays

February

3 – Darin Schlein

4 - Darci Engelhardt

9 – Stacy DeSotel

12 – Anne Sadler

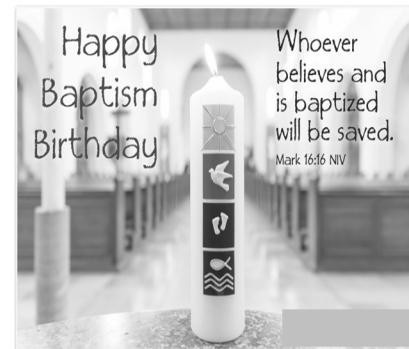
17 – Branden Mohs

22 - Holly Mohs

24 – Jule Mohs

Sonya Anderson

27 – Linda Davis



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
Dec. 21	41	37
Dec. 24	62	55
Dec. 28	33	
Jan. 4	30	28
Jan. 11	36	
Jan. 18	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>
	242	157

LUANA NEWS

FEBRUARY

1 - Chris Anderson
12 – Tristan Meyer
16 – Livia Steege
22- Keith Johnson
25 – Randy Mohs
Emme Wikner
28 – Mel Lenth



St. John Council Minutes January 18, 2026

Present were: Jerry Schroeder, Loren Lenth, Heath Landt, Luke Steege. Cindy Landt, Linda Davis and Vicky Baade.

Absent were: Tim Donlon and Jim Meyer. Church Secretary, Karla Schrader, was also present.

Meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Schroeder.

Vicky nominated Jerry for President, Luke seconded, approved.

Vicky nominated Loren for Vice-President, Luke seconded, approved.

Luke nominated Vicky for Secretary, Heath seconded, approved.

Vicky nominated Cindy for Current Fund Secretary, Linda seconded, approved.

Vicky nominated Luke for Benevolence Secretary, Linda seconded, approved.

Vicky read the minutes of the December 14 meeting. Luke moved to accept the minutes, Loren seconded, approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Cindy moved to accept the report, Luke seconded, approved.

The Committee Review: Loren moved to appoint the following members to committees, Cindy seconded, approved.

Interchurch Council: Jerry Schroeder, Neil Landt, Aaron Smith

Scholarship Committee: Stephanie Steele, Dawn Dull, Neil Landt, Cyrus Landt

Worship Committee: Linda Davis, Carol Goettler, Marj Schrader

Education Committee: Janelle Smith, Sherri Johnson, Luke Steege

Building Committee: Jim Meyer, Cyrus Landt, Stan Dull, Loren Lenth, Aaron Smith

Auditing Committee: Heath Landt, Vicky Baade

Stewardship Committee: Council

Evangelism: Council

Nominating Committee: Aaron Smith, Diane Kraus, Stan Dull

Deacons: Jerry Schroeder (26), Tim Donlon (26) Loren Lenth (27)

Trustees: Heath Landt (26), Luke Steege (27), Vicky Baade (27),

Linda Davis (28), Cindy Landt (28), Jim Meyer (28)

St. John's Ministry Team: Janelle Smith, Aaron Smith, Vicky Baade

Thrivent Committee: Jerry Schroeder, Betty Handke, Duaine Davis

Karla will pay the annual premium on the church insurance, since that was part of the budget.

LaVerne Landt has been delivering our congregation's collected items to the Food Shelf each month. Thank you, LaVerne! New plan is for monthly greeters to be responsible for taking items to the Food Shelf or finding someone to do so.

Karla will assign communion assistants and readers for 2026.

Jerry adjourned the meeting. Members prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be February 8 at 7:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary



LUANA NEWS

December Financial Report

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	163.48
Alliant - Electricity	237.92
Karla Schrader –Secretary	500.24
Cindy Landt – Custodian	461.50
NEITEL	119.87
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,636.46
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	707.58
Jeremy Wolfe – mileage (Nov. & Dec)	1,029.70
IRS	159.37
Church Mutual – Prop. Ins.	1,157.49
City of Luana –w/s/g.	119.54
Portico – Dec	702.75
Kurt's Plbg & Htg - furnace	384.18
Access Sys. – agmt	191.87
Benzing Surveying	2,400.00
Karla Schrader – Candle oil	102.68
CCLI – copyright	170.00
Augsburg – S & S	359.00
Fisk Farm & Home	55.60
Concordia Pub. – P of P	143.50
St John Farmersburg – Jan-Dec Newsletter	397.23
Jeremy, Cindy & Karla – Bonuses	<u>1,500.00</u>
	13,699.96

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	43,249.01
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,788.07
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,676.58
St John CD	125,000.00

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 6	1,200.00	5.00	1,205.00
Oct. 13	932.00		932.00
Oct. 20	817.00	36.00	853.00
Oct. 27	<u>1,667.00</u>	<u>22.00</u>	<u>1,657.00</u>
	4,616.00	63.00	4,679.00

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

Dec 7	Offering	170.00
	Food Shelf	60.00
	Operating	50.00
	Crisis	25.00
	Thanksgiving	35.00
Dec. 14	Offering	70.00
Dec. 21	Offering	65.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Soth Oper	50.00
	Thanksgiving	5.00
Dec. 24	Christmas	747.00
Dec. 28	Offering	60.00
	Food Shelf	60.00
	Soth Oper	25.00
	Christmas	<u>5.00</u>
		1,437.00

INCOME

Dec. 7	2,080.00
Dec. 14	995.00
Dec. 21	1,231.00
Dec. 28	<u>1,337.00</u>
	5,643.00
Trfr Repair Fund	8,250.00
St. John Fmbg	1,054.14
REC – Wentz	19.58
Offering dep @ Bk	<u>4,500.00</u>
	19,466.72
Bal. Nov. 30, 2025	292.22
Income	<u>19,466.72</u>
	19,758.94
Less Expenses	<u>13,699.96</u>
Bal. Dec. 31, 2025	6,058.98

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 11-30-25	31,640.62
Xmas Meal Dep.	450.00
Int. Dec.	61.10
Int. Oct	<u>68.70</u>
	32,220.42
To Current	<u>8,250.00</u>
Bal. 12-31-25	23,970.42

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Sept. 30, 2025	\$137,159.91
Income Oct. & Nov	641.66
Change in Value	1,718.87
Fees	<u>- 398.10</u>
Bal. Nov. 30, 2025	\$139,112.34



EXPENSES:

SOTH	280.00
Food Shelf	130.00
Synod	<u>235.00</u>
	645.00
Christmas	752.00
Thanksgiving	<u>40.00</u>
	1,437.00

Both Churches News



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 8TH.

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help

us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since then, over \$220 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, young people learn to make a positive difference in the world as they collect money for the Clayton County Food Shelf. Last year 29 Clayton County area congregations participated giving a total of \$5,508.87.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY

Worship @ 6:30 pm

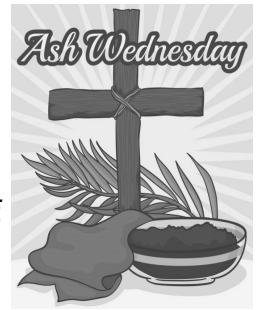
February 25 5:00 pm—6:15

pm Lenten Supper @

Farmersburg Group 1 Serving

Sloppy Joes, Salads & Desserts

Worship @ 6:30 pm



PROBERT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR MFL MARMAC SENIORS

The Probert Scholarship Fund was established with a bequest from the estate of James & Marie Probert. Available scholarships are based on earnings each year. At least one scholarship must be given to a graduate who is a member St. John, Farmersburg. Per the will this scholarship fund is administered through St. John Lutheran Church. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors of the MFL MarMac School. Applicants must be in the top half of the class, exemplify high moral standards, academic achievement, and have a need for financial assistance. Students may contact the MFL MarMac High School Guidance Office for application information. Application deadline is March 15.



Potluck & Movie night February 11 5:30-8:30pm @ St. John Luana

It's been awhile and we are doing a movie night right before lent kicks off. The movie is Soul On Fire which comes highly recommended. Potluck meal starts at 5:30 PM so please bring something to share and movie will start at 6:30 PM. The movie is less then 2 hours so we won't keep you out too late on a school night. This is for both St. John's churches but also... invite a friend if you know someone who may enjoy this. A trailer for the movie will be in the comments. As always give Pastor Jeremy a shout with any questions.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dwain Wolter, Roger Landt, Stacy DeSotel, Julie Mohs, Charlie Post, Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard, Beth Bries, Alan Feldmann, Pastor Bob Edwards,

• **MILITARY:** Avrey Smith, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas, Will Schrandt

• **ELKADER CARE CENTER:** Grace Doerring,

• **GARDEN VIEW PLACE:** Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon

• **TOWER LIVING CENTER:** Lendall Schievelbein

• **GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER:** Jeanette Vogt

• **SAMARITAN BETHANY ROCHESTER, MN 55901:** Dorothy Kluth

• **KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING:** Mary Russett

• **WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER:** Rita Pritchard



Both Churches News

St. John Ministry Team Meeting
November 10, 2025

The St. John Ministry Team met Monday, November 10, 2025 at 6:00 at Farmersburg. Present were: Jeremy Wolfe, Linda Schoulte, Janelle Smith, Becky Fuelling, Aaron Smith, and Vicky Baade. Amanda Goltz was absent. Chairperson, Linda Schoulte called the meeting to order.

Jeremy led an opening prayer.

Becky moved to approve the agenda, Vicky seconded, approved.

The minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved upon a motion by Aaron, seconded by Becky.

Jeremy needs to take some vacation time. He plans to use a week after the beginning of the year.

Christmas Eve worship – 7:00 pm at Farmersburg and 8:30 pm at Luana – the opposite of last year.

Christmas Day meal – served from 11-1 at Farmersburg. Carryouts will be available. Ham will be purchased from Luana Tap. The rest of the menu – mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, and dinner rolls will be paid for with Thrivent cards. Linda will make sign-up sheets for members of both congregations to donate desserts. Planning for approximately 200. There were lots of paper products left from last year. Jeremy is willing to deliver meals to shut-ins within reasonable driving distance. There will be a meeting for helpers December 21 at Farmersburg after church.

A separate account for Christmas meal funds was discussed. Becky moved and Janelle seconded the following motion: The St. John Ministry Team will open a money market account at Luana Savings Bank. Linda Schoulte and Vicky Baade will be the signers. The account will have a separate tax ID number since the Ministry Team is a separate entity from the two congregations. Statements should be mailed to Jeremy Wolfe, PO Box 182, New Vienna, IA 52065. Jeremy will make a copy for each congregation for information purposes. The money from the 2024 Christmas meal will be deposited to this account. \$1000 each year will be kept in the account toward expenses for the next year's meal. The balance after expenses will be divided between Shepherd of the Hills and the Clayton Co. Food Shelf. Both councils will need to approve the creation of this account and the transfer of the funds to the Ministry Team.

Movie night/game night suggestions – Movie, "Soul on Fire" Wednesday, February 11 5:30 pm at Luana – light supper provided. Possible future trivia night or as an activity for Bless and Ride.

Joint worship services for 2026 for recommendation to the councils:

Froelich Barn worship August 2, 9:00am (Clayton Co. Fair weekend) Luana hosting, Moser Family providing music.

Labor Day weekend September 6 9:00am at Farmersburg, on the patio, if possible.

Checking into doing a service on the Sunday morning of Luana Daze, August 23.

The proposed Lenten Schedule for 2026 was discussed for recommendation to the councils – opposite of last year.

Supper served 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm, Worship at 6:30 pm

Ash Wednesday/Communion February 18 at Luana – no meal

February 25 at Farmersburg – meal

March 4 at Luana – meal

March 11 at Farmersburg – meal

March 18 at Luana – meal

March 25 at Farmersburg – meal

Minutes Continued on next page

Both Churches News

Ministry Team Minutes Continued

April 2 Maundy Thursday/Communion at Farmersburg – no meal

April 3 Good Friday at Luana – no meal

April 5 Easter

7:00 Sunrise service/Communion at Luana w/breakfast following

9:00 am Worship/Communion at Farmersburg

Pastoral Salary for 2026 was discussed.

Proposed salary for 2026 (Synod guideline) (3% increase) is \$58,225.82, Health Insurance reimbursement is \$1200, FICA reimbursement is \$5748.48, Housing \$17,491.37. (Each church pays 50%.)

Mileage – Jeremy is proposing \$400/month (\$200 per church) This simplifies mileage recording and reduces cost to the churches.

Portico retirement contributions (10% of salary) (Each church pays 50%)

Jeremy's health insurance is through his wife's plan, which saves over \$10,000.

The TEEM Ministry agreement states that Synod guidelines for salary, housing, retirement, and FICA need to be followed for three years after ordination. (until August 1, 2027) After that, discussion, negotiation, and compromises are allowed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 pm at Luana.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Baade, Secretary



The name February comes from the Latin word februa, meaning "to cleanse," derived from the Roman festival of purification called Februalia, held in this month for rituals of atonement and spiritual washing to prepare for the new year, with the month originally being the last in the Roman calendar.

The zodiac signs for February are Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) and Pisces (February 19 - March 20), with Aquarius covering the first part of the month and Pisces the latter part, both known for their intellectual, creative, and emotional depths.

February is packed with notable events, from the Apollo 13 launch (1970) and the first American orbiting the Earth (John Glenn, 1962) to the start of the Greensboro sit-ins (1960) and the release of Nelson Mandela (1990), alongside historical milestones like Valentine's Day traditions and significant battles like Verdun (1916).

The official birthstone for February is amethyst, a purple variety of quartz known for its deep violet to pale lilac hues.

The primary birth flowers for February are the violet and the primrose. These blooms symbolize modesty, faithfulness, and young love, serving as a sign of late winter, warmth, and new beginnings. While red roses are popular for Valentine's Day, violets have a deeper, traditional connection to February, representing loyalty and wisdom.

February the second month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the last month of winter.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026



It is that time of year again, when we focus on our annual Conference Assembly.

This year it is February 15th @ 2:00 PM. Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein will be hosting.

This is your opportunity to have representation from your church and learn all the great things that happened in 2025 at SOTH.

A few things to think about on my upcoming schedule:

Ascension Day service May 14th @ 5:30pm.

Back to School August 12th.

Annual Hog Roast October 4th.

Christmas for Kids: TBA

Clothing Center Updates:

We had an amazing ½ off sale in January. It was a busy place both Friday and Saturday. We will be collecting winter items until the beginning of March. Please make sure you are scheduling your day for your donations to be dropped off.

The thrift store is looking for boys and girls clothing in all sizes.

Sleepers, pants, shirts, shorts, dresses etc. Those areas were hit pretty hard during our sale. We will be doing a bit of re-arranging, so have patience us as we try to utilize every inch of our space! Thank you for visiting the store. If you have not been here lately, please come and check it out. We are the thrift store where most everything is only \$1.00!

Shepherd Conference News:

We would like to recognize Pastor Micheal Erickson on the anniversary of his ordination on February 3, 2024. He is the pastor at West Clermont Lutheran Church in Clermont. Pastor Erickson is also serving on our SOTH Board as Synod Chair. Blessings to you!

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify Crisis or Operating Fund!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

**Conference Assembly
February 15, 2026**

(In case of bad weather, we will advertise on our website, Facebook and the radio station if we need to cancel) Make-up date will be February 22, 2026. Same location and time.

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman
100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
St. Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409

Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**