



Established 1900

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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Established 1893

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It's here! The 250th birthday of the United States. It is a great experiment—a big, messy one that is still ongoing. One of the things that makes it messy is the divide between the secular and the religious. Some want to keep these strictly separate, while others want to blend them. I think to get the right balance, a look back at the thoughts of the Founders is in order. Those who set this nation on its course understood that our capacity for self-governance and growth is tied directly to our relationship with our Creator. They knew that when a nation acknowledges its dependence on God, it finds its true north.

This was the conviction of George Washington, who recognized that our freedom was not a government concession, but a divine inheritance. As he wrote, "The liberty enjoyed by the people of these States of worshipping Almighty God, agreeable to their consciences, is not only among the choicest of their blessings, but also of their rights. " It is a reminder that the rights we hold dear are ultimately protected by our fidelity to the One who gave them.

The Founders were not seeking to impose a state religion, but to create a space where the soul could breathe. Thomas Jefferson articulated this essential protection when he wrote, "That our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry. " He understood that the state has no business meddling in the sanctuary of the conscience. Thomas was not an atheist; he believed in God, but also believed in our right to worship and believe as we see fit.

As Christians, however, we understand that true freedom is more than just a lack of government interference; it is a spiritual reality. Martin Luther captured this beautifully in his work *On the Freedom of a Christian*, where he wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." This is our paradox: we are liberated by Christ to serve our neighbor with a joy that the world cannot provide.

This freedom was never meant to be a license for moral indifference or abuse. Samuel Adams, a man who saw the hand of Providence in our struggle for independence, urged a posture of humility for the new nation: "We may with one heart and voice humbly implore His gracious and free pardon through Jesus Christ, supplicating His Divine aid." Yet, we have made some mistakes along the way and still need to strive for that one heart and voice.

We see, then, that the Founders viewed this country not as an end in itself, but as a vehicle for something great. The ultimate question for any nation, then as now, is whether it will choose to walk in the light of God or follow the shifting winds of opinion and passion. The Psalmist provides the only true blueprint for national stability: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).

That blessing is not a guarantee of worldly comfort; it is a call to responsibility. As we celebrate 250 years, let us commit ourselves to being the kind of citizens who take that call seriously. Let us be a people who are known for our constancy in a changing world. While our earthly allegiances to this land are deep and sincere, we know that our true home is held in heaven.

When we serve our neighbors in this community, when we speak truth with love, and when we bring our nation's burdens to the throne of grace, we are exercising the highest form of patriotism. Let us pray for this nation, not just for its prosperity, but for its heart. May we always have the courage to walk in faith, the wisdom to discern the times, and the grace to be a light in a world that so desperately needs it. Happy Independence Day.

Pastor Jeremy

FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Linda Schoulte (26)

V. Pres: Dave Hageman (28)

Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)

Treas: Crystal Goltz (27)

Council Members: Ken Erickson (27),
Becky Fuelling (28) & Lindelle Scherf (28)

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, 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 (28)
Becky Fuelling (28)
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

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

July

2 Sophia Rose Dubberke

5 Tessa Tielbar

7 Oliver Jacob Nehl

8 Abbigail Fuelling

9 Jade Gerndt

16 Breanna Hope

21 Kathy Klinge

23 Diezel Fuelling

24 Kim Koopman, Jr.

31 Bobby King

Brandon Looby



July

19 Dave & Heather Hageman

24 John & Becky Fuelling

Meeting Cancelled

There will be no council meeting in July. Next meeting will be August 16 after worship.

Marilee Jane Wright, age 79, of La Plata, Maryland, passed away peacefully on May 6, 2026, at the Hospice of the Chesapeake.



From thirteen colonies to seas of green,
Two hundred fifty years a living dream.
Where freedom's bell once rang with hopeful peal,
We pause to honor what the years reveal.
Through war and peace, through trials of the heart,
We bear our legacy and do our part.
From eastern shores to skies above the west,
A grand experiment still put to test.

FARMERSBURG NEWS

USHERS

July 5 & July 12
 Captain Randy Wiedenman
 Don Bossard

Don Erickson
 Wyatt Geick

July 19 & July 26
 Captain Ken Erickson
 Doug Glawe

Jeff Klinge
 Brad Hoth



ACOLYTES

JULY
 5 Rylan Hoth
 12 Annabelle Palmersheim
 19 Dominic Schoulte
 26 Scarlett Scherf



GREETERS

July 5 Don & Kathy Erickson
 12 Justin & Stacy Fuelling
 19 Tammy Muller & Christina Pate
 26 Ken & Heather Crogan



ALTAR GUILD

Shirley Marmann

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Jeff Klinge & Deb Tidwell

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

July 5 Dave Hageman
 July 19 Lindelle Scherf

July

- 1 Cody Henkes
- 3 Christina Pate
- 4 Theresa Feldmann
- 5 Morgan Peterson
 Jessica Holly
- 7 Adrianna Schoulte
- 10 Jared Lenth
- 13 Barb Brainard
- 15 Zoe Gerndt
- 17 Renae Sherven
 Robert Fuelling
 Jake Shaw
- 18 Ann Scherf
- 19 John Fuelling
 Laura (Glawe) Zurcher
- 20 Charlotte Elizabeth Rodas
- 22 David Wagner
- 23 Talisa (Leuchtenmacher) Porter
- 25 Jeremy Wolfe
 William Scherf V.
 Landon Phillips
- 26 Brooke (Glawe) Tesar
- 28 David Leuchtenmacher
- 31 Vivien Ione Scherf

THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers, cards, memorials and caring words we received during the loss of our mother and grandmother Dorothy Kluth. A special thank you to Theresa and Darci for music. Pastor for a beautiful message. To the women for salads, desserts and serving the lunch. Our heartfelt appreciation, Diane, Josh and Kathy Karish, Kellian and Kirilee.

Thank you to the WELCA group for the quilt that they provided me during my recovery after surgery. Loretta Weipert

A thank you to congregations prayers and kind words. I have had a few people ask why I wasn't on the prayer list. I told Kelly and Jeremy not to put me on the prayer list until after my diagnosis that way I had answers to individuals questions. I didn't expect it to take 2 months to get final diagnosis. The final diagnosis was sarcoma which is rare making it difficult to diagnosis. Initial biopsy from 4/6/26 and the lump excision from 5/8/26 was sent to the lab in Mayo in Rochester to be examined. I didn't get the phone call with the final diagnosis until May 26. Within 1 week I had double mastectomy. That week prior to surgery was a whirlwind I never thought about contacting Kelly to add me to pray list. Kelly asked me after surgery and I told her it wasn't necessary because I was on the mend and closing the door on this cancer journey except for the frequent testing every 3 months for a few years. I do appreciate the prayers and you can keep them coming. God bless you all.

Loretta Weipert



FARMERSBURG NEWS

St. John Farmersburg Council Minutes on June 14, 2026

Present: Becky Fuelling, Loretta Weipert, Ken Erickson, Crystal Goltz, Linda Schoulte, Dave Hageman and Jeremy Wolfe.
Absent: Lindelle Scherf

Meeting called to order by President Linda at 1055. Opening devotions given by Jeremy.

Crystal moved to approve the agenda with addition of Candelabras in the basement, seconded by Becky. Motion carried.

May council meeting minutes updated A1 to AI. A congregation member suggested that the statement that read "Administrators of the St John Farmersburg Facebook page deny any changes being made to the photo" be updated to "Administrators denied making any changes to the photo on St John Farmersburg Facebook page. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2026 meeting with the above changes made by Becky, second by Ken. Motion carried.

Ken moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Dave. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

*Thanks to everyone that assisted with Vacation Bible School.

*Updates on furthering his education.

*PEEPS program to start at the beginning of the school year. Keith Hanson will help with the program. Council members agree to assist as needed.

Old Business:

*Gutter Cover cost - Mens group will cover the cost. Waiting on estimates from Jake Shaw and Mary Bissell. Ken also noted some siding that needs repair. It would need someone with a boom truck to fix the siding. It was suggested to check with Brenen Steele.

*VBS - 14 children attended, and the event went well.

*Mature CD - taken care of.

New Business:

*Basement West Wall - It was noted that the wall by the confirmation pictures is leaking. It was mentioned that the wall by the dehumidifier is leaking also. Ken and Dave will take a look at the areas mentioned.

*Candelabras in basement - Was noted yesterday that the candelabra to the west side of the basement altar went off and wouldn't come back on. Today when checked they did come on. Question if a short in the candelabra. Loretta will let the Altar Guild know of the concern.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism - Brainstorming ideas Parish Education - VBS on June 12 had 14 children

Property - See note above about gutter covers and siding.

Stewardship - No report

Worship - No report

Memorial - Need ideas for Memorial funds

Men's Group - Ice Cream social June 28. The freezer at the church is full of buns. Dave volunteered to use his freezer at his residence to store ice cream for the event.

Women's Group - Next meeting Thursday June 18 at 1 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Becky, second by Crystal. Motion carried.

Agreed to skip July Meeting. The next meeting will be on August 16, 2026.

Respectively submitted by Loretta Weipert, secretary.



MEETING
MINUTES

FARMERSBURG NEWS

May 2026 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

485.00
 1820.00
 450.00
 587.00
 514.00
 4500.00 (CD)
 50.00 (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: 2780.90 + (200.00 Mileage) + (Housing from different Account: 728.80)
 Inside Cust.: 215.48
 Outside Cust.: 126.98
 Organists: 161.60

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas): 175.35
 Alliant (elec): 187.86
 NEIT: 116.51
 Kurt's Plumbing 160.79
 Outdoor Creations 74.90 (Flowers)
 Dubuque Religious 355.03 (Candles)
 Church Mutual 733.00

Total Income: 8406.00
 Total Expenses: 6032.40

General Checking Balance – May 1, 2026: 95.03
 May 31, 2026: 2468.63

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer

WELCA meeting held June 18

- *Becky reported that 18 quilts and 1 pillow had been purchased (if anyone has not paid for a selected quilt, please give your donation to Becky)
- *18 quilts and 20 blankets were sent to LWR
- *A thank you note will be sent to Jim Langhus for taking the quilts and blankets to Decorah.
- *Shirley was delivering quilts to the shut ins
- *Other quilts were donated to Camp Courageous and Camp EWALU
- *SOTH had a report of their yearly activities to look at
- *The Cluster B Gathering was held at Postville on April 25th
- *The Women's Synodical Annual Gathering is in Mason City on 6-20-26
- *WELCA Triennial will be July 16-19 in Des Moines
- *Our EWALU quilt is at the machine quilter's
- *We sent our offering to Camp Courageous
- *snack by Marlene

May		
3	41	
10	32	
17	19	
24	29	
31	25	



Thanks! Thank you to everyone that lets us "shop" in their yard for altar flowers.

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 (28)

Aaron Smith (26)

Amanda Goltz (27)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

- A Congregational meeting will be held on
- July 12 for a vote on selling the parsonage or not – approved.

Congregational Meeting



JULY VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Duaine & Linda Davis

Read Lessons & Prayers: July 5 – Keith Johnson

July 12 – Deb Hanson

July 19 – Janelle Smith

July 26 – Linda Davis



Acolyte:

July 5 – Karsten Steege

July 12 – Dayne Anderson

July 19 – Josh Schierholz

July 26 – Livia Steege

Communion Servers: July 5 – Jerry Schroeder & Linda Davis

July 19 – Loren Lenth & Jim Meyer

Altar Guild: Diane Kraus

Flowers: Deb Hanson

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

JULY

1 - Chad Davis

Juanita Mohs

4 - Aaron Smith

10 - Brynleigh McHaney

13 - Neil Landt

19 - Dayne Anderson

26 - Katie Tilson

30 - Betty Handke



JULY

4 - Chad & Annette Davis

6 - Lonnie & Vicky Baade

7 - Neal & Stephanie Wikner

13 - Travis & Sheri Landt

24 - Tim & Lisa Donlon

31 - Doug & Karla Schrader - 50

WELCA Meeting

July 23 @ 5:30 pm



LUANA NEWS

JULY

- 1 - Tyce Wikner
 Karli Tilson
- 6 - Sheri Landt
- 13 - Melissa Moeller
- 17 - Tim Donlon
 Denver Pape
- 20 - Mary Schroeder
- 23 - Jade Moeller
- 26 - Katie Tilson
- 29 - Logan Engelhardt



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
May 24	39	
May 31	30	
June 7	25	22
June 14	<u>38</u>	—
	132	22

St. John, Luana Council Minutes June 14, 2026

Present were: Pastor Jeremy, Jerry Schroeder, Luke Steege, Cindy Landt, Linda Davis, Jim Meyer, Tim Donlon, Heath Landt, Loren Lenth and Vicky Baade. Church secretary, Karla Schrader was also present.

Meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Schroeder.

Pastor led devotions and prayer.

Vicky read the minutes of the May 10 meeting. Cindy moved to accept the minutes, Luke seconded, approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The Alliant bill seems high. We will keep an eye on it. Our Thrivent account is doing better. Luke moved to accept the report, Jim seconded, approved.

Pastor will plan to use the piano more for the hymns during worship. It is easier to hear.

The parsonage was discussed. The cleaning went very well with lots of volunteers. The siding has been repaired at a cost of \$807. There were two areas of siding that had blown off – the side of the front dormer and part of the south side of the house. Jerry received the abstract this past week. The bill will be about \$500. Luke made a motion, seconded by Cindy to call a congregational meeting July 12 for a vote on selling the parsonage or not – approved. The announcement will be in the Messenger and church bulletins.

Linda received the bill for the outdoor carpet. She gave the bill to Sherri Johnson, Memorial treasurer. Sherri will pay the bill out of a memorial fund.

The Luana Daze worship on August 23 will be a combined worship at 9:00. It will be held in the small shelter house by the railroad tracks. Attendees should bring their own lawn chairs.

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

Next meeting will be July 12 at 7:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary



LUANA NEWS

Karla Schrader, Treasurer

May Report

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	217.12
Alliant - Electricity	314.68
Karla Schrader –Secretary	546.40
Cindy Landt – Custodian	508.18
NEITEL	119.72
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,715.59
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	728.80
Jeremy Wolfe – mileage	200.00
IRS	167.01
City of Luana –w/s/g.	121.67
Portico	702.75
Plunketts – extern	170.60
Inter-Church Council – dues	<u>50.00</u>
	<u>6,562.52</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	44,121.10
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,788.07
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,858.10
St John CD	150,000.00

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
May 3	1,745.00	40.00	1,785.00
May 10	1,177.00	81.00	1,258.00
May 17	582.00		582.00
May 24	1,072.00	21.00	1,093.00
May 31	<u>1,182.00</u>	<u>27.33</u>	<u>1,209.33</u>
	5,758.00	169.33	5,927.33

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

May 3	Offering	145.00
	Food Shelf	100.00
May 10	Food Shelf	10.00
	SOTH Oper.	50.00
May 17	Offering	12.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
May 24	Offering	40.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
May 31	Offering	55.00
	Food Shelf	60.00
	SOTH Oper	<u>25.00</u>
		517.00

INCOME

May 1	1,785.00
May 10	1,258.00
May 17	582.00
May 24	1,093.00
May 31	<u>1,209.33</u>
	5,927.33
Thrivent	<u>147.00</u>
	6,074.33
Bal. Apr. 30, 2026	3,024.51
Income	<u>6,074.33</u>
	9,098.84
Less Expenses	<u>6,562.52</u>
Bal. May 31, 2026	2,536.32

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 4-30-26	\$13,774.22
Interest	<u>23.40</u>
Bal. May 31, 2026	\$13,797.62

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Apr. 30, 2026	\$145,029.15
Income	90.65
Change in Value	<u>5,216.33</u>
Bal. May 31, 2026	\$150,336.13

EXPENSES

SOTH	130.00
Food Shelf	190.00
SOTH Oper.	75.00
Synod	<u>122.00</u>
	517.00

Both Churches News



No Bible Study in July
in Luana.

Back to School Items Needed for SOTH

Mechanical Pencils
Pencils
Colored pencils
Pens (LOTS)
Pink Erasers
Dry Erase Markers
Pencil Boxes
Pencil Cases
Index Cards
Kleenex- LOTS
1 inch Binders
Wide Spiral Single Subject Notebooks- LOTS
Narrow Spiral Single Subject Notebooks- LOTS
Narrow Composition Books- LOTS
Wide Composition Books- LOTS
College Filler Paper- LOTS
Wide Filler Paper- LOTS
Thin Colored Markers
Classis Wide Markers
Blunt Youth Scissors
Adult size Backpacks (17 in or larger)- LOTS
Glue Sticks
Pocket folders- LOTS
Crayons
Highlighters
Scientific Calculators (TI30X)



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Patty Leeman, 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, Lisa Berns

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

ELKADER CARE CENTER: Grace Doerring,

GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon, Jeanette Vogt

TOWER LIVING CENTER: Lendall Schievelbein

KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Russett

WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: Rita Pritchard

HOMEBOUND: Glenda Henkes, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2026



Back to School will be here sooner than we think. If you would like to support this project, here is how you can do that.... You can purchase supplies or if you want me to purchase them, you can submit a financial donation. (I have access to buy things in bulk so I don't mind shopping.)

August 1 is our Dollar General School Supply Event. We will be in the local stores accepting donations from 9am-6pm that day. There has been a trend over the last few years where we are seeing 10-15% more families utilizing our programs. We certainly have been blessed with so many people supporting our mission to help those in need. Sending children to school is so expensive. With your help, we can alleviate some of the financial stress on families in need.

Clothing Center Updates:

We have been blessed with wonderful donations of great quality. We want to be able to accept your donations, so to ensure we have availability, a quick call to set up a day to donate is greatly appreciated.

We are looking for a few more volunteers that would like to join our team in the thrift store and our projects we host. If you are interested, please contact Heather for more information.

Our thrift store has a great atmosphere where you can come in, be welcomed and want to stay awhile. (Air conditioning is a plus too) Thank you for supporting your small town thrift store. Remember, most of our items are only \$1.00!

Shepherd Conference News:

A few pastors in our conference are celebrating the anniversary of their ordination...

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe, St. John Farmersburg and Luana on 7/28/2024

Pastor Tyler Hoey, St. Peter Garnavillo and Peace in Clayton on 7/24/2021

Pastor David Tielbar, St. Paul, Garnavillo and First Congregational, McGregor on 7/15/2015

On behalf of Shepherd of the Hills, we congratulate you all on this special anniversary.

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!

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

Back to School 4 Kids August 12th
Referral is required to participate

October 4th (4pm-7pm) is our Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

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

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

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