

# LOVE LETTER

Grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

She was given the name Florence because she was born in Florence, Italy. And she was given the name Nightingale because her father, a banker, had inherited the estates of Peter Nightingale.

She was a smart girl, knowing many languages; she could read the Bible in Greek. But she was restless. As a teen she wrote, "I craved for some regular occupation, for something worth doing, instead of frittering away time on useless trifles." At the age of 22 she wrote, "My mind is absorbed with the idea of the sufferings of mankind. It besets me." Two years later she recognized her destiny was to serve the sick and dying.

She wrote in her diary, "I am thirty, the age at which Christ began his mission...Now Lord, let me think only of thy will." As she was traveling through Germany, she visited the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses and the nurses there impressed her. Their life, though simple, was meaningful. "Now I know," she wrote.

When she returned to London, she took a position with nursing, insisting that the doors be open to help people of all religious backgrounds. When a cholera epidemic broke out in London, she was appointed to coordinate the nursing of the disease. Every day she took great risks as she ministered to cholera patients and her fame spread. When the Crimean War broke out, she went to superintend the volunteer nurses at the British hospital. Within three weeks, some three thousand patients were placed under her care. She

had little time to do anything but tend to the sick and dying. But she did write one letter, saying, "In the midst of this appalling horror, there is good—and I can truly say, like St. Peter, 'It is good to be here (Mt17:4)'—though I doubt whether, if St. Peter had been here, he would have said so."

When others went to bed at night, she continued making the rounds, carrying her small lamp. In a famous poem, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized her as "the Lady with the Lamp." To a group of nurses she once said, "Christ is the author of our profession." Nightingale changed not only the field of nursing, but also how people considered nurses, because she believed with the apostle Peter, "It is good for us to be here."

God' blessings to all!

In Christ,

Pastor Stephen Jasch

*Deepest sympathy* is expressed: to the family and friends of Velma Pefferman, who died on February 6, funeral held at St. John's on February 10;

and to the family and friends of Doris Parker, who died on February 12, funeral held at St. John's on February 16; in Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.

Thank you!

Thanks to all of the St. John's family for your prayers, cards, concerns and visits for my recent illness. Thanks to Pastor and Rebecca for visiting me in the hospital.  
God's blessings, *Alice Beck*

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and visits regarding my recent illness. I am finished with treatments and the prognosis is positive. I would also like to thank Pastor Jasch for his visits and prayers.  
In Christ, *Melba Stickler*

Thank you for the thoughts and prayers for Jarrid Keith Mikel. At this time, we especially pray that healing will take place in his right leg. (Jarrid is the son of Glen and Susan Mikel, and is recovering from an accident, which occurred January 27, when a pickup lost control and crushed him between a van and the tow truck as he was completing a towing call.)  
In Christ's love, *Nancy Locker*

Thanks to all of you who delivered Meals on Wheels for February! *Verna Gerrish*

### **Highlights of Church Council February 16**

- ❖ Received update letter from Project Home Mission, which we support through budget.
- ❖ Two delegates to Synod Assembly, June 11-12, are needed (one male, one female); speak with pastor or council member if interested.
- ❖ Pastor leads devotions at nursing homes in February.
- ❖ World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Church Women United, is at St. John's on March 5 at noon.
- ❖ Congregations Together in Mission, with over 50 workshops, is in Cedar Rapids, March 13; see pastor for more information.
- ❖ Mary Schuchmann will take over editing the Love Letter newsletter in March; thank you to Mary for doing this and many thanks to secretary Natalie Dunn for doing this in the past.
- ❖ Properties has been doing much fixing up of the church building; many thanks to all the volunteers and to Bob Ashing and Donna Beck for leadership.

### **Current Fund, through January**

Offerings	\$11,906
Budget	18,187
Expenses	21,623

**THANK YOU** is the theme for March!

On February 1, the Senior CIA (Christians in Action) youth group met and boxed up the 370 items donated to Operation Magnolia. **THANK YOU** members of St. John's for "planting seeds of hope with the children of Tikrit, Iraq." **THANKS** to Alex, Allyssa, Nate, Shawne, and Sophia for packing the 14 boxes we mailed. **THANKS** to Mr. Lamoyne Gaard and the GHS Student Council for donating a case of notebook paper and 360 pencils. **THANKS** to Anne Williams for helping with the cost of mailing. We know those children will appreciate all of our efforts!!

The Junior and Senior CIA, along with the Fellowship Committee, served the soup supper on Ash Wednesday. **THANKS** to those who helped with donations, serving and clean up. **THANKS** to everyone who attended and for the donations to our groups. We appreciate the opportunity to serve and your continued support of our youth programs.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the renovation of the third floor space. You are very much appreciated!! We are pleased to be able to use this space for our activities.

*March's schedule is full of activities!*

**Mar. 5-6** (Middle School and High School) *Acquire The Fire: Power Of One* in Des Moines, IA. Leave St. Johns on Friday, March 5 at 4:30PM to arrive at the Veterans Memorial building at 6PM, and return to

Grinnell on Saturday, March 6 at 11PM. This is a sleepover event. For more information call Rachael at the church (236-4946). All students interested in going must pay \$49.00 at the door and *sign-up* on the Youth Information Board outside the Youth Office (located directly across from the music room).

**MARCH 7 Senior CIA** will meet at the Methodist Church from 5-6:30 PM. Dave and Zach Van Arkel and Jerry Lane recently returned from a mission trip to Africa and will share their experience. Methodist youth will also share how "Youth Strike for Christ" has influenced their lives.

There will be **no Junior CIA on March 14** due to Grinnell-Newburg's spring break.

**March 20-21st- Sr. CIA:** Wartburg College is offering a Lock-In Event for High School Youth. Youth will get a chance to look around at the college, as well as have fun, and discuss lots of Christian topics. Admission is FREE. If your **Sr. CIA** child is interested, please have them stop by the church office and fill out a form by **Monday, March 5!** Youth Parents should have received a notice about this in the mail last week, but if you haven't please call the church and Rachael can send you one A.S.A.P.

**MARCH 21** will be the community skating event (St. John's, Methodist, Christian Churches) at Marshalltown for **BOTH JUNIOR AND SENIOR CIA**. We will leave from the

Methodist Church at 2:00, skate from 3-5, return by 6:00. Cost will be under \$5 for skate rental and skating. Please bring extra money if you plan to eat there also. Sign up sheet for yourself and friends is posted outside the youth office.

**MARCH 28 the JUNIOR CIA** will be bowling in Montezuma. We will leave from the Methodist Church at 4:15, bowl 5-7, return about 7:30. The Youth Group will pay \$4 of each St. John's youth and \$2 of their invited friend's fee. **St. John's youth need to bring \$3, plus food money, and friends need to bring \$5, plus food money.** Sign up sheet for yourself and friends is posted outside the youth office.

**SENIOR CIA** will serve fellowship refreshments on **March 21**. Members responsible for providing two-dozen treats are Travis Smith, Reid Henderson, Jennifer Ditzler, Nick Stepanek, and Michael Williams. Parent helpers are David and Tami Ditzler and Roger and Lisa Henderson. Please arrive by 9:15 to start the

coffee and arrange food on trays. All Junior CIA members are welcome to help serve. **THANK YOU** for your help.

**LOOKING AHEAD...April 4th** is Confirmation Sunday for our ten eighth graders. **April 11th** is Easter Sunday. The Junior and Senior CIA will serve breakfast between services. **April 18th** is the church's 50th Anniversary. The youth will be involved by helping serve the

noon meal. The junior class and their parents will prepare and serve the breakfast honoring our six graduating seniors on **May 16th**. More details will be sent concerning all these events, but please mark the dates on your calendar.

Continuing on our youth mission: "To Inspire, Connect, and Enrich youth in living a Christ-Centered Life."  
*Youth Director, Rachael Day  
Adult Leaders, Bev and Dan Huebner,  
Barb Baker & Kathy Potts*  
**Please Note:** *The United Methodist Church Youth Staff, our St. Johns CIA Adult Leaders, and I will be getting together on the last Sunday of February to discuss the schedule for April and May. Soon after that day, parents of Middle School and High School youth will be getting a schedule in the mail of what events will take place for April, May, and possibly more information about Summer. A "Tentative CIA Summer Schedule" should have been received in the mail two weeks ago. If you did not get this schedule in the mail and would like one please call me at 990-2174.*

*Thank you for being so patient with me and the Adult Leaders working with our new Youth Ministry here at St. John's. This is an experimental time for all of us. We are always interested in hearing what your concerns, ideas, or suggestions are for our ministry. Please continue to be patient and gracious with your forgiveness. I have enjoyed being a part of St. John's Family thus far.--  
Rachael K. Day*

**REPAIRS, CLEANING AND UPDATING**

The second and third floors are nearly complete thanks to the many volunteers. The carpet is now in on the third floor and in the conference room. If you haven't seen either room, you will be impressed.

We have contracted help to replace the toilets in three restrooms, paint the stairwells and replace some light fixtures in the hallways and restrooms. These are usually general maintenance, but because of lack of care, they need replacing, etc. These costs were not figured into our annual budget, so extra help from the congregation will be needed to pay for them. Please give prayerful consideration to your part in these projects.

The lower level is the project for March. The kitchen will be painted and cleaned. Also the paint in Fellowship Hall will be touched up. The Sunday School rooms and nursery rooms will also be cleaned. **HELP IS NEEDED TO PAINT AND CLEAN.** (Thanks to the great bunch of people that have already painted and cleaned! Your time in priceless! )

If there are any areas of concern to you, we would like to hear from you so we can work on them.

REMEMBER, April 4 starts a very busy month at St. John's. We have a really good start on being ready, but we

aren't done yet! In God's Work, Bob Ashing, Properties and Donna Beck, Fix-Up Chairperson. (Please contact Bob, Donna or the church office if you can paint or clean. You can "paint or clean" by marking your offering envelope, "Church Fix-up." Thanks to all.

***On Going Events***

***Men's Breakfast***, every Tuesday at Westside Diner, 7am. Join them for bible study, food and fellowship.

***Autumn Leaves*** every third Wednesday. All senior citizens and anyone else are invited to join us at **noon** in Fellowship Hall for potluck and fellowship.

***Mary Martha Circle***, every second Wednesday at 1:30p.m. March 10 @ Church, Marion Templeton , hostess. 236-5202

***Lydia Circle***, every third Thursday at 9:30 am. March 18 @ Mary Schuchmann's, 1315 Broad St. 236-1374

***Sarah Circle***, every fourth Tuesday at 7:30 pm. March 23 St. John's

*All confirmed women of the church are cordially invited to a circle(s) of her choice. Please join us. Call hostess or church office, 236-4946.*

***Ecumenical Lenten services***, each Wednesday at 12:10 pm.

- March 3 First Baptist Church  
Charles Pope
- March 10 United Methodist  
Cary VanKampen
- March 17 St. Mary's Catholic  
Richard Harbart
- March 24 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian  
Keely Stein
- March 31 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God  
Bob Zirkelbach
- April 9 Good Friday  
Church of the  
Nazarene  
Diane Wasson  
Eberhart

***Triple Anniversary Celebration***, is SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2004. The theme is: ***A Spiritual Journey***. The Bishop Haugen will be our guest speaker at the 9:30am worship service. Sunday School will be held at 10:45. A potluck luncheon will be at NOON. The afternoon program is scheduled for 2:00pm. See you then. Anniversary Committee

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**



Please add Mary Lamb, Oct. 18, 236-3171 to the WELCA booklet. (Sorry Mary)



***Announcements!***

***Lenten Schedule--*** Wednesday Lenten services continue each Wednesday in Lent with worship at 7pm, preceded by a soup supper each Wednesday at 6pm (March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31). Plan to attend.

The Cluster Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 8290 Hwy F62, Sully. The guest speaker is Jean Cleere of Newton. Jean will be sharing her journey of faith relating to the loss of her husband in the Twin Towers on 9-11-01.

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Registration will be 8:30 to 8:45am., and the meeting will conclude about noon. This will be a great opportunity for some of us to attend a cluster meeting as it is just a few miles away. Please contact Donna Beck or the church office if you are interested in attending.



**DISHES & PANS**

in the kitchen

PLEASE CLAIM!



**Keep in Prayer From Synod**

March 7 Zion Lutheran Church, Atalissa. Western and Eastern North Dakota Synods

March 14 St. John Lutheran Church, Bellevue South Dakota Synod

March 21 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bettendorf Northwestern and Northeastern Minnesota Synods

March 28 St. James Lutheran Church, Bettendorf

Southwestern and Southeastern Minnesota Synods

**Pray for the Suffering Churches Through Out the World**

**Columbia:** Juan Carlos Villegas, 28, the assistant pastor at Family Christian Church in the Medillin suburb of Bellow, was leaving a Sunday afternoon church retreat 24 miles from the city in his pickup truck on April 28, 2002. A few yards down the road, guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN) took Villegas hostage and demanded his church pay \$25,000 for his safe return. In telephone negotiations with the abductors, Family Christian's head pastor, Andres Puerta, reminded them that the ELN had earlier agreed to not kidnap pastors. The rebel commander agreed to free Villegas 12 days after his capture in exchange for a Bible. Eighteen months after the ordeal, Villegas is drawing on his experience to counsel families of hostages and hopes to use his platform as a former hostage to help bring peace to his war-torn homeland through the gospel.

**Egypt:** Five weeks after her arrest tipped off a major crackdown against Egyptian converts to Christianity, Mariam Girguis Makar was sent back to El-Kanater Women's Prison outside Cairo for another 15 days. Makar, 30, was arrested on October 20 at her home in Alexandria in front of her two teenage daughters. Her husband was also detained, beaten and interrogated, but he was released on November 1. Makar has been

accused of falsifying Christian identity papers for herself and other former Muslims. At least 22 other Christians, some converts from Islam and others of Coptic descent, were detained and interrogated in the harsh sweep following Makar's arrest. One convert died while in police custody, and the others face legal prosecution. Under Egyptian law, Muslims are not allowed to change their religious identities to any other faith, although Christians are free to convert officially to Islam.

1960's continued

Ground breaking for the addition was on April 12, 1964. Original plans had been for the Sunday School to move into the new building as a Promotion Sunday, October 1964. However, the architect had become involved with other matters and some extra work had to be done. This set back plans for completion of the building. While progress with construction was lagging, building fund pledges were coming in on schedule, if not ahead.

On March 14, 1965, at a special congregational meeting, Rev. Streich was granted a release so he could answer a call to Zion Lutheran in Oelwein, IA. Meanwhile the parish education unit was near completion. The dedication of the parish education unit took place on June 6, 1965. Rev. Streich returned to be liturgist and dedicator. The speaker was Rev. Donald Loots, pastor of St. John's from 1949 to

1057. At the next annual meeting, Wilford Mikel showed a film of the construction on the educational wing and then donated it to the church.

On June 26, 1966, after being without a pastor for over a year, Rev. Ronald Spears, from Glidden, IA, was installed a pastor of St. John's. Under Rev. Spears, in 1968, the Bethel Bible Course program was instituted at St. John's.

Also in 1968, the adult Sunday School class took on the project of supporting two Chicago boys to attend a Lutheran High School in Chicago. The boys came to Grinnell for a few weeks in the summer. They stayed with church members and helped DeKalb with teaseling to earn spending money. Their friend, Larry Copeland, later joined David Maggett and Harry Ratcliff and we continued to give them some support to attend Concordia College. Also, in 1968, a group of eight children from Chicago came to Grinnell and went to the camp a Springbrook.

At a special meeting of the congregation on July 20, 1969, the congregation, with great respect and much regret, voted to accept the resignation of Rev. Spears due to his health.

Also at this time, the kitchen and bathroom of the parsonage was discussed. The proposal was to repair and remodel the present parsonage, or give a housing allowance and rent or sell the present parsonage and purchase a new one.

At a special meeting of the congregation on August 15,

1969, a letter of call was sent to Rev. Marcus Reitz of Palmer, Ia.

In the meantime it was decided to sell the old parsonage, as is, and purchase a new one. In September a new parsonage at 423 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue was purchased and Rev. Reitz accepted the call to St. John's. His installation took place in October, 1969.

In 1969 an organ committee was appointed and an organ fund established.

1970's

The organ committee was to report as soon as possible in 1970. A Reuter pipe organ was purchased and installed in 1972. LeRoy Mithelman built the swell case for the new organ, which was dedicated April 16, 1972. In 1970 an application to Wartburg Seminary for an intern was completed and Paul Seavey became our first intern in 1971.

In 1971, a new public address system was installed in the church nave. The members of the congregation donated the approximate cost of \$700.

Leslie Simonson was our intern in 1972. Larry Sturgis in 1973, and Larry became assistant pastor in 1974 and his wife, Anita, was part-time church secretary. Arthur "Tex" Weiss became our intern in 1975, Joan Mau, 1976, Frank E. Phillip, 1977, Ed Hatcher in 1978, and Betty Thompson. 1979.

In 1973, a monthly paper, similar to the Lamplighter, was started. It is now called the *Love Letter*. The old organ was donated to the North Side Friends Church in 1974. We also started having greeters as the people came into church. In 1976, St. John's sponsored two refugee families. A fellowship campout

at Rock Creek Lake was held, with the church service held out at the lake. We decided to sell the old parsonage, (to be moved), to make room for a parking lot on the south side of the church building.

Meals on Wheels in Grinnell started in 1971 and St. John's has delivered meals at least one month yearly.

A church softball team was started in 1977.

1980's

The organization for senior citizens, called Autumn Leaves, was started in 1980. A sign was put up on Highway 6 showing the direction to the church.

In 1981 we held a mid-year congregational meeting.

In 1982, the prayer chain was started.

In 1984, new light fixtures and circulation fans installed in nave.

Pastor Reitz resigned in 1987 and went on disability retirement. Pastor Arvid Dixon was installed.

In 1988 we had the first Thanksgiving community dinner and it has been going strong yearly.

The national Lutheran Church body became the ELCA in 1988.

*1900's to 2000 concluded next month.*

Thanks to Betty and LeRoy Schneider for gathering this information.