

# LOVE LETTER

APRIL 2005

## THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Confirmation  
April 10

20/20 Mission Appeal  
April 16 and 17

Youth food drive  
April 24

St. John's Lutheran Church  
ELCA  
1224 East Street  
Grinnell, IA 50112  
(641) 236-4946  
stjohngr@iowatelecom.net

Stephen Jasch  
Pastor

**WORSHIP**  
Saturday at 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Preschool through adult  
Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

## *Pastor's Pen*

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ, our Lord..

### **The Way to Start Your Day!**

#### **WAKE UP**

Decide to have a good day. "Today is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." *Psalms 118:24*

#### **DRESS UP**

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart." *Samuel 16:7*

#### **HUSH UP**

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards the lips guards his soul." *Proverbs 13:3*

#### **STAND UP...**

for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." *Galatians 6:9-10*

#### **LOOK UP...**

to the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." *Philippians 4:13*

#### **REACH UP...**

for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding." *Proverbs 3:5-6*

#### **LIFT UP...**

your prayers. "Do not worry about anything, instead pray about everything." *Philippians 4:6*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Jasch*



# AROUND the CONGREGATION

St. John's.

If you can help, contact the church office.

### 20/20 appeal this month

Twenty new ministries by the year 2020 — that's the goal of 20/20 Vision, the Southeastern Iowa Synod's mission program.

On Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17, St. John's will collect a special offering to be used to support the new Abounding Joy Lutheran Church in the Easter Lake and River Woods neighborhoods of southeast Des Moines.

Look for more information about the program in the worship bulletins during the first two Sundays in April. Please be generous in your support of this effort to proclaim the gospel through the start of new congregations.

### Bible study resumes

Adult Bible Study on Thursday evenings resumes this month. The current focus is the Book of Job. The group meets at 7 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room. All are welcome

### Finances through February

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$30,105	\$24,272
Budget	\$37,611	\$36,374
Expenses	\$37,275	\$35,205

### Average weekly attendance in February

	2005	2004
Saturday	41	40
Sunday	136	136

### Confirmation April 10

Our eighth-graders will be confirmed at the worship service on Sunday, April 10.

### Secretary position open

Natalie Dunn, our church secretary for the past six years, is retiring in June. If you are interested in this part-time position, contact Pastor Jasch. A job description is available in the church office. Deadline for applications is April 15.

### Special food drive

Youth in grades 5-8 will collect canned and packaged food and paper products at the worship service on April 24. The items will be delivered to the local MICA food pantry. The needs in our community go on year-round (not just at holiday time), so please give generously.

### Volunteers needed

Adult leaders are needed for our youth groups. In June, Bev and Dan Huebner and Barb Baker will step down from the Youth Board, and their positions need to be filled. The job involves planning and carrying out service projects and social activities for our young people (divided into grades 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12). You don't need to have children involved to be able to serve. See any member of the Youth Board for more information.

### New members

A warm welcome to new members Mike and Erika Olson and their daughters, Tiffany, 7, and Jessica, 7 months.

The Olsons are natives of Waterloo and have lived in Grinnell for 10 years. Mike works at Grinnell State Bank and is a major in the Iowa National Guard. Erika is employed at a State Farm Insurance agency.



Mike, described by Erika as "a car guy," likes Indy racing and prizes a '73 Cuda. Erika, a Minnesota Vikings fan, sells Longaberger baskets and enjoys spending time with her family.

The Olsons live at 4 15th Ave. Ct., Grinnell; telephone 236-8521.

### Help wanted

For the Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) gathering on the Grinnell College campus on June 17-18, we need people (both men and women) to provide transportation by golf cart from the residence halls to the sites for meetings and a banquet. The hours will be noon to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 17, and 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18.

We also need hostesses and refreshments for the Saturday afternoon session, which will be held at

# Christians in Action (CIA)

## St. John's Youth Groups (grades 5-12)

*Our Mission: "To Inspire, Connect, and Enrich Youth in Living a Christ-centered Life."*



Greetings from the Youth Board:

**THANK YOU** to the families who donated food for the Easter breakfast and to the youth who helped serve and clean up that morning.

A **VARIETY** of youth activities are planned for April.

### Sunday, April 3

Youth in grades 7-12 will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church to hear Tony Farmer, a Grinnell High School health teacher who served a year in Iraq. All members of St. John's are invited to attend.

### Sunday, April 10

This is Confirmation Day for our eighth-graders. We pray for God's blessings on them as they take this important step in their faith life.

### Sunday, April 17

Families of youth in grades 5-8 will serve refreshments after the worship service. Those responsible for bringing two dozen treats are **Brad Ditzler, Amanda Potts, Scott Bosse, Kalen Winburn, Brandon Mikel** and **Sydney Honsbruch**. Parent helpers that day will be **Diane** and **Aaron Winburn** and **Doug** and **Brenda Mikel**. Please arrive by 9 p.m. to get the coffee started and place food on the trays. At 5 p.m. youth in grades 7-12 will meet at the Methodist Church for a pizza bake-off challenge, followed by a movie. In the competition, the senior high and the junior high students will compete for the best pizza. Judges will be the

youth leaders. Winners will get a free ticket to the movie. Plan to bring enough money for a movie ticket (in case your group doesn't win).

### Sunday, April 24

Fifth- through eighth-graders will collect canned and packaged food and paper goods to take to the MICA food pantry. (This activity replaces an afternoon scavenger hunt originally planned for that day.)

### Info on church camp available

It's time to think about summer—and camp. Schedules and registration forms for Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp (near Story City) are posted on the bulletin board outside the youth office. Scholarships are available. See Pastor Jasch for more information.

### ELCA Youth Gathering in 2006

It's not too soon to think about the ELCA Youth Gathering, scheduled for August 2006 in San Antonio, TX. The event is open to 2006 high school graduates and youth entering grades 10, 11 or 12 in August 2006. If you are interested in attending, sign the sheet on the bulletin board outside the youth office. Meetings will be scheduled to discuss details.

**CONTINUE** to pray for our search for a youth and family ministry associate, and our need for adult volunteers to help with the youth programs.

*Youth Board: Barb Baker, Anita Ford, Bev and Dan Huebner, Kathy Potts, Connie Weir, Diane Winburn.*

## New name, host, format for ELCA radio ministry

The ELCA radio ministry has a new name, a new host and a new format. Formerly known as Lutheran Vespers, the program is now called Grace Matters.

The new host is the Rev. Peter Marty, senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport.

He has adopted a "magazine" format that generally includes a guest

talking about faith in everyday life.

The broadcast is heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN.

## NOTES OF THANKS

WE WOULD like to thank those responsible for providing the shelving for the quilting materials and storing the completed quilts. Also, a big thank you to Russ Schuchmann for constructing the shelves, to Don and Doris Sundell for the wonderful new sewing machine they donated, and to WELCA for paying for batting for the quilts.



Many thanks to all the congregation for donating material, mattress pads, sheets and flannel blankets. The quilts will be on display April 9 and 10, prior to delivery to Ankeny for distribution through Lutheran World Relief..

*The quilters of St. John's*

A SPECIAL thank you to everyone who served soup and sandwiches at our Wednesday evening suppers during Lent. Thanks also to all those who furnished salads, cookies and bars.

*Jo Olson  
Fellowship Committee*



## Keep in your prayers this month

*Our Southeastern Synod encourages each congregation to include in prayers the following churches, events and ministries*

### Week of April 3

Unity, Des Moines

For leaders as they gather at Spring Convocation in Davenport

### Week of April 10

Georgia and Montana Synods

For the ELCA Churchwide Council as it meets in Chicago

### Week of April 17

Zion, Des Moines

For administrative professionals and their ministry among us.

### Week of April 24

Sierra Pacific Synod as they gather in assembly

For participants and leaders at the Anti-Racism event

## Pray for the suffering Christian Church around the world

### Sudan

The Sudanese Arab company claiming ownership of a disputed church property in Khartoum moved into the building last week, ignoring a court injunction barring any alterations or use of the property before a judicial ruling on the case.

Stunned representatives of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) discovered during a March 15 trial hearing before the Khartoum Public Court that the United Al Azra Company had arbitrarily taken possession of their church headquarters and guesthouse, first confiscated at police gunpoint 10 months ago.

After the ECS interim provincial secretary Rev. Enock Tombe testified as a witness during last week's hearing, he asked the company's lawyers what they knew about this, questioning whether their clients had sold the property to

still another company.

Before last week's hearing began, ECS lawyer Aziza Ismail asked Judge Wahhabi Ibrahim what action had been taken to enforce the court injunction, in response to last month's court-ordered engineer's report. The report had confirmed that "extensive repairs" amounting to "a complete renovation" were being made on the property in blatant violation of the court injunction ordered last June.

The judge brushed aside the church's request to post a guard at the property, declaring that they should not be worried, "Because in the end, you will get the building back in better shape than it was before!"

Judge Ibrahim set April 4 for the next hearing in the trial.

*From CompassDirect.*

**SERVING THIS MONTH**

**CALENDAR FOR APRIL**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2**

**Acolyte:** Brandon Mikel  
**Reader:** Michelle Honsbruch

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

**Acolyte:** Laura Weigel  
**Greeter:** Sue McDonough  
**Reader:** Kathleen Johnson  
**Coffee Servers:** Bev and Gary Cook  
 Molly and Jim Urfer  
**Communion Assistants:** Scott and Julie Beach

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

**Acolyte:** Chana Weir  
**Reader:** Ed Hatcher  
**Communion Assistant:** Bob Kinseth

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10**

**Acolyte:** Alec Henderson  
**Greeters:** Verna and Everett Gerrish  
**Reader:** Margaret Amo  
**Coffee Servers:** Kay and Paul Davoux  
 Cindy, Steve and Danny Dudley

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16**

**Acolyte:** Nathan Beach  
**Reader:**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

**Acolyte:** Bradley Ditzler  
**Greeters:** Rose and Keith Osland  
**Reader:** Jack Templeton  
**Communion Assistants:** Don and Doris Sundell  
**Coffee Servers:** Junior Youth

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23**

**Acolyte:** Sydney Honsbruch  
**Reader:** Melba Strickler  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

**Acolyte:** Curtis Smith  
**Greeters:** Terry and Lynn Cline  
**Reader:** Barbara Stone  
**Communion Assistants:** H. and M. Honsbruch  
**Coffee Servers:** Dennis, Gaye, Tammy  
 Van Hamme

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

**Acolyte:** Brandon Mikel  
**Reader:** Sandy Falck

<b>Sat</b>	<b>2</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>6</b>	7 pm	Confirmation class, with mentors
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7</b>	7 pm	Adult Bible study
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9</b>	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion,
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship, <b>Confirmation</b>
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
<b>Tue</b>	<b>12</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>13</b>	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Marion Templeton, hostess
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>14</b>	7 pm	Adult Bible study
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	5:30 am	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
<b>Tue</b>	<b>19</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>20</b>	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>21</b>	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Peggy Kolpin, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible study
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23</b>	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
<b>Mon</b>	<b>25</b>	7 pm	Church Council
<b>Tue</b>	<b>26</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Donna Beck, hostess
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>28</b>	7 pm	Adult Bible study

**USHERS**

Keith Osland, Fred Dillon (*head ushers*), Don Sundell, Harlan Honsbruch, Gene Broders, Lance Longman, Alex Huebner

**ALTAR GUILD**

March 13 to April 10 — Nancy Beck  
 Month of April — Pam Ashing  
 April 10 to May 8 — Rebecca Jasch

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

Scott and Shirley Jensen



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# LOVE LETTER

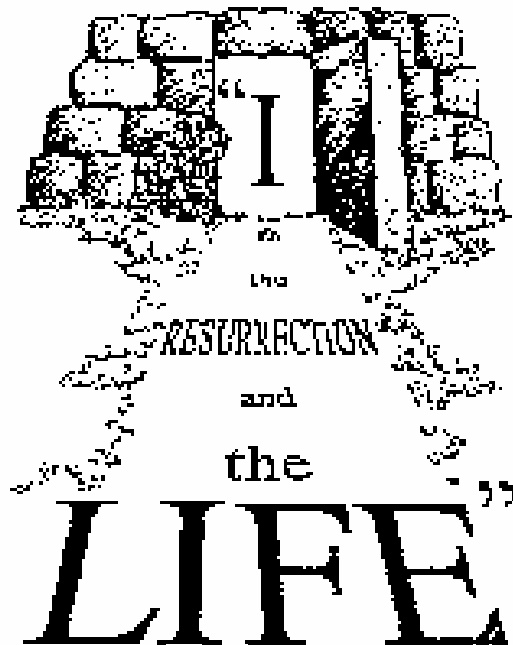
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(641) 236-4946

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**Return Service Requested**



John 11:25