

LOVE LETTER

MAY 2005

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Pentecost
May 15

Senior Breakfast
Sunday School pizza party
Last day of Sunday School
May 22

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

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

*For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.
I Corinthians 11:23*

They had been farmers all their lives. Raymond was a tall and lanky guy with large hands and a good ear for the violin. Sylvia was half his size, but wiry and strong in her own way. In worship they always sat in the overflow area to the left of the lectern.

When Sylvia died, Raymond came to church by himself. Even when a blizzard cancelled services at all other churches, Raymond was one of seven who braved the storm and came for worship at his church.

He sat in the front that day with the others, so the radio audience could hear them singing.

Raymond loved the Bible. He studied it, questioned it, and committed it to memory. When he died he left a large sum of money to the church to buy Bibles. He spent more on that gift than he spent on his own casket. To honor his wish, Bibles were purchased and offered at his funeral to anyone who wanted one. By the end of the day, the box of Bibles on the back table was empty.

Bibles continued to be offered. Word got out. Other donations supplemented Robert's gift. At last count, more than 3,500 Bibles in three years had been individually asked for and received — more Bibles than the town had people.

Raymond and Sylvia were big on tithing — the giving of the first one-tenth of their income. They weren't rich. They were farmers. Cash flow wasn't always there. But they were of one heart on the matter. To write that

first check was so freeing. That's the word Raymond used — "freeing."

Those who have discovered the job of giving from the heart will tell you it is not a chore. Like Raymond, they look forward to giving because of the freedom that comes from knowing that what they give to God and God's people is only a fraction of what they have received.

In Christ,
Pastor Jasch





AROUND the CONGREGATION

Help the hungry

When you plant your vegetable garden this spring, plant an extra row for the hungry in our community. A local committee of Plant a Row for the Hungry, a nationwide, grass-roots project, is working with Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) to connect home gardeners with area families who could benefit from fresh, nutritious food.

Starting June 16, you can bring your extra produce to the Veterans Memorial Building from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursdays and from 7 to 10 a.m. Fridays. Volunteers will sort, weigh and box the donations for immediate distribution through MICA's emergency food pantry.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer with Plant a Row, please contact **Anne Geissinger**, local coordinator, at anne-doug@pcpartner.net

Freezer to be purchased

The Church Council at its meeting April 25 voted to purchase a 15-cubic-foot freezer so that leftover pastries and other items can be stored for future use. The money will come from the memorial fund.

Finances through March

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$45,909	\$44,371
Budget	\$56,417	\$54,561
Expenses	\$53,228	\$60,178

Average weekly attendance in March

	2005	2004
Saturday	42	41
Sunday	140	138

Comings, goings

Starting in mid-June, you'll see a new face and hear a new voice in the church office. **Jo Olson** has been hired as church secretary, replacing **Natalie Dunn**, who is retiring after six years in the job. Welcome, Jo, and many, many thanks, Natalie.

Newly baptized

Nathan Howard Jorgenson, son of **Edward** and **Nancy Jorgenson** and grandson of **Duane** and **Gail Flagel**, was baptized on April 2. His sponsors are **Deb** and **Reno Johnson**.

Isaac Lee Olson, son of **Brian** and **Kerri Olson**, was baptized April 16. His sponsor is **Chad Olson**.

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Verna-dine Collins**, who died April 10 in Florida. Burial was held April 17 in Missouri. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Congratulations!

Married at St. John's on April 23 were **Doug Ernsperger** and **Ann Brant**.

Senior breakfast planned

The annual breakfast for graduating high school seniors will be held at 8:30 a.m. May 22 in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the junior class will serve



Welcome!

Welcome to new members **Brian** and **Kerri Olson**, who joined St. John's on April 16. Their 16-month-old son **Isaac** was also baptized that day.



Brian, originally from Marengo, is a bank examiner for the Iowa Division of Banking. **Kerri** is volunteer coordinator at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. A native of Ames, she is on the board of Poweshiek County Habitat for Humanity.

Brian enjoys hunting; both **Brian** and **Kerri** like to golf. Their family also includes **Belle**, a yellow lab. They live at 5309 Highway T38; phone, 236-4826.

Scout's honors

Five Cub Scouts received "God and Me" recognition during the worship service on April 17. The five are **Shawn Kramer**, **Jacob Lamb**, **Joshua Weiss**, **Spencer Wilcox** and **Chance Winborn**.

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:

CONGRATULATIONS to the five eighth-graders who were confirmed last month. We hope you will continue your faith life by active participation in the high school youth group.

THE PIZZA BAKEOFF last month was great fun and very tasty. Chana Weir was on the team judged to have the most creative and best-tasting pizza. She was treated to a free movie ticket.

THANK YOU to everyone in the congregation who contributed canned and paper products on April 24 for the MICA food bank. We appreciate your willingness to share with others in need.

SENIOR YOUTH will serve refreshments at the fellowship coffee after worship on May 15. Those responsible for bringing two dozen treats are: **Alex Huebner, Travis Smith, Tammie VanHamme, Nate Weigel, Morgan Boehmer** and **Paige Honsbruch**. Parent helpers that day are **Randy and Julie Smith** and **Dennis and Gaye VanHamme**.

THE JUNIOR CLASS and their parents are planning a breakfast for the graduating seniors and their families on Sunday, May 22. They will also be honored at the worship service. We congratulate our seniors and wish them well in their future endeavors. We pray they will continue their faith life wherever their education or jobs take them.

END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES

MAY 22

Youth in grades 5-12 will make and serve pizza to the Sunday School children to celebrate another year of learning about God's word. We will meet at 11 a.m. to prepare the pizza, with serving planned for about 11:30 a.m.

Later in the afternoon, from 4 to 6 p.m., youth in grades 7-12 will join the Methodist youth group at Ahrens Park for a softball game followed by a hot dog roast. Bring your favorite bat and a ball glove. This will be the final organized youth activity this spring. We will meet again beginning in September.

LOOKING AHEAD

If you are thinking about attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2006 in San Antonio, Texas, please sign up on the bulletin board near the youth office. We will need to meet soon to discuss details and plan fund-raising events.

CONTINUE to pray for our search for a youth and family ministry position and for our need for adult volunteers to help with our youth program.

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

Pray for the suffering Christian Church around the world

China leads the world in the number of executions. China executed more people last year — at least 3,400 — than all other countries put together, Amnesty International announced last week.

As China does not release an official tally, the number could be much higher. Iran, at No. 2, didn't even come close, with 159 executions, although it did have one of the world's most protested executions — the hanging

of a 16-yr-old girl for "acts incompatible with chastity."

Next came Vietnam with 64, and then the United States, with 59.

Confirmation held April 10

Welcome to the five eighth-graders who were confirmed at St. John's on April 10. They are:

Nathaniel Beach

Son of Scott and Julie

Bradley Ditzler

Son of Lori Oltrogge and David Ditzler

Sydney Honsbruch

Daughter of Harlan and Michelle

Curtis Smith

Son of Doug and Judy

Chana Weir

Daughter of Craig and Connie

NOTES OF THANKS

THANK YOU for remembering me following my knee surgery. The cards, food, flowers, visits and prayers were all appreciated. I hope to be back in church soon.

Avis Kelm



I WISH to thank everyone for their prayers and cards I received while I was in a rehabilitation hospital.

Ruth Dalldorf

Keep in your prayers this month

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

Week of May 1

Hope Lutheran Church, Dixon

For all teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week

Week of May 8

Southwest California Synod

For mothers and those women who fill that role for others

Week of May 15

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Durant

For the Western Iowa Synod as they meet in Assembly.

Week of May 22

Pacific Synod

For all who are graduating from high school or college

Week of May 29

Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge

For veterans and all who are in the armed forces.

Synod group coming to town

The Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) annual gathering in Grinnell in June is a wonderful opportunity for St. John's women to join with women from throughout the area in worshiping, learning and serving together.

Our local WELCA board will assist with the registration fee for women of our church who wish to attend.

The gathering will be held Friday Saturday, June 17 and 18. The event begins at 1 p.m. and Friday and ends at 4:30 p.m. Saturday

About 150 women from throughout the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA are expected to attend.

Lodging, meals and most meetings will be on the Grinnell College campus. On Saturday

afternoon, the gathering will be to St. John's, where a series of workshops is planned.

Bishop Philip Hougen will be the keynote speaker on Friday night. The Saturday workshops include such topics as women in Palestine, genealogy, Psalms meditations and HIV/AIDS orphans. Several service projects also are planned.

Please contact Nancy Locker if you are interested in attending.

Can you help? We need:

Drivers for the golf carts that will provide transportation around the campus and to the church.

Donations of bars and cookies for refreshments on Saturday afternoon at the church.

A hostess for the refreshment break at the church.

Call Jo Olson, 641-990-0618.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Jim and Molly Urfer
Reader: Nancy Heineman
Coffee Servers: Mitzi and Duane Dufoe
 Fred England
Communion Assistants: G. and K. Johnson

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Acolyte: Chana Weir
Reader: Shirle Huth

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Bob and Pam Ashing
Reader: Fred Hagemeister
Coffee Servers: F., S. Hagemeister; Lu Ahrens

SATURDAY, MAY 14

Acolyte: Nathaniel Beach
Reader: Jim Urfer
Communion Assistant: Molly Urfer

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Acolyte: Bradley Ditzler
Greeters: Gene and Shirley Broders
Reader: Dorothy Martinek
Communion Assistants: Don and Doris Sundell
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Acolyte: Sydney Honsbruch
Reader: Nancy Beck
Communion Assistant: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Acolyte: Curtis Smith
Greeters: James and Sue Bailey
Reader: Sara Dunne
Coffee Servers: Jean and Vic Frana

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion Assistant: Gary Cook

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Reader: Todd Nelson
Greeters: Gaylen and Kathy Johnson
Coffee Servers: Harold and Addy Hanson

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun	1	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
Tue	3	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	7	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	8	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
Tue	10	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	11	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Elaine Hamman, hostess
Sat	14	5:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	15	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Tue	17	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	18	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	19	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Alice Beck, hostess
Sat	21	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	22	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Breakfast for graduating seniors
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School pizza party
Mon	23	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	24	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Natalie Dunn, hostess
Sat	28	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	29	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship

USHERS

Rick Weigel, Duane Dufoe (*head ushers*), Kent Rasmussen, Fred Hagemeister, Allison Baker, Zen Masuku

ALTAR GUILD

April 10 to May 8 — Rebecca Jasch
 Month of May — Kay Davoux
 May 8 to June 12 — Sue McDonough

OFFERING COUNTERS

Pat and Steve Gustafson

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GRACE MATTERS

Radio ministry of the ELCA

*Heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN
1410 AM*

