

LOVE LETTER

JULY 2005

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Vacation Bible School
July 10-14

Celebration Singers
"Old Church Pew" service
July 16

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
during the school year

Pastor's Pen

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

The point is this: The one who sows sparingly also reaps sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

The following story is a good reminder of living a life of service in the name of Christ.

Joyce found her own way to nurse's training. It was 1944.

The government promised to pick up the cost of anyone who would volunteer for duty upon graduation. She jumped at the chance.

It was difficult. The studies, the long hours, and distance from the family. Her duty on a psych floor in Kansas brought home the reality of war and initiated her into her profession.

Fifty years later, a lifetime of caring with hands and heart had passed. In her community, people knew her. She had cried with parents who had lost a child to meningitis. When a family came in burned by a house fire, she rode in the ambulance, consoling and comforting with words and actions. She started the local hospice program, spent 10 years walking 200 students through LPN training at the local vocational

school, and educated the community on the concerns of aging before she was done. Person after person would remember her kind care during a difficult time. They would

stop her on the street to thank her.

When Joyce had heart trouble, it was her turn to be on the receiving end. The word went out about Joyce's birthday. Would you send a card? They ar-

rived. Collected in secret until they could be poured out on the table, onto her lap, spilling card after card onto the floor. Not quite bags and bags, but enough to get the message across.

Thank you, Joyce, for hearing the call, packing your suitcase, and getting on that bus so many years ago. A bountiful harvest from a life bountifully lived.

God's blessings to all!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*





Gallop on over to VBS

It's not too late to make plans for a stay at the Circle G Ranch— Vacation Bible School, that is.. VBS will be held Sunday through Thursday, July 10 to 14, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Registration forms are in the church office.



Officers elected

Doug Mikel was named president of the Congregation Council at the church's semiannual meeting on June 26. Other new officers are **Todd Nelson**, vice president, and **Barb Baker**, secretary. **Gary Cook** will continue as treasurer.



New members of the Council of Ministers are **Anita Ford** and **Rose Osland**, Education Committee, and **Mike Schaeffer**, Service.

Re-elected were **Jim Dunn**, who will serve a one-year term as head of the Stewardship Committee, and **Mary Schuchmann**, two-year term, Evangelism and Shepherding. Continuing on the council are **Cheryl Irland**, Worship, Music and the Arts Committee, and **Jo Olson**, Fellowship.

Positions yet to be filled include chairs of the Property Committee and the Youth Committee.

Also at the meeting, retiring church secretary **Natalie Dunn** was presented with a gift in appreciation of her six years of service.

The meeting was followed by a spaghetti lunch served by members of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by St. John's.

Welcome, Jo

New church secretary Jo Olson started on the job in mid-June. She is in the office from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Irene Burk, who died June 5. Her funeral was held at St. John's on June 9, with burial following at Hazelwood Cemetery. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Sign up for Dinners for 8

Here's a chance to get to know your fellow church members. Dinners for 8, a new program at St. John's, is a way for members of all ages (both singles and couples) to meet informally for dinner on a monthly basis for a four-month period.

Those who sign up will be organized into groups of eight. Each group sets its own meeting time and meeting place (homes or restaurants, or a combination of both).

Signup sheets are located in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall, or you can call the church office. Deadline for joining the September-December period is August 1.

Questions? Talk to any committee member -- **Jo Olson, Pam Ashing, Carolyn Bosse, Natalie Dunn, Shirle Huth** and **Natalie Pavey**.

Quilters complete service project

The quilters at St. John's took a break from their ongoing project of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and instead made quilts for children ages 2-12 who are homeless, abused or in foster care in Iowa. The quilters made a total of 31 quilts of different sizes and patterns. In addition, backpacks were filled with a variety of items for the children. The service project was initiated by the local Kiwanis Club.

Hear this!

Audio tapes of the Sunday worship service are available for delivery on a weekly basis to our homebound members. Call the church office if you are interested or if you know of someone who might benefit.

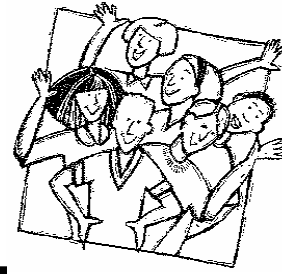
Finances through May

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$73,215	\$87,333
Budget	\$94,028	\$90,935
Expenses	\$82,967	\$95,728

Average weekly attendance in May

	2005	2004
Saturday	42	41
Sunday	147	148

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."

Thank you to the youth and parents who helped serve at the ice cream social on Father's Day. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for making the ice cream. It tasted great with the pies and cookies!

SENIOR YOUTH will serve for after-worship fellowship on July 17. The following people need to bring two dozen treats - **Reid Henderson, James Nowasell, A.J. Baker, Allyssa Bosse, Troy Peter** and **Nick Stepanek**. **Roger** and **Lisa Henderson** and **Rick** and **Kris Stepanek** are the parent helpers. Thank you in advance for helping.

A **VIDEOTAPE** about the ELCA Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas in July 2006, is in the mail box on the door of the youth room. Please take time to view it, then sign up if you are interested in attending. The initial registration is due by mid-September,

so we need to begin making plans.

THERE ARE still opportunities to attend Camp Riverside near Story City. **Chana Weir** just returned and had a great camp experience. Information is available on the bulletin board by the youth office.

AS YOU take time to relax a bit this summer, please keep our youth program in your prayers. We are still in need of adult volunteers to keep the programs going. The Youth and Family Ministry Board is continuing to look for a youth director. If you know of someone who might be interested in this position, please contact a board member.

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

The following letter was sent to St. John's by Charles M. Pope of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

June 8, 2005

Dear members of St. John's,
Greetings from St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Over the past few months your pastor and I have discussed the possibility of some small group sessions on "Call to Common Mission," the agreement signed by the ELCA and the Episcopal Church a few years ago. In that agreement, the two churches can share clergy. The minister of the ELCA church in Marshalltown is also the clergyman at St. Paul's Episcopal in Marshalltown.

When I was on the staff of St. Paul's Cathedral in downtown Des Moines, we ran some of these small groups with St. John's Lutheran. The groups were informative and enjoyable. We used the book "Lutherans and Episcopalians Together" by Christopher Webber as a guide.

So, on behalf of St. Paul's in Grinnell, I invite the members of St. John's to consider a similar possibility. In talking with Steve Jasch, it seems that a Sunday afternoon might work best. But we will not proceed until we hear of your interest. So I invite you to talk to your pastor or give St. Paul's a call at 236-6254. We are probably looking at the fall but we are open to other ideas. Thanks for your attention.

*In Christ,
Charles M. Pope, Vicar, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Grinnell*



WORDS OF THANKS

I WOULD like to thank everyone from St. John's who helped with the Synodical Women's Organization event in June. All the treats were enjoyed by everyone.



Also, thanks to everyone who helped provide all the goodies for the ice cream social after worship on June 19. A good time was had by all. I think we had approximately 85 people attend. Hopefully we can make it an annual event.

Thanks again to everyone for all your help. We truly appreciate it.

Jo Olson

*Fellowship Committee chair
SWO local arrangements coordinator*

THANK YOU to all for your thoughts, prayers and cards on the occasion of my recent thyroid surgery. The surgery went fine and there was no cancer. God's blessings to you all!

*In Christ,
Anna Jasch*

THANK YOU so much for the gift certificate from Beckmann Gallery and the coffee mug stating "This is most certainly brew." It was a pleasure being the secretary for you, and I appreciated all the help that I received from many of you. A special thanks to the Autumn Leaves group, who always invited me to lunch. I guess when I come now, I'll have to bring food.

*Yours in Christ
Natalie Dunn*

THANKS to everybody for your prayers, cards, phone calls and food while Gordon was recuperating. Your concern and support has been very much appreciated by our whole family.

Carolyn and Gordon Bosse

Keep in your prayers this month

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

Week of July 3

Western and Eastern North Dakota Synods
For the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention meeting this week in San Antonio, Texas

Week of July 10

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Madison
For the Global Mission Event in Fargo, North Dakota, which starts this coming week

Week of July 17

South Dakota Synod
For the Lutheran Men's Gathering in Charleston, North Carolina, which meets July 22-24

Week of July 24

Gilbert Lutheran Church, Gilbert
For the youth and leaders gathering at the Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE) this week.

Week of July 31

Northwestern and Northeastern Minnesota Synods
For the ELCA Church Council as it meets this week

Help fight hunger

By prayer

Pray for the more than 36 million people in our country who struggle to put food on the table, and for our nation's leaders as they make decisions about federal nutrition programs and other initiatives that serve hungry people. May their choices help to end hunger in God's world. *(From Hunger Sunday, a publication of Bread for the World)*

By action

You can help those in need in our community by contributing to the **MICA emergency food**. A collection basket is provided in our church narthex.

This summer, you can donate extra produce from your garden to MICA through the **Plant a Row for the Hungry** program. From now through mid-September, you can take any surplus veggies and fruits to a volunteer stationed in front of the Veterans Memorial Building downtown on **Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m.** and on **Fridays from 7 to 10 a.m.**



SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Acolyte: Chana Weir
Reader: Gary Cook

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Jean and Vic Frana
Reader: Dorothy Buchmeier
Communion Assistants: Vic and Jean Frana
Coffee Servers: Dorothy and John Martinek

SATURDAY, JULY 9

Acolyte: Nathaniel Beach
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Communion Assistant: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, JULY 10

Acolyte: Bradley Ditzler
Greeters: Steve, Cindy and Dan Dudley
Reader: Shirle Huth
Coffee Servers: Dale and Doris Selix

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Acolyte: Sydney Honsbruch
Reader: Bev Hatcher

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Acolyte: Curtis Smith
Greeters: Lu Ahrens, Colleen Politz
Reader: Molly Urfer
Communion Assistants: Paul and Kay Davoux
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, JULY 23

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Reader: Karen Frischmeyer
Communion Assistant: Bev Hatcher

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Kelly Rose and Becky Wilson
Reader: Doris Selix
Coffee Servers: Colleen Politz and Lu Ahrens

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Acolyte: Chana Weir
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistant: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Todd and Stephanie Nelson
Reader: Nicole Behrens
Coffee Servers: Rose and Keith Osland

CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sat	2	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	3	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	5	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	9	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	10	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
Tue	12	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	13	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Doris Sundell, hostess
Sat	16	5:30 pm	Worship - Celebration Singers will lead service, "Autobiography of the Old Church Pew"
Sun	17	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	19	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	20	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	21	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Margaret Amo, hostess
Sat	23	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	24	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Mon	25	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	26	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	30	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	31	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship

USHERS

Ted Clausen and Harold Hanson (*head ushers*), Jim Bailey, Scott Beach, Julie Beach, Todd Nelson

ALTAR GUILD

June 12-July 10 — Lu Ahrens
 Month of July — Julie Beach
 July 10-August 14 — Mitzi Dufoe

OFFERING COUNTERS

Keith Osland and Donna Beck

LOVE LETTER

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(641) 236-4946

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LOVE LETTER is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church. Mary Schuchmann, editor. Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the previous month.

Return Service Requested

GRACE MATTERS

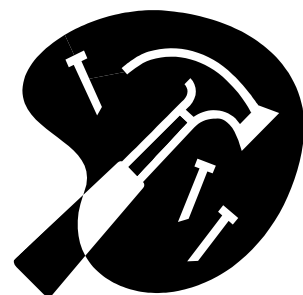
Radio Ministry of the ELCA
Heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN

A call from Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity in Grinnell is looking to area churches for support of its latest project – building a 1,200-square-foot home at 702 High St.

Volunteers are needed to help with construction. Basic building skills are desirable, but willing hands of all abilities are welcomed. Schedules are arranged to fit volunteers' availability. Call the church if you can help. Financial contributions are also important. Send donations to Poweshiek County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 627, Grinnell, IA 50112.

Habitat for Humanity is an international, faith-based, non-profit housing organization with a mission to build homes for God's people in need of simple, decent shelter.



Two members of St. John's are on the local board. **Mary Schuchmann** is secretary, **Kerri Olson** is treasurer.