

LOVE LETTER

AUGUST 2005

**THIS MONTH
AT St. JOHN'S**

Youth planning meeting
August 10

**Outdoor worship
Church picnic**
August 28

Confirmation class starts
August 31

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.

Pastor's Pen

Grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

Shorty was a steady, no-frills kind of guy. He'd worked the same job for most of his life. Slowly, over the years, he had built up a comfortable financial cushion on which to retire. Not a lot of extras, but enough.

Those who knew him well knew he was a kind person. Some of the little kids were scared of him. He didn't smile much, but you could count on him. Steady. Some might say faithful.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Shorty was practical, too. He could fix almost anything. It was his diligence that kept the boiler in the church basement limping along two years longer than it ever should have lasted.

When the boiler finally gave up its last rumble, Shorty knew enough to throw in the towel. The call went out. Donations

were needed for the new furnace. It was a small congregation. Some joked about breaking up the furniture for kindling.

The check arrived in the mail in an unmarked envelope. It was a generous gift. Enough for an entire furnace. There were conditions. No one was to know. No plaque or announcement. Just the hum of heat warming those who came to worship.

Shorty's gift to his church came from the heart. Not many of us could make the kind of financial gift Shorty made, but if we keep our eyes and ears and heart open, opportunities to give and serve will be numerous.

God's blessings to all.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch.*



‘A Cup of Healing’

Experience the healing power of fellowship, creativity, relaxation and prayer at a Saturday morning gathering at St. John’s for women of all ages.



Sponsored by the WELCA board, the mini-retreat from **8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17**, is designed to refresh and renew through a variety of simple activities.

For more information, call **Donna Beck**.

Host families sought

Grinnell College is seeking host families for new international students. Host families provide a community contact and supportive atmosphere during the school year.

Host families generally provide housing and meals during the first few days of international student orientation, but families are also welcomed who would like to host a student but are unable to offer an initial homestay. Signup forms and more information are available at the church office.

Church finances through June

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$87,582	\$92,479
Budget	\$112,844	\$109,122
Expenses	\$97,726	\$113,599

Average weekly attendance in June

	2005	2004
Saturday	42	42
Sunday	136	134

Collecting, collecting

Second Mile in Grinnell is collecting back-to-school supplies for area families in need. Suggested items include backpacks, paper, notebooks, pencils, crayons. Please bring contributions to the church office by **Sunday, Aug. 7**.

Gifts for our graduates

Help send off our 2005 high school graduates into the world of college or work with a reminder of their church family. As we’ve done in other years, we are collecting a variety of items — personal care products, towels, snacks, quarters for the laundry — that will be packed into “Care Bags” for our 10 graduates. Contributions should be brought to the church office by **Sunday, Aug. 14**.

College cookie day

To welcome new students to Grinnell College, local churches are asked to provide cookies for students during registration time on Wednesday, Aug. 24.. Donations are needed and should be brought to the church by 10 a.m. that day.

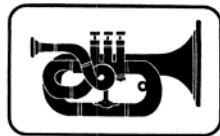
Stay cool — and current

Church expenses don’t take a holiday in the summer. Please continue to make regular offerings during the summer months.



Saints will go marching in at Ahrens Park

Outdoor worship with a Dixieland beat is planned for **10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, at Ahrens Park**. The service will be followed by a potluck picnic starting at 11 a.m.



The Dixie Notes, a Dixieland band from Cedar Rapids and Marion, will provide music and lead the congregation in singing. The group (which includes our member **Russ Schuchmann** and **Marilyn Carstens**, **Cheryl Irland**’s mother, who lives in Marion) played at last year’s event.

For the picnic, please bring a dish to share, your own table service and lawn chairs. Meat and beverages will be provided.

If it rains, the service and the picnic will be held at the church.

Wedding bells

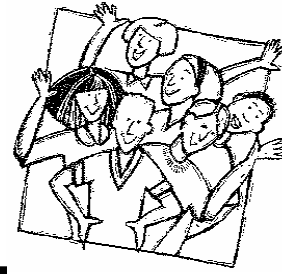
Confirmation class set

Congratulations to **Nicole Peter** and **Dustin Whitehead**, who were married at St. John’s on July 30.

Confirmation class set

Confirmation class for all seventh- and eighth-graders will begin Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the Fellowship Hall

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."

Congratulations to all the youth who participated in the Poweshiek County Fair. It was wonderful to see the variety of projects. You should take great pride in your talents and in work so well done!!

Diane Winburn has volunteered to establish an email address list of the youth at St. John's. The purpose is to send reminders about upcoming events and activities for each of the youth groups. We encourage all youth in grades 5-12 this fall to send your email address to Diane at winburn6@yahoo.com. Please indicate your current grade so information gets out to the correct youth group. Thank you, Diane, for creating this valuable tool for us!

We currently have six people who have volunteered to assist in planning activities with the youth next year. However, none of them want to take the leadership role. It has been suggested that parents who have children involved in youth groups take turns planning a month's activities, organizing the details, getting the necessary information to the youth and parents, and carrying out the activities. This could be done by one set of parents, or in groups of two or three sets of parents. We will still plan to coordinate activities with the United Methodist Church. Of course, any adult at St. John's who is interested in helping is wel-

come to volunteer!! A planning meeting for anyone who is willing to help with planning and carrying out 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12 grade youth activities this year will be held Wednesday, Aug., 10, at 7 p.m. at the church. At this time, we will select months to lead and discuss other tasks that need to be accomplished to keep our youth active. If you would like to help but cannot attend that evening, please contact **Bev Huebner** at 236-0068 or huebner0603@iowatelecom.net, to let her know your preferred month(s) to help and ideas you would like discussed. The first youth meeting for fall will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, so it is important that we get organized soon.

Youth in grades 5-8 will serve refreshments for after-worship fellowship on Sunday, Aug. 21. Those needing to bring two dozen treats are **Zach Boehmer, Kyle Irland, Courtney Peter, Nathaniel Beach, Renee Beach** and **Joseph Reitz**. Parent helpers are **Tami** and **Davie Ditzler** and **Cheryl** and **Mark Irland**. Thanks in advance for helping with this service project.

Thank you to **Barb Baker** and **Bev** and **Dan Huebner** for working with the youth groups the past years. We appreciate all the time and effort they have put into our youth programs.

SWO meets in June at college, St. John's

"Sisters in Faith" was the theme of the 18th annual gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization (SWO), held at Grinnell College and St. John's Lutheran Church on June 17 -18.

Bishop Philip L. Hougen, our keynote speaker, talked about sisters of faith he has known. Robin Kieffer of Apple Valley, Minn., was our churchwide representative. There were numerous workshops as well as a business meeting. At our business meeting **Eloise Froah** from Holy Trinity, Newton, was elected to the board. (She is the daughter of **Emma Helmke**.)

Thanks to all of you who made contributions to our love gifts. We received nearly 700 Dolls-2-Love, which are being sent to an Indian reservation in Arizona, HIV-AIDS orphans in Tanzania and to children in Palestine. Also, a big thanks to those who assisted at the church and who drove the golf carts that provided transportation.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Synodical board for the last five years. Your support has been appreciated. I will be on the planning committee as registrar for the 2006 gathering.

Nancy S. Locker

Report on 2005 Synod Assembly

The 2005 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly was held June 10 and 11 at Grand View College, Des Moines. The theme was "Marked With the Cross of Christ Forever." In addition to myself, our delegates were Fred Hagemeister and Pastor Jasch.

The keynote speaker, noted Lutheran theologian Dr. Martin Marty, spoke on the topic of generosity. He quoted Arthur Frank, who said, "When you have been given the gift of generosity, you have learned how to live."

We have this generosity that comes from God, Marty said, and we can relate this to contemporary society in our lives. The Gospel is, simply, you get to love and you get to be generous.

Joanne Chadwick, executive director of the Commission for Women for 14 years, brought us greetings from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. He was also brought to us by video in the form of an excerpt from a congregational town hall meeting where questions ranged from national restructuring challenges, the evangelical movement, education and personal and political values.

Bishop Hanson posed the question, "How does our faith shape those values?" His answer? Amidst all the challenges and changes within our congregations and administration we must continue to focus on two important things, the gospel and mission, in order to remain the body of Christ.

In Chadwick's comments following the video, she mentioned that 2005 is the 35th anniversary of the church's ordination of women.

In the business meetings we acted upon 19 resolutions. (See accompanying article.)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Synod Assembly once again.

Nancy S. Locker

Resolutions cover variety of topics

A total of 19 resolutions were presented to representatives at the 2005 Synod Assembly. Seventeen of the 19 were adopted. Here's an overview of some of them. To read the complete list, see the synod's website at www.seiasynod.org.

Resolution 1 Asks that the synod reaffirm its commitment to 20/20 Vision (20 new congregations by 2020) and seeks to broaden participation by congregations.

Resolution 5 Encourages congregations to celebrate human diversity, and asks the synod to develop and distribute materials to assist congregations in creating Affirmation of Welcome Statements.

Resolution 6 Memorializes (petitions) the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to adopt a policy allowing congregations to give their pastor(s) discretion to perform service of blessing to covented same-gendered relationships.

Resolution 7 Endorses the recommendations of the ELCA Task Force for Studies on Sexuality, and memorializes the Churchwide Assembly to adopt a policy to refrain from disciplining partnered gay and lesbian candidates.

Resolution 12 Encourages congregations and members to pray daily and during worship for those serving in Iraq and for President Bush. Asks congregations and members to encourage political leaders to seek an end to the conflict.

Resolution 13 Asks for support of the ministry of the ELCA chaplain at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach through special offerings, projects and activities, and/or this ministry as a line item in congregational budgets.

Resolution 15 Declares Oct. 1 and 2 as All Are Welcome Weekend in the synod, and recommends that every congregation adopt this weekend for an intentional ministry of invitation.

Defeated were a resolution on defining marriage and a resolution on procedural discussion of sexuality issues.



SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Acolyte: Bradley Ditzler
Reader: Russ Behrens

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Acolyte: Sydney Honsbruch
Greeters: Jannell Lurbben and Sue McDonough
Reader: Dave Huth
Communion Assistants: Jim and Sara Dunne
Coffee Servers: Keith and Rose Osland

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Acolyte: Curtis Smith
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistant: Melba Strickler

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Acolyte: Nathaniel Beach
Greeters: Jim and Sue Bailey
Reader: Paul Davoux
Coffee Servers: Molly and Jim Urfer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Reader: Nancy Heineman

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Willis and Phyllis Snook
Reader: Michelle Honsbruch
Communion: Fred.England, Fred. Hagemeister
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Acolyte: Chana Weir
Reader: Karen Ashby
Communion Assistant: Sue McDonough

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Everett and Verna Gerrish
Reader: Sue McDonough
CHURCH PICNIC AT AHRENS PARK

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Sat	6	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	7	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	9	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	13	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	14	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
Tue	16	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	17	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	18	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Jean Frana, hostess
Sat	20	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	21	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	23	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	24	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Sat	27	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	28	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		10 am	OUTDOOR WORSHIP
		11 am	CHURCH PICNIC
Mon	29	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	30	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	31	7 pm	Confirmation class starts, Fellowship Hall

USHERS

Dennis Van Hamme and Dale Lamb (*head ushers*), Travis Smith, Tom Heineman, Jim Dunne, Sara Dunne, Danielle Nowasell, Gary Cook

ALTAR GUILD

July 10-August 14 — Mitzi Dufoe
 Month of August — Mary Schuchmann
 August 14-September 11 — Gaye Van Hamme

OFFERING COUNTERS

Gary and Bev Cook

**CHURCH PICNIC
 OUTDOOR WORSHIP
 Sunday, August 28**



LOVE LETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church
1224 East Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

Non-profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Grinnell, Iowa
Permit #134

AUGUST 2005

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

Keep in your prayers

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

Week of August 7

Ascension Lutheran Church, Goose Lake, Iowa
For all those participants in the Churchwide Assembly from Aug. 8-14 in Orlando, Fla.

Week of August 14

Southwestern and Southeastern Minnesota Synods
For students returning to classes this month.

Week of August 21

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grand Mound
For the Global Mission Event taking place in Baltimore, Md., this coming week.

Week of August 28

Minneapolis Area and St. Paul Synods
For the Lutheran World Federation Council Meeting being held in Jerusalem from Aug. 31 to Sept. 7