

LOVE LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Sunday School starts
September 11

'Cup of Healing' mini-retreat
September 17

LSI Sunday
September 18

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.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Doug Mikel, president
Todd Nelson, vice president
Barb Baker, secretary
Gary Cook, treasurer
Steve Dudley, Properties
Jim Dunn, Stewardship
Anita Ford/Rose Osland, Education
Cheryl Irland, Worship, Music, Arts
Jo Olson, Fellowship
Mike Schaeffer, Service
Mary Schuchmann, Evangelism

Pastor's Pen

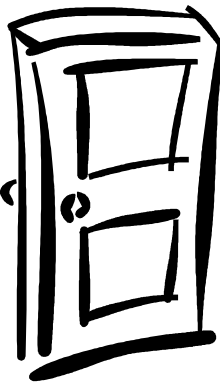
Contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 2:13

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

The door is locked when you come. You have to ring the bell, tell who you are, stand so they can see your face, and wait for the buzzer to sound before you can enter the house. It is foreboding.

The "house" is a shelter for battered women. Most of us hear about such things and shake our heads in agreement.



The shelter will be full in a couple hours. The only empty room is just now being prepared for two women coming in later that night. The average stay is 16 days. In that time, the women must try to think, shake off fear, and make decisions for themselves and often for their children.

Those who work with the women know how to ask the important questions. Will you feel safe? Who can you call for support? What are your best options? These are questions the women must answer for themselves. They should not have to answer them alone.

A tour of the facility shows that the pantry is stocked mainly by donations. Meals are prepared with help from the residents. Rooms have been "adopted" by local service groups and churches, which furnish them. A retired carpenter sees to the upkeep of the building. The garage acts as a warehouse for overflow items the families may need if they decide not to go back. Dishes, diapers, dust pans. Mostly donated.

There would be no shelter without the donations. Dollars and resources, all freely given by people who give hospitality to others they do not know. Just a little example, one opportunity in a world of opportunities. The heart knows where to go.

Let us respond with the love of Christ, crucified and Risen, wherever the needs arise. God's blessings to all!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



Back to Sunday School

Sunday School for preschool through adults starts Sept. 11. A special activity for kids is planned for the first day. Teachers will be installed at the worship service that day.

Search update

The Youth Board is continuing the search for a youth and family ministry associate.

The committee has recently received two applications and has conducted a phone interview with one of the applicants.

Added to council

Steve Dudley will serve on the Council of Ministers as chairman of the Properties Committee. There is still a need for someone to head the Youth Committee.

Dinners for 8 (and 6)

Dinners for 8, a new activity at St. John's designed to encourage members to get to know one another in an informal, social setting, is setting up for the first four-month period..

Six groups have been formed, involving the 40 people who signed up for the September through December events.

Several groups of six will be inviting others to join them on a monthly basis to make tables of 8.

Refresh, renew

Sooth your body and refresh your spirit at a very special mini-retreat for women from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the church.

Titled "A Cup of Healing," the event is sponsored by the WELCA board.



Women of all ages are invited, and members are encouraged to bring guests.

A variety of activities — some creative, some relaxing — are planned. An offering will cover the cost of the event.

Signup sheets are located in the narthex, at the south entrance and in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Donna Beck.

New groups will also be organized in January.

LSI Sunday

The worship service on **Sunday, Sept. 18**, will focus on the work of Lutheran Services in Iowa (formerly Lutheran Social Services).

The message for the day will be given by a lay leader from Story City who has been involved in LSI.

On Sept. 11, LSI will dedicate the new Beloit Residential Treatment

Center in Ames. Funds for the center were raised in the "It's About the Kids" three-year campaign in which St. John's is participating.

Leftovers

Two plastic container covers were left at the church picnic Aug. 28 at Ahrens Park. You can find them both in the church kitchen (along with other assorted serving dishes that have been left at church events in recent months)

Food pantry needs

The emergency food pantry at MICA is currently running low on oatmeal, potatoes, canned fruits, canned vegetables and size 4 diapers.

There is also a special need right now for plastic grocery bags.

If you would like to receive emails telling of the pantry's current specific needs, call Amber Diehm at 236-3923 or email her at adiehm@micaonline.org.

You can bring donations to the church (a box is located in the narthex) or take donations to MICA, located in the Veterans Memorial Building at 4th and Broad.

Church finances through July

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$100,730	\$104,399
Budget	\$131,639	\$127,309
Expenses	\$105,572	\$126,978

Average weekly attendance in July

	2005	2004
Saturday	45	34
Sunday	121	118

YOUTH NEWS



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

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

Welcome to a new school year and new activities for St. John's young people in grades 5-12.

Sunday, September 11

In our kickoff event for youth in grades 7-12 on Sunday, Sept. 11 we will join the United Methodist youth for a "best shot" golf outing at the Grinnell Country Club starting at 1 p.m. In "best shot" golf, partners take turns shooting the ball, then play the ball in the best position. The cost is \$10 for nine holes. Refreshments will be served when we finish, about 3:30 p.m. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, September 18

Senior Youth will serve refreshments for the coffee fellowship on Sept. 18. Those responsible for bringing two dozen treats are **Shannon Potts, Tammie VanHamme, Katie Ditzler, Alex Huebner, Thomas Heineman** and **Sydney Honsbruch**. **Brian** and **Nancy Heineman** and **Harlan** and **Michelle Honsbruch** are parent helpers. Thanks for helping!!

Saturday, September 24

On Saturday, Sept. 24, youth in grades 7-12 have an opportunity to attend a concert in Webster City by the group *Radial Angels*. The cost is \$10. Please sign up by Sept. 4 so advance tickets can be ordered.

Cheers for our volunteers

Thank you to several parent volunteers who have agreed to plan activities for our youth. There is still an opportunity for more volunteers. Please check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for the months you can help plan. You do not need to have a child in the specific aged youth group.

Make the connection

Don't forget to send your email address to Diane Winburn, winburn6@yahoo.com, so we can help keep all youth and their families informed of upcoming events.

AROUND THE CONGREGATION

Crop Walk scheduled

Join the community effort to feed those in need by participating in the annual Crop Walk, set this year for Sunday, Oct. 2, at Ahrens Park. Registration begins at 1 p.m., with the walk starting at 1:45 p.m. In case of rain, the walk will be held inside the building at the park. You can either walk or make a donation on behalf of a walker.

Twenty-five percent of the money raised remains in Poweshiek County for local hunger programs.

Registration forms and pledge sheets are available at the church.

Adult Bible Study resumes

Adult Bible Study will start on Sept 8. The group meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at the church.

The study topic this fall will be the Old Testament books of Amos and Hosea.

Listen in

Grinnell's Bob Molsberry, pastor of the United Church of Christ, will be featured on the Sept. 25 broadcast of *Grace Matters*, the national radio ministry of the ELCA. The program is heard locally at 7:30 a.m. on KGRN 1410 AM.

WORDS OF THANKS

THANKS to all who provided cookies for the Habitat for Humanity crew in July and for registration day at the college in August. Thanks also to everyone who contributed back-to-school supplies for the Second Mile school project and the send-off “Care Bags” for our high school graduates.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK

YOU to Kathy Barger for contributing and arranging the lovely garden flowers that have decorated our altar and the sanctuary window ledges most of the summer.



THANK YOU to the Celebration Singers, who organized a hymnfest for the worship service on Saturday, Aug. 20, while Pastor Jasch was away.

THE OUTDOOR WORSHIP and picnic in the park on Aug. 28 was a great success. We had about 125 people for worship and about 85 for the potluck picnic that followed the service. We had plenty of delicious food, as good Lutherans always do.

A special thanks to Fred Dillon, who hauled and set up the chairs, and to the Dixie Notes Plus from Cedar Rapids, Marion and Grinnell, who provided the Dixieland rhythms.

*Jo Olson
Fellowship Chairman*

Keep in your prayers

The Southeastern Iowa Synod encourages congregations to include in prayers the following churches, synods and ministries

September 4

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Grimes
For a safe and restful Labor Day weekend

September 11

Nebraska and Central States Synods
For the families and friends who lost loved ones on this date in 2001.

September 18

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell

For Abounding Joy Lutheran Church, the synod's new mission start in southeast Des Moines, as it celebrates its first service today.

September 25

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
For the ELCA Conference of Bishops, which will meet in Chicago this coming week.

Summary of Churchwide Assembly

The ninth annual ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held last month in Orlando, Fla. About 2,000 people participated, including 1,015 voting members. Here is a brief summary of some of the actions taken. A full report on the meeting will be presented in the October issue of *The Lutheran*.

WORK will continue on a new book of worship and new worship resources. The new book is expected to be ready by October 2006.

THE ELCA will begin “interim Eucharistic sharing” with the United Methodist Church. The agreement was approved by the United Methodists in April 2005.

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS on sexuality resulting from a multi-year study led by a task force were considered.

Action 1: Urged the church to “concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements...”

Action 2: Declined to change the 1993 statement of the Conference of Bishops which found no basis for establishing an official ceremony for the blessing of same sex relationships.

Action 3: Defeated a proposal to allow the ordination of gay and lesbian candidates for the ministry who are in committed, same-sex relationships.

LUTHERANS are urged to participate in a campaign called “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land” and to join in advocacy activities for “peace with justice” between Israel and Palestine.

Copies of the complete summary are available at the church .

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Acolyte: Nathaniel Beach
Reader: Michelle Honsbruch

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Don and Doris Sundell
Reader: Nicole Behrens
Communion Assistants: Sue McDonough
 Karen Klug-Frischmeyer
Coffee Servers: Dorothy and Larry Wade

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Acolyte: Sydney Honsbruch
Reader: Ed Hatcher
Communion Assistant: Nancy Urfer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Acolyte: Curtis Smith
Greeters: Gene and Shirley Broders
Reader: Ted Urfer
Coffee Servers: Karol Bair, Sue McDounough

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Acolyte: Bradley Ditzler
Reader: Nicole Behrens

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

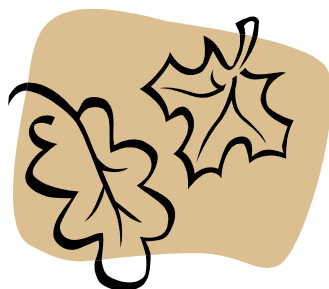
Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Brian and Nancy Heineman
Reader: Larry Wade
Communion: Jim and Molly Urfer
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Acolyte: Chana Weir
Reader: Melba Strickler
Communion Assistant: Charlene Knight

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Greeters: John and Madge Ruchotzke
Reader: Shirley Jensen
Coffee Server: Anita Ford and Verna Gerrish



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sat	3	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	4	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	6	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	7	7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	8	7 pm	Adult Bible Study begins
Sat	10	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	11	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship, installation of Sunday School teachers
		10:45 am	Sunday School resumes, Preschool to Adult
Tue	13	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	14	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Shirley Broders, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	15	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Sue Bailey, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	17	8:30 am	"Cup of Healing" mini-retreat for women
		5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	18	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, LSI Sunday
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	19	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	20	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	21	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	22	7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	24	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	25	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	27	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7:30 pm	Sarah Circle, Sue Bailey, hostess
Wed	28	7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	29	7 pm	Adult Bible Study

USHERS

Gordon Bosse and John Martinek (*head ushers*), Bob Ashing, Troy Peter, Jereyl Knerr, Duane Flagel

ALTAR GUILD

August 14-September 11 — Jo Olson
 Month of September — Dorothy Martinek
 September 11-October 9 — Madge Ruchotzke

OFFERING COUNTERS

Lance and Deb Longman

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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

SEPTEMBER 4

The Rhythm of the Word

2 Timothy 1:11-14

Take a run-down city neighborhood infested with crime and drugs, and you have a recipe of disaster for young boys. That is, UNLESS someone like [Leslie Hunter](#) comes along. Meet this man of enormous faith who reaches inner city Chicago youth through spell-binding poetry, creative group time, and his own supply of God's overflowing grace.



SEPTEMBER 11

9/11 Kids – Finding New Ground

Mark 10:13-16

We're well aware of the social and political after-effects of the 9/11 tragedy. But what about the children of New York City who live in fear from the events they encountered that day? [Pastor Ann Tiemever](#) and the people of Koinonia NYC have a lot to offer kids now forced to grow up in a world stamped with the reality of terrorism.

SEPTEMBER 18

Enlarging a Cramped Soul

Luke 1:4-6

Music has great therapeutic value for broken lives. It has also been known to have tremendous spiritual value for crushed souls. [Steve Siler](#) is committed to aiding people in their recovery and healing from devastating experiences. Through his incredible gift of music, he can send the most broken human moments straight into the lap of God.

SEPTEMBER 25

Blindsided by Grace

Genesis 1:31

[Bob Molsberry](#) has a nightmare to tell that turns out to be real. Hit by an errant truck while bike riding one spring day, his life has never been the same since entering a wheelchair. But don't expect a tale of endless bitterness from this man. Be prepared to discover extraordinary grace hidden in an ordinary man doing his ordinary best to live with circumstances he never asked for.

RECIPE BY REQUEST

Jo Olson's ham balls were a special treat at the church picnic last month. (She made 125!) In response to several requests, here is her recipe.:

MEAT MIXTURE

2 pounds ham loaf
1 egg
1 c. crushed graham crackers
1/2 c. milk

SAUCE

1/2 c. tomato soup
1/4 c. vinegar
1 1/2 t. dry mustard
1/2 c. brown sugar

Mix ham loaf, egg, graham crackers, milk, Shape into balls the size of walnuts. Place in baking pan. Combine soup, vinegar, dry mustard, and brown sugar. Pour over ham balls. Makes 25 ham balls.

Bake at 350 for 1 1/2 hours.
Ham balls freeze well, Jo says.