

LOVE LETTER

OCTOBER 2005

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Congregation Brunch
October 2

Crop Walk
October 2

Reformation Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends
October 30

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

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Romans 12:15

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

The group had been together for about a week. They had been in a Benedictine monastery, following the order of the day = time for study, prayer, rest and recreation. They ate meals, worshipped and worked together. They listened and learned from each other. They all became friends.

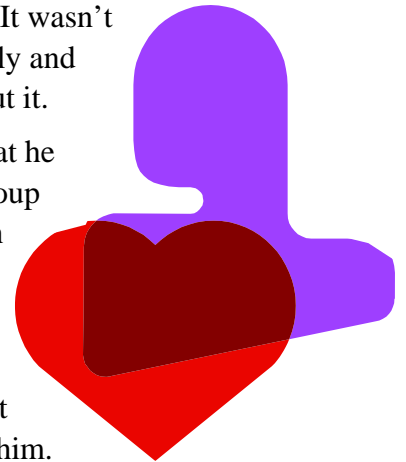
Joe was a thin, string bean of a man. One of the more quiet of the group, he absorbed and reflected on the week in silence. On the last day, he spoke. He was recently divorced. It wasn't his idea. He was still reeling. He felt lonely and rejected. It was hard to hear him talk about it.

He broke down, then was embarrassed that he broke down. He covered his eyes. The group stood in awkward silence. They had been together only a week. As close as they had grown, they weren't ready for such intimacy, with this hurting man.

Roger, the risk taker, stepped forward, put his arm on Joe's shoulder and comforted him.

His own eyes filled with tears. Happily married Roger stood side-by-side with the crying Joe and shouldered, for a moment, his loneliness, rejection and remorse.

Roger could have stayed at a safe distance. He could have given Joe a few pats on the back and left him to deal with it. He didn't. He had been there to see him through it. It was a Christ-like moment. To rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep is part of the Christian life. May we too remember the great love God has had for us in Christ, crucified and Risen, and then express that toward others in our lives. God's blessings to all.



*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



Brunch planned

An after-worship brunch will be held Sunday, Oct. 2. Stay after church and enjoy good food and conversation. Sponsor is the Fellowship Committee.

Walk for hunger

The annual Crop Walk to benefit world and local hunger efforts will be held Sunday, October 2, at Ahrens Park. Registration and refreshments begin at 1 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m. In case of rain, the walk will be held inside the park building.

We need both walkers and those willing to make donations. Pledge sheets and donor sheets are available at the church.

The needs in Grinnell, in the U.S. and in the world are great. Twenty-five percent of the money raised remains in Poweshiek County for local food programs through Second Mile.

Needs are great

The needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast area will continue for months and years. You can assist with the relief efforts by contributing to the ELCA's Domestic Disaster Response through St. John's. Under this program, 100 percent goes to actual relief efforts,

with the administrative costs absorbed by the ELCA offices. If you are a Thrivent member, forms for matching funds are available in our church office.

To date, St. John's members have contributed \$2,200, with the Church Council voting on Sept. 19 to contribute an additional \$2,000 of church funds.

The Sunday School also voted to contribute its offerings this fall to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Quilts on the pews

The lovely quilts for Lutheran World Relief made over the last six months by a loyal group of quilters will be displayed and blessed at the worship services on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8 and 9.

The quilts, as well as blankets, clothing and sewing kits, will be taken to a collection point in Ankeny on Oct. 15 for shipment to people in need around the world.

Thanks to the quilters for their faithful work.

Welcome!

Welcome to new member **Jerry Henschen**, who joined St. John's on Sept. 25. Jerry is actually returning to St. John's after living for the last 10 years in Newton. He was

a member here from 1991-1993. During that time he served a term as church treasurer.

A native of Ohio, Jerry is recently retired after working the last 10 years at Windsor Windows in Des Moines. Like many retirees, he hopes to work part-time. He has two daughters, one in Ohio and one in Kansas ("I'm halfway between them"), and enjoys pheasant hunting and gardening. He lives at 815 High St. His phone is 1-641-751-4401.



Congratulations!

Lu Ahrens has a new great-granddaughter! **Emily Joy** was born Sept. 15 to **Brian** and **Jennifer Schmeiser** of Waunakee, Wis. Her grandparents are **Connie** and **Marv Schmeiser** of Antigo, Wis.

Thanks

A big thank you to **Donna Beck** and members of Sarah Circle for planning the mini retreat, "A Cup of Healing" on Sept. 17.

Church finances through August

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$116,903	\$124,342
Budget	\$150,445	\$145,496
Expenses	\$124,100	\$135,812

Average weekly attendance in August

	2005	2004
Saturday	41	40
Sunday	140	139

YOUTH NEWS



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 volunteers organizing youth activities for October. We hope you'll join us for two activities this month.

Head to the Pumpkin Farm

A family afternoon at Carroll's Pumpkin Farm south of Grinnell is planned for **Sunday, Oct. 16**, starting at 4 p.m. at the farm.



Everyone is welcome. (You don't even need to have kids!) A hay-ride and bonfire are included, and hot dogs and 'smares will be served to all.

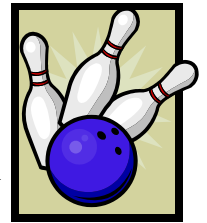
The cost is \$5.50 for person (children 2 and under are free). A signup sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall. (We need to know how many will be attending.)

For more information or if you have questions, call **Diane Winborn**, 236-4373, or **Anita Ford**, 236-5396.

Bowl for a good cause

Big Brothers/Big Sisters has asked us to participate in

a fund-raising Bowlathon on **Saturday, Oct. 29**, by organizing one or more teams. A team consists of five members, each of whom needs to raise a minimum of \$50 in pledges. All team members will receive two games, shoe rental and a commemorative T-shirt. Snacks will be provided and prizes will be awarded to the top money-raisers. All money raised will be used for the local Big Brother/Big Sister program. Bowling hours on Oct. 29 are 3:30 to 5 p.m. or 5 to 6:30 p.m.



If you are interested in participating, contact **Anita Ford** at 236-5396.

Help with coffee fellowship

Junior Youth will serve refreshments for the coffee fellowship on Oct. 16. Those responsible for bringing two dozen treats are: **Crystal Dalldorf, Ashley Mikel, Nathan Ford, Laura Weigel, Oliver VandeStouwe, Renee Beach** and **Kalen Winburn**. Parent helpers that day are **Brenda and Doug Mikel** and **Rick and Luann Weigel**.

The in 60 words (actually it's 48)

God made,
Adam bit,
Noah arked,
Abraham split,
Joseph ruled,
Jacob fooled,
Bush talked,
Moses balked,

Pharaoh plagued,
Peopled walked,
Sea divided,
Tablets guided,
Promise landed,
Saul freaked,
David peaked,
Prophets worried,

Jesus born,
God walked,
Love talked,
Anger crucified,
Hope died,
Love rose,
Spirit flamed,
God remained.

Church Council highlights

Here are highlights of the Church Council meeting held Sept. 19.

COUNCIL MEMBERS voted to contribute \$2,000 to the ELCA Domestic Disaster Response to aid hurricane victims. This will be in addition to money contributed by individual congregation members. Pastor Jasch noted that the needs in the Gulf Coast are great and long-term, and he encouraged continued support of those in need.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE is looking into refurbishing the church sign on the lawn facing East Street.

A BRIEF DISCUSSION was held on possible ways to use some of the money in the Memorial account.

THE COUNCIL received a request from WELCA to buy the coffee used at the coffee hour on Sundays from Equal Exchange, a fair-trade organization that works through to produce and market coffee, tea, sugar and cocoa in a way that helps small farmers and protects the environment. Request will be discussed further at the October meeting.

THE 2006 STEWARDSHIP campaign will begin in late October. Council members reviewed the Time and Abilities sheet that is sent out with the stewardship letter.

A BRIMMING BASKET of items for the Grinnell area food pantry was delivered to MICA this month.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL Christmas program will be held this year on Dec. 11.

..Keep in your prayers this month

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

Week of October 2

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hedrick, as it prepares to close

For the Fall Stewardship and Mission Support Gatherings being held across the synod

Week of October 9

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod

For those traveling with the synod's Mexico Immersion Group

Week of October 16

St. John Lutheran Church, Hopkinton

For all those who have struggled or who are struggling with HIV-AIDS

Week of October 23

Southwestern Texas Synod

For our brothers and sisters in Tanzania so they may celebrate Naming Day, the anniversary of Tanganyika and Zanzibar joining and changing their names to Tanzania

Week of October 30

Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, Huxley

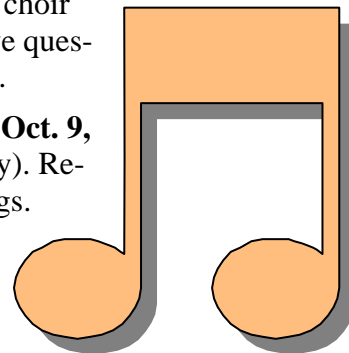
For all those who have struggled or who are struggling with breast cancer

Sing out! Add your voice to the choir

How many church choirs rate applause from the pews? That happens from time to time at St. John's. The Senior Choir, directed by **Roger Henderson**, is a seasoned group of singers, but there's always room for more.

The choir generally sings three Sunday mornings a month. Rehearsals are at 8:30 a.m. on the Sundays when the choir sings. For more information or if you have questions, talk to Roger or any choir member.

In October, the choir will sing on **Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16** and **Oct. 30** (Reformation Sunday). Rehearsals are at 8:30 a.m. on those mornings.



SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Reader: Sandy Falck

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Tom and Anita Ford
Reader: Kathy Johnson
Communion Assistants: Jim and Sara Dunn,
CONGREGATION BRUNCH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Reader: Shirle Huth
Communion Assistant: Sandy Falck

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Scott and Shirley Jensen
Reader: Janell Luebben
Coffee Servers: Natalie Pavey, Lois Quindt,
 Becky Wilson

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Duane and Mitzi Dufoe
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion: John and Madge Ruchotzke
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Nancy Beck
Communion Assistant: Bob Kinseth

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Acolyte: Courtney Peter
Greeters: Jean Frana, Diane Winburn
Reader: Gaylen Johnson
Coffee Servers: Madge and John Ruchotzke,
 Dorothy and Larry Wade

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion Assistant: Albert Knight

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Greeters: Scott and Julie Beach
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Coffee Servers: Becky Wilson, Melba Strickler

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sat	1	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	2	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	CONGREGATION BRUNCH
		2 pm	Crop Walk, Ahrens Park
Tue	4	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	5	7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	6	7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	8	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	9	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Tue	11	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	12	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Elaine Hamman, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	13	9:30 am	Lydia Circle,
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	15	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	16	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
		4 pm	Family afternoon at Carroll's Pumpkin Farm
Mon	17	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	18	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	19	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation class, with mentors
Thurs	20	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Donna Tedford, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	22	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	23	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	25	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7:30 pm	Sarah Circle, Judy Lebeck, hostess
Wed	26	7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	27	7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	29	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	30	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion,
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult

USHERS

Jim Urfer and Fred England (*head ushers*), Norm Erickson, Becky Wilson, Ray Parker, Norm Weigel

ALTAR GUILD

September 11-October 9 — Madge Ruchotzke

Month of October— Brenda Crawford

October 9-November 13—Shirle Huth

OFFERING COUNTERS Madge and John Ruchotzke

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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

OCTOBER 2

Mountain Moving Faith

1 Chronicles 22:14-17

It's not everyday that you get to meet a little woman who is flourishing in the rough and tumble world of a male dominated industry like mining. But along comes Sue Gundy, a heavy equipment operator in the taconite mines of northeastern Minnesota, who makes plenty of time for faith and family beside her 12-hour shifts.



OCTOBER 9

Fire of Grace

Isaiah 43:1-2

Reconciliation doesn't happen except when there is a large-hearted effort to repair the breach. Hear the story of one pastor, [Rick Rouse](#), who went after the arsonist who burned his Lutheran Church to the ground. The meeting between the victim and the guilty one in prison, and the relationship that ensued, is one of unforgettable love.

OCTOBER 16

When I Don't Feel Like Forgiving

Genesis 50: 15-21

Sometimes the last thing in the world we want to do is forgive

that person who wronged us. Our feelings tell us, "No way!" Yet there is an important aspect of faith that encourages us to "act as if" we feel in certain way, even when the feeling isn't quite there. Join [Wyvetta Bullock](#) for a look at this gift to be given away, whether we always feel like it or not – FORGIVENESS.

OCTOBER 23

The No-Nonsense Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

If the Lord's Prayer feels boring when you pray, or nothing more than a dull habit you continue out of a sense of obligation, it's time for a fresh look at this gift from Jesus. [Art Simon](#), founder of Bread for the World, reflects on Jesus' prayer in light of his own struggle to pray it meaningfully and honestly.

OCTOBER 30

A Conversation with God

1 Thessalonians 5:12-1

The prayer life of the reformer Martin Luther did more than shape his thinking and teaching. As it turns out, his prayer life has proven to be a highly workable model for our own day. Church historian Bill Russell walks us through the ritual and value in Luther's daily prayer routine.