

LOVE LETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

All Santa Sunday
November 6

Community Musicale
November 20

Thanksgiving Day
November 24

Advent begins
November 27

Evening Advent worship
Wednesday, November 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

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

A lot of people asked him the same question: "So when are you heading to the seminary?"

The question bothered him every time he heard it. Five years as a good youth

leader in the congregation and he was just now getting to establish real relationships with the youth. He was good at his job. Why did people think that youth ministry was just a starting point? Something you do on your way to a "real" job.

Seminary training may have brought higher compensation, more leadership responsibilities and a chance to affect the wider church.

He shook his head. "I could be here a long time. I don't feel the Lord calling me anywhere else. This is enough."

You've heard the phrase, "Bloom

where you are planted." This youth leader understood what that meant.

It is easy to get caught up in thinking about how we might serve "over there" or "after I get the

right training" or "when I get a better job."

Maybe a new job or a move is in your future, but God's call to faithful Christians is

where
you
are
planted



always about the present, blooming where you are planted. If the future holds out the hope of even greater opportunities for service, so be it. But also remember that today was once your future.

Let us live our Christian lives right here and now where God has placed us. May we all bloom where we are planted, serving the Lord and Savior, Jesus.

God's blessings to all!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Baptism

Jordan Tyler Ritter, son of Karen and Lee Ritter, was baptized Oct. 23 at St. John's. Jordan's sponsors are Lea Ann Dalldorf and Amy Jones.

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Janet Larson, a member of St. John's who died Oct. 20 at St. Francis Manor. A graveside service was held Oct. 24 in Austin, Minn. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

It's stewardship time

Stewardship materials — a commitment card and a time and abilities sheet — have been mailed to all members. Please return the card and sheet to the church as soon as possible so that planning can begin for 2006.



World Community Day

The local Church Women United will hold its annual World Community Day observance at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, at the United Church of Christ. This year's theme is "A Light to the Nations."

Community invited to Thanksgiving dinner

St. John's will hold its 19th annual

free community Thanksgiving dinner at 12:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24.

Both food donations and volunteer helpers are needed. Signup forms are included in the church bulletin or you can call the church.



Call the church also for reservations for the meal and for a ride to the church if needed. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors — and anyone who would like to eat a delicious Thanksgiving meal in the company of others.

Thanksgiving Day worship will be held at St. John's at 10 a.m.

First Communion

First Communion for fifth-graders will take place at worship on Sunday, Dec. 4. Pastor Jasch will be in touch with fifth-graders about an explanation/information meeting in November.

Here's what's brewing

It's only a drop in the cup, but St. John's will soon begin purchasing its coffee through the Equal Exchange Coffee Project — a nationwide effort to help small-scale farmers in developing countries.

The program, supported by Lu-

Advent worship

Midweek Advent services are planned for the four Wednesdays in Advent — Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. The 7 p.m. worship service will be preceded by a soup supper starting at 6 p.m.

The 45-minute service offers a time for prayer and quiet reflection in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the secular holiday season.

theran World Relief, is designed to boost the incomes of farmers by eliminating middlemen and working to stabilize the price of coffee beans — while at the same time encouraging environmentally sustainable growing techniques.

Help is still needed

The ELCA Disaster Response, like all relief organizations, continues to respond to emergencies around the world. Your continued support is needed. In this program, 100 percent of money received is used for actual relief efforts. Thrivent members can obtain matching funds by filling out a form available at the church office.

Church finances through September

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$131,274	\$134,021
Budget	\$169,251	\$163,983
Expenses	\$139,063	\$153,490

Average weekly attendance in September

	2005	2004
Saturday	40	39
Sunday	139	140

YOUTH NEWS



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

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

Scavenger hunt — for a good cause

Our annual scavenger hunt to collect food donations for the MICA food pantry will be held from **2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6**, for everyone in grades 5-12. Meet at the United Methodist Church at 1:30 p.m. to form groups to collect non-perishable food, diapers and health items from doorsteps in Grinnell. Last year our youth groups collected more than \$1,200 worth of items. If you have questions, call **Julie Beach**, 236-3334. To donate food, please use form below and return to the church office..

Help with Coffee Fellowship

The Senior Youth (grades 9-12) will serve refreshments as a service project at the coffee fellowship on **Sunday, Nov. 20**.

Those responsible for bringing two dozen treats are: **A.J. Baker, Danielle Nowasell, Travis Smith, Andy Walter, Curtis Smith and Chana Weir**. Parent helpers are **Barb Baker and Doug and Judy Smith**. Please bring the treats to the church kitchen by 9 a.m.

Thinking of others

Youth in grades 5-12 will make a shopping trip on **Sunday, Dec. 4**, to buy gifts for our families in the Christmas Shares program. Meet after Sunday School (about 11:45 a.m.) in the Fellowship Hall, where we will divide up and head to Wal-Mart to do the buying. Afterwards we will return to the church to wrap the packages and have pizza. We expect to be finished between 1 and 1:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact **Diane Winburn or Connie Weir**.

Help our youth help others!

Youth Scavenger Hunt for Food Sunday, November 6, 2 to 4 p.m.

I am willing to donate items for the MICA food pantry. I will have my donation on the front porch at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, for pickup between 2 and 4 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please return this form to the church no later than noon on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Church Council highlights

Here is a summary of the Church Council meeting held Oct. 17.

THE SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD will hold its annual Synod Convocation at St. John's on Saturday, April 22, 2006. The event was held here two years ago. In 2006, it will be one day instead of two.

ST. JOHN'S will participate again this year in Christmas Shares, a community project that collects to give to needy families in the area.

THE CHURCH will begin buying its coffee through the Equal Exchange program. (Details on page 2.)

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:

The water heater is leaking and will be replaced. Committee chairman Steve Dudley will look into adding a handrail leading up to the pulpit to make it easier to get up and down the stairs. He is also getting a quote on refurbishing the outdoor church sign in the lawn facing East Street.

EDUCATION: Sunday School enrollment is approximately 35 children.

YOUTH: The Youth Ministry Board is continuing to interview applicants for the position of youth and family ministry associate.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who brought the delicious breakfast items to our brunch on Oct. 3. Thank you also to those who helped in the kitchen.

*Jo Olson
Fellowship Committee*

..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 November 6

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, as they continue to clean up and rebuild

For thanks to all veterans for their service to their country

Week of November 13

Palestine Lutheran Church, Huxley, as parishioners celebrate their 150th anniversary.

For peace and unity as we celebrate World Peace Day

Week of November 20

Southeastern Synod, as they clean up and rebuild.

For thanks for all of God's blessings, as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this week.

Week of November 27

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Indianola, as they continue their search for an associate pastor.

For our senior seminarians our candidacy committee votes on their approvals for ordination.

Two ways to help local food pantry

As cold weather approaches and heating bills rise, some local families are struggling to put food on their tables. St.

John's has a box in the narthex where you can leave food for the local food pantry run by MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action) Items especially needed right now are ramen noodles, meals in boxes such as Hamburger Helper, Jello-O puddings, canned pears, Spaghettios, spaghetti sauce, pancake mix, rice, diapers (all sizes) pull-ups and baby formula.



You also have another option: You can donate money directly to MICA for this purpose. MICA sometimes finds that the food that families need isn't on the food pantry shelves. By having some cash funds available, the MICA staff can buy what is missing. If you would like to donate money, make your check out to MICA and put "food pantry" in the "for" line of the check. Then mail it to MICA, 834 Broad Street, Grinnell, IA 50112.

Musicale planned for November 20

Music groups from Grinnell area churches will present a musicale at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, at the Grinnell Community Center. St. John's will be represented by the Celebration Singers. A freewill offering will be taken.



SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Reader: Dave Huth

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Russ and Nicole Behrens
Reader: Dorothy Wade
Communion Assistants: H. and M. Honsbruch,
Coffee Servers: Natalie and Jim Dunn
 Becky Wilson, H. and M. Honsbruch

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Terry and Lynn Cline
Reader: Margaret Amo
Coffee Servers: Nancy and Ted Urfer
 Scott and Shirley Jensey

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Reader: Sue McDonough

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Greeters: Norman and Marilyn Erickson
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion: Bob and Pam Ashing
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Reader: Thomas Heineman
Communion Assistant: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Acolyte: Courtney Peter
Greeters: Keith and Rose Osland
Reader: Michael Schaeffer
Coffee Servers: Amy and Mike Anderson
 Lance and Deb Longman

ADVENT WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Tue	1	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	2	7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	3	7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Fri	4	7 pm	World Community Day, at UCC
Sat	5	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	6	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Tue	8	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	9	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Lu Ahrens, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation class
Thurs	10	7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	12	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	13	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Tue	15	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	16	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation class, with mentors
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Judy Lebeck, hostess
Thurs	17	9:30 am	Lydia Circle
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study
Sat	19	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	20	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
		5 pm	Community Musicale, Communiy Theater
Mon	21	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	22	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Thurs	24	10 am	Thanksgiving Day worship service
		12:30 pm	Community Thanksgiving dinner
Sat	26	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	27	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship, First Sunday in Advent
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
			NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Tue	29	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	30	6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Advent worship

USHERS

Everett Gerrish and Dale Selix (*head ushers*), Jim Tedford, Shannon Potts, Paige Honsbruch, Brianna VandeStouwe

ALTAR GUILD

October 9-November 13— Shirle Huth
 Month of November — Karen Ashby
 November 13-December 11 — Lea Ann Dalldorf

OFFERING COUNTERS

Dave and Julie Wierson



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Return Service Requested



GRACE MATTERS

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

NOVEMBER 6

Saints Who Go Out in Style

Psalm 34:1-9

There's no one way to die. But to be ushered into the kingdom with someone at your bedside playing beautiful music is hard to beat. [Karin Gunderson](#) is a harpist with a heavenly touch. Her concert stage is the nearest hospice center. Explore God's grace in her as she helps others die well.



NOVEMBER 13

You Can't Buy Happiness

John 15:11

There are all kinds of beliefs we have about what makes for abundant living. Material wealth usually tops the list. [Joe Holt](#), a business consultant and teacher of ethics and faith in the workplace, has a different idea. Listen in for fresh insights on abundance and abundant life.

NOVEMBER 20

House of Bread

Luke 2:1-7

When we think of Bethlehem, we think of everything from a jam-packed inn to straw in a feed trough. But the word Bethlehem actually means "house of bread." Meet [Mary Fuller](#) who makes crèches out of bread.

Walking through Advent with Peter Marty

A special series of programs through the four weeks of Advent to prepare us for the birth of Jesus and the Christmas season.

NOVEMBER 27

Advent Focus

Romans 13:11-14

The Season of Advent exposes the great big gulf between the way that our lives are and the way we wish they were. With a focused eye and heart, though, we can enter every relationship, every moment, and every conversation saying, "This could be it. The Lord is at hand." (The first of a four-part series)