

LOVE LETTER

JANUARY 2006

JANUARY AT St. JOHN'S

JANUARY 15
WELCA winter gathering

JANUARY 29
Semiannual congregational meeting

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.

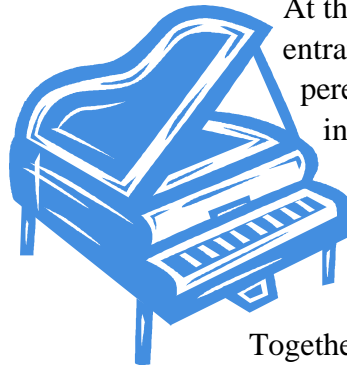
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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 reader shared the following story with me. I feel it deserves a wider reading.

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her child was missing. Suddenly the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."



At that moment the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit, keep on playing. Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obligato.

Together the Old Master and the Young Novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. Audience members were so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great Master played. Only the classic, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful, flowing music. With the hand of the Master, however, our life's work can be truly beautiful. The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of a Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit, keep playing."


May you feel his arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Life is more accurately measured by the life you touch than by the things you acquire. So touch someone by passing this little message along. May God bless you and keep you always.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



S'no fun without you!

Learn how some area residents are helping people in a poor part of Mexico.



Pat Miller of Montezuma, who travels periodically to Mexico to deliver supplies to families in need, will speak at the winter WELCA gathering at 2 p.m. Sunday,

Jan. 15, at the church. The event is being organized by the Mary Martha Circle.

You can help the mission project by bringing items for her next trip. She makes the following suggestions, based on her experience: bar soap, small bottles of lotion, shampoo, inexpensive makeup, used jewelry, candles, socks for all ages, school supplies, hard candy, plastic bags.

Simple things, yes, but the kind of things that can brighten a life.

Congregational meeting set for January 29

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, Jan. 29. At this meeting the 2006 church budget is presented for approval. Copies of the budget will be available in the church narthex a week before the meeting

A potluck is planned after the

meeting. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Meat and beverages will be provided.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the seven fifth-graders who received their first Holy Communion on Dec. 4. They are **Jarren Ford, Caprisse Honsbruch, Ashley Mikel, Joseph Nowasell, Zachery Osland, Breanna Sanders** and **Oliver Vandestouwe**.

Scouts seek adults for troop committee

Boy Scout Troop 347, which meets on Monday evenings at St. John's, is looking for additional adults to serve on the troop committee. For more information, contact **Fred Hagemeister**, 236-3333.

Help needed

Volunteers are still needed to plan and coordinate monthly youth activities. If you can help for the months of March, April or May, please call **Julie Beach, Anita Ford, Connie Weir** or **Diane Winburn**.

A call for help

New representatives from St. John's are needed for the board of Grinnell Church Women United.

Shirley Broders and **Rebecca Jasch**, our current representatives, have served for several years and would now like others to take over the positions.

Church Women United is an ecumenical Christian women's movement that unites women of participating congregations in working for strong communities in a world of peace and justice.

The board of the Grinnell CWU meets approximately six times a year. The group sponsors two annual community-wide events – World Day of Prayer in March and World Community Day in November.

If you are interested in representing St. John's, please call the church office. For more information on what is involved in the job, contact **Shirley Broders** at 236-3835.

Looking ahead

The Fellowship Committee is planning the annual chili dump on Saturday, Feb. 18, after the 5:30 p.m. worship service.

Church finances through November

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$163,451	\$170,792
Budget	\$206,862	\$200,057
Expenses	\$168,311	\$183,614

Average weekly attendance in November

	2005	2004
Saturday	41	41
Sunday	142	141

YOUTH NEWS



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

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

Join the fun at Fun Valley

An afternoon of tubing and skiing at Fun Valley near Montezuma is planned for **Sunday, Jan. 22**, for youth in grades 7-12 at St. John's and the United Methodist Church. Meet at the Methodist Church at 3:15 p.m. for skiing and tubing from 4 to 8 p.m. Everyone participating must have a waiver signed by a parent. Waiver forms are available in the box on the youth office door.

Parent volunteers are needed as drivers. Call **Julie Beach** at 236-3334 if you can help.

Youth gathering scheduled

Youth Strike for Christ, a faith-building youth gathering, is planned for Friday night through Sunday, Feb. 3-5, at the Polk County Convention Center in Des

Moines. The event will include music, speakers, discussion groups, worship, talent show and recreation. More than 600 young people from across the state are expected.

Cost for the weekend (including accommodations at the Marriott Hotel) is \$149. Scholarship help from the church is available. If you are interested, contact **Julie Beach** at 236-3334.

Serving this month

Senior youth will serve refreshments after the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 15. The following youth are asked to bring two dozen treats that day: **Morgan Boehmer, Troy Peter, Nate Weigel, Paige Honsbruch, Brad Ditzler and Bri VandeStouwe**. Parent helpers that day are **Tami and David Ditzler and Natalie and Russ Peter**.



AROUND THE CONGREGATION

For new Lutherans, old Lutherans, and everyone in between

Starting in January, the Thursday evening Adult Bible Study will take up "The Lutheran Course," a series of classes based on the popular "The Lutheran Handbook."

The class will meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. starting Jan. 5, in the Fellowship Hall. Each session will include a DVD presentation followed by a group discussion.

"The Lutheran Handbook" published by Augsburg Fortress, is described as "an essential field guide to

Lutheran theology and culture."

"The enjoyable, easy-to-read, reliable, all-in-one collection (is) an indispensable companion for anyone trying to become a well-informed churchgoer and have a good chuckle getting there," according to the publisher.

It can be used as an introduction to Lutheranism or as a refresher for those looking for a deeper understanding of Lutheran beliefs.

For more information about the class, talk to Pastor Jasch.

Notes of Thanks

MANY THANKS to all who assisted with our midweek Advent worship by helping with the soup suppers, planning the services and providing music. A special thank you to **Carolyn Bosse**, who organized a wonderful wreath-making session as part of the service on Dec. 7.



THANK YOU to **Julie Beach** for again organizing and directing the Sunday School program on Dec. 11. The production went “on the road” the same day — at the Mayflower Home. A total of 46 children were involved.

THANK YOU to all who remembered us at Christmas with cards, gifts and goodies. It was very much appreciated.

Pastor Jasch and family

I WANT to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, cards and food I received after my surgery. It really does help recovery go faster.

Marilyn Erickson

You can pick up....

.... your box of **2006 OFFERING ENVELOPES** in the narthex of the church. For accurate bookkeeping, please remember to use 2006 envelopes (not 2005). For families with children who also have offering envelopes, please be sure that everyone uses the proper ones!

.... the new St. John's **WELCA YEARBOOK**, in a basket in the church narthex.

..Keep in your prayers this month

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

Week of January 1

Southeastern Iowa and Northeastern Iowa Synods
For the Youth Winter Gathering in Cedar Rapids

Week of January 8

Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City.
For the Conference of Bishops—Bishops' Academy

Week of January 15

Western Iowa Synod
With thanks for the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr.

Week of January 22

St. James Lutheran Church, Johnston
For all those in the synod who are traveling to Tanzania to visit companion congregations in the Pare Diocese

Week of January 29

Northern Great Lakes Synod
For the Youth Ministry Extravaganza in Phoenix, AZ

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held Dec. 19. .

SERVICE: Members of St. John's helped six families through the Christmas Shares program sponsored by Second Mile. A total of 80 gifts were contributed.

YOUTH: The Youth and Family Ministry Board has scheduled an interview Dec. 21 with a candidate for the position of youth ministry associate. Bev Huebner and Rose Osland, members of the youth board attending the council meeting, reported that Tent-makers, the group with which we are working to fill the position, has changed financial arrangements. Instead of charging a \$1,500 annual fee for participation, the cost will now be based on services used. (**Update:** The Youth and Family Ministry Board will meet in early January to make a hiring decision.)

STEWARDSHIP: As of Dec. 19, 42 percent of the pledge cards and Time and Abilities sheets have been returned. A second mailing was sent out Dec. 7.

PROPERTIES: A new message board for the church sign facing East Street has been ordered from ASI Modulex. The cost (\$321) will be covered by money from the Memorial Fund.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Greeters: Gaylen and Kathy Johnson
Reader: Fred Hagemeister
Communion Assistants: Pam and Bob Ashing
Coffee Servers: Natalie and Jim Dunn, Sue McDonough, Lois Quindt

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Reader: Karen Frischmeyer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Fred England
Reader: Sara Dunne
Coffee Servers: Paul and Kay Davoux, Madge and John Ruchotzke

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistant: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Jim and Sara Dunne
Reader: Todd Nelson
Communion Assistants: Rose Osland, Kelly Rose
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Reader: Nicole Behrens

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Todd and Stephanie Nelson
Reader: Kelly Rose
Coffee Servers: Steve, Cindy, Danny Dudley Doris and Dale Selix

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Nancy Heineman
Communion Assistant: Bev Hatcher

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Greeters: Lance and Deb Longman
Reader: Amy Anderson
Coffee Servers: Mitzi and Duane Dufoe, Fred England, Melba Strickler

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun	1	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
			NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Tue	3	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	4	7 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Thurs	5	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	7	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	8	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	10	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	11	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Jo Olson, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	12	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	14	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	15	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
Mon	16	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	17	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Bev Cook, hostess
Wed	18	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	19	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Rebecca Jasch, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	21	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	22	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	24	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	25	7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	26	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	28	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	29	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Semiannual congregational meeting and potluck
		10:45 am	Sunday School
Tue	31	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room

USHERS: Vic Frana, John Ruchotzke (*head ushers*), Gaylen Johnson, Dave Huth, Michael Williams, Troy Peters

ALTAR GUILD

December 11-January 8 — Shirley Jensen
 Month of January — Judy Lebeck
 January 8-February 12 — Bev Cook

OFFERING COUNTERS — Jim and Natalie Dunn

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

JANUARY 2006

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, AM1410

JANUARY 1 Religion in the News

Romans 14:1-4, 10

What were the big religious news stories in 2005? What can we expect to develop in 2006? Religion news writer David Briggs has a keen eye on such things, and a concern as well for how religious people of different perspectives sometimes interact with one another.



JANUARY 8 Our Home is Your Home

Luke 10:25-37

When most people come home from the hospital, recuperation is anything but complete. Imagine being a homeless person released from hospital surgery or an emergency room visit. Where do you recuperate? Tom Holmes saw an urgent need and left a thriving career to help homeless people thrive in a home filled with love.

JANUARY 15 Mixing God and Country

Joshua 24:15

For anyone who loves their Lord and their country, the distinction between the two loyalties seems obvious. Yet, there always lurks the danger of confusing the two. Professor Bob Erickson

knows this all too well from his three decades of studying the behavior of the German Church in Nazi Germany.

January 22 Watch Your Feet!

Matthew 10:37-39

No Christian in the 20th century made quite the imprint that German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer did from his opposition to the Nazi regime and his faithfulness to Christ. In preparation for what would be Bonhoeffer's 100th birthday on February 4, 2006, we visit with *Bonhoeffer* film producer Martin Dublmeier on the greatness of this extraordinary saint, and the PBS release of the film *Bonhoeffer*.

JANUARY 29 Looking for Missing Sheep

Luke 15:3-6

The Bethlehem Lutheran congregation in New Orleans is one of many churches practically wiped out by Hurricane Katrina and the broken levee system. But through the tenacity of its Pastor Patrick Keen, the faithfulness of its remaining members, and the power of the Holy Spirit, this congregation will rise again. For now, it's a search for members who are missing.