

LOVE LETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

**FEBRUARY
AT St. JOHN'S**

FEBRUARY 5
Scout Sunday

FEBRUARY 18
Annual chili supper

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 railroad needs a conductor. And that's just what Harriet Tubman was for the Underground Railroad, a secret network that rescued hundreds of slaves from the South prior to and during the Civil War. But Harriet Tubman preferred to be known as

"I never met any person of any color who had more confidence in the voice of God."

Thomas Garrett
Abolitionist

Moses—and that's appropriate. Between 1849 (when she escaped from slavery herself) and 1863 (when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued), she led between 200 and 300 slaves out of bondage.

Both whites and blacks risked their lives for the Underground Railroad, providing lodging, food and clothing for the escapees. Their homes became known as depots. The slaves could not stay long at any one place but were passed along to other safe houses until they were out of danger.

After escaping from slavery when she was about 24, Harriet Tubman got a job in Philadelphia, where she earned money to rescue her

sister and her sister's children. The escapes were planned for Saturday nights so the masters could not start advertising for the missing slaves until Monday mornings. She was proud of her record of never having lost a slave that she took in her care.

She often said that God was in charge of her, just as He was in charge

of Moses when he crossed the Red Sea. And she loved to sing Moses' songs; singing was her trademark. In fact, the Song of Moses in Exodus 15 (read it for yourself) was part of her signal system for conducting her rescues. Her biography was fittingly entitled, "Harriet, the Moses of Her People."

May we learn also that God is in charge and in control of our lives, especially in his love for us in Christ Jesus, the Lord. God's blessings to all!

In Christ,
Pastor Jasch



Correction

Troy Smith was among the eight fifth-graders who received First Communion on December 4. His name was inadvertently omitted in the last issue of the Love Letter.

Search continues

The Youth and Family Ministry Board is renewing its search for a new youth director. The board decided in mid-January not to hire the candidate who had been interviewing for the job. Board members are currently contacting Lutheran colleges directly to find applicants. The board also is reviewing the structure and responsibilities for the position. If anyone is interested in joining the board, please contact Fred Hagemester

Noteworthy

Here's a special way to send a special Valentine to a special person in your life. Sign up for a Singing Valentine delivered by our youth on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.



For a cost of \$5, our young people will sing a hearts-and-flowers message on the doorstep of your person of choice. (Messages will be sealed with a kiss – a Hershey kiss, that is.) Order forms are available on the table in the church narthex.

Completed forms are to be turned in to the church office. Proceeds will be used for youth projects.

Prayer requests

Please make known your prayer requests to Pastor Jasch. Prayers will be offered during the worship service if requested. If you would like your desire for prayer or support on the prayer chain, call Margaret Amo (236-4534) or Lu Ahrens (641-623-3002). They will start the telephone prayer chain as well as contact Natalie Pavey, who will begin the email prayer chain. When calling with a prayer request, be sure you have the permission or understanding of the person being prayer for, so that confidential information is not disclosed.

Church workshop planned for March 11

Congregations Together in Mission, a day-long workshop on faith and congregational life, will be held Saturday, March 11, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. The annual event includes a variety of workshops and training sessions. A booklet giving details is available in the church office.

Think summer

Registration forms for summer camp sessions at Riverside Bible Camp near Story City are available in the church office.

A hot time!

Make your favorite chili recipe and bring enough for two people to the annual chili dump after worship on Saturday, Feb. 18 (approximately 6:30 p.m.). Drinks and dessert will be provided. Good chili is even better when it's mixed together.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 1. It will be preceded by a supper at 6 p.m. served by the youth of St. John's. Midweek Lenten services and soup suppers will be held on the next five Wednesdays. Easter this year is April 16.

Scouts seek boys, leaders

Boy Scout Troop 347, which meets on Monday evenings at St. John's, is looking for interested boys from the congregation, ages 11-18. Also needed are additional adults to serve on the troop committee, especially someone to serve as Advancement Chair. For more information, contact Fred Hagemester, 236-3333. Sunday, Feb. 5, will be Scout Sunday at St. John's.

Church finances through December

	2005	2004
Offerings	\$188,704	\$200,278
Budget	\$225,668	\$218,244
Expenses	\$184,571	\$197,337

Average weekly attendance in December

	2005	2004
Saturday	43	41
Sunday	160	151

YOUTH NEWS



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

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

Have a heart!

Enthusiasm (not musical ability) counts when it comes to Singing Valentines. Youth in grades 5-12 will deliver musical Valentine's Day messages from 2 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, Feb. 12.** Meet at the church at 2 p.m. for your assignments.

Bowling together

Youth in grades 5-12 are invited to bring a friend for a bowling party on **Sunday, Feb. 19**, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Bowladrome, 915 State St. For this event, there will be no cost; expenses will be taken from the youth fund. Meet at the Bowladrome at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call **Brenda** and **Doug Mikel**, 226-4343,



Serving this month

Junior Youth will serve refreshments after the worship service on **Sunday, Feb. 19.** The following youth are

asked to bring two dozen treats that morning: **Caprise Honsbruch, Trent Baker, Katelin Dunne, Christopher Weir, Kyle Irland** and **Joseph Reitz.** Parent helpers that day are **Jim** and **Sara Hegg-Dunne** and **Mark** and **Cheryl Irland.**

On Ash Wednesday

Bev Huebner is coordinating the Ash Wednesday supper to be served by youth in grades 5-12. She will contact families about food items needed. Youth should arrive by 5:30 p.m. to help with serving. Cleanup will be finished before the start of the 7 p.m. worship service.

Help needed

Parent coordinators are needed to plan a youth activity for the months of March, April and May. If you can help with any month, contact **Julie Beach, Anita Ford, Connie Weir** or **Diane Winborn.**

Highlights of semiannual congregational meeting

The following is a summary of the semiannual congregational meeting held January 29

TREASURER GARY COOK reviewed 2005 spending and presented the 2006 budget. Those at the meeting approved the 2006 budget of \$243,605, which is an increase of \$17,937, or approximately 7 percent. A line item of \$1,500 to Tentmakers for help in the search and training of a youth director was changed to general

training and continuing education costs for a youth director.

FRED HAGEMEISTER, chairman of the Youth and Family Ministry Board, reported on the search for a youth director. (More information on page 3.)

IN RESPONSE to a motion from the floor, those at the meeting voted to direct the Church Council to gather information and study the process of hiring an associate pastor as an alternative to hiring a youth

director. At this point the purpose is for information only.

AT THE SUGGESTION of Don Sundell, \$300 will be taken from the Thanksgiving Dinner Fund and sent it to the MUCA food pantry. (The Thanksgiving Dinner Fund had a year-end balance of \$1,284.94.)

DELEGATES to the Synod Convention in June at Wartburg College in Waverly will be Sue McDonough and Lamoyne Gaard.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you for the food, cards, calls, thoughts and prayers during Mike's heart surgery and recovery. We are blessed by your caring.



Barb and Mike Baker and family

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, flowers, cards and food at the time of my surgery, and to Doris for the rides to therapy. It was appreciated very much.

Lois Quindt

Voices needed

The Senior Choir could use more singers. All voices and experience levels are welcomed. The choir generally sings three Sundays a

month. Rehearsals are from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. on those mornings.

The choir also will sing at several midweek Lenten Services. For more information, talk to director Roger Henderson or any choir member.



Making Valentines

During the Sunday School hour on February 12, students (along with fifth-through twelfth-graders) will

make Valentine cards and cookies to give to older members of our community. Adults in the congregation are invited to

help with this activity and to share Valentine-related stories of their lives and experiences. Also, special Valentine's Day cards are requested to send to Pat Gustafson's son, who is serving in Iraq.



..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 February 5

Bethany Lutheran Church, Kelley, Iowa

For the LSI and Grand View College boards as they meet to discuss their futures.

Week of February 12

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

For the World Council of Churches World Assembly in Porto Alegre, February 14-23,

Week of February 19

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kellogg

For the World Council of Churches as they meet in Porto Alegre,

Week of February 26

East Central Synod of Wisconsin

For the church around the world as Christians begin their Lenten journey.

Church Council highlights

Here is a summary of the Church Council meeting held on January 16.

PROPERTIES: Steve Dudley reported that he is working on installation of a railing for the steps leading up to the pulpit. He is also looking at the current PA system in the Fellowship Hall to see if it is working properly or if a new system is needed.

BUDGET: At the suggestion of treasurer Gary Cook, council members voted to add \$5,000 to the 2006 budget for emergency and/or disaster relief.

STEWARDSHIP: Council members reviewed the comments in the Time and Abilities sheets turned in by congregation members as part of the stewardship campaign. Pastor Jasch urged committee chairmen to consider the suggestions made.

UPCOMING: The March 29 noon midweek Lenten service sponsored by the Grinnell Ministerial Association will be held at St. John's.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Acolyte: Courtney Peter
Reader: Nancy Heineman

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Dennis and Gaye Van Hamme
Reader: Kay Davoux
Communion Assistants: Paul and Kay Davoux
Coffee Servers: Gary and Bev Cook,
Anita and Tom Ford

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Ted and Nancy Urfer
Reader: Dorothy Buchmeier
Coffee Servers: Don and Doris Sundell,
Colleen Politz

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Reader: Michelle Honsbruch

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

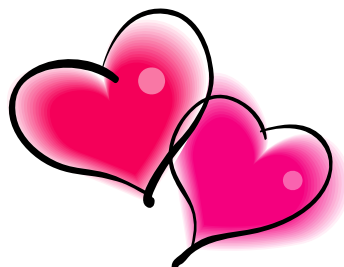
Acolyte: Renee Beach
Greeters: Kelly Rose, Becky Wilson
Reader: Shirle Huth
Communion Assistants: Vic and Jean Frana
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Reader: Ed Hatcher
Communion Assistant: Nancy Urfer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Jannell Luebben, Sue McDonough
Reader: Doris Selix
Coffee Servers: Jean and Vic Frana,
Sue and Jim Bailey



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wed	1	7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	2	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	4	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	5	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
Tue	7	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	8	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Doris Sundell, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	9	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	11	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	12	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
Mon	13	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	14	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Bev Cook, hostess
Wed	15	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	16	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, S. Falck, D. Tedford, co-hostesses
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	18	5:30 pm	Worship followed by annual Chili Dump
Sun	19	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
Tue	21	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Nancy Urfer, hostess
Wed	22	7 pm	Confirmation Class
Thurs	23	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
Sat	25	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	26	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Sunday School
Tue	28	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room

Wednesday, March 1, ASH WEDNESDAY

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY: Vic Frana, Paul Nowasell (*head ushers*), Kyle Jaeger, Gail Flagel, Russ Behrens, Nicole Behrens

ALTAR GUILD

January 8-February 12 — Bev Cook
Month of February — Nancy Urfer
February 12-March 12 — Vicki Dillon

OFFERING COUNTERS: Donna Beck and Keith Osland

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Return Service Requested

GRACE MATTERS

Radio Ministry of the ELCA

Heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN, AM1410

FEBRUARY 5

The Noun of Being Christian

Acts 11:26

The word "Christian" is too big and exceptional to be used as an adjective. It's a noun.

When it comes to remembering exactly who you are, Christian ought to be the core identity that

shapes everything else. Listen to [Peter Mayer](#), lead guitar for the Jimmy Buffett band, and someone who understands the noun of being Christian.



FEBRUARY 12

Jesus on the High Seas

Matthew 8:18-27

One could argue that the opposite of faith in the Bible is not sin or unbelief; it is the refusal to move. Faithful living calls for people to be willing to budge from their stuck-in-the-mud habits. [Andy Krey](#) ministers in coastal ports to seafarers from around the world, peo-

ple who spend most of their life "on the go."

FEBRUARY 19

Money. Money. Money.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

Money is a worry, a blessing, and a necessity. But it can also become a god. This may be why the scriptures record one sixth of Jesus' words as related to money. Popular radio talk show host and author [Dave Ramsey](#) spends every day thinking about our use and misuse of money. We'll tap into his wisdom.

FEBRUARY 26

Faith Made of Steel!

Habakkuk 2:18-20

[Phil Thompson](#) isn't into crafting idols. But he does know how to take a piece of raw stainless steel and make the scriptures come alive through it. Listen to this metal sculptor articulate the importance of faith, and the joy of his work with metal.