

LOVE LETTER

MARCH 2006

MARCH AT St. JOHN'S

MARCH 1
Ash Wednesday

MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29
Midweek Lenten services

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.

Girolamo Savonarola lived from 1452 to 1498. Many historians call him one of the real founders of the Reformation. Luther himself said he was greatly influenced by what Savonarola had done a generation before him.

Much to the displeasure of his physician father, Savonarola had entered a monastery and eventually was sent to Florence, Italy. He was disgusted by the immorality there. No one in the city seemed to care about spiritual things—even the clergy. When he preached, no one came to hear him.

Then one day as he prayed, he felt the heavens open. He heard a voice telling him to go out and preach repentance, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2)

He began preaching against the evils of the clergy and the corruption of the monks even in his own monastery. He preached of a judgment coming upon the city for its wickedness. The ordinary people loved his honesty. He became more and more popular. He be-

came a leading figure in Florence. He began tax reforms, aided the poor, reformed the courts and condemned immorality.

While Florentines praised him, Savonarola's fearlessness did not win him any friends in Rome. The pope had enough. Savonarola was suspended from the priesthood and excommunicated. He was asked to retract his charges against the pope and admit he was a false teacher. He refused, was arrested, stood trial for heresy and was found guilty.

After a month of torture, he was sent to the gallows. The execution took place on the city square. After the pope's representative pronounced judgment upon him, saying, "I exclude thee from the church militant and triumphant." Savonarola responded, "From the church militant you may, but from the church triumphant, you cannot."

In this Lenten season and always may we remember the importance of repentance and living our Christina lives day by day. God's blessing to all!

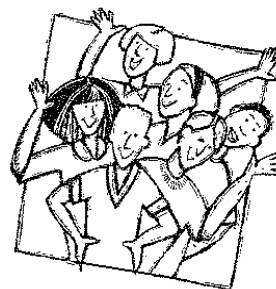
In Christ,

Pastor Jasch

YOUTH NEWS

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

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



March Youth Events

Wednesday March 1—The Youth will be providing the Lenten supper. Contact Bev Huebner if you have questions.

Sunday March 5th the Sr. Youth group will have a discussion about God and a cell phone. Please meet in the Youth room after church services. This is Informal.

Sunday March 12 Sr. Youth group discussion continued from last week.

Friday March 31 Jr. Youth group Movie and popcorn, watch bulletin for details. Meet in 3rd floor youth room at 7:00 pm. Contact Perre Pedersen

Our Wednesday Lenten Schedule:

March 1st, Ash Wednesday the youth will be providing the supper at 6 P.M. This will be followed by worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of the ashes at 7 P.M.

The remaining Wednesday's in Lent we will have Soup Supper at 6 P.M. with Lenten Services to follow at 7 P.M.

We are needing help to prepare food as well as to serve for the noon Luncheon on March 29th here at St. John's. If you are able to do either of these things please sign-up on the poster in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall or call the church office 236-4946.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls during Jim's stay in the hospital and especially to Pastor and Rebecca Jasch for their prayers and visit.



Jim and Sue Bailey

Congratulations to Bob, Pam and Elizabeth Ashing on the birth of *Sarah Elaine* on Wednesday February 15th. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz.

World Day of Prayer, 2006 will be celebrated around the world on Friday, March 3rd. Our Grinnell service will be held at 12 noon at First Baptist Church, Fifth and East Street. Signs of the time is the theme of the service developed by the women of South Africa.

A light lunch will follow.

A big **Thank You** to all who attended the chili Dump on February 18th. The chili as well as everything else was very good. Thanks also to everyone who helped in the Kitchen. It is greatly appreciated.

Fellowship Committee

..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 March 5

First Keokuk

For the Conference of Bishops as they meet that the Holy Spirit guides their leadership of the ELCA

Week of March 12

Greater Milwaukee Synod

For Bishop Hougen and others on the Ecumenical Journey as they travel to Rome, Istanbul and other locations.

Week of March 19

Good Shepherd, Knoxville

For our Anti-Racism Team as they lead workshops to guide us to a more just world.

Week of March 26

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

For the ELCA Church Council as they meet to make decisions on behalf of the ELCA.

Church Council highlights February 20

A female delegate is needed to attend synod Convention, June 16-17. If you might be interested, speak with Pastor.

We have received a request from Jennifer Barger for support as she seeks entrance into seminary. Jennifer is applying for the diaconal ministry at the Lutheran School of theology at Chicago Seminary for this fall. Diaconal Ministry is a ministry of word and service, sharing the hope of Christ, helping where there is need, and equipping others for healing and justice in the world. Diaconal Ministers serve through agencies, Institutions and traditional church programs as they build bridges between the church and the world. We rejoice that Jennifer is taking this step and pray God's blessing upon her!

As directed by the January semiannual congregational meeting, the church council is looking into the option of considering either a youth pastor or youth director. This is in conjunction with the Youth Board.

The Council heard a presentation from the Premier Company regarding a proposal for a new digital copier. We are currently using one of their copiers on a trial basis.

SERVING THIS MONTH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Acolyte: Kyle Irland

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel

Reader: Nicole Behrens

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Acolyte: Courtney Peter

Greeters: Addy and Harold Hanson

Reader: Gaylen Johnson

Communion Assistants: S. McDonough, D. Martinek

Coffee Servers: A. and M. Anderson, N. Pavey

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Acolyte: Laura Weigel

Reader: Nancy Heineman

Communion Assistant: Albert Knight

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Acolyte: Christopher Weir

Greeters: Alice Beck and Avis Kelm

Reader: Verna Gerrish

Coffee Servers: S., J. Bailey, L., T. Cline

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Acolyte: Trent Baker

Reader: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Acolyte: Renee Beach

Greeters: Everett and Verna Gerrish

Reader: Dorothy Wade

Communion Assistants: J., M. Ruchotzke

Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Acolyte: Nathan Ford

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Acolyte: Alec Henderson

Reader: Gladys Booth

Communion Assistant: Karen Klug-Frischmeyer

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel

Greeters: Gene and Shirley Broders

Reader: Bob Larson

Coffee Servers: K. P. Davoux, V. Deppe, B. Cook

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel

MARCH CALENDAR

Wed	1	6 pm	Soup supper served by youth
		7 pm	Ash Wednesday worship service
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, Marion Templeton, hostess
		6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Lenten worship service
Sat	11	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	12	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	14	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	15	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Lenten worship service
Thurs	16	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Sandy Falck and Donna Tedford hostess
Sat	18	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	19	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	21	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Natalie Dunn, hostess
Wed	22	6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Lenten worship service
Sat	25	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	26	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Tue	28	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Nancy Urfer, hostess
Wed	29	6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Lenten worship service

USHERS FOR MARCH: Terry Cline, Scott Jensen (*head ushers*), Brian Heineman, Steve Dudley, Russ Peter, Shirley Jensen, Danny Dudley

USHERS FOR LENTEN SERVICES: Mike Schaeffer, Jack Templeton

ALTAR GUILD

February 13-March 13 — Vicki Dillon

Month of March — Diane Ruchotzke

March 13-April 10 — Nancy Beck

OFFERING COUNTERS: Fred and Vicki Dillon

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Return Service Requested

GRACE MATTERS

Radio Ministry of the ELCA, with host, the Rev. Peter W. Marty
Heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN, AM1410

Where Jesus Walked A Holy Land Journey

MARCH 5

Jerusalem--the Holy City

Luke 13: 31-35

There is no city like Jerusalem, golden with age and color, yet blackened by centuries of hatred and killing. Jesus knew this city well, not only because of his many travels to the temple there, but also for his high hopes for the people of Jerusalem. Listen in on the joy and sadness of walking through Jerusalem today.



MARCH 12

Nazareth—the Forsaken City

John 1: 43-51

People made fun of Nazareth in the time of Jesus. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathaniel said to Philip one day. Well, a whole lot of good came out of Nazareth, as we know from the person of Jesus. But traveling to Nazareth today is a

reminder that sometimes we need to look beneath external appearances to find the treasure hidden within.

MARCH 19

Capernaum—the Preaching City

Mark 1:21-28

The marble columns of the Capernaum synagogue, still standing, reverberate with the words of Jesus as he preached before a packed house one day. The authority with which he spoke was dramatically different than the way the scribes and others spoke. Find out why, in a close-up look at some differences between power and authority.

MARCH 26

Sea of Galilee - the Lake for Discipleship

Matthew 14:22-33

There is no greater time to be scared than at night. And night out on the sea is especially bewildering. But storm-tossed waves proved to be the perfect “pulpit” for Jesus to speak about the shortcomings of fear. What are your greatest fears? And what do you to alleviate them from such a crippling role in your life? Tune in to a special broadcast from the Sea of Galilee.