

LOVE LETTER

APRIL 2006

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Midweek Lenten service

April 5, 7 p.m.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

Confirmation

April 9, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 13, 7 p.m.

Good Friday

April 14, 7 p.m.

Easter

April 16, 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Synod Convocation

April 22

St. John's Lutheran Church

ELCA

1224 East Street

Grinnell, IA 50112

(641) 236-4946

stjohngr@iowatelecom.net

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.

Pastor's Pen

Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

Early in his life David Livingstone (1813-1873) missionary and explorer, was driven by the first part of Matthew 28:19 — "Go ye therefore...." Later in life he relied heavily on the last part of Matthew 28:20 — "Lo, I am with you always...." These verses were spoken by the Risen Lord soon after his Resurrection.

Livingstone had gone to Africa as a medical missionary and ended up as a world-famous explorer. How successful he was as a missionary is questionable, but his remarkable explorations opened up an entire continent to thousands of future missionaries.

Livingstone loved to explore God's creation. His explorations led to alternative routes by which missionaries could enter the heart of Africa. His work took him from the Atlantic Ocean 2,500 miles across the continent to the Indian Ocean. He took careful notes that would prove helpful in botany, geology, medicine, astronomy, geography and trade.

When people were concerned about his welfare, he could quote that Bible verse where Jesus says, "Lo, I

am with you always, even to the end of the world." The year 1871 was one of the hardest times in his life. All his supplies were gone, he had received no mail for five years, he was presumed dead. He wrote in his diary that he was sure he would die. But someone came by. It was Henry Stanley, a write for the New York Herald.

Stanley uttered those famous words, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume." Stanley unsuccessfully tried to persuade Livingstone to return to England.

Livingstone died about a year later. He was buried in Westminster Abbey in London and is said to be the only pauper buried there with full state honors. Many Christians have followed where he has led. He would be happy to know that there are now more Christians in Africa than there are in North America.

As we soon celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, let us too remember that Jesus is always with us, even to the end of the age. Let us remain strong in our Easter faith. God's blessings to all!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



"FOLLOW ME."





AROUND the CONGREGATION

In sympathy

Sincere sympathy is expressed to the family and friends of four long-time members of St. John's who died in March. **Jessie Irene Broders** died March 6. Her funeral was held at St. John's on March 10, with burial following in Hazelwood Cemetery, Grinnell. **Tilford Christianson** died March 8 in Mason City. His funeral and burial was March 12 in rural Thompson, Minn. **Almira McDonough** died March 10. Her funeral was held at St. John's on March 15, with burial following in Hazelwood. **Kenneth Wieding** died March 25. His memorial service was March 28 at St. John's, with burial in Hazelwood. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Congratulations

Best wishes to two couples married in March by Pastor Jasch. **Nick Kriegel** and **Jessica Homeyer** were married at Herrick Chapel on March 4. **Michelle Anderson** and **Tad Van Zante** were married at St. John's, also on March 4.

Confirmation

Three eighth-graders will be confirmed at the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 9.

Hosanna!

On Palm Sunday this year we will remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a service begin-

Holy Week, Easter worship scheduled

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday will be celebrated on April 9, starting with a procession with palms. (See article on this page.) The service will also include the Rite of Confirmation.

Holy Week

Holy Week services include: **Maundy Thursday**, worship with Holy Communion at 7 p.m.; **Good Friday**, a Tenebre worship service at 7 p.m.

Easter

Easter services with special music are planned for 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., both with Holy Communion. An Easter breakfast in the Fellowship Hall served by the youth groups will be held from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

ning with a procession with palms. On this day worshipers will gather in the narthex (and on the steps outside the church, weather permitting) for a brief litany, then enter the sanctuary waving palm branches. The procession will be led by Pastor Jasch, the confirmation class, their families and the Senior Choir. For those unable to



participate in the procession, feel free to take a palm branch and be seated in the sanctuary

A good cause

Church Women United in Grinnell will hold a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 8, at the First Presbyterian Church, 1025 Fifth Ave. A freewill donation will go to Church World Service for disaster relief.

Delegate needed

We need a female delegate to attend the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly at Wartburg College on June 16-17. Please speak with Pastor Jasch if you are interested.

Convocation in Grinnell

St. John's will host the Southeastern Iowa Synod Convocation on Saturday, April 22. About 125 representatives from churches throughout the synod are expected for the day-long gathering. **Jo Olson** and **Donna Beck** are in charge of arrangements for the noon lunch.

Looking ahead

The annual breakfast for our graduating high school seniors will be held Sunday, May 7.

Finances through February

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$27,054	\$30,105
Budget	\$40,601	\$37,611
Expenses	\$37,350	\$37,275

Average weekly attendance in February

	2006	2005
Saturday	40	41
Sunday	137	136

Christians in Action (CIA)

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

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



Serving Easter breakfast

Youth in grades 5-12 will provide the food and serve the Easter breakfast between the worship services on Sunday, April 16. Letters have gone out to families asking for specific donations. All young people should arrive by 8 a.m. to help with serving and cleanup. Parents are welcome to assist as well.

If you are unable to provide your assigned food item, please call **Barb Baker** (236-3064) by Monday, April 10, so that other arrangements can be made to make sure we have enough food.

On mission trip

Two high schoolers and two adults from St. John's are among 49 people from Grinnell who are spending spring break in Buras, La., aiding in relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Buras, a small town on

the Mississippi River south of New Orleans, was hit hard by last year's tropical storm.

Tom Heineman and **Nate Weigel** and chaperones **Nancy Heineman** and **Lori Brown**, left March 26 and will return April 1. Tom and Nate are members of the Grinnell High School chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the local organizing group.

While in the Buras area, the group will help with cleanup (yes, there's still a lot of cleanup to do) and aid in general construction. Housing and food will be handled by "Operation Feed My Sheep," a part of Re-alLife Ministries. Costs will be covered by the students themselves as well as community contributions and a generous donation from the Ahrens Foundation. Members of St. John's contributed more than \$300 to the project.

Highlights of Church Council meeting

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held March 20.

THE CHURCH received a letter from the Southeastern Iowa Synod thanking us for financial support and noting that, with the help of congregations like ours, the synod was able to meet its budget for 2005.

AFTER HEARING a report from Pastor Jasch about the cost of additional ordained staff, the council voted not to pursue the idea of hiring a second pastor but to continue the search for a youth director. The report indicated it would cost a minimum of \$60,000 a year to hire a second pastor. A request to investigate the possibility of hiring a second ordained staff member was made at the congregation's annual meeting in January.

PROPERTIES: Steve Dudley, committee chair, is continuing to look into acquiring a portable sound system to be used in the Fellowship Hall. Boy Scout Troop 347, which meets at St. John's, was given permission to install a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

COUNCIL MEMBERS voted to contribute \$1,000 a month for three months to a community fund to aid the Toeun family as they continue to seek the work permits they need in order to obtain full employment rights in the U.S. The money will come from \$5,000 budgeted in 2006 for Emergency/Disaster.

THE YOUTH BOARD will be asked to report to the council on a monthly basis about the status of the search for a youth director.



NOTES OF THANKS

THE FAMILY of Almira McDonough thanks everyone for their gifts of money, food, cards and condolences since her death.



Sue and Howard McDonough

THANK YOU to all the parents, grandparents, teachers, youth and church people for your prayers, support and help with the youth ministry project of making Valentine cards and cookies for residents of our nursing homes. We had many wonderful, creative cards and cookies.

Cheryl Clark



Keep in your prayers this month

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

Week of April 2

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LaMotte, Iowa

Our brothers and sisters in the Pare Diocese as they struggle with the effects of long-term drought.

Week of April 9

La Crosse (Wisconsin) Area Synod

For peace and justice in the Holy Land as Christ's last days on earth are remembered this Holy Week.

Week of April 16

First Augustan Lutheran Church, Lockridge

For the Body of Christ around the world as we join together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Week of April 23

Southeast Michigan Synod

For all who continue to bear the scars of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.

Week of April 30

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lost Nation

For prayerful deliberation across the ELCA as the 2006 synodical assemblies get under way.

RECIPE BY REQUEST

Creamy Comforting Chicken Noodle Soup

(Tracee Van Arkel's grandma's recipe, served by our youth at the Ash Wednesday soup supper)

1. Boil one whole chicken and pull meat off bones. Set aside.
2. Bring to a boil and simmer until veggies are tender:

2 quarts water	8 chicken bouillon cubes
2 finely sliced carrots	1 T. minced onion
3 finely sliced celery stalks	
3. Add 1 package frozen Reams noodles and 2 T. parsley flakes. Simmer until noodles are tender.
4. Add

Chicken pieces
2 cans cream of chicken soup
1 8-ounce carton sour cream
1/2 t. white pepper
salt to taste
5. Heat and serve.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Reader: Ted Urfer

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Harlan and Michelle Honsbruch
Reader: Kathleen Johnson
Coffee Servers: F, V Dillon; C, S, D Dudley
Communion Assistants: L Gaard, F Hagemeister

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Acolyte: Trent Baker

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Communion Assistant: Bob Kinseth

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Steve, Cindy and Danny Dudley
Reader: Margaret Amo
Coffee Servers: Paul and Kay Davoux, Mitzi Dufoe, Fred England

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Communion Assistants: D Beck, S McDonough

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Acolyte: Courtney Peter

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

7 A.M. SERVICE
Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Dave and Shirle Huth
Reader: Jack Templeton
Communion Assistants: H. and M. Honsbruch
9:30 A.M. SERVICE
Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Greeters: Tom and Anita Ford
Reader: Jan Luebben
Communion Assistants: Bob and Pam Ashing

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistant: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Terry and Lynn Cline
Reader: Pat Larson
Coffee Servers: Sundells, V. Gerrish, S Hagemeister

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Reader: Sandy Falck
Communion Assistant: Pam Ashing

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Don and Doris Sundell
Reader: Pam Ashing
Coffee Servers: A,H Hanson, M, H Honsbruch

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Sat	1	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	2	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	4	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	5	6 pm	Soup supper
		7 pm	Midweek Lenten worship
Sat	8	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion,
Sun	9	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	PALM SUNDAY worship, Confirmation
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		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
Thurs	13	6:30 pm	Senior Choir rehearsal
		7 pm	Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion
Fri	14	6:30 pm	Senior Choir rehearsal
		7 pm	Good Friday worship
Sat	15	NO SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP	
Sun	16	7 am	EASTER worship with Holy Communion
		7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8-9:15 am	Easter breakfast served by youth
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Easter worship with Holy Communion
		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
Tue	18	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	19	Noon	Autumn Leaves
Thurs	20	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Alice Beck, hostess
Sat	22	All Day	Synod Convocation at St. John's
		5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	23	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
Tue	25	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Donna Beck, hostess
Thurs	27	7 pm	Adult Bible study
Sat	29	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	30	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

USHERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Keith Osland, Fred Dillon (*head ushers*), Don Sundell, Harlan Honsbruch, Gene Broders, Lance Longman, Alex Huebner, Sydney Honsbruch

ALTAR GUILD

March 13-April 10 — Nancy Beck
 Month of April — Nicole Behrens
 April 10 to May 8 — Rebecca Jasch

OFFERING COUNTERS: Bob and Sandy Falck



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Return Service Requested



WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
Good Friday, 7 p.m.
Easter, 7 and 9:30 a.m.

GRACE MATTERS

Radio Ministry of the ELCA, with host Peter Marty

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

APRIL 2

Lent Week 5: Mount of Olives – The Hillside of Prayer

Luke 19: 41-44

As Jesus approaches the city of Jerusalem for the final time, he weeps. In crying, he reveals his sadness for a city and for a people who cannot “get it together.” We all know that tears can say great things. In the case of Jesus, they speak a sorrow over the way things are, instead of the way they’re supposed to be.

APRIL 9

Lent Week 6: The Via Dolorosa, The Final Walk-Palm Sunday

Matthew 27: 27-31

It’s one of the most famous streets in the world. The Via Dolorosa is where Jesus took his final steps, weathering the mockery of those who could not comprehend his way of love. Experience your own walk on this narrow street, and recall the commitment of Jesus to your health and salvation.

APRIL 16

Quit Marinating in Fear—Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:5-6

The proclamation of Easter morning, “Do not be afraid; He is

risen,” forms the backbone of Christianity. It also indicates how we’re supposed to live creatively and fruitfully. In a broadcast that includes special Easter music, join Peter Marty for an Easter sermon that’s guaranteed to have you rethinking your own life in Christ.

APRIL 23

The Thrill of Singing

Psalms 150:6

Few things compare with the exhilaration of human voices singing in tune with one another to the glory of God. Dr. Weston Noble, nationally acclaimed conductor emeritus at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, is our guest. He explores the joy of leading a college choir for nearly six decades.

APRIL 30

Dear God, We Need More Food

Luke 9:10-17

Sometimes feeding the hungry requires no sophisticated effort at all—no committees, no agency, no special grant money—just commitment. Kay Fennell has such commitment. Listen in on a conversation with this woman who, with her husband, feeds hungry people on Chicago’s Lower Wacker Drive.