

LOVE LETTER

MAY 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

Senior Breakfast
May 7

Last day of Sunday School
May 21

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,

Martin Niemoller was a thorn in Adolf Hitler's side. The Nazi dictator didn't know what to do with him. Niemoller was imprisoned for his opposition to Nazism but because of his international reputation, the Nazis hesitated putting him to death. As Niemoller's life hung in the balance, he clung to Romans 14:8 more tightly than ever: "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

Niemoller was a 41-year-old pastor when Hitler came to power. He had served in the German military and considered himself a patriot. But when Hitler's true intent was seen, Niemoller and others formed the Young Reformation Movement to make sure that Nazism wouldn't twist the church to serve Nazism.

*"Whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's."*

Romans 14:8

When the Nazis banned all Jews, Niemoller began the Pastors Emergency League and signed up more than 2,000 pastors. On a Reformation Sunday, with Gestapo officers present, Niemoller preached about

Jesus, the Jewish rabbi of Nazareth. The following day Niemoller was suspended from his pastoral duties. He was sent to prison and then to concentration camps. He remained in the Dachau camp until 1945, when he was rescued by American soldiers.

Later Niemoller wrote his famous confession: **"In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."**

But this pastor did eventually speak up against Nazism and he did, based on the importance of Romans 14:8. May we also stand with our Risen Lord Jesus knowing that nothing can separate us from God's great love in Christ Jesus.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Three are confirmed

Welcome to our three eighth-graders who were confirmed on Palm Sunday. They are **Alec Henderson**, son of **Lisa** and **Roger Henderson**; **Brandon Mikel**, son of **Brenda** and **Doug Mikel**; and **Laura Weigel**, daughter of **Rick** and **Luann Weigel**.

Seniors to be honored

Graduating seniors from St. John's will be honored at the annual Senior Breakfast, planned for 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 7. Families of this year's junior class are in charge.



Gathering at St. John's

St. John's was host to the Synod Convocation on Saturday, April 22. The annual meeting involves members of various synod committees. **Jo Olson** and the Fellowship Committee handled the arrangements.

Lost and found

Missing anything? Items left at the church in recent months include a woman's black coat, woman's black gloves, an umbrella and a pink stocking cap. Inquire in the church office.

Delegate needed

St. John's needs a female delegate to attend the Synod Assembly on

June 16-17 at Wartburg College, Waverly. Contact Pastor Jasch if you are interested.

Important connection

If you change your email address, please send the change to the church office. And if you have email and have not provided your email address to the church, please call (or email) the church. Church secretary **Jo Olson** notes that the church can save money by contacting people via email rather than postcard.

Coffee order going in

You can help small-scale coffee farmers in developing countries by buying your coffee through the church-supported Equal Exchange Coffee Project.



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

At the encouragement of Women of the ELCA, St. John's began purchasing Equal Exchange Coffee in November for use at the coffee fellowship time.

You can place an order through the church for coffee for your per-

sonal use. Order blanks giving types of coffee and prices are available in the church office. The next order will be sent in May 9.

Prayer requests

If you would like to have a prayer 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. In order to maintain confidentiality, be sure to have the permission of those prayed for.

Meeting date set

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, June 25, following the worship service. At this meeting, committee reports will be presented and council members elected.

Dinner planned

Enjoy a Sunday meal and help our young people earn money for camp. On Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the youth will be serving an Hawaiian-theme meal. A freewill donation will be used for scholarships to church camp.

Church finances through March

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$42,150	\$45,909
Budget	\$60,901	\$56,417
Expenses	\$54,511	\$53,228

Average weekly attendance in March

	2006	2005
Saturday	43	42
Sunday	142	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."

Serving this month

Senior Youth will serve refreshments after the worship service on **Sunday, May 21**. The following youth are asked to bring two dozen treats that morning: **Alex Huebner, A.J. Baker, Katie Ditzler, Nathan Beach, Chana Weir and Danielle Nowasell**. Parent helpers that day are **Linda and Paul Nowasell and Craig and Connie Weir**.

Think summer!

Vacation Bible School for children in preschool through grade 5 will be held July 9-13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in cooperation with the United Methodist Church. This year's theme is "Fiesta!" Registration forms are available during the Sunday School hour and at the church office. Deadline for registering is May 21. The cost is \$5 per child.

New worship book to be ready in October

For the past five years, thousands of congregations, pastors, musicians, lay persons and ecumenical partners have been involved in a churchwide conversation about renewing worship in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The result is a new book of worship, scheduled to be available in October. (FYI: It will have a red cover!)

Resources for provisional use were well-tested and reviewed. The feedback from those reviews helped shape the final content of the book, to be called *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

The synod will be providing one-day events in the area to introduce *the new book* to congregations. To learn more about *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, see www.renewingworship.org

At St. John's, the Worship, Music and Arts Committee and the Church Council will discuss purchasing the new books — whether to buy enough books for every worshipper or to buy the electronic version for reproduction in the church bulletin, and how to pay for the purchase — with memorial money or budgeted funds. If you have ideas or opinions on the subject, speak to Pastor Jasch or a member of the Church Council.

The new 'Red Book' will:

- be available in print and electronic versions
- provide a core of liturgical and musical resources for most worship communities in the ELCA
- include 10 musical settings of the primary service of Holy Communion in a variety of musical styles, new and familiar
- include all 150 psalms
- include Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*
- include a new Service of the Word
- include services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer
- include more than 600 hymns and songs, many beloved favorites and many that will be new, in many different styles
- be the same size as the current *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Information from the ELCA

Words of thanks

THANKS to everyone who contributed and helped with the Wednesday evening soup suppers during Lent, and with the food and arrangements for the Synod Convocation held April 22 at St. John's.



A VERY SPECIAL thank you to Paul Pedersen for doing spring cleanup chores on the church grounds.

THANK YOU to St. John's members who supported the high school Fellowship of Christian Athletes mission trip to the Gulf Coast during spring break. The group helped with hurricane cleanup and construction projects in Buras, La., a small town on the Mississippi River south of New Orleans. Involved from St. John's were high school students **Tom Heineman** and **Nate Weigel** and chaperones **Nancy Heineman** and **Lori Brown**.

ELCA by the numbers

10,585

ELCA congregations

171

congregations under development

47

new congregation starts

4,930,429

members of the ELCA

8

seminaries

185

campus ministry sites

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 May 7

North/West/Lower Michigan Synod

For the youth and young adults from our synod who are on the Shoulder to Shoulder mission trip to Mexico.

Week of May 14

St. John's Lutheran Church, Madrid

We offer prayers of thanks for the ministry of all who are mothers or mother figures.

Week of May 21

Indiana-Kentucky Synod,

We pray for our partner synod, the Grand Canyon Synod, as it comes together this week to elect a new bishop.

Week of May 28

Trinity Lutheran Church, Malcolm

We remember in prayer all soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty, and for their families.

Church Council highlights

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

PROPERTIES: Council members voted to replace a leaking water cooler, at a cost not to exceed \$500. Council members postponed a decision on purchasing a new PA system for the Fellowship Hall, saying they will seek input from the congregation on the need for a new system. Committee chairman Steve Dudley will seek bids for repositioning and landscaping the stone cross that has been located at the corner of East and Eighth. (The cross, donated as a memorial by the Hartzell family, has been within the city right-of-way and in the path of street construction.)



YOUTH: The Youth and Family Ministry Board is continuing to review applications and interview candidates for the position of youth director.

EDUCATION: Rose Osland will help plan Vacation Bible School, to be held in July in cooperation with the United Methodist Church.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Reader: Shirle Huth

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Greeters: Jim and Molly Urfer
Reader: Nancy Heineman
Communion Assistants: Vic and Jean Frana
Coffee Servers: Kathy and Gaylen Johnson,
Kelly Rose

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Reader: Jim Urfer
Communion Assistant: Molly Urfer

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Brian and Nancy Heineman
Reader: Fred Hagemeister
Coffee Servers: Deb and Lance Longman,
John and Dorothy Martinek

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Reader: Gary Cook

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Greeters: John and Madge Ruchotzke
Reader: Dorothy Martinek
Communion Assistants: Harold and Addy Hanson
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Reader: Karen Klug-Frischmeyer
Communion Assistant: Bev Cook

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Greeters: Scott and Shirley Jensen
Reader: Sara Dunne
Coffee Servers: N. Pavey and S. McDonough

MAY CALENDAR

Tue	2	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	6	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	7	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Breakfast for graduating seniors
		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	9	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	10	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Colleen Politz, hostess
Sat	13	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	14	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	15	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	16	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle
Wed	17	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	18	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Mary Schuchmann, hostess
Sat	20	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	21	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	23	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	27	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	28	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	30	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room

USHERS FOR MAY: Rick Weigel, Duane Dufoe (*head ushers*), Paul Davoux, Fred Hagemeister, Allison Baker, Nathan Weigel

ALTAR GUILD

April 10 to May 8 — Rebecca Jasch
Month of May — Jo Olson
May 8 to June 12 — Sue McDonough

OFFERING COUNTERS: Rosalie Hartzell and Shirley Jensen



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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

.MAY 7

Love as Your Uniform

John 13:13

What happens when you dress yourself in love can make the difference between a hopeful day and a woeful day? For nationally acclaimed coach Joe Ehrmann, love lived in the right way is exactly what young adolescent males need more than anything else.

Meet this ex-NFL great who has a definition of success like you've never heard before.



MAY 14

Dry Clean Christianity

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

Dick Hardel is an absolute "pro" when it comes to underscoring the importance of living with a passionate faith. If every parent could hear his message, churches and homes across America would completely revise their operation. His words are full of grace and responsibility in a time when parents and grandparents need to think deeply about what they're passing along to the next generation.

MAY 21

Living With God in an Arranged Marriage

Matthew 20:28

Special guest this week is Esther Prabhakar, a woman full of grace and faith who has an extraordinary prayer life and ministry, organized around a beautiful concept of prayer journaling. She also knows something about arranged marriages. Esther's own experience prompts the question, "What would it be like to live in an arranged marriage with God, where something other than mutual attraction was the driving force?"

MAY 28

What Do You Want on Your Tombstone?

1 Corinthians 12:7

What would happen if we spent less energy setting goals, and more energy living up to the commitments that are basic to our lives? It's a question of interest to Joe Holt, Director of Executive Ethics at Notre Dame University. Join him, and host Peter Marty, for an inside look at becoming the moral and ethical characters we all want to be.