

LOVE LETTER

JUNE 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

Pentecost
June 4

Synod Assembly
June 16-17

Congregational meeting
June 25

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
during the school year

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 and peace to you from
Jesus Christ, our Lord,*

Desmond Tutu, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, South, Africa, was a key factor in one of the most miraculous revolutions of the 20th century — the peaceful overthrow of the apartheid government of South Africa. For his work, he was awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.



Desmond Tutu

The son of a Methodist schoolteacher, Tutu was educated in a Swedish mission boarding school near Johannesburg. He taught school before entering the Anglican ministry in 1957 at age 26. He studied in London, where he experienced a freedom and self-respect that he could not find in his own country.

When he returned to South Africa in the late 1960s, it was a time of unrest. Apartheid laws had become increasingly strict and dehumanizing. Tutu sympathized with the black people and encouraged them to protest in nonviolent ways. Once, when students were protesting injustice on campus, Tutu said to the police, "If you are arresting the students, you can count me, as

their chaplain, with them."

Bishop Tutu loved Scripture. A text that especially motivated him in his ministry was, "**If God is for us, who can be against us?**"

(Romans 8:31) He firmly believed that God was on the side of the oppressed Africans. In the Bible, Tutu said, "God did not just talk—he acted. He took the side of the slaves, the oppressed, the victims. He is still the same today."

In large part due to Tutu's influence, South Africa underwent an amazingly peaceful transfer of power and an effective healing of old wounds. Tutu was not surprised. Because "**We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**" (Romans 8:37)

May we also be with those who are hurting or suffering in our time and area, even as God has cared for us in Jesus, our crucified and Risen Lord. God's blessings to all!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



Vacation Bible School

It's not too late (but you need to hurry!) to sign up for Vacation Bible School. **Date:** Sunday through Thursday, July 9 to 13. **Time:** 6 to 8:30 p.m. **Place:** United Methodist Church. **Cost:** \$5. **Ages:** Preschool through grade 5. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Yoga classes offered

A series of 8 free yoga lessons will be offered at St. John's on eight evenings in June. The instructor will be **Stephanie Nelson**, a member of St. John's who is working to receive certification in yoga instruction. Classes will be held in the church basement from 7 to 8 p.m. on June 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21. For more information, call Stephanie at 236-5736.

Missing something?

Still remaining in the Lost and Found are a woman's gray-brown Paris Sports Club raincoat size 9; woman's black quilted Worthington car coat with hood, extra large; girl's pink, orange and white stocking cap, and a pair of woman's black fleece gloves.

Church finances through April

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$58,679	\$58,813
Budget	\$81,202	\$75,223
Expenses	\$67,622	\$68,032

Average weekly attendance in April

	2006	2005
Saturday	42	43
Sunday	151	150

Baptized

Welcome to **Sarah Elizabeth Ashing**, daughter of **Robert and Pam Ashing**, who was baptized at St. John's on May 6. Her sponsors are **Judy and Doug Smith** and **Steven and Jennifer Ashing**.

Our graduates

Congratulations to our four 2006 high school graduates.

Allyssa Bosse graduated from Grinnell High School. She will attend Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., and plans to major in biology and psychology.



Thomas Heineman will attend the University of Iowa with a major in chemistry. He graduated from Grinnell High School.

Paige Honsbruch graduated from Grinnell High School and will attend Colorado College. She intends to major in psychology with a minor in Spanish.

Michael Williams, a graduate of Montezuma High School, is heading to the University of Northern Iowa, where he will major in computer science.

Cancelled

The Hawaiian-themed meal scheduled for June 4 will not be held.

Semiannual meeting will be held June 25

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, June 25, in the Fellowship Hall.

The agenda will include committee reports, election of officers, and other business as needed.

A potluck will follow. Meat and beverages will be furnished. Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

Help finish the job

The local Habitat for Humanity group is seeking volunteers to work on the new home going up at 702 High St. The house is about three-fifths completed, and a push is on to finish the job this summer.

Specific work times have been set up for volunteers to come when they are able. The times are 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. The work is under the supervision of construction manager David Schmitz, who can be reached at 990-4234.



Jobs for all skill levels are available. Tools will be furnished, but bring a drill, screw gun or trowel if you can.

Worship book blends old, new

It's called a worship book, not a hymnal. And it's got a cranberry-red cover.

Those are only a few of the features of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new ELCA publication that will replace the familiar green *Lutheran Book of Worship* and the newer blue *With One Voice*.

The St. John's Church Council voted in May to purchase 265 books plus related worship materials. The cost is estimated at approximately \$6,000. At the council's direction, the money will come from the church's Memorial Fund. Members will have an opportunity, however, to purchase a book in honor or memory of someone, and will also be able to purchase books for personal use.

The books are expected to be available in October.

Here are some commonly asked questions about the new book

Why do we need a new book?

A new generation needs new worship resources as we seek to continue to pursue the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The need for new materials is evident by such things as changing ministry contexts, increasing variety in worship practices among congregations, development of new musical styles, changes in ways of communicating, and a deepening desire to reach out beyond the church and into the rest of the world.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship brings to the church a sense of the breadth and depth of the Lutheran church today. From traditional to gospel, from contemporary to Latino, from chant to praise song, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* will help us explore and celebrate the riches of God's church.

What's new in the new book?

Evangelical Lutheran Worship has 10 musical settings for Holy Communion; all 150 Psalms, and more than 700 hymns, songs and other music pieces. (*Lutheran Book of Worship* has three settings for Holy Communion, not all the Psalms, and 569 hymns, songs and other music pieces.)

The new book contains, for the first time, Luther's Small Catechism, a healing service and specific liturgies for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter

The 10 settings for Holy Communion include two settings by Marty Haugen, a chant setting, and a hymn-based settings. The familiar Settings One and Two from the LBW are also included.

Of the approximately 700 hymns and songs in the new book, 53% are in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 20% are from *With One Voice*, and 27 percent are new

Who put together the new book?

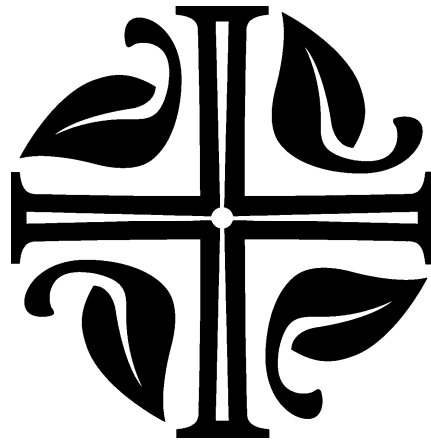
The process to develop a new book was initiated in 2000 by the ELCA Church Council. Drafts of the material created by music and liturgy professionals were reviewed by lay people and congregations across the U.S. and in Canada.

Will we continue to print the service in the worship bulletin?

Yes. Printing the service in the bulletin gives worshippers a single source for the liturgy, readings, Psalms and prayers. That is especially helpful for visitors who may not be familiar with the Lutheran worship service. It also gives worship planners flexibility to combine elements in order to create a meaningful, appropriate service for St. John's.

What is the cost of the book?

If ordering before October 2, each book costs \$17.50 plus shipping. (After October, it's \$20). Accompanying materials will cost approximately \$900. In total, the cost is expected to be about \$6,000. As was done when *Lutheran Book of Worship* was published, members can purchase books in memory or honor of an individual. Bookplates indicating the donation will be placed in the book. You can also order a copy of the book for your personal use. The price of ordering individual books will be \$20. Special contribution envelopes will be available later this summer.



Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Words of thanks

To my church family:
Thank you for all your concern,
prayers, cards, visits and
the meals brought to me
following my recent sur-
gery. I also want to thank
Pastor Jasch for all his vis-
its and prayers. God bless you all.



Bobbie Kahler

MANY THANKS to Bev Huebner for organizing the breakfast for our graduating seniors.

GRATITUDE is expressed to all of you who have faithfully brought donations for the MICA food pantry.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Sunday School teachers and staff. We are grateful for your abilities and dedication. This year's teachers have been:

Preschool-kindergarten

Kellie and Brett McGriff
Amy Anderson

1st, 2nd and 3rd grades

Pat Gustafson
Kris Stepanek

4th and 5th grades

Julie Smith
Rebecca Jasch

6th, 7th and 8th grades

Brenda Mikel
LuAnn Weigel

Crafts

Paige Honsbruch
Sydney Honsbruch

Music

Carolyn Bosse

Coordinators

Anita Ford
Rose Osland

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 June 4

Northwestern Ohio Synod

For all the students who are finishing classes and graduating.

Week of June 11

First Lutheran Church, Maquoketa

For Bishop Hougen, rostered and lay leaders of the synod as they come together for assembly June 16-17, and for the Tri-synodical Women's Gathering the following weekend.

Week of June 18

Northeastern Ohio Synod

For cross-cultural ministry opportunities, including Bishop Msangi of the Pare Diocese, the youth and young adults from the Grand Canyon Synod who are visiting across the synod this week, and the youth and young adults from our synod going to Salam Lutheran Church in New York City.

Week of May 28

Ascension Lutheran Church, Marion

For safe travel and time for rest and self-care for all vacationers.

Church Council highlights

Here is a summary of the Church Council meeting held May 15.

Nancy Locker and Mike Schaeffer will be our delegates to the 2006 Synod Assembly on June 16 and 17 at Wartburg College.

WORSHIP. Council members approved the purchase of new hymnals and accompanying worship materials. The congregation will be given an opportunity to buy a book in honor or memory of an individual, with the balance of the total cost coming from the Memorial Fund. *(More information on page 3.)*

PROPERTIES. A replacement water cooler will be purchased, at a cost of \$750. Additional bids will be obtained for moving the cross from the parking lot corner to a position under the church sign, and for additional landscaping of the church grounds. Jo Olson reported that the copier in the church office has been repaired and is working well.



FINANCIAL. Council members discussed the best use of approximately \$49,000 bequeathed to the church by the late Irene Broders. A final decision will be made at the June council meeting.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Reader: Dave Huth

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Alice Beck, Lu Ahrens
Reader: Amy Anderson
Communion Assistants: T. and L. Cline
Coffee Servers: Keith and Rose Osland,
Margaret Amo

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Reader: Sue McDonough
Communion Assistant: Nancy Beck

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Greeters: Scott and Shirley Jensen
Reader: Jim Urfer
Coffee Servers: Don and Doris Sundell,
Lu Ahrens, Colleen Politz

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Reader: Molly Urfer

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Greeters: Mike and Erika Olson
Reader: Kelly Rose
Communion Assistants: K, Rose, G. Booth
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Acolyte: Courtney Peter
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion Assistant: Rose Osland

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Steve and Cindy Dudley
Reader: Kay Davoux
Coffee Servers: Pam and Bob Ashing,
Bev Cook

JUNE CALENDAR

Sat	3	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	4	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	6	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Sat	10	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	11	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Mon	12	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	13		Council: Committee reports due
		7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	14	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, S. Broders, hostess
Thurs	15	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Colleen Politz, hostess
Sat	17	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	18	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	20	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	21	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Sat	24	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism
Sun	25	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Semiannual congregational meeting followed by potluck
Tue	27	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room

USHERS FOR JUNE: Lamoyne Gaard, Tom Ford (*head ushers*); Bob Larson, Dave Wierson, Julie Wierson, Mike Anderson, Chana Weir

ALTAR GUILD

May 8 to June 12 — Sue McDonough
Month of June — Margaret Amo
June 12 to July 10 — Pam Ashing

OFFERING COUNTERS: Dave and Shirle Huth



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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

JUNE 4

The End of the World is Near ... Or is it?

Mark 13: 32 37

Amazingly confident speculation occupies the minds of many end-times thinkers. Yet Jesus of Nazareth wasn't half as confident or specific of the details as are most of these prediction gurus. Biblical scholar [Barbara Rossing](#) explores the subject of her work on rapture, and some of the dangers that accompany popular books that merge fiction with questionable biblical interpretation.



JUNE 11

Twisting Your Life Inside Out

Luke 14:16 24

The parables of Jesus are short and sweet. Or, are they so sweet when they twist your life inside out? Biblical scholar [Mark Hoffman](#) explores ways to experience these little stories of Jesus, and what they can do to our lives when we read them as something other than ancient tales.

JUNE 18

The Perfect Silent Crime

Exodus 23:10

According to [Sen. George McGovern](#), the crisis of chronic global hunger is inexcusable, given the massive food wealth of so many countries. One of every seven citizens in the world struggles with severe malnutrition and hunger. McGovern shares his dream for ending this sorry state of affairs.

JUNE 25

A Canopy of Grace

Corinthians 1:10 13

To belong to a "Big Tent Church" is to be a member of a community of Christians that prizes unity over uniformity. In a conversation with *The Lutheran Magazine* editor [Dan Lehmann](#), and in a followup reflection, Peter Marty explores six features of churches that delight in living under a large canopy of grace and common purpose.