

LOVE LETTER

JULY 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

Council installation
July 8 and 9

Vacation Bible School
July 9-13

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

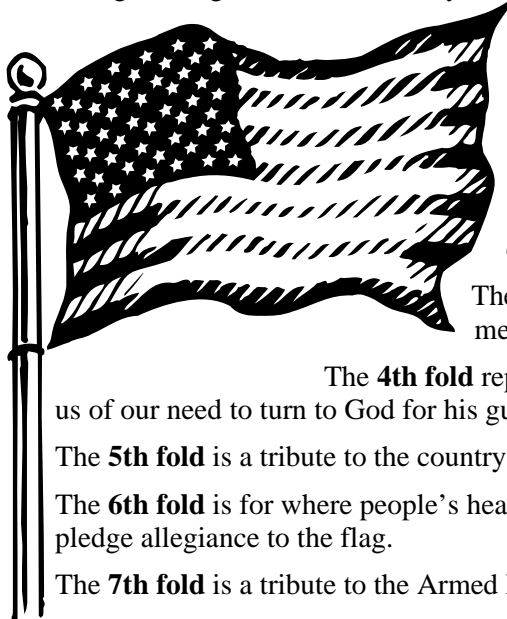
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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 to you and peace from Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

On July 4 we celebrate our country's independence. Our country's flag is one of our national symbols. Here are some thoughts to remember about the flag. Have you noticed that the honor guard at a military funeral pays great attention to folding the flag 13 times? You may have thought it was to symbolize the 13



colonies, but, as a member of the congregation shared with me, we learn something new every day.

The **1st fold** of the flag is a symbol of life.

The **2nd fold** is a symbol of belief in eternal life.

The **3rd fold** is made in honor and remembrance of veterans.

The **4th fold** represents our weaker nature, reminding us of our need to turn to God for his guidance.

The **5th fold** is a tribute to the country.

The **6th fold** is for where people's hearts lie; it is from the heart that people pledge allegiance to the flag.

The **7th fold** is a tribute to the Armed Forces who protect our country.

The **8th fold** is a tribute to the One who entered the valley of the shadow of death so that we might have life and freedom.

The **9th fold** is a tribute to womanhood and mothers.

The **10th fold** is a tribute to fathers.

The **11th fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and remembers the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **12th fold** represents an emblem of eternity and remembers, in Christian eyes, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The **13th and final fold**, when the stars are uppermost, reminds us of the motto, "In God We Trust."

We are Christians who love our God and Lord Jesus, and we are Christians who love our country. We give thanks at this time of year for our nation and the freedoms and liberties we have. The folding of the flag reminds us of our beliefs. God's blessings to all.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Let us know...

Members are welcome to borrow items from the kitchen such as coffee pots, carafes and serving dishes, but please tell Jo Olson in the church office. (You can also leave a note in the office.)

Vacation Bible School

St. John's will join with several other churches for Vacation Bible School from July 9 to July 13. **Rose Osland** and **Brenda Mikel** from St. John's are in charge of crafts.

On July 30

Sarah Gaultney, daughter of member **Emma Helmke**, will speak on the work of the Wycliffe Bible Translators at worship on July 30.

Show them we care

Send our 2006 high school graduates off to college or work with a reminder of their church family. We will once again collect items — personal care products, towels, snacks, quarters for the laundry — that will be packed in "Care Bags" for our graduates. Bring the items to church by Aug. 13.

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is expressed to the family of **Jim Tedford**, a long-time member who died June 7. His funeral was held June 9 at St. John's. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Baptisms

Baptized on June 24 at St. John's were **Jace Lee Wilson**, son of **Brian** and **Jessica Wilson**, and **Nathan Eugene Vander Leest**, son of **Brett** and **Angela Vander Leest**. Jace's sponsors are **Nick** and **Jessica Kriegel**. Sponsors for Nathan are **Brian** and **Jessica Wilson**.

Congratulations

Congratulations to two families in our congregation who welcomed new babies within hours of each other on June 19. The new arrivals are **Allison Joy Hagemester**, daughter of **Fred** and **Sara Hagemester**, and **Kayne Wallace Pavey**, son of **Eric** and **Natalie Pavey**.

Graduation

Tyler Huebner, son of **Dan** and **Bev Huebner**, graduated in December from the University of Iowa with a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in business. He will attend Stanford University to pursue a master of science degree in

civil and environmental engineering with designation in the atmosphere/energy program.

*If you know of other college graduations in our congregation, please send the news to church secretary **Jo Olson** for inclusion in the next issue of the Love Letter.*

Welcome!

It's welcome *back* for **David** and **Sandra Koch**, who have returned to Grinnell and rejoined St. John's. They were received into membership at the worship service on June 25.

The Kochs lived in Grinnell from 1995 to 2001, when they moved to Exira in western Iowa. They had an easy return — they moved back into the same house in Oakland Acres. "Deep down, we thought we might be back," Dave said.

Dave, a native of Iowa City, is a district manager for Levy Books, a book distribution firm. Sandy, who grew up in Audubon, is an administrative assistant at Marsh McLennan, an insurance services company with an office in Newton. They have four grown children — three in Cedar Rapids and one in Creston.

Their interests include gardening, reading, fishing (Dave) and baking (Sandy).



Church finances through May

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$71,996	\$73,215
Budget	\$101,503	\$94,028
Expenses	\$83,557	\$82,967

Average weekly attendance in May

	2006	2005
Saturday	42	42
Sunday	123	143

HERE'S A BEAUTIFUL USE OF THE ALPHABET

Although things are not perfect; **B**ecause of trials or pain; **C**ontinue in thanksgiving; **D**o not begin to blame; **E**ven when the times are hard; **F**ierce winds are bound to blow; **G**od is forever able; **H**old on to what you know; **I**magine life without His love: **J**oy would cease to be; **K**eept thanking him for all the things; **L**ove imparts to thee; **M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"; **N**o weapon that is known; **O**n earth can yield the power; **P**raise can do alone; **Q**uit looking at the future; **R**edeem the time at hand; **S**tart every day with worship; **T**o thank is a command; **U**ntil we see Him coming; **V**ictorious in the sky; **W**e'll run the race with gratitude; **X**alting God most high; **Y**es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad; but **Z**ion waits in glory, where no one is ever sad.

Highlights of congregational meeting

Todd Nelson was elected president and **Dale Lamb** vice president at the semiannual congregational meeting held after worship on June 25.

Named to the Council of Ministers were **Margaret Amo**, chairman of Worship, Music and the Arts; and **Carolyn Bose** and **Donna Beck**, who will chair the duties of Stewardship Chair.

Outgoing council members are **Doug Mike**, **Jim Dunn** and **Cheryl Irland**.

Yet to be filled is the position of Youth chair.

Continuing on the council will be **Anita Ford** and **Rose Oland**, Education; **Mike Schaeffer**, Service; **Mary Schuchmann**, Evangelism and Shepherding; and **Jo Olson**, Fellowship.

The new and continuing officers will be installed at worship services on July 8 and 9.

President **Doug Mikel** reported that the project to

move the stone cross at the corner of East and Eighth is under way. The work involves creating a new raised cross under the church sign. It will be edged in brick and river rock. River rock will also be placed next to the south and northwest sides of the building with river rock for easier maintenance. The area at the corner of East and Eighth, which is city right of way, will be leveled and seeded or sodded.

Information about the proposed purchase of additional sound equipment for the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall was presented.

Fred Hagemeister, who serves as church liaison to Boy Scout Troop 347, said the Scouts are available to assist with church projects if needed. The troop is sponsored by St. John's.

The meeting was followed by a potluck.

Words of thanks

THANK YOU to the congregation for the many expressions of sympathy we received following the death of our husband and father.



The family of Jim Tedford

Bring a veggie to church

Plant a Row for the Hungry, a nationwide effort to help gardeners make a difference in their communities by sharing their excess produce with others, will have a collection box in the narthex of the church starting July 2.

Those of you with extra veggies this summer are invited to bring your surplus produce to the church when you come to worship on Saturday or Sunday. On Sunday afternoon, PAR volunteers will collect the items and take them to MICA for the emergency food pantry. The produce will be boxed and distributed to needy families the next day. Bring two tomatoes or two pounds of tomatoes. (Every little bit counts!)



Please note that we do not expect produce to look perfect - just taste good!

In addition to collecting from backyard gardeners, PAR this year has a community garden on land generously donated by St. John's member **Howard McDonough**. (Howard also did all the tilling and a big part of the planting for PAR.) The produce from that garden will be taken to MICA.

For more information, contact Anna Isis-Brown, PAR's summer intern, at 641-269-4732 or isisbrow@grinnell.edu. Together we CAN reduce hunger!

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 July 2

Southern Ohio Synod and Slovak Zion Synod
For ELCA National Youth Gatherings in San Antonio.

Week of July 9

Faith Lutheran Church, Marion
For National LYO Assembly in San Antonio

Week of July 16

New England and New Jersey Synods
For anti-racism training at EWALU Stone Retreat Center

Week of July 23

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion
For youth and staff at WIYLDE

Week of July 30

Metropolitan New York Synod and Upstate New York Synod
For Congressional Accompaniment Project in Israel/Palestine

Church Council highlights

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

PASTOR JASCH reported briefly on the Synod Assembly held June 16-17 at Wartburg College. The worship events were a highlight for him. "Everybody there loves to sing," he said. A written summary of the Assembly will be issued by the Synod office and included in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.

COUNCIL MEMBERS voted to recommend purchase of a new sound system for the Fellowship Hall and for additional sound equipment for the sanctuary. Details are yet to be worked out. The money will come out of the Memorial Fund.



COUNCIL MEMBERS approved plans to move the stone cross from the corner to an area under the church sign facing East Street. Dan Huebner will do the work, with the cost paid out of the Memorial Fund.

TREASURER Gary Cook will prepare a proposal for benevolence use of the bequest to the church from the late Irene Broders. At an earlier meeting, the council voted to use \$9,800 of the \$49,000 bequest for benevolence/outreach programs. The remainder will be put into a Certificate of Deposit.

SERVING THIS MONTH**SATURDAY, JULY 1**

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Gladys Booth

SUNDAY, JULY 2

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Greeters: Kay and Paul Davoux
Reader: Dorothy Buchmeier
Communion Assistants: Kay, Paul Davoux
Coffee Servers: K., P. Davoux, S. Jensen,

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Reader: Nancy Heineman
Communion Assistant: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, JULY 9

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Greeters: Bob and Pam Ashing
Reader: Shirley Huth
Coffee Servers: S. McDonough, N. Pavey

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Reader: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Janelle Lubben,
Reader: Todd Nelson
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Nicole Behrens

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Todd and Stephanie Nelson
Reader: Lamoyne Gaard
Coffee Servers: Fred and Vicki Dillon,

, SATURDAY, JULY 29

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistant: Pam Ashing

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Virginia Deppe, Gladys Booth
Reader: Nicole Behrens
Coffee Servers: M. and H. Honsbruch

JULY CALENDAR

Sat	1	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	2	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Sat	8	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of council members
Sun	9	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship, Installation of council members
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	11	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	12	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, D. Sundell, hostess
Sat	15	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	16	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	18	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	19	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	20	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Avis Kelm, hostess
Sat	22	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	23	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee fellowship
Mon	24	7 pm	Church Council
Tue	25	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
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

USHERS FOR JULY: Ted Clausen, Harold Hanson (*head ushers*); Jim Bailey, Scott Beach, Julie Beach, Nathan Beach, Todd Nelson

ALTAR GUILD

June 12 to July 10 — Pam Ashing
Month of July — Kay Davoux
July 10 to August 14 — Mitzi Dufoe

OFFERING COUNTERS: Lance and Deb Longman

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LOVE LETTER is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church. Mary Schuchmann, editor. Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the previous month.

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

JULY 2

Christian Improvisation

Amos 6:5

Living the Christian life well requires a lot of creativity. Significantly, some of the very features that make for creative Christian discipleship also make for excellent jazz improvisation. Program guest [Andy Tecson](#), a composer and jazz saxophonist, describes his special love for bringing jazz worship into the church.

JULY 9

The Main Thing

Hebrews 13: 20-21

Keeping "the main thing the main thing in life" is a challenge for all of us. How we focus our internal life, centered in God as it deserves to be, and our external life, centered in service to others as it should be, says a lot about whether or not we have life together. Guest [Kathy Holmgren](#), wife of Seattle Seahawks football coach Mike Holmgren, understands these internal and external dimensions of life extraordinarily well.

JULY 16

The Sweetness of Grace

Ezekiel 3:1-3

Honey entrepreneur [Curt Riess](#) is this week's guest. His extensive knowledge of the honey industry, his initiative in fostering fair trade practices in South America, and his strong Christian faith all combine to offer a perfect opportunity for re-examining the sweetness of grace, as we know it from the Bible.

JULY 23

Unanswered Prayer

Luke 18: 9-14

What do we do when God does not seem to answer our prayers, and our Christian faith doesn't seem to "work"? Where is God when the cry of our hearts hears little more than silence? [Gerald Sittser](#), professor of religion at Whitworth College, brings incredible hope and insight to these questions. His responses carry enormous weight, born as they are out of great personal suffering.

JULY 30

God, We Need to Talk (*Encore presentation*)

Luke 13:1-5

The next disaster to strike may be a powerful hurricane on the Florida coast, or your doctor's sober announcement to you of a wicked disease found in your body. [Gary Harbaugh](#) helps us make sense of how God's will goes to work in these times of devastation when we're, frankly, overwhelmed.