

LOVE LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

September 10
Sunday School starts
Choir starts
Congregational brunch

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
10:45 a.m. Sundays

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Todd Nelson, president
Dale Lamb, vice president
Barb Baker, secretary
Gary Cook, treasurer
Steve Dudley, Properties
Carolyn Bosse, Donna Beck,
Stewardship
Anita Ford, Rose Osland,
Education
Margaret Amo, Worship, Music, Arts
Jo Olson, Fellowship
Mike Schaeffer, Service
Mary Schuchmann, Evangelism
VACANT: Youth

Pastor's Pen

Grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ, Our Lord:

Richard Morgan has written a book entitled "No Wrinkles on the Soul." In it he talks about "remembering to forget." Those words may sound strange because older adults often have a fear of forgetting. Many people become irritated when they cannot remember names or dates, or where they put their glasses, or how much medicine they took today. Sometimes forgetfulness makes people feel like they are losing their minds. So, what does "remembering to forget" mean?

*Old resentments and bitterness
need to be discarded so that we
can face life and death with a
clear conscience*

In the Bible, Joseph had a lot of bitter memories: the hatred and jealousy of his brothers, their terrible betrayal, and their murderous act of selling him into Egypt. But he had learned the grace of forgiveness. He even

named one of his sons Manasseh, "God has made me forget."

We need to remember to forget old wounds from the past. Old resentments and bitterness need to be discarded so that we can face life and death with a clear conscience. Sometimes people suffer from depression because they hold on to old resentments. This kind of depression may even be repressed anger.

We need to forgive ourselves. No doubt that the brothers of Joseph had to learn that, for they did feel guilt over their cruelty to their brother. There is no sense in torturing ourselves with regrets over what might have been or with remorse over our sins. Rather, we need to turn these emotions over to God.

God has forgiven us so much in Jesus, His dear Son. Christ has died for all our sins and Christ is the Risen Lord of life. God alone can help us forget what we need to forget. God's blessings to all.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



together to create meaningful activities for the youth.

Call for Scouting

St. John's Boy Scout Troop 347 is looking for boys from the congregation ages 10 to 18 to join the troop, as well as additional adult volunteers for the troop committee. The troop especially needs a charter organization representative (who must be a member of the congregation), as well as a treasurer and advancement chair (who helps manage the Scouts' advancement records). The troop committee meets once a month and the advancement chair would need to attend one Scout meeting each month. Please contact **Fred Hagemeister** at 236-3333 for more information.

Found

A metal bracelet was found in the sanctuary after worship on Sunday, August 20. Contact **Jo Olson** in the church office to claim it.

New worship books

More information on the new ELCA worship books will be available next month.

Church finances through July

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$100,281	\$100,730
Budget	\$143,103	\$131,639
Expenses	\$116,480	\$105,572

Average weekly attendance in July

	2006	2005
Saturday	42	45
Sunday	128	121

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is expressed to the families and friends of **Helen Rixen** and **Harold Hanson**, both of whom died last month. Helen died August 5 in Waukon. Her funeral was held August 8 in Waukon. Harold died August 12. His funeral was held at St. John's on August 15. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Adult Bible study set

Bible study for adults on Thursday evenings will start September 7. Classes run from 7 to 8 p.m. and meet in the first-floor Meeting Room.

CROP Walk coming up

The annual CROP walk to benefit hunger projects locally as well as worldwide will be held Sunday, October 1, at Ahrens Park. Registration and refreshments will begin at 1 p.m. with the walk starting at 1:45 p.m.

Signup sheets are available at the church. You can either walk yourself, pledge money to support a walker or make a contribution. Twenty-five percent of the money raised is given to Second Mile to help people in our community who are in need of food and other assistance.

Grinnell to Louisiana

Lori Brown, a member of St. John's, will describe her experiences as a volunteer on a mission trip to Louisiana to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina at the fall WELCA general meeting. The meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 1, in the Fellowship Hall. Members of Lydia Circle will be serving. Come join in the fellowship.

Senior youth serving

Senior high school youth will serve at the Fellowship Coffee following worship on September 17. The following young people are asked to bring two dozen treats: **Brad Ditzler, Tammie Van Hamme, Alec Henderson, Chana Weir, Danielle Nowasell** and **Curtis Smith**. Parent helpers are **Doug and Judy Smith** and **Paul and Linda Nowasell**.

Parent help needed

In the absence of a youth director, we are again asking parents to help plan and carry out activities for our three youth groups – grades 3 and 4, 5 through 8, and 9 through 12. In the past year we have generally had one activity a month for each age group. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board of the Fellowship Hall. We encourage parents to work

“You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14, 16

Sunday School begins with Light Shine Rally Day



Sunday School for age 3 through grade 8 will start Sunday, September 10, with a Light Shine Rally Day. On that day the kids will be moving around to five craft activity centers in which they will learn the following faith practices – Prayer, Encouragement, Invite, Service and Study.

The curriculum this fall relates one faith trait to a Bible character and provides activities that develop the trait in learners. Faith traits are:

- Generosity, kindness, humility, compassion, empathy, respect, and thankfulness which flow out of the gift of love.
- Cooperation, loyalty, obedience, boldness, and reverence which are born in trust.
- Responsibility, self-discipline, perseverance, forgiveness, justice, and wisdom which come with courage.
- Harmony, stewardship, patience, peace, and joy which shine forth from hope.

Teachers this year are:

Ages 3 and 4 and kindergarten

Amy Anderson, Sara and Fred Hagemester and Stephanie Nelson

Grades 1, 2 and 3

Pat Gustafson and Brenda Mikel

Grades 4, 5 and 6

Rebecca Jasch and Julie Smith

Grades 7 and 8

Anita Ford and Perre Pedersen

Music

Carolyn Bosse and Gladys Booth

Christmas program

Julie Beach

Breaking bread (and a whole lot more)

Dinners for 8 — a chance for St. John's members to connect with each other in an informal social setting — are planned again this year.

Last year about 40 people got acquainted (or better acquainted) and enjoyed delicious food as they gathered once a month in groups for a meal and conversation.

Both couples and singles are welcome.

New groups of eight will be formed in early September, with the groups



Dinners for 8 will start again in September

meeting monthly for four months (September, October, November and December). Each group sets its own menu, meeting date and meeting place (homes or restaurants or the church, or a combination of locations).

New groups will be formed again in January for the next four months (February, March, April and May).

You can sign up by calling the church office or speaking to committee members **Natalie Pavey, Carolyn Bosse or Pam Ashing.**

Notes of thanks

THANK YOU all for the cards, telephone calls, gifts and visits while I was in the hospital in June.

Sue McDonough

THANKS to everyone who contributed to the "care bags" given to our four graduated high school students. The church received the following letter from one of them, Thomas Heineman.

*Dear St. John's Family,
Thank you very much for your support of the graduating seniors' future college endeavors. It is wonderful to have such a caring church family at St. John's, Thank you again and God bless.*

*Sincerely,
Thomas*



Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

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 September 3

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marshalltown

Bless all who work that their labors will be to Your glory

Week of September 10

Allegheny Synod

For all congregations and campus ministries as fall programs begin

Week of September 17

Trinity Lutheran Church, Marshalltown

Thanksgiving for our Latino ministries

Week of September 24

Lower and Upper Susquehanna Synods

For all who are attending and presenting at the Tri-Synod Fall Conference, so they will be strengthened in their efforts to lead the church

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held August 21. The next meeting will be September 18. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

STEWARDSHIP: Council members decided not to participate this year in a synod-sponsored program designed to help congregations increase their giving. The program may be considered in future years.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Ten tables (six round and four rectangular) have been purchased for the Fellowship Hall, replacing tables in poor condition. Three more tables will be purchased.

PROPERTIES: A brief discussion was held about cleaning parts of the church exterior.

Council President Todd Nelson brought and demonstrated a portable sound system that could be used in the Fellowship Hall and for outdoor events.

YOUTH: The search for a youth director is continuing.



SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Acolyte: Alec Henderson
Reader: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Acolyte: Brandon Mikel
Greeters: Don and Doris Sundell
Reader: Molly Urfer
Communion Assistants: J. and M. Urfer
Coffee Servers: Deb and Lance Longman
 Nancy Heineman

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Gary Cook
Communion Assistant: Nancy Urfer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Greeters: Larry and Dorothy Wade
Reader: Larry Wade
Coffee Servers: Addy Hanson, Jean and
 Vic Frana,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Acolyte: Laura Weigel
Reader: Karen Klug-Frischmeyer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Greeters: Brian and Nancy Heineman
Reader: Shirley Jensen
Communion Assistants: Jim and Sara Dunne
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Reader: Dave Huth
Communion Assistant: Gordon Ashby

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Diane and Madge Ruchotzke
Reader: Brian Heineman
Coffee Servers: M. and H. Honsbruch,
 Mitzi Dufoe, Fred England

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Karen Ashby

USHERS: Gordon Bosse, John Martinek
 (head ushers), Bob Ashing, Gail Flagel,
 Duane Flagel

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sat	2	5:30 pm	Worship with Baptism
Sun	3	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, Baptism
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue`	5	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	6	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	7	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	9	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	10	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship, Installation of SS teachers
		10:30 am	CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH
		10:45 am	Sunday School year begins
Tue	12	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	13	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, V. Deppe, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	14	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	16	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	17	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
Mon	18	7 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Tue	19	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	20	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	21	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Rosalie Hartzell, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	23	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	24	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	26	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
		7 pm	Sarah Circle
Wed	27	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	28	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	30	5:30 pm	Worship

ALTAR GUILD

August 14-September 11 — Julie Beach
 Month of September — Dorothy Martinek
 September 11-October 9 — Madge Ruchotzke

OFFERING COUNTERS

Steve and Pat Gustafson

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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

SEPTEMBER 3

An Undocumented Immigrant Named Jesus

Matthew 2: 12-14

Immigration feels like an academic issue, or a "Washington problem," until one starts to meet immigrants and those who assist them. Then, the whole matter becomes infinitely more complex and real. [Father Arturo Bañuelas](#), a Catholic priest serving in the border town of El Paso, Texas, joins us for a conversation about the human dimensions of immigration and the plight of those who suffer most.



SEPTEMBER 10

Flight 93 – The Famous Phone Call

Isaiah 6:8

The whole world over seems to know the name Todd Beamer, and his now famous words "Let's Roll." He spoke these words during an extended phone conversation on 9/11, the day Flight 93 went down. Few people know the person who answered that call. [Lisa Jefferson](#) is her name. Her life stands as a testimony of great faith and true responsibility in a time of crisis.

SEPTEMBER 17

Unholy Hatred in a Holy Land

Psalms 122: 6-9

It's hard to believe that a little slice of land, roughly the size of the state of New Jersey, could contain so much bloodshed. Yet this is precisely the continuing legacy of the Holy Land. So much of the killing is carried out in the name of God. [Bishop Munib Younan](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, knows the pain of this as much as anyone. But he also has an eye and a heart bent on peace.

SEPTEMBER 24

A Spirituality You Can Savor

1 Corinthians 2: 12-13

Whatever believers cultivate by way of a relationship with Christ, the nature of that relationship must add up to more than just an inward, privatized journey that leaves them pretending to be in control of God. [Mary Ann Brussat](#), journalist and author of a number of books, including the work titled: *Spiritual Literacy*, understands this danger. That's why she is determined to keep the practical and the spiritual aspects of our lives as parts of the same whole.