

LOVE LETTER

OCTOBER 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

OCTOBER 1

CROP Walk
WELCA Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 7

Fall Cluster Meeting

OCTOBER 14

Service of Healing

OCTOBER 14-15

Quilts on display at worship

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:

St. John's will have a Service of Healing at the 5:30 p.m. worship on October 14. A request to have such

a service was presented to me and reviewed by the Worship Committee and the Church Council.

We are providing this service for all who desire to experience healing on any level —

body, mind, soul, spirit, relationships or any other area of which in which healing is needed.

Every human being stands in need of healing in some dimension of life. The ELCA embraces the ministry of healing as an important way of bringing the loving care of God to people in their need. The Service of Healing will be a part of the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* due out later this year. While it is true that every worship service includes healing and prayers for healing, this special service on October 14 will give every individual an opportunity to be specifically prayed for if so desired.

The Service of Healing will include holy communion and also the laying on of hands and anointing with oil.

The practice of laying on of hands by the pastor has deep roots in Christianity, going back to Bible times. In the healing service the pastor will place his hands on each

person desiring it and will say a prayer to each person. Touch is an important part of healing and caring for people.

The anointing of oil is seen in much of Scripture — especially in James and Matthew. In the Bible, oil is seen as a

soothing, healing and comforting aspect of life. In the healing service the pastor will anoint the forehead with oil of those desiring it and say a prayer to each person.

In this Service of Healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through medicine and the scientific community. Rather, the church offers and celebrates God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love in Jesus. Plan to attend the service. God's blessings to all.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*

Service of Healing

Saturday, Oct. 14, 5:30 p.m.

In a service of Healing, the church offers and celebrates God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love in Jesus.



Baptized

Baptisms at St. John's in September included **Kayne Wallace Pavey**, son of **Natalie** and **Eric Pavey**, sponsors **Kendra** and **Shawn Walsh**, on Sept. 2; and **Ella Lenore Frana**, daughter of **Andrew** and **Karmen Frana**, sponsors **Jean Frana** and **Karen Beyer**, on Sept. 3.

Wedding bells

Congratulations to **David Amo** and **Dena Whitaker**, who were married Sept. 9 at St. John's.

Bibles presented

Bibles were presented to third- and seventh-graders at the worship service on Sept. 24. Receiving Bibles were third-graders **Mariah Mikel**, **Thad Nelson**, **Tiffany Olson**, **Amanda Osland** and **Joshua Stepanek**; and seventh-graders **Zach Boehmer**, **Scott Bosse**, **Katelin Dunne** and **Joseph Reitz**.

Happy birthday, Everett!

The family of **Everett Gerrish** invites the congregation to join them

in a celebration of Everett's 80th birthday after worship in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Oct. 1. Birthday cake will be served.

Junior Youth serving

Junior Youth will serve at the Fellowship Coffee following worship on Sunday, Oct. 16. The following young people are asked to bring two dozen treats: **Jacob Lamb**, **Chance Winburn**, **Kalen Winburn**, **Oliver VandeStouwe**, **Christopher Weir** and **Renee Beach**. Parent helpers are **Aaron** and **Diane Winburn** and **Craig** and **Connie Weir**.

Family event planned

A family afternoon at Carroll's Pumpkin Farm is planned for **Sunday, Oct. 22**, starting at 4 p.m. at the farm. Everyone is welcome. A hayride and bonfire are included, and hot dogs and 'smores will be served to all. The cost is \$5 per person. (Children 2 and under are free). For more information, call **Anita Ford**, 236-5396.



Think stewardship

Stewardship materials — including a commitment card and a time and abilities sheet — will be mailed to all members in October. Please return the card and sheet to the church as soon as possible so that planning can begin for 2007.



Update in progress

Church secretary **Jo Olson** is updating our membership records — dates of baptism, confirmation, marriage, etc. When she phones or emails you seeking the information, please respond!

At St. John's

World Community Day sponsored by the Grinnell Church Women United will be held at St. John's on Friday, Nov. 3. Watch for details.

Quilts on display

The lovely quilts made year-round by our quilters for Lutheran World Relief will be on display at the worship services on October 14-15. Later in the month they will be taken to Ankeny for shipment to people in need around the world.

Church finances through August

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$112,876	\$116,903
Budget	\$137,694	\$150,445
Expenses	\$133,848	\$124,100

Average weekly attendance in August

	2006	2005
Saturday	40	41
Sunday	138	140

Hear first-hand about hurricane relief

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, Oct. 1, in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses will be members of Lydia Circle. Everyone is welcome.

Church seeks part-time youth director

Because of the difficulty of filling the position of a full-time youth director, the Youth and Family Ministry Board is now seeking someone to work on a part-time basis.

Time involved: The position would involve 10-15 hours weekly, with stated office hours at least one evening a week. The majority of the time would be spent on youth activities on weekends.

Job: The expectations would include coordinating two activities

per month for children in grades 5 and 6, coordinating two activities per month with the United Methodist Church for grades 7 and 8, and coordinating one activity per month for grades 9-12. Family activities would be encouraged, especially with fifth- and sixth-graders.

Qualifications: Ability to communicate and work well with young people; ability to communicate and encourage adult volunteers to help with activities; ability to coordinate and carry out planned activities;

serve as a role model of Christian living.

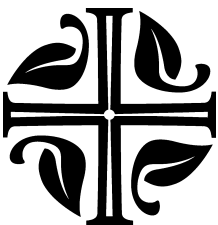
Pay: The salary is negotiable.

Applications: If you are interested, please send a resume and statement of interest to the church office. If you have questions about the position, call **Fred Hagemester**, chairman of the Youth and Family Ministry Board, at 236-3333.

The board is continuing to pursue the recruitment of a full-time director.

New book to be introduced

Come prepared to sing! A hymnfest during worship on Sunday, Jan. 7, will introduce the new ELCA worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.



The new book, due out in October, will replace the current *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*. St. John's has ordered 265 books plus related worship materials. The purchase will be paid for with memorial funds.

Several members of the Worship Committee will attend workshops in November that will explain the features of the new book and suggest ways to introduce it to the congregation.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship is a mix of liturgies and hymns from the green book plus new musical settings and songs. It contains 10 worship settings and more than 700 hymns and songs.

Members can purchase a book in memory or honor of someone, or for personal use. The cost is \$20 per book. To order a book, use the special envelope included with this issue of the Love Letter.

Books ordered in memory or honor of someone will have bookplates placed in the book to indicate the donor.

CROP Walk

The annual Crop Walk to benefit world and local hunger efforts will be held Sunday, Oct. 1, at Ahrens Park. Registration and refreshments begin at 1 p.m., with the walk starting at 2 p.m. In case of rain, the walk will be held inside the park building.

Walkers and those willing to make donations are needed. Pledge sheets and donor sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sept. 30 and Oct.

Kids Against Hunger

St. John's has been invited to join with other churches in Grinnell in the "Kids Against Hunger" project — a volunteer effort to package and distribute food to hungry people in Tanzania.

The food is in the form of a dry rice-soy chicken-flavored casserole packaged in a 13.8-ounce bag — 6 1-cup meals at a cost of 25 cents per meal.

Churches are asked to form a team of 12 people to assemble the meals on Sunday, Oct. 22, between 1 and 5 p.m. at the St. Mary's Religious Education Center. Each team should provide a minimum of \$250 to cover the cost of ingredients and distribution. (The \$250 will pay for 1,000 meals.) For more information, call the church office.

Notes of thanks

I want to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, food, prayers, good wishes and especially the visits from Pastor Jasch and all my church friends. I especially appreciated the visits with Mary Schuchmann when she brought the tapes of the church service.

*Sincerely,
Margaret Amo*

Thank you to all who helped with the congregational brunch on Sunday, Sept. 10.

*Jo Olson
Fellowship Committee*

Thanks to the family of Ken Weiting, who requested that memorial money given in Ken's name be used to purchase new tables for the Fellowship Hall. We were able to purchase 10 round and five rectangular tables. Thanks also to Judy Smith, who donated six lace tablecloths for the round tables.

Memorial Committee

SERVING IN OCTOBER

ALTAR GUILD

Sept. 11 to Oct. 9—Madge Ruchotzke
Month of October—Brenda Crawford
Oct. 9 to Nov. 13—Sara Hagemeister

USHERS

Jim Urfer and Fred England (*head ushers*) Norm Erickson, Becky Wilson, Ray Parker, Bradley Ditzler



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 October 1

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Martensdale, Iowa
For the Conference of Bishops as they meet in Chicago

Week of October 8

Virginia and Delaware-Maryland Synods
For the Fall Mission Support Gatherings as they begin.

Week of October 15

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mediapolis
Bless all our candidates preparing for rostered leadership in the church as we gather in retreat.

Week of October 22

Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod
For all persons who suffer from long-term illnesses, especially breast cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Week of October 29

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Monticello
Prayers of thanks for all rostered leaders as they lead the church in various settings.

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held Sept. 18:

A LETTER of thanks was received from Jennifer Barger for our financial support of her lay ministry studies.

THE TIME of the confirmation class has been changed from 7 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. to accommodate other community activities. Mentors this year are **Jim Bailey, Julie Beach, Gladys Booth, Paul Davoux, Perre Pedersen** and **Dale Selix**.

AN AREA ELCA stewardship meeting will be held Oct. 23 in Marshalltown.



PASTOR JASCH described the Service of Healing to be held on Saturday, Oct. 14.

A DISCUSSION was held on staffing the nursery on Sunday mornings. Several options will be explored.

SERVING THIS MONTH

OCTOBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Greeters: Tom and Anita Ford
Reader: Kathy Johnson
Communion Assistants: D. and D. Sundell
Coffee Servers: John and Dorothy Martinek, Becky Wilson

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Reader: Verna Gerrish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Acolyte: Katelin Dunne
Greeters: Scott and Shirley Jensen
Reader: Pam Ashing
Coffee Servers: Kelly Rose, Gaylen and Kathy Johnson

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Acolyte: Joseph Reitz
Reader: Sue McDonough
Communion Assistant: Sandy Falck

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Greeters: Duane and Mitzi Dufoe
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion Assistants: J., M. Ruchotzke
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Molly Urfer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Vic and Jean Frana
Reader: Gaylen Johnson
Coffee Servers: Erika and Mike Olson, Rose and Keith Osland

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Gladys Booth
Communion Assistant: Bob Kinseth

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Greeters: Terry and Lynn Cline
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Coffee Servers: Madge Ruchotzke, Don and Doris Sundell

Sun	1	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Birthday Celebration
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
		1 pm	CROP Walk, Ahrens Park
Mon	2	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue`	3	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	4	6:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	5	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	7	8:30 am	Fall cluster meeting, Trinity Lutheran, Marshalltown
		5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	8	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
		1 pm	Junior high youth event at United Methodist Church
Mon	9	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	10	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	11	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Lois Quindt, hostess
		5:30 pm	Worship Committee
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	12	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	14	5:30 pm	Worship — Service of Healing, Holy Communion
Sun	15	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Mon	16	7 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	17	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Judy Lebeck, hostess
Wed	18	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class with mentors, Meeting Room
Thu	19	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Margaret Amo, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	21	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	22	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
		4 pm	Family event at Carroll's Pumpkin Farm
Mon	23	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	24	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Judy Lebeck, hostess
Wed	25	6:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	26	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	28	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	29	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship, Reformation Sunday
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Mon	30	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	31	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9

Altar Guild, Ushers are listed on p. 4

LOVE LETTER

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Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

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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

OCTOBER 1

The Goliath of Racism

1 Samuel 17

Urban poverty and crime are frustrating enough. But when racism figures into the mix, it's really frustrating. Racism has its own monstrous way of dividing people unnecessarily. Minneapolis city councilman [Don Samuels](#) knows that biblically, politically, and humanely, racism is no way to live. Don will share his own unique way of responding to the crises of division and hatred.

OCTOBER 8

A Crayon Labeled Flesh

Acts 10:3

[The Rev. Heidi Neumark](#), author of *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, has many more wild experiences in her 19-year ministry in the South Bronx than can fit between the two covers of a book. Her joy in the Lord, and her deep love of people will breathe new life into all who hear her story.

OCTOBER 15

Building Schools at Very High Altitude

Psalms 99:9

American [Greg Mortenson](#) isn't afraid of anything. For 13 years now, this husband and young father has spent half of every year

living with Islamic mullahs, village chieftains, and Shiite clerics, in remote Pakistan and Afghanistan. What's he doing in the mountains where the Taliban dwell? He's building a better future for children living there, one school at a time.

OCTOBER 22

A Theological ABC

Isaiah 55:11

Retired Chaplain of Yale University and Lutheran pastor [John Vannorsdall](#) has spent his life shaping sentences into rich meaning. His goal has always been to work the power of God into people's lives. Today we learn Rev. Vannorsdall's definitions of some key words in the Christian vocabulary.

OCTOBER 29

The Gift of Spiritual Direction

Matthew 17:1-8

If we knew how to approach God, love God, and serve God all by ourselves, there would be no need for companionship on our spiritual journey. But finding our way is a holy enterprise that deserves greater perspective than just our own. [The Rev. David Miller](#), Dean of the Chapel at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and Director of Spiritual Formation, is in the business of guiding others toward rich spiritual journeys.