

LOVE LETTER

NOVEMBER 2006

THIS MONTH AT ST. JOHN'S

NOVEMBER 3

World Community Day
Worship, luncheon at St. John's

NOVEMBER 23

Thanksgiving worship
Thanksgiving community dinner

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,

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is smart. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a proper, very conservative church.

*Be careful how you live. Be careful
what you say. Do not judge others.
You and I may be the only Bible
some people ever read.*

They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it. One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with jeans, T-shirt, wild hair and no shoes. The service has

already started and so Bill goes right down the aisle looking for a seat. People are seated at the ends of each pew so he can't find a seat.

By now people are getting a bit uncomfortable but no one says anything. As Bill gets near the front he realizes there are no seats, so he just sits down right on the carpet. By now the people are really uptight and the tension in the air is thick. About this time the minister realizes that an usher is making his way toward Bill.

The elderly usher has on a three-piece suit, very elegant, dignified and proper. As he starts walking toward Bill, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to say and do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? Even the minister doesn't say a word until the usher does what he has to do.

The usher reaches Bill. And with great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. The congregation chokes up with emotion.

The minister finally speaks and says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

Be careful how you live. Be careful what you say. Do not judge others. You and I may be the only Bible some people ever read. God's blessings to all.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jasch*



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Welcome!

Ryan and Sarah Dahlby Albright and their children, Cori, Gabby, Jack and William, were received into membership at St. John's on October 22. William was also baptized that day. His sponsors are Matt and Allison Ringgenberg.

The Dahlby Albright family moved to Grinnell last year from Mason City. Ryan is a physician in family practice in Grinnell.

Sarah and Ryan met their freshman year at Luther College. Sarah is originally from Waverly. Ryan's home town is Lake City. The family has lived in Winterset, Iowa City and Mason City. Ryan started out with EMT training and then attended the University of Iowa Medical School and completed a three-year residency in Mason City.. Sarah taught math in both Murray and Washington, Iowa.

As a family they like to travel and camp. Camping with little ones has been a challenge, Sarah admits, "but now that we're all here and most of us are walking we plan to camp a lot more."

And yes, they say they have leisure time. Sarah sings in a women's barbershop chorus in Iowa City on Monday evenings. Ryan likes to sing and play guitar, as well as exercise and read.

First Communion

An instruction class for fifth-graders taking First Communion on December 3 will be held this month. Pastor Jasch will contact families individually.

Stewardship time

Please return your stewardship commitment card and time and abilities sheet to the church this month so that planning can begin for 2007.



Musicale

The annual Community Musical featuring church choirs from area congregations will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Community Center. Representing St. John's will be the Celebration Singers.

Thanksgiving at St. John's

The 20th annual community Thanksgiving dinner will be held at St. John's at 12:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

Both food donations and volunteer helpers are needed. Signup forms are included in the church bulletins or you can call the church office. Don and Doris Sundell have once again graciously agreed to coordinate the meal. Thank you, Don and Doris.

Thanksgiving Day worship will be held at St. John's at 10 a.m. that day.

New link for prayer chain

From now on, prayer requests via email will be sent out by the church office instead of by Natalie Pavey. Send your prayer requests to the church or to church secretary Jo Olson. The church email address is stjohngr@iowatelecom.net. Jo's email address is joolson@iowatelecom.net. Note that the church email is checked regularly only on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Prayer requests by phone can still be made to Margaret Amo or Lu Ahrens.

Remember to get the permission of the person or persons being prayed for before submitting a prayer request so that confidential information is not disclosed..

Looking ahead

Advent begins this year on Sunday, Dec. 3. Midweek Advent services with soup suppers are planned for Wednesday evenings, Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

Church finances through September

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$125,855	\$131,274
Budget	\$182,704	\$169,251
Expenses	\$151,358	\$134,062

Average weekly attendance in September

	2006	2005
Saturday	41	40
Sunday	139	139

Celebrate World Community Day at St. John's

This year's World Community Day observance in Grinnell will be held at noon Friday, Nov. 3, at St. John's. The event, sponsored by the Grinnell Church Women United, is designed to encourage an understanding and appreciation of diversity and different faiths. Everyone in the community — both men and women — are invited to attend.



The observance will include a brief worship service followed by a simple meal in the Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be **Harold Kasimow**, professor of religious studies at Grinnell College. Music will be provided by the Grace Notes trio and our own **Lisa Henderson** accompanied by **Kathy O'Connor**.

World Community Day, held annually in November, is intended to bring together people of varying backgrounds in an atmosphere of acceptance and peace. Prayers and reflections will be used to encourage a new awareness of how diversity can be a blessing for everyone involved.

Church Women United is a national ecumenical Christian women's movement founded in 1946 that celebrates unity in diversity and works for a world of peace and justice. It is organized into state and local units that work to achieve the CWU goals in the community. **Rebecca Jasch** and **Molly Urfer** are St. John's representatives to Grinnell Church Women United and are helping to organize this year's World Community Day.

Youth News

Activity planned

A lock-in for students in grades 7 and 8 is planned for overnight Saturday, Nov. 11, at the United Methodist Church. Contact UMC members **Jason Pollock**, **Darcy Swick**, **Tammy Nekola** or **Scott** and **Kathy Peterson** for more information.

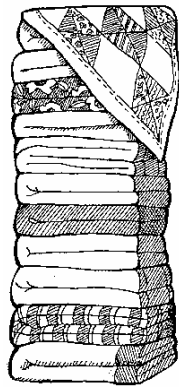
Senior youth serving

Senior youth will serve at the Fellowship Coffee on Sunday, Nov. 19. The following young people are asked to bring two dozen treats: **Nate Weigel**, **Laura Weigel**, **Travis Smith**, **Sydney Honsbruch**, **Brandon Mikel** and **Alex Huebner**. Parent helpers are **Rick** and **Luann Weigel** and **Doug** and **Brenda Mikel**.

Quilters reach 150!

The St. John's Quilters sewed 150 quilts this year for Lutheran World Relief. Some of the quilts were displayed at worship in October.

The quilts are sent to people in need around the world. Last year Lu-



theran World Relief collected more than 429,000 quilts from churches and groups in the United States and distributed them to people in 19 countries — plus people on the Gulf Coast displaced by Hurricane Katrina. **Gene** and **Shirley Broders** took the quilts to the area collection point in Ankeny in April. **Vic** and **Jean Frana** did the transporting in October.

The Quilters thank the congregation and friends for donating the materials to make the quilts — old blankets and sheets, and thread for sewing and tying the quilts.

All church members are invited to join the Quilters. The group meets faithfully from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays in the Quilt Room (Room 9) at the church.

Worship books coming

The new ELCA worship book, called *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is expected to arrive soon. The Worship, Music and the Arts Committee and the music staff are excited about what's inside and how it can be used to enhance worship at St. John's. The book will be introduced in January.

Members are invited to purchase books in memory or in honor of an event or a person. Inscription plates containing the donor information will be placed in the front of those books. The cost of each purchased book is \$20. Special envelopes were included in the October issue of the *Love Letter*. Additional envelopes are available in the church office.



Notes of thanks

The following letter was received from Jennifer Barger, a member of St. John's who is preparing for the lay ministry at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. The church recently contributed \$2,000 toward the cost of her education.

Dear friends in Christ at St. John's, Thank you so much for your prayers, your support and your financial aid to help me in my journey as a student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Your help in all those ways means so much to me.

This semester I am taking Church History and Christian Ethics. Both classes are fascinating. The opportunity to gather with other young (and some young-at-heart!) people to learn about the history of our faith and to think continually about the implications and instructions of our faith upon everyday life is a treasure.

I know that all I am learning at seminary will certainly help to strengthen and deepen my current work with the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and also that I will continue to bear fruit wherever this journey of ministry may call me.

Of course, thank you also for being such a supportive and formative community in which to grow up and first learn about the meaning of a Christian life.

Again, I appreciate so much your support and encouragement. I'll try to keep in touch frequently to let you know how things are going.

*In peace,
Jennifer Barger*

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 November 5

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod

For all election processes across the country and for newly elected leaders.

Week of November 12

St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Monticello, Iowa

For the ELCA Churchwide Council as it meets.

Week of November 19

North Carolina and South Carolina Synods

Prayer of thanks for all of God's rich blessings.

Week of November 26

Wayne Zion Lutheran Church, Monticello

For our candidates for rostered ministry as they come to the Candidacy Committee for approval.

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held Oct. 16:

STEWARDSHIP: Members can pick up packets containing 2006 stewardship materials in the narthex. Packets not picked up will be mailed.



PROPERTIES: New mats have been ordered for outside the north and south entrances to the church.

EDUCATION: A group from St. John's has been assembled to help with the "Kids Against Hunger" project October 22 at St. Mary's Religious Education Center.

WORSHIP, MUSIC AND THE ARTS: Thanks to Natalie Pavey, the nursery during the Sunday morning worship service will be staffed for the coming weeks. A schedule for future staffing will be worked out.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Reader: Nancy Heineman

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Greeters: Russ and Nicole Behrens
Reader: Dorothy Wade
Communion Assistants: Terry, Lynn Cline
Coffee Servers: Molly and Jim Urfer,
 Natalie and Jim Dunn

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Reader: Sandy Falck
Communion Assistant: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Acolyte: Katelin Dunne
Greeters: Fred and Vicki Dillon
Reader: Gaylen Johnson
Coffee Servers: Lynn and Terry Cline,
 Nancy Urfer, Becky Wilson

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Acolyte: Zach Buchmeier
Reader: Nicole Behrens

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Acolyte: Joseph Reitz
Greeters: Norman and Marilyn Erickson
Reader: Lamoyne Gaard
Communion Assistants: R. Osland, K. Rose
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Acolyte: Trent Baker
Reader: Ted Urfer
Communion Assistant: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Greeters: Keith and Rose Osland
Reader: Margaret Amo
Coffee Servers: Lu Ahrens, Mike and Amy
 Anderson

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Everett Gerrish, Dale Selix (*head ushers*),
 Shannon Potts, Jim Dunne, Sara Dunne

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Wed	1	6:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	2	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Fri	3	Noon	Church Women United, World Community Day
Sat	4	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	5	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School , Preschool to Adult
Mon	6	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	7	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	8	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Virginia Deppe, hostess
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
Thu	9	7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	11	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	12	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Mon	13	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	14	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	15	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class with mentors, Meeting Room
Thu	16	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Dorothy Buchmeier, hostess
		7 pm	Adult Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	18	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	19	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
		5 pm	Community Musicale, Community Center
Mon	20	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
			Church Council, Meeting Room
Tue	21	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Thu	23	10 am	THANKSGIVING DAY worship
		12:30 pm	Community Thanksgiving dinner
Sat	25	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	26	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Mon	27	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	28	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle
Wed	29	7 pm	Confirmation class, Meeting Room

ALTAR GUILD

October 9-November 13 — Sara Hagemeister
 Month of November — Karen Ashby
 November 13-December 11 — Brenda Mikel

LOVE LETTER

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Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

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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

NOVEMBER 5

The Jungle of Life: Part 1 – Overflowing Hope

Romans 15:13

In the first of a two-part series, missionary **Gracia Burnham** describes the horror of being a hostage of the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippine jungle for more than a year. But more importantly, she details the Christian hope that kept her going, even after her husband was killed. Gracia Burnham is author of the *New York Times* bestseller: *In the Presence of My Enemies*.



NOVEMBER 12

The Jungle of Life: Part 2 – Choosing to Forgive

Matthew 5:44

In this second of a two-part series, featuring conversation with missionary and ex-hostage **Gracia Burnham**, the subject of forgiveness takes center stage. How do you forgive an enemy who has done unspeakable things? Gracia Burnham is author of several books that address her enslavement in a Philippine jungle, including her latest, *To Fly Again: Surviving the Tailspins of Life*.

NOVEMBER 19

Thankful Beyond Understanding

Luke 17: 11-19

Author and pastor **Ted Loder** cares a great deal about how we fashion our prayer lives. He has written several books on prayer that are as poetic as they are prayerful. This program's reflection speaks to the joy contained in one of Loder's prayers of thanksgiving, in a week when Americans are remembering what it means to live thankfully.

NOVEMBER 26

The Man Who Didn't Notice the Poor

Luke 16:10-31

Mary Nelson knows a whole lot about community organizing and neighborhood revitalizing. For most of her adult life, she has led the powerful Bethel New Life ministry on Chicago's west side. Through her work, she has seen the deadly nature of the gap between rich and poor wreak havoc. Jesus tells a story about this gap one day. It's a story that includes all of our names.