

LOVE LETTER

JANUARY 2007

**THIS MONTH
AT ST. JOHN'S**

JANUARY 7
Hymn Festival

JANUARY 28
Semiannual congregational
meeting

St. John's Lutheran Church
ELCA
1224 East Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
(641) 236-4946
stjohngr@iowatelecom.net
www.stjohngrinnell.org

Stephen Jasch
Pastor

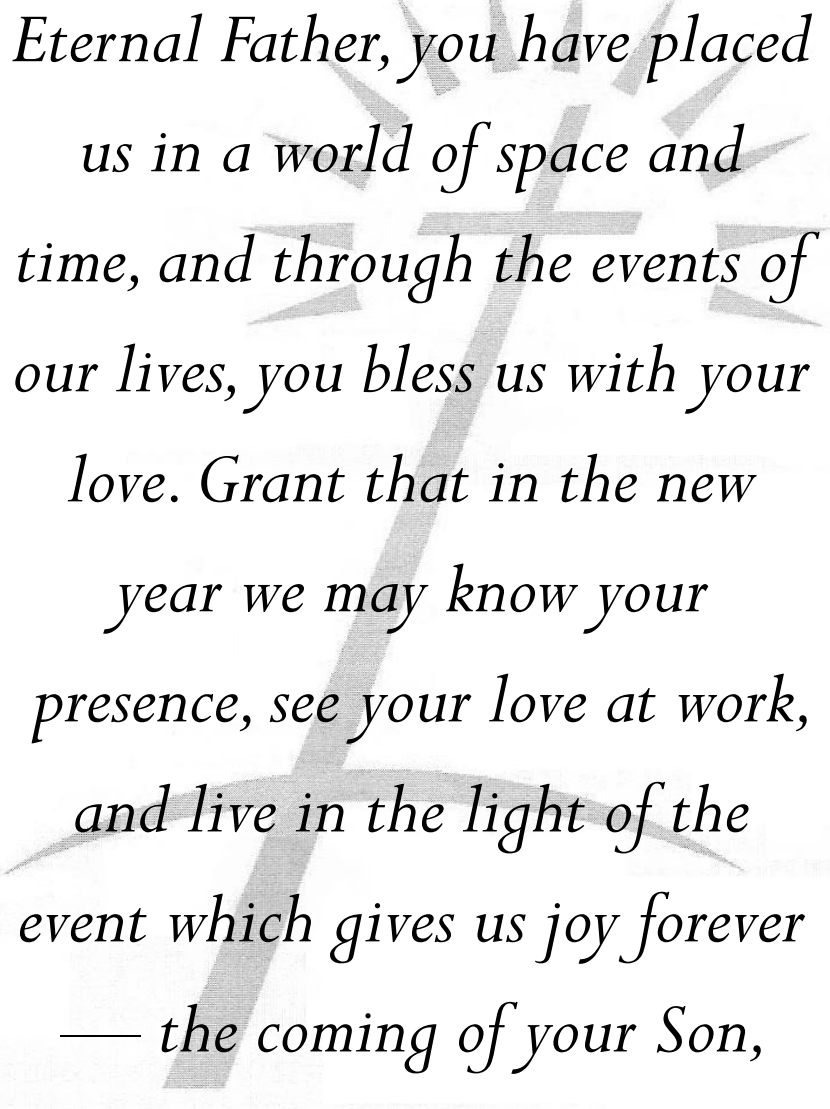
WORSHIP
Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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

Prayer for the New Year



*Eternal Father, you have placed
us in a world of space and
time, and through the events of
our lives, you bless us with your
love. Grant that in the new
year we may know your
presence, see your love at work,
and live in the light of the
event which gives us joy forever
— the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.*



box and 2006 financial statement in the narthex. The new Women of the ELCA (WELCA) yearbooks are also available.

Saving labels?

If you are currently saving Campbell Soup Labels for Lutheran Services in Iowa, the company now requires the UPC code portion of the label instead of the front.

Thank you for supporting this project through which LSI is able to order educational items.

New banner

A handmade fabric from India was the inspiration for the new banner designed and made by **Lisa Henderson**. The banner — a true work of art — was hung for the first time during Advent.

Lisa says the vibrant colors and unusual design of the fabric brought immediately to mind the biblical “coat of many colors.” Fabric designer Kaffee Fassett used the cloth to make a quilt, but Lisa revised the pattern and created a banner in the shape of a garment.

Thank you, Lisa!

In our prayers

Our prayers are with **Pastor Jasch** and his family as he continues to be hospitalized at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City for complications of his illness. A letter explaining some of the details of the situation is being mailed to congregation members.

In his absence, **Muriel Johannesen** of Newton will lead worship and be available for pastoral care. If you need assistance during this time, call the church office and the message will be forwarded.

Baptism

Welcome to **Claire Ella Behrens**, daughter of **Russ** and **Nicole Behrens**, who was baptized on December 10. Claire’s sponsors are **Becky Daniel, Dori Pearce, Cory** and **Brenda Brua** and **Sara** and **Lance Frederickson**.

First Communion

Five of our fifth-graders received Holy Communion for the first time on December 3. They are **Eli Dunne, Shawn Kramer, Jacob Lamb, Rachel Pinkerton** and **Chance Winburn**.

Gather together

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 28. At the

meeting the 2007 budget will be presented for approval, and financial reports of organizations within the church will be reviewed.

The meeting will be followed by a potluck. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. Meat and beverages will be provided.

Copies of the budget will be available in the narthex the week preceding the meeting.

Organizations are reminded to submit their financial reports to the church office by January 16.

From the Scouts

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. Especially needed are a charter organization representative who must be a member of the church congregation as well as a treasurer and advancement chair (The advancement chair 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 Hagemester** at 236-3333 for more information.

Ready for pickup

If you have not already done so, please pick up your 2007 offering

Church finances through November

	2006	2005
Offerings	\$156,264	\$163,451
Budget	\$223,304*	\$206,862
Expenses	\$169,836	\$168,311

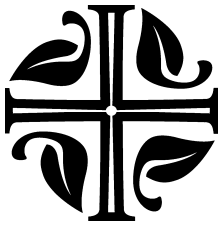
**Note: The 2006 budget includes money for a youth director, a position that has not been filled to date. For a more accurate comparison, the 2006 budget minus the youth position would be \$189,329.*

Hymn festival to celebrate start of new worship book

St. John's will introduce *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new ELCA hymn book, with a Hymn Festival at worship on Sunday, January 7.

The special service, planned by **Cheryl Irland**, will use hymns from throughout the church year to proclaim the message, "He Has Come."

The new books will be in the pew racks when you arrive for worship on Saturday and Sunday, and you are encouraged to pick them up, look them over — and see how the green book (*Lutheran Book of Worship*) and the blue book (*With One Voice*) have been combined into a red book (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*).



In addition to containing most of what was in the green and blue books, the new book contains additional liturgies, special services and songs. (The secret? New paper technology that allows more pages in the same size book.)

The book contains plenty of old favorites such as *Beautiful Savior* and *How Great Thou Art*. It includes some songs that had appeared in previous hymnals but were missing from the most recent green book — *The Lord Be With You Till We Meet Again* and *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Some favorites, like *Jesus Loves Me*, are included for the first time. There are some new melodies to favorite texts, and some new texts to favorite melodies. Hymns from Africa, Asia and Latin America include a verse in the native language first, then English. One familiar song, *Children of the Heavenly Father*, originally written in Swedish, now contains one verse in Swedish.

The church council voted in July to use memorial funds to purchase the books for our congregation. In addition, members have been 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.

Youth News

January event scheduled

Weather permitting, a skiing/tubing party is planned for Sunday, January 14, at Fun Valley near Montezuma, for youth in grades 7-8. The event is planned in cooperation with the youth program at the United Methodist Church. For details, contact **Julie Beach**.

Thanks to Santa's helpers

A total of 14 young people and six adults went shopping in early December to buy gifts for the Christmas Shares program run by Second Mile. Thank you for your help!

Senior Youth serving in January

The following youth are asked to bring two dozen treats for the coffee hour after worship on Sunday, January 21: **Nathan Beach, Curtis Smith, Zen Masuku, Alex Huebner, Shannon Potts** and **AJ Baker**. Parent helpers are **Scott and Julie Beach** and **Dan and Bev Huebner**.

RECIPE BY REQUEST

Here's the recipe for the delicious cookies that Margaret Amo brought to an Advent soup supper..

Toll House Kookie Brittle

- 1 c. margarine
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla
- 2 c. flour, lightly spooned into cup
- 1 6 oz. package chocolate chips
- 3/4 c. chopped nuts, if desired

Cream margarine and sugar, add vanilla. Gradually blend in flour. Add chocolate chips and nuts. Spread in ungreased jellyroll pan. (*Margaret's tip: This takes time and patience. I find a table knife works well.*) Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool well, then break into pieces.

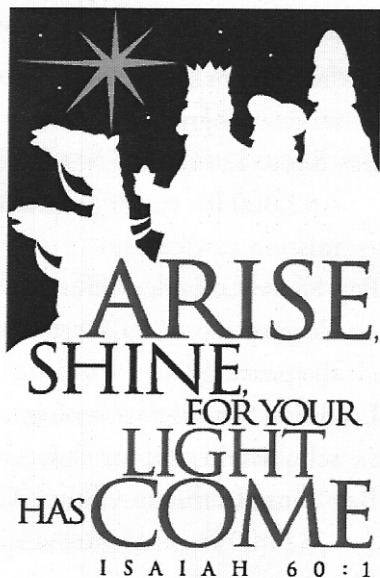
NOTES OF THANKS

A sincere thank you to the **Raymond Parker** family for their donation of the beautiful oak storage cabinet in the narthex in memory of their wife, mother and grandmother, **Doris Parker**. The cabinet was handcrafted by **John Martinek**, son of **John** and **Dorothy**, and **Scott McDonough**, son of **Howard** and **Sue**, in their shop in North Liberty.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with and contributed to the soup suppers that preceded Advent worship on Wednesdays.

A special thank you to **Natalie Pavey**, who led the worship service on Christmas Eve.

The beautifully decorated church at Christmas was the work of the Celebration Singers and coordinated by **Donna Beck**. New this year was a Nativity Scene to which children added figures each week during Advent. The wooden stable was made by **Russ Schuchmann**. Thanks to everyone involved.



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 January 7

Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church, Muscatine

For the youth gathered for our mid-winter gathering that they return to their congregations renewed for ministry.

Week of January 14

Northwest and Southwestern Washington Synods

For all who advocate for justice and peace, and for the example set by Martin Luther King.

Week of January 21

Ziegler Memorial Lutheran Church, Muscatine

For the Global Mission Festival and Fiesta that these events will lead to greater understandings of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Week of January 28

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

For all affected by war in our world, for our military that they may have safe homecomings.

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the December council meeting

Responses to the Time and Abilities sheet were distributed. Committee chairmen were encouraged to review the comments.

Council members voted to recommend passage of the 2007 church budget at the semiannual congregational meeting on January 28.

Copies of the budget and other year-end financial reports will be available the week before the meeting.

Congregation members contributed approximately \$1,500 to help member **Linda Masuku** return to her home country of South Africa for a visit.

PROPERTIES: The new door mats for the north and south entrances have arrived. The carpet in the north entryway was cleaned.

EDUCATION: Approximately 40 children participated in the Sunday School Christmas program December 10.

YOUTH: The Youth and Family Ministry Board has not met in the past month.

SERVICE: More than 80 gifts were collected at St. John's for the Christmas Shares program.

SERVING THIS MONTH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Reader: Karen Klug Frischmeyer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Acolyte: Katelin Dunn
Greeters: Gaylen and Kathy Johnson
Reader: Amy Anderson
Communion Assistants: Vic and Jean Frana
Coffee Servers: J&N Dunn, V&J Frana
Nursery: Nicole Behrens

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Reader: Dave Huth
Communion Assistant: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Acolyte: Joseph Reitz
Greeters: Michelle and Harlan Honsbruch
Reader: Sara Dunne
Coffee: M&H Honsbruch, Addy Hanson
Nursery: Sara Hagemeister

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Verna Gerrish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Jim and Sara Dunne
Reader: Todd Nelson
Communion: Fred and Vicki Dillon
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth
Nursery: Tammie Van Hamme

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Reader: Ted Urfer
Communion Assistant: Karen Klug Frischmeyer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Greeter: Addy Hanson
Reader: Kelly Rose
Nursery: Natalie Pavey
SEMIANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sat	6	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	7	7:30 am	Grace Matters radio broadcast, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	HYMN FESTIVAL , Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School/Preschool to Adult
Mon	8	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	9	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	10	1 pm	Mary Martha Circle
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class
Sat	13	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	14	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	15	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Tue	16	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
			DEADLINE FOR REPORTS FOR SEMIANNUAL MEETING
Wed	17	Noon	Autumn Leaves
		6:15 pm	Confirmation Class
Thu	18	9:30 am	Lydia Circle
Sat	20		DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY LOVE LETTER
		5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	21	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	22	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	23	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room #9
Wed	24	6:15 pm	Confirmation Class
Sat	27	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	28	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	SEMIANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Tue	30	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
Wed	31	7 pm	Confirmation Class

USHERS

Vic Frana and John Ruchotzke (*head ushers*), Gaylen Johnson, Dave Huth, Aaron Winburn

OFFERING COUNTERS

Bob Ashing, Sarah Dahlby Albright

ALTAR GUILD

December 11-January 8 — Shirley Jensen
 Month of January — Judy Lebeck
 January 8 — February 12 — Bev Cook

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Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

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LOVE LETTER is the monthly newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church. 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. Here are the weekly topics.

JANUARY 7

Do You Trust God's Abundance?

Mark 6:30-34

Anxiety over scarcity is the prevailing creed in American life, even though many Americans have blessing and abundance beyond measure. Gifted teacher and author [Walter Brueggemann](#) takes an inside look at why we behave so anxiously, and why it runs counter to everything God desires or offers. You'll hear his ideas for taking a generous God much more seriously than we often do.



JANUARY 21

When Our Bodies Get Sick

Luke 6:17-19

When our bodies get sick, more than pain, disease, or symptoms are involved. Our whole person gets dragged into the illness. Our hopes, dreams, and character strengths and weaknesses become part of the picture. Professor and author [Arthur Frank](#) speaks as eloquently as anyone on the difference between treatment and care, illness and disease, and fighting and struggling. Here's a front line look at illness being part of who we are.

JANUARY 14

Domination Is Anything But Holy

Ephesians 5:21-32

Sexual and domestic violence are epidemic in American culture. Surprising to many people, however, is the role that Christianity plays in hiding the crisis through silence, or in perpetuating the crisis through a misuse of the Bible. [Marie Fortune](#), founder and senior analyst at the Faith Trust Institute, talks about societal discomfort in addressing this violence. Host Peter Marty looks into one of the more difficult biblical passages involving domination and subjugation.

JANUARY 28

Inside Chinese Prisons

Luke 4:18-19

There are plenty of fairness gaps in the United States system of justice, but nothing like those in countries that detain and imprison people for merely speaking their mind. [John Kamm](#), executive director of the Dui Hua Foundation, has made a life out of working to free Chinese dissidents who disappear from the public eye. His efforts have been both courageous and successful. They remind us in a pointed way of the biblical mandate to pursue justice for others.