

# LOVE LETTER

JUNE 2007

## THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

### DEDICATION OF CROSS FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR

June 3

### SEMIANNUAL MEETING

June 24

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

Paul Nelson  
Interim pastor

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Sundays during the school year

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8 a.m. to noon

## 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

## A firsthand look at the border

Immigration has become a politically and morally contentious issue throughout the United States in recent weeks and months. To be sure, the Lutheran Church is doing ministry in the midst of it all.

This month, for the second year in a row, I will be participating in a youth exchange trip to visit Lutherans and others along the West Texas/Mexico border region. A large part of this trip will challenge our Lutheran youth from congregations throughout our Southeastern Iowa Synod to step out of their comfort zone and to experience and learn about the issues and experiences of Mexicans and Central Americans who often cross the U.S./Mexico border. For many, it will be a first experience of not only traveling to a foreign country, but also their first experience in seeing poverty, economic struggle, and real hardship for individuals and families. In one way or the other, the youth we adults will accompany will likely be changed by these experiences through seeing firsthand the struggles of those Latin Americans who seek a better life in the United States.

On our trip last year we heard firsthand stories from individuals and families from El Salvador, Guatemala and various parts of Mexico. We heard about struggles for economic survival and hopes for a better life in the U.S. We were based in an ELCA congregation named Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, and shared our lives with their pastor and many members of this exciting but struggling congregation. We visited a medical clinic and learned of the immigrants' health care needs, as well as a Roman Catholic shelter located several hundred yards from the U.S./Mexico border in downtown El Paso. We heard as well from the U.S. Border Patrol and learned about their charge to guard and protect the border region that stretches from southern California through much of Texas.

When I return, I hope to share my thoughts and reflections with you on this important Christian ministry that is located in an area of economic hardship and struggle but also much joy and hopefulness through people's Christian faith.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Paul*

FAREWELL FOR REBECCA AND ANNA — JUNE 3



# AROUND the CONGREGATION

Rose Osland has coordinated the Sunday School program.

## Lost, found, forgotten

Check out the collection of dishes, baking containers and utensils left in the church kitchen. Something might be yours!

## Come celebrate

Lynn and Terry Cline will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with a special coffee fellowship on Sunday, June 24, following worship. They were married at St. John's on June 23, 1967.

## Moving

Good wishes to Jim and Sue Bailey in their new home in Ottumwa. Their new address is 514 Fahrney Blvd., Ottumwa, IA 52501. New phone: 641-799-7238.

## Class continues

An adult class on the Book of Revelation led by Pastor Paul continues through the early summer. The class meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Meeting Room. It's not too late to join!

## Church finances through April 2007

	2007	2006
Offerings	\$57,645	\$58,679
Budget	\$70,423*	\$81,202
Expenses	\$60,976	\$67,672

*\*Note: The 2006 budget included money for a youth director, a position that has not been filled to date. For a more accurate comparison of offerings, budget and expenses, the 2007 budget to date printed above does not include a youth director.*

## In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Marilyn Erickson, who died May 8. Her funeral was held May 17 at St. John's. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

## Baptized

Jenna Kayelynn Morrison, daughter of Craig and Stephanie Morrison, was baptized May 13 at St. John's. Her sponsors are Rebecca Pinkerton, Christopher Clausen and William Clausen. Jenna is the granddaughter of Ted and Helen Clausen.

## Married

Troy Dillon and Jessica Murray were married May 26 at Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus. Troy is the son of Fred and Vicki Dillon and grandson of Rosalie Hartzell. Jessica is the daughter of Jim and Betty Ludden and John and Bonnie Murray and granddaughter of Beulah Strand.

## Farewell

With sadness we say farewell and Godspeed to Rebecca and Anna Jasch as they leave Grinnell to start new chapters in their lives. Rebecca will be returning to her home state of Maine to live near family members. She plans to work in the health-care field. Anna will be heading to the country of Georgia, once part of the Soviet Union,

where she will teach English as a Peace Corps volunteer.

On Sunday, June 3, a new processional cross will be dedicated in memory of Pastor Jasch. The cross is a gift of the congregation in gratitude for his 12 years of ministry at St. John's.

A special coffee fellowship to say farewell to Rebecca and Anna will be held following the service.

## Semiannual meeting

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, June 24, in the Fellowship Hall.

On the agenda will be reports from council committees, election of officers and other business as needed. Copies of the committee reports will be available the week before the meeting.

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

## Thanks to our teachers

Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers for the past year. Their commitment and creativity is greatly appreciated. The 2006-07 teaching staff includes: Amy Anderson, Stephanie Nelson, Fred Hagemeister, Brenda Mikel, Pat Gustafson, Julie Smith, Rebecca Jasch, Perre Pedersen, Anita Ford. Thanks also to music coordinators Carolyn Booth and Gladys Booth.

## Call Committee formed

An 11-member Call Committee has been appointed by the Church Council to lead the search for a new pastor for St. John's.

The committee includes two young people, Trent Baker and Nathan Ford, who will share the responsibility and have a single vote in any deliberations.

Members of the committee are:

Margaraet Amo  
 Russ Crawford  
 Ryan Dalby Albright  
 Fred England  
 Fred Hagemeister  
 Lisa Henderson  
 Bobbie Kahler  
 Nancy Locker  
 Lance Longman  
 Mary Schuchmann  
 Trent Baker and Nathan Ford

The committee will be installed at the worship service on Sunday, June 10. The group is expected to meet this month with Pastor Walter May of the synod office for training in the call process.

While the Call Committee has the responsibility for interviewing candidates and making a recommendation to the congregation, all congregation members will have an opportunity to offer input on the kind of leadership needed and wanted at St. John's. Please feel free to contact any member of the Call Committee if you have any questions about the process.

The committee asks the congregation to join them in praying that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they work together to determine the mission of St. John's and seek the person who will help carry out that ministry.

## Caring Team at work

If you know of congregation members who would like to be visited by a volunteer member of the new Caring Team at St. John's, please contact the church office or speak to Sue McDonough or Mary Schuchmann.

The Caring Team is an effort to bring the church - and the message of God's love— to homebound members of our congregation on a regular basis.

## Congratulations to our graduates!

Congratulations to our five members of the Class of 2007 at Grinnell High School. The four are **Alex Huebner**, son of Bev and Dan Huebner; **Travis Smith**, son of Julie and Randy Smith; Tammie Van Hamme, daughter of Gaye and Dennis Van Hamme; **Andy Walter**, son of Tom and Kelli Walter; and **Nate Weigel**, son of Luann and Rick Weigel.



Alex will study journalism at West Virginia University at Morgantown, W. Va. Travis is heading to Drake University in Des Moines, where he will study business and sports administration, as well as play football. Tammie will attend Marshalltown Community College and plans for a career in nursing. Andy will pursue general studies at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo. Nate will study business at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Congratulations also to our 2007 college graduates:

**Nicole Dunne** graduated in May from West Texas A&M, Canyon, Texas, with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is a 2002 graduate of Grinnell High School. Her parents are Jim Dunne and Sara Hegg-Dunne.

**Tom Heineman** graduated in May from the University of Iowa in Iowa City with majors in biology and political science. He will spend next year in Gambia, Africa, doing HIV research and clinical work, then will attend the University of Iowa Medical School in fall 2008. He wants also to pursue a master's degree in public health. His parents are Brian and Nancy Heineman.

**Tyler Huebner**, son of Dan and Bev Huebner, is receiving a master's degree this spring from Stanford University, Stanford, Calif., in the atmosphere and energy program. He is seeking a job in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

**Anna Jasch** graduated in May from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., with a double major in Spanish and English. She has joined the Peace Corps and will be teaching English in Georgia, a country on the east coast of the Black Sea that was once part of the former Soviet Union. She is the daughter of Rebecca Jasch and the late Pastor Stephen Jasch.

## NOTES OF THANKS

Dear St. John's,  
Thank you for the Teen's Prayer Book and the bookmark I received when I was confirmed. I also want to thank the congregation for sending me cards to congratulate me. I really appreciate it.



*Nathan Ford*

Thank you to everyone who sent cards during the time that I was away. I sincerely appreciate your support.

*Pastor Paul*

## NOTEWORTHY

**Danielle Nowasell** won the 1500 meter run in Class 3A at the State Track and Field Meet last month in Des Moines.

**A.J. Baker** and **Laura Weigel** also competed for Grinnell High School.

## Youth News

**THE BEAUTIFUL** wooden wall cabinet in the Meeting Room was made by Jacob Lamb as a Cub Scout project. The cabinet uses glass taken from the original windows in the sanctuary. Thank you, Jacob.

**THE FOLLOWING** young people are asked to bring two dozen treats for the Coffee Fellowship following worship on June 17: Renee Beach, Jarren Ford, Nathan Ford, Kyle Irland, Zach Bohemer and Oliver VandeStouwe. Parent helpers that day are Tom and Anita Ford and Mark and Cheryl Irland.

**THERE'S** still time to register for Vacation Bible School, to be held from 6 to 8 p.m. July 8-12 at the Grinnell United Methodist Church. Registration forms are available at the church office.

## ..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 JUNE 3

Northeastern and Northwestern Minnesota Synods

For our own synod as we gather in assembly and discuss our future mission

### WEEK OF JUNE 10

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Oxford Junction, Iowa

For the women of our synod as they gather together to plan for mission and ministry

### WEEK OF JUNE 17

Southwestern and Southeastern Minnesota Synods

For all who are fathers or father figures

### WEEK OF JUNE 24

Peace Lutheran Church, Pella

Give thanks for the multicultural learning experience during the Shoulder to Shoulder event in El Paso, Texas

## Church Council highlights

*At the Church Council meeting on May 6, council members::*

**REVIEWED** and **APPROVED** the list of names for the Call Committee. (See article on the Call Committee on page 3.)

**VOTED** to send \$1,000 from the emergency/disaster fund in the 2007 church budget to the ELCA Disaster Response for aid to the victims of the tornado in Kansas.

**AGREED** to look into ways the congregation can assist its own members in times of financial hardship. Mike Schaeffer was asked to lead the study.

**NOTED** that the terms of six members of the council expire in June. They are vice president, secretary and chairmen of properties, service, education and evangelism. The position of chairman of the youth committee also needs to be filled.

Except for the president and vice president, who serve one-year terms, council members are elected to two-year terms and may serve a maximum of two terms. A slate will be presented at the semiannual meeting on June 24.



**SERVING IN JUNE**

**CALENDAR FOR JUNE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

**Acolyte:** Nathan Ford  
**Reader:** Gladys Booth

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

**Acolyte:** Kyle Irland  
**Greeters:** Alice Beck, Becky Wilson  
**Reader:** Loren Kolpin  
**Communion Assistants:** Don and Doris Sundell  
**Nursery:** Kelly Rose  
**Coffee Servers:** M., J. Ruchotzke, Doris Selix

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9**

**Acolyte:** Jimmy Pinkerton  
**Reader:** Molly Urfer

**SUNDAY, JUNE 10**

**Acolyte:** Joseph Reitz  
**Greeters:** Jim and Molly Urfer  
**Reader:** Jim Urfer  
**Communion Assistants:** Kay and Paul Davoux  
**Coffee Servers:** J., V. Frana, Natalie Pavey

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16**

**Acolyte:** Christopher Weir  
**Reader:** Ted Urfer

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17**

**Acolyte:** Kalen Winburn  
**Greeters:** Deb and Lance Longman  
**Reader:** Dorothy Wade  
**Nursery:** Tammie Van Hamme  
**Coffee Servers:** Junior Youth

**SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

**Acolyte:** Trent Baker  
**Reader:** Sue McDonough

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24**

**Acolyte:** Renee Beach  
**Greeters:** Steve, Cindy, Danny Dudley  
**Reader:** Brian Heineman  
**Nursery:** Nicole Behrens  
**Coffee Fellowship in honor of Lynn and Terry Cline's 40th wedding anniversary**  
**Semiannual Congregational Meeting: Potluck**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 30**

**Acolyte:** Zach Boehmer  
**Reader:** Gary Cook  
**Communion Assistant:** Rose Osland

<b>Sat</b>	<b>2</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion and dedication of cross in memory of Pastor Jasch
		10:30 am	Special Coffee Fellowship
<b>Mon</b>	<b>4</b>	7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>5</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>6</b>	6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
<b>Fri-Sat</b>	<b>8-9</b>		Synod Assembly, Rock Island, Ill.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>9</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion and installation of Call Committee
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
<b>Mon</b>	<b>11</b>		Council committee reports due in church office
		7 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>12</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>13</b>	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Shirley Broders, hostess
		5 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
<b>Mon</b>	<b>18</b>	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>19</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>20</b>	Noon	Autumn Leaves
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>21</b>	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Avis Kelm, hostess
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24</b>	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Special Coffee Fellowship followed by semiannual congregational meeting and potluck
<b>Mon</b>	<b>25</b>	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>26</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>27</b>	6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
<b>Sat</b>	<b>30</b>	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion

**ALTAR GUILD**

May 14-June 11 — Jo Olson  
 Month of June — Margaret Amo  
 June 11-July 9 — Pam Ashing

**OFFERING COUNTERS FOR JUNE**

Eric Pavey, Perre Pedersen

**USHERS FOR JUNE**

Lamoyne Gaard, Tom Ford (*head ushers*), Bob Larson, Dave Wierson, Julie Wierson, Chana Weir

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## LOVE LETTER

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1224 East Street  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112  
(641) 236-4946

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JUNE 2007

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

**Return Service Requested**

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## GRACE MATTERS

Radio Ministry of the ELCA, hosted by the Rev. Peter Marty  
Heard locally at 7:30 a.m. Sundays on KGRN, AM1410

**JUNE 3**

**Don Saliers/Emily Saliers – *The Art of Holy Listening***

*Mark 10:46-52*

Listening can be hard work, but it is also very important behavior. Among other things, listening well frees us from the inner need always to feel we need to make our presence known. In the world of music, a listening ear allows us to be receivers, and to walk into brand new worlds. [Emily Saliers](#), lead singer with the Indigo Girls, and her father, [Don Saliers](#), a church musician and professor of Christian worship, know that being changed by music is like being changed by grace – both require receptive ears and hearts.

**JUNE 10**

**Danny Wuerffel – *Defining Success***

*Philippians 2:5-11*

Former Heisman trophy winner and NFL quarterback [Danny Wuerffel](#) knows a lot about acclaim. He couldn't take to the field without tens of thousands of fans letting him know their appreciation. But Wuerffel, who currently directs a ministry for inner city youth, knows that fame doesn't add up to much when compared with the truly significant things to which we could be devoting our lives. His definition of success will have all of us rethinking our callings in life.

**JUNE 17**

**Scot McKnight – *Loving God, Loving Neighbor***

*Matthew 22:37*

Most people both inside and outside of Christianity are acquainted with the great commandment to love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. But how many really live the balance of this creed – the priority of both of its dimensions – in a daily way? [Scot McKnight](#), author of the book "The Jesus Creed," describes how significant these words were to Jesus of Nazareth, and how important they deserve to be for shaping our daily lives.

**JUNE 24**

**Judith Valente – *Nourishing Your Soul***

*Psalms 119:167-168*

Nourishing one's soul is like nourishing one's body except that the protein content is a little different. The protein for nourishing one's soul comes from spiritual food – food that comes in the form of attentiveness, gratitude, simplicity, prayer, mystery, and more. [Judith Valente](#), an on-air correspondent for the PBS-TV program "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly," finds spiritual food grows best in the garden of sacred poetry. She is co-author of the book "Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul."