

LOVE LETTER

JULY 2007

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Vacation Bible School
July 8-12

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
At other times, leave message
at the office, 236-4946

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Dale Lamb, president
Bob Falck, vice president
Bev Cook, secretary
Gary Cook, treasurer
Dan Huebner, Properties
Carolyn Bosse, Donna Beck, Stewardship
Stephanie Nelson, Education
Margaret Amo, Worship,
Music, Arts
Jo Olson, Fellowship
Mike Schaeffer, Service
Sue McDonough, Evangelism
Amy Anderson, Youth

Make your views known

Calling a new pastor is *not* just the work of the Call Committee. All of you in the congregation will have a chance to offer your opinions on the qualities you would like to see in a new pastor. At worship services on **Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15**, all members in attendance will be asked to fill out a survey supplied by the synod. The survey is designed to help the synod find candidates who will best serve our congregation as we live out the Gospel in our homes, church and community. **The survey will be mailed to all members on July 16. During the coffee hour on Sunday, July 22, there will be a chance to offer your views on the mission and ministry of our church in an informal, discussion format.**

The two-page survey will ask you to indicate what skills and interests you would like to see in a new pastor – such things as worship leadership, preaching, teaching, visitation, ministering in crisis, ministry to children and youth, etc.

The individual surveys will be compiled and added to a 13-page document called a Congregational Mission Profile, which also includes information on congregation

history, demographics, staffing, finances, community involvement, etc. The profile, together with demographic data for our ZIP code, is sent to the synod office, where the bishop and his staff match up our congregation with a list of candidates.

CALL COMMITTEE

Russ Crawford, *chair*
Margaret Amo
Ryan Dalby Albright
Fred England
Lisa Henderson
Bobbie Kahler
Nancy Locker
Lance Longman
Mary Schuchmann
Trent Baker, Nathan Ford

The Congregational Mission Profile may sound like busy-work, but in truth it plays a vital role in helping St. John's define its mission and ministry, then find the right person to lead the congrega-

tion. It guides the synod staff as it tries to fit our needs and wants with the abilities and priorities of candidates. It is also used by candidates to learn about our congregation and community. **The more accurate and complete the profile, the better the chances of calling the right person to be our pastor.**

In addition to completing the survey, feel free to speak to any member of the Call Committee to voice your thoughts about the future of our church and the desired qualities in a new pastor.

And please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the committee as it seeks to discern and carry out God's will for our congregation.



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Expanded hours for Pastor Paul

With the approval of the Church Council, Pastor Paul has increased the number of hours he will serve at St. John's. He is now working 30 hours per week at St. John's instead of the 20 hours he was initially contracted for.



He will use the additional time to work with committees, specifically the Education and Worship Committees and the new Caring Team. For the Education Committee, for example, he will work with the committee chairman and others to strengthen the Sunday School curriculum and do more to coordinate it with the confirmation and youth programs.

The increase in hours will also allow him more time for hospital and homebound visitation as well as more contact with congregation members in general to ensure that non-worship needs are being met during this transition time.

His new working hours in Grinnell will be approximately:

- Monday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- Wednesday 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**
- Sunday 9 a.m. to noon**

On Thursdays, he will work approximately 4 hours at his home in Ames

The hours in Grinnell will be adjusted as needed to allow for

committee meetings at times other than daytime.

Muriel Johannessen, an ELCA associate in ministry, will continue to conduct worship services on three Saturdays a month and help with hospital calling when needed.

Farewell

You'll have a chance at the coffee hour on Sunday, July 8, to say good-bye to Paul and Kay Davoux, who are moving to Ann Arbor, Mich., to be closer to their daughter and her family. Their new address will be 4805 Wildflower Court, Ann Arbor, Mich., 48108,

Help our youth

Anita Ford and Connie Weir are looking for people to take over their jobs as treasurers of the grades 5-6 Youth Group (Anita) and the grades 7-8 Youth Group (Connie). The job is not difficult – mainly writing checks from the Youth Group checkbooks as needed to pay for purchases and activities. Please contact Anita or Connie if you are willing to help.

Ushers needed

Ushers are needed for the Sunday morning worship services. Due to several deaths and departures, additional people – men, women and young people – are needed. Ushers typically serve one month a year. If you can help, please contact Jack Templeton, usher coordinator.

Making waves

John Heineman, a member of St. John's, will attempt to swim the English Channel this month in order to raise awareness of public health issues and money for the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic. A front-page article about John appeared in the June 14 *Grinnell Herald Register*. Donations can be sent to 2440 Towncrest Drive, Iowa City, 52240 or can be made online at www.freemedicalclinic.org. Checks should be made out to the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic. John is a spring graduate of the University of Iowa and will attend medical school in the fall. His parents are Brian and Nancy Heineman



Keep the connections

During this time of interim ministry, it is especially important to contact the church office when family members are hospitalized or in need of pastoral care. Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At other times, you can call the office and leave a message. In emergencies, call Muriel Johannessen at 641-791-1044.

Church finances through May 2007

	2007	2006
Offerings	\$71,011	\$71,996
Budget	\$88,029*	\$101,593
Expenses	\$74,259	\$83,557

**Note: The 2007 budget does not include money for a youth director, a position that was included in the 2006 budget. The search for a youth director is on hold, pending the call of a new pastor.*

Officers elected at semiannual meeting

The semiannual congregational meeting on June 24 was short and sweet. The slate of nominees for the Council of Ministers was approved unanimously. The business consisted of several announcements and requests.

The meeting is one of two congregational meetings held each year. At the June meeting, committee reports are presented and officers are elected. In January, the budget for the coming year is approved.

Officers elected at the meeting were

Bob Falck, vice president
Bev Cook, secretary
Stephanie Nelson, Education
Amy Anderson, Youth
Dan Huebner, Properties
Sue McDonough, Evangelism.

Dale Lamb will serve as council president; he served this year as vice president. Other officers and committee chairmen continuing are: **Gary Cook**, treasurer; **Margaret Amo**, Worship, Music and the Arts; **Jo Olson**, Fellowship; **Mike Schaeffer**, Service; **Donna Beck** and **Carolyn Bosse**, Stewardship.

Under our congregational bylaws, the president and vice president serve one-year terms. All others serve two-year terms, with a maximum of four years of consecutive service.

Todd Nelson noted that the existing sound system for the Fellowship Hall seemed to be in working order and that it would not be necessary at this point to buy new indoor sound equipment. Jack Templeton announced the need for more ushers to take the place of those who have died or moved. Gladys Booth reminded members to notify the church office when a family member is hospitalized so that pastoral care can be offered. Todd Nelson was thanked for his leadership as council president during the past year. Dale Lamb conducted an informal survey on variety of issues.

Missing

The photos taken at the Senior Breakfast have disappeared from the church office. Does anyone know where they are?

Synod Assembly focuses on need for healing in our world

By Michael Schaeffer

Sue McDonough and I attended the 2007 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly held June 8-9 on the Augustana College campus in Rock Island, Ill,

This year's theme was "Making Christ Known: For the Healing of the World." In keeping with this theme, and as a comment on the divisive sexuality



issues that we continue to deal with, Bishop Philip Hougen used the analogy of doctors and nurses arguing

about who is qualified to perform a surgery: the patient may die while they are arguing. The bishop pointed out the world's need for healing in places like Iraq and Darfur, as well as the need for healing in relationships. "Can we do better than fighting with each other while the world dies?" he asked. He challenged us to work toward healing in our world.

Pastor Jasch was specifically mentioned in our prayers at the Assembly.

We passed the following resolutions. One resolution called for implementing the "Cherish Our Children" program in our churches and communities. This involves prayer, awareness and involvement on behalf of children. Another resolution called on the Church and Society Unit to clarify proper fund-raising practices in light of gambling revenues that may become available. There was a resolution asking the Synod Council to prepare a new mission strategy to more fully utilize the 11 conferences. We also called upon the federal government to spend less on obsolete Cold War weapons and more on human needs.

The most controversial resolutions we passed were four dealing with the discipline of pastors in same-sex relationships. The gist of these was that the Assembly asked the ELCA to exercise restraint when considering discipline against such pastors. The Churchwide Assembly, which will be held in Chicago in August, can choose whether to act on the resolutions, which are termed "memorials."

We enjoyed hearing some excellent speakers. The Rev. Tim Iverson, executive director of Global Health Ministries, told especially moving stories of the work of his agency in countries dealing with health crises like AIDS.

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Thank you for the "send-off" and for all the cards and gifts, prayers and well-wishes. I wish I had time to sit down and write to each of you individually, but in the two weeks since we've been gone, this is the first chance I've had to sit down and write.



I think of you often. This morning I went to the Baptist church in Farmington. (There aren't any Lutheran churches close by.) When they sang the Doxology, I thought of Autumn Leaves. They sing the Doxology every Sunday. It won't have the same meaning for me again.

I miss you all. Anna got off to the Peace Corps okay. She's in Georgia right now and will write when she gets a chance. She won't have an address until she finishes training on Aug. 24.

My address is 125 Sunset Ave., Farmington, Me. 04938. My telephone is now a cell phone. The number is 207-624-1580.

Please keep in touch.

*Yours in Christ,
Rebecca Jasch*

THANK YOU to everyone who remembered us with thoughts, prayers and cards following the death of Bob's mother, Thora Kinseth, on May 30. Her funeral was June 4 in Bode, Iowa.

Delores and Bob Kinseth

THANK YOU for letting me use the Fellowship Hall for my graduation party. Everyone said it turned out great. I want also to thank everyone who came to celebrate with me at this special time in my life. I couldn't ask for a better bunch of people. Thank you so much!

Tammie Van Hamme

WE WANT to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy when Jim's brother, George, passed away. Your kindness was sincerely appreciated. Also, we can't tell you how much the well-wishes given to us for our move have meant to us. The cards, gifts and friendships will never be forgotten. If you come to Ottumwa, we hope you will look us up. God bless you,

Jim and Sue Bailey

MANY THANKS to Bev Huebner for her many years of dedicated service to the youth program at St. John's. With her youngest child graduated from high school this year, she is stepping away from the many responsibilities she has assumed over the years. Bev has coordinated the Sunday morning coffee hour service project, recruited volunteers for youth activities (and organized them herself when needed), and helped with the process of developing a youth program. Thank you, Bev.

Church Council

At the Church Council meeting on June 13, council members:

VOTED to send a letter to the city of Grinnell opposing the proposed closing of Eighth Avenue between Park and East, just west of the church. A majority of council members expressed concern that the closing would limit access to the church.



VOTED to increase Pastor Paul's hours from 20 hours to 30 hours per week, starting the week of June 25. (See details elsewhere in this issue.)

NOTED that not all Church Council positions for 2007-09 have been filled. Council members decided to seek volunteers for the remaining open positions by including a notice in the June 16-17 worship bulletins.

REPORTS: Three replacement humidifiers and one new humidifier for the church building have been/will be purchased.

Youth News

Congratulations!

In the state Special Olympics in Ames in May, Christopher Weir received gold for the 100 meter walk and silver for the softball throw.

Serving in July

Senior youth will be serving refreshments after worship on Sunday, July 15. The following young people are asked to bring two dozen treats that day: AJ Baker, Travis Smith, Tammie Van Hamme, Nate Weigel, Laura Weigel, Katie Ditzler. Parent helpers are Barb Baker and Julie and Randy Smith.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Greeters: Addy Hanson, Kelly Rose
Reader: Molly Urfer
Communion Assistants: Jim and Molly Urfer
Nursery: Sarah Dahlby Albright
Coffee Servers: S.,T. Nelson, Amy Anderson

SATURDAY, JULY 7

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Reader: Nancy Heineman

SUNDAY, JULY 8

Acolyte: Katelin Dunn
Greeters: Steve and Cindy Dudley
Reader: Gaylen Johnson
Nursery: Sara Hagemeister

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Acolyte: Joseph Reitz
Reader: Verna Gerrish

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Brian Heineman
Communion Assistants: Bob and Pam Ashing
Nursery: Tammie Van Hamme
Coffee Servers: SeniorYouth

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Reader: Gladys Booth

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Acolyte: Kyle Irland
Greeters: Virginia Deppe, Avis Kelm
Reader: Barb Baker
Nursery: Renee Beach

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Acolyte: Jimmy Pinkerton
Reader: Sandy Falck
Communion Assistant: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Acolyte: Christopher Weir
Greeters: Todd and Stephanie Nelson
Reader: Dorothy Wade
Nursery: Shirley Broders
Coffee Servers: K., G. Johnson, Kelly Rose

CALENDAR FOR JULY

Sun	1	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Special Coffee Fellowship
Tue	3	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	4	6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	7	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	8	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Special Coffee Fellowship honoring Kay and Paul Davoux
		10:45 am	Worship Committee meeting
Sunday-Thursday, July 8-12 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL			
Tue	10	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	11	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Doris Sundell, hostess
		5 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	14	5:30 pm	Worship, Call Committee survey distributed
Sun	15	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship, Call Committee survey distributed
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	17	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	18	Noon	Autumn Leaves
		5 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Thurs	19	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Margaret Amo, hostess
Sat	21	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	22	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Call Committee session
Tue	24	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	25	6:30 pm	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
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Tue	31	Deadline for returning Call Committee surveys	

ALTAR GUILD

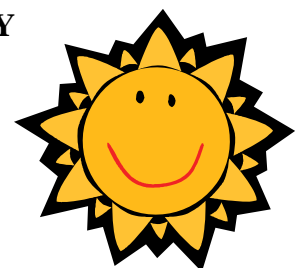
June 11-July 9 — Pam Ashing
 Month of July — Mitzi Dufoe
 July 9-August 13 — Jo Olson

OFFERING COUNTERS FOR JULY

Scott and Shirley Jensen, Barb Baker

USHERS FOR JULY

Ted Clausen (*head usher*), Scott Beach, Julie Beach, Todd Nelson, Mike Anderson



LOVE LETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church
1224 East Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

Non-profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Grinnell, Iowa
Permit #134

JULY 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



GRACE MATTERS

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

JULY 1

Robert Seiple – Humbly Engaging the World

Luke 4:25-30

Bob Seiple has spent his life working to improve the lives of others around the world. Former president of World Vision, Inc. and one-time U.S. ambassador, this global educator now heads up an organization committed to expanding religious freedom in every country. Our task as Americans, he says, is to model religious freedom by engaging spiritual humility on a national level.

JULY 8

Robert Franklin – Raise Her for God

1 John 4:21

There is a crisis in the African-American family — a crisis of commitment with many features, a good number of them stretching all the way back to the days of slavery. **Robert Franklin**, social ethics professor, news commentator and college president, is as well-equipped as anyone to speak with hope about what is needed to reverse negative social trends.

JULY 15

Simba Circle – Making Choices

Joshua 24:15

Growing up on the streets of Chicago's South Side can make for a rough life. **Simba Circle** is an ecumenical ministry devoted to

helping young African-American males live the life God created them to live. The Simba ministry works through the faith of adult mentors, spirited rituals, and the woods and meadows of an Iowa camp to make a difference in these **endangered lives**.

JULY 22

Ken Medema – Grace, Everywhere We Turn

Matthew 5:43-44

Ken Medema, composer and pianist yet blind since birth, has a passion for God and people that oozes from his music. He transforms the individual heart every time he performs. It all happens through an improvisational style and zest that is truly unique. Grace permeates his faith and music in a way that is changing the lives of all who hear him.

JULY 29

Eric Olsen – Two Conspiracies: Evil and Good

Romans 7:15-20

There is evil in this world, and if it doesn't hurt or kill, it certainly seeks to dominate and destroy. Sometimes it overshadows the astonishing goodness in this world that we must always seek to prize. **Lt. Col. Eric Olsen**, a military chaplain, joins the program to discuss his tour of duty in Iraq and what it means to minister to young soldiers.