

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

AUGUST 2007

THIS MONTH AT St. JOHN'S

Outdoor Worship
Saturday, August 18, 5:30 p.m.

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
pastornelson@iowatelecom.net

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

WORSHIP

and potluck
**in the
Park**

Gazebo, Central Park
Saturday, August 18

5:30 p.m.

*Music led by Ryan Dahlby Albright and
the Celebration Singers*

A potluck supper in the park
shelters will follow the worship
service. Bring a lawn chair, a dish to
share and your own table service.



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Confirmation class

Pastor Paul will hold an informational meeting with the confirmation students and their parents at 7 p.m. Wednesday, September 5. He will discuss the schedule for the year, including the date of confirmation, and the material that will be covered this year.

New contact

Pastor Paul has a new email address at St. John's. It is pastornelson@iowatelecom.net

Rally Day

Sunday School at St. John's will begin September 9. To mark the start of Sunday School as well as fall programs at the church, a brunch will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship on that day.

Prayer chain

Prayer requests for the Prayer Chain can be made by calling the church office or sending an email to the church at stjohngr@iowatelecom.net. The answering machine and email are checked on a daily basis.

Church finances through June 2007

	2007	2006
Offerings	\$83,945	\$83,299
Budget	\$105,635*	\$121,802
Expenses	\$85,839	\$95,201

**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.*

Wedding bells

Chelsey Rodgers and Mark Kolpin were married July 14 at Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus. The ceremony was performed by the bride's home church pastor, the Rev. Richard Meyers of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Williamsburg. Chelsey's parents are Chuck and Carolyn Rodgers of Williamsburg; Mark's parents are Loren and Peggy Kolpin of Grinnell. Chelsey is a graduate of Wartburg College and will be a seventh-grade English teacher at Grinnell Middle School. Mark, a University of Iowa graduate, is a financial adviser in the Edward Jones Investment office in Grinnell.

Welcome to St. John's

New member Irene Morrison has a readymade connection to St. John's — her daughter and son-in-law,



Rose and Keith Osland and their family. A longtime Grinnell resident, Irene also knows a

number of church members. She has five other adult children, all of whom live in central Iowa (the farthest away is in Perry). She enjoys her family, likes to garden, and has done some quilting. She lives at 505 Highway 6, Grinnell. Her phone is 236-4113.

Change of address

Several of our members have moved recently. Dale and Doris Selix are now living in Seeland Park, at 827 Turnberry Drive, Grinnell. Addy Hanson's new address is Mayflower, 631 Park St., Apt. 104A, Grinnell. Jerry Henschen has relocated to Huron, S.D. His new address is 460 Ohio Ave. NW, Huron 57350. Happy new homes to all of you.

Gifts for our graduates

Help send our five 2007 high school graduates off to college with a reminder of their church family. As we've done in other years, we are collecting a variety of items — personal care products, towels, snacks, quarters for the laundry — that will be packed into "Care Bags" for our graduates (four boys, one girl). Contributions may be brought to the church office by **August 10**. The gifts will be presented after the Worship in the Park service on August 18.

College cookie day

To welcome new students to Grinnell College, local churches are asked to provide cookies for a community Resource Fair at the college on Wednesday, August 29. Donations are needed and should be brought to the church by 10 a.m. that day.

New study opportunity

For those of you who would like to study God's word together, Muriel Johannessen, an ELCA Associate in Ministry who is helping out at St. John's, will lead a Bible study on the Book of Ephesians called "Caring and Community."

The group will meet on Mondays at 11 a.m. starting August 6. Sessions will last about an hour and will continue for about six weeks. Those who desire can bring a sack lunch for a time of fellowship after the lesson.

Call the church office or Sue McDonough if you would like a ride.

Caring Team

The Caring Team continues to call on members who are ill or who can't get to church. Communion is given to those who desire it. If you have an opportunity to visit our homebound members, please do so. We're all disciples of Christ, and Christ has told us to love (and care for) our neighbors. If you know of members who could be added to the visitation list, please contact the church office, Sue McDonough or Mary Schuchmann.

From Pastor Paul

Churchwide Assembly affects us all

It's a bit like having a congregational annual meeting. But in this case, the meeting is held in an indoor arena that can fit upwards of 1,000 voting members, along with press, observers and others in attendance.

What I'm talking about is the upcoming Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of which St. John's is a part. It occurs August 6-11 in Chicago, and is the largest expression of Lutherans in North America (You can get more information online at www.elca.org). The most interesting aspect of the Assembly (and sometimes the most contentious) is that it responds to, and discusses 125 "memorials" that have been sent to it by the various Synod assemblies from around the country. A memorial is simply a request from the various Synods to address a particular issue that a particular Synod believes needs to be faced by the Church. Issues can range from worship styles to immigration to whether or not the Church may call a gay or lesbian person as a pastor. The value of the discussion is not just to educate church leaders and members (although this part is important) but more importantly to bring a "public face" to the beliefs and convictions of Lutherans for the larger public.

To give you an idea of what will be covered at the Assembly, below is a listing of the seven areas in which all of the resolutions were grouped. They are:

MILITARY VETERANS. "...to encourage all congregations of this Church to support returning military personnel and their families."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Several Synods asked the ELCA to address issues related to criminal justice; especially by developing a social statement on the topic.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT. Several Synods called for the ELCA to financially support its "Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine," as well as to support efforts for a just, two-state solution for peace.

THE IRAQ WAR. A wide variety of resolutions and memorials that generally oppose escalation of the current warfare and seek to support nation-building efforts in Iraq, to pray for peace, to support the armed forces and their families and oppose terrorism.

BLESSINGS of same-sex relationships. Three Synods adopted memorials that discourage blessing same-sex relationships while the Washington, D.C. Synod asked for guidance in developing liturgies for blessing "same-gender unions."

STANDARDS for professional leaders (i.e. pastors, AIM's and diaconal ministers). Many Synods addressed this issue. Specifically, they wanted to remove language from church policy that precludes people who are gay or lesbian from serving in an official leadership role in the ELCA.

REFERRALS to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality. Most of these memorials focused on standards regarding the blessing of same-sex unions or allowing gay or lesbian persons to be ordained as pastors.

The Assembly promises to have far-reaching impact on the shape and form of the ELCA for years to come.

NOTES OF THANKS

WE WERE planning on celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary with a dinner and a kiss, but thanks to our children and our church family, it was a memorable occasion. The beautiful cards and gifts were totally unexpected, and we appreciate everyone who celebrated with us. The organist for our marriage 40 years ago was Margaret Amo, and she told us she was so nervous, as it was the first wedding she had played the organ for. We appreciate all of you.



Terry and Lynn Cline

THANK YOU to everyone for their calls, cards and prayers through Paul's illness. We did appreciate it all.

*Ernie and JoAnn Blankenfeld
Andrea Strovers and family*

Congratulations, Cheryl

Cheryl Irland, one of our organists, received a Certificate in Church Music from the national Leadership Program for Musicians at the Synod Assembly in June. Cheryl completed a two-year study of church music at Wartburg College that involved classes in organ, hymnody, liturgy, worship planning and musicianship.

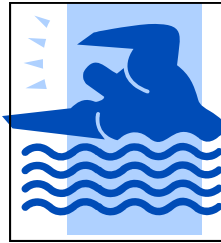
Scrapbooking

A scrapbooking workshop hosted by Stephanie Morrison and Becky Pinkerton will be held from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Friday, August 3, in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's. Anyone interested in scrapbooking is welcome. You can come and go as you please. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Morrison at 515-201-3766 or Becky Pinkerton at 641-990-4597.

John's channel swim a success

He made it! John Heineman swam the English Channel (England to France, 21 miles) on July 11. It took him 12 hours, 40 minutes. (FYI: The water temperature was 55 degrees F!) John is in rare company. According to records of the Channel Swimming Association, a total of 811 people have made 1,185 verified channel crossings as of the end of 2005.

John, son of Nancy and Brian Heineman and a recent graduate of the University of Iowa, swam for a cause dear to his heart – the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic. To date, he has raised approximately \$16,000 of his \$19,000 goal.



In a blog a few hours after he finished, John wrote, "I just want to let you know that the journey was successful and that we are all safe (but unbelievably sore!). Thank you all for letting me borrow your guardian angels for a day - as it took an army of them to pull me through the tough times." (You can read more from John and his brother Thomas at heinemaneurope.blogspot.com)

Donations to the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic can be sent to 2440 Towncrest Drive, Iowa City, 52240.

Church Council highlights

Summary of the Church Council meeting held July 18.

EDUCATION: A total of 18 children from St. John's attended the joint Vacation Bible School in July at the United Methodist Church. Eight adults from St. John's served as volunteers during the week.

STEWARDSHIP A new keyboard for the Sunday School music/choir room will be purchased with memorial money.

SERVICE: Committee chairman Mike Schaeffer will look into St. John's helping with the Community Meal program at Davis School.



PROPERTIES: Mold and mildew is being removed from the exterior surfaces of the church building.

CONTRIBUTION: Council members voted to contribute \$500 to the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic in support of John Heineman's fund-raising swim of the English Channel.

The next council meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 15. Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Acolyte: Kalen Winburn
Reader: Pat Starrett
Communion Assistant:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Greeters: Ray Parker, Fred England
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Communion Assistants: Harlan Honsbruch, Fred Hagemeister
Nursery: Pam Ashing
Coffee Servers: M., D. Dufoe, Fred England

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Reader: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Acolyte: Katelin Dunne
Greeters: Bob and Pam Ashing
Reader:
Nursery: Laura Weigel
Coffee Servers: C., S., D. Dudley, Lu Ahrens

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Outdoor worship at 5:30 p.m. at Central Park

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

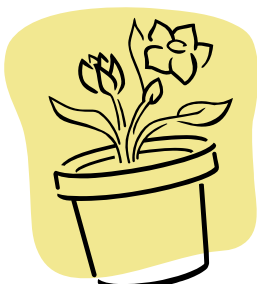
No worship on this day. Everyone is encouraged to attend the outdoor worship on Saturday evening at Central Park.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Acolyte: Renee Beach
Reader: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Acolyte: Nathan Ford
Greeters: Everett and Verna Gerrish
Reader: Barb Baker
Nursery: Kelly Rose
Coffee Servers: L., T. Cline, H. Honsbruch



CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Sat	4	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	5	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Mon	6	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
Tue	7	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	8	2:30 pm	Caring Team, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	11	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	12	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Mon	13	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Call Committee, Meeting Room
Tue	14	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	15	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		5 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Thurs	16	9:30 am	Lydia Circle
Sat	18	5:30 pm	Outdoor worship with Holy Communion, followed by potluck, Central Park
Sun	19	NO WORSHIP SERVICE	
		7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
Mon	20	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
Tue	21	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	22	6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room
Sat	25	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	26	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
Mon	27	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
Tue	28	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	Quilt Making, Quilt Room
Wed	29	6:30 pm	Bible Study, Meeting Room

Note that Holy Communion this month will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5, and at the outdoor worship service at Central Park on August 18.

ALTAR GUILD

July 9-August 13 — Jo Olson
 Month of August — Mary Schuchmann
 August 13-September 10 — Julie Beach

OFFERING COUNTERS FOR AUGUST

Fred Hagemeister, Dale Lamb

USHERS FOR AUGUST

Dennis Van Hamme (*head usher*), Dale Lamb, Jan Sherlock, Danielle Nowasell

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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

AUGUST 5

Dave Ramsey – Money. Money. Money

Matthew 6:19-21; 24

Money is a worry, a blessing, and a necessity. But it can also become a god. This may be why the scriptures record one sixth of Jesus' words as related to money or wealth. Popular radio talk show host and author [Dave Ramsey](#) spends his every day thinking about our use and misuse of money. We'll tap into his wisdom. (Originally broadcast Feb. 19, 2006)

AUGUST 12

Joe Ehrmann – Love as Your Uniform

John 13:13

What happens when you dress yourself in love can make the difference between a hopeful day and a woeful day. For nationally acclaimed coach [Joe Ehrmann](#), love lived in the right way is exactly what young adolescent males need more than anything else. Meet this ex-NFL great who has a definition of success like you've never heard before. (Originally broadcast May 7, 2006)

AUGUST 19

Jerry (Gerald) Sittser – Unanswered Prayer

Luke 18: 9-14

What do we do when God does not seem to answer our prayers and our Christian faith doesn't seem to "work?" Where is God when the cry of our hearts hears little more than silence? [Gerald Sittser](#), professor of religion at Whitworth College, brings incredible hope and insight to these questions. His responses carry enormous weight, born as they are out of great personal suffering. (Originally broadcast July 23, 2006)

AUGUST 26

Lisa Jefferson – "Flight 93" - The Famous Phone Call

Isaiah 6:8

The whole world over seems to know the name Todd Beamer and his now famous words "Let's roll." He spoke these words during an extended phone conversation on 9/11, the day Flight 93 went down. Few people know the person who answered that call. [Lisa Jefferson](#) is her name. Her life is a testimony of great faith and true responsibility in a time of crisis. (Originally broadcast Sept.10, 2006)