

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

JANUARY 2008

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
515-203-9525
pastornelson@iowatelecom.net

Muriel Johannessen, AIM
641-791-1044

WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 a.m. Sunday

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8 a.m. to noon

At other times, leave a message
at the office, 236-4946, or call Jo
Olson, 641-990-0618

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

Prayer for the New Year

God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus Christ. May it be a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at service to others, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You.

Amen



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Luther on tour

Two Luther College music groups will be touring in the area this month.

The Nordic Choir will perform in Des Moines on 3 p.m. Sunday, January 20, at First Christian Church, 2500 University. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$10 for students. Our **Reid Henderson** is a Nordic Choir member.

The Symphony Orchestra will be in Marshalltown on Wednesday, January 30. Their performance will be at 7:30 p.m. at Marshalltown High School, 1602 S. 2nd Ave, A freewill donation will be collected.

New arrival

Congratulations to Rebecca Dufoe on the birth of a son, Mason David, born December 23, Grandparents are Mitzi and Duane Dufoe. Great-grandfather is Fred England.

Missing something?

A woman's black coat, woman's off-white jacket and a man's red hat have been left at the church in recent weeks. They are now on the coat rack near the church office.

Worship services will include liturgical dance

A liturgical dance group from Wartburg College will be part of our worship services on both Saturday and Sunday, January 19 and 20. The group, called *Psalm 149* ("Let us praise God's name with dancing") dances at many of the college's worship services — week-day chapel, evening Eucharist, Sunday morning services — and travels throughout the state.

Luncheon — with a twist

For its winter general meeting, Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will hold a potluck luncheon on Saturday, January 19, starting at 11:30 a.m. The theme is "Barn Yards." (You'll have to attend to see why!) The meal will be followed by a white elephant sale featuring dishes and other items that have been left unclaimed in the church kitchen. You'll need to bid on everything — even if it belongs to you! In addition, bring a white elephant of your own for the sale. All proceeds will go to the WELCA treasury.



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

Treasurers of groups at St. John's are asked to submit their financial reports to the church office by January 10 so that the annual report can be available to the congregation the week before the January 27 semiannual meeting.

At Autumn Leaves

Local veterinarian Darwin Kinne will speak at the next meeting of Autumn Leaves on Wednesday, January 16. His topic will be "Animals in Relation to Humans in the Bible." The meeting begins with a potluck at noon. All members of St. John's are welcome to attend.



Margaret Amo is honored after worship on December 23 for her 43 years as an organist at St. John's

Semiannual meeting set

The semi-annual meeting at St. John's will be held after worship on Sunday, January 27. The 2007 financial report will be reviewed and the 2008 budget will be presented. A potluck will follow the

Church finances through November

	2007	2006
Offerings	\$150,778	\$156,264
Budget	\$193,864	\$223,304*
Expenses	\$156,299	\$169,536

**The 2006 budget included money for a youth director.*

St. John's Youth Ministry

Our mission: To Inspire, Connect, and Enrich Youth in Living a Christ-Centered Life

Serving in January

Youth members of St. John's provide refreshments and serve at the coffee hour on the third Sunday of every month. Donations are used to pay for youth activities and projects during the year. Serving on January 20 will be Scott Bosse, Troy Smith, Zach Osland, Jena Sanders, Breanna Sanders. Parent helpers that day are Julie Sanders and Randy and Julie Smith.

Activity in January

A bowling party is scheduled for Sunday, January 20. Watch for more information.

Coming up

Youth group members will serve the meal preceding the Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 6, and at the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 23. Any adult willing to help with the Ash Wednesday or Easter Sunday events, please contact Amy Anderson.

Noteworthy

Congratulations to three of our Grinnell High School seniors for their accomplishments during the fall semester. A.J. Baker was named one of two GHS winners of the Wendy's High School Heisman Award, based on academics, service and sports. Morgan Boehmer is this year's captain of the GHS Tiger Paws, which received three No. 1 ratings and a fifth-place trophy in state competition. Danielle Nowasell was the state Class 3A cross-country champion.

Call Committee update

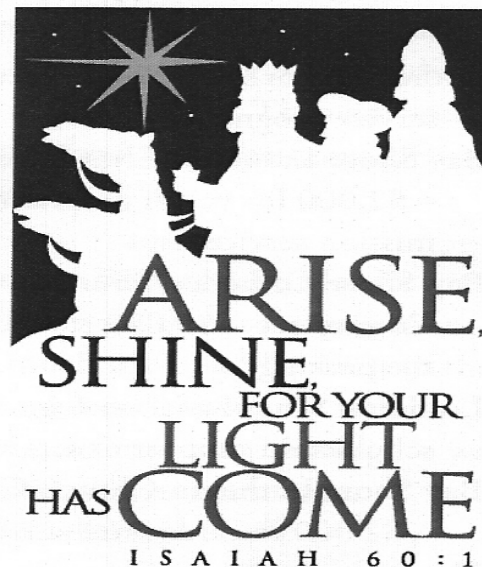
We on the Call Committee are pleased and excited to have recommended a candidate to become the permanent, full-time pastor of St. John's. The Church Council at its December 19 meeting accepted our recommendation and has scheduled an informal meeting with the candidate on January 7. Following that meeting, the Church Council will prepare and send a letter to all church household telling a bit about the candidate and describing the next steps in the call process.

Those steps will include a chance for the congregation to meet and talk with the candidate and a congregational vote to extend a call to the candidate as well as a vote on the financial arrangements involved. Following that vote, the candidate has 30 days to decide whether or not to accept the call.

It's important to remember that the call process is a multi-step procedure and that we are still in the midst of it. While the Call Committee interviews prospective candidates and the Church Council approves the recommendation, it is **you**, the congregation, that officially votes to extend the call. And remember, too, that the candidate has a 30-day period to respond to the call.

As members of the Call Committee, we are grateful for the input and support from the congregation over the past seven months as we worked to determine the priorities for St. John's and interviewed candidates to find the person who will best meet our needs and desires. Please continue to keep the call process in your prayers.

Call Committee



NOTES OF THANKS

A BIG thank you to Verna Gerrish, Jo Olson, Margaret Amo, Nancy Heineman and Doris Sundell for bringing the delicious meals after I came home from the hospital. It was very much appreciated. Also thank you for the cards and phone calls. I am richly blessed with a caring church family. God bless each and every one of you.



Gaye, Dennis and Tammie Van Hamme

PLEASE thank the Santa who thought of us while our Dad is serving with the Army in Iraq.
Chloe, John, and Alexis Mackey

THANKS to everyone who prepared and served the meals at our Advent soup suppers.
Fellowship Committee

THE LWR QUILTERS (our new and official name) would like to thank members of the congregation for donations of materials, batting, mattress pads, sewing thread and tying thread. In the past, members have donated sewing machines, for which we could not do without. Recently, we were given a gift of \$500 from Thrivent for purchase of batting. We are a small group that meets at 1 p.m. Tuesdays in Room 9 at the church. Would you care to join us?

Shirley Broders

I'D LIKE to take this opportunity to thank all church members who have graciously and generously given me Christmas presents, money gifts and various treats throughout this season. Your tangible support and affection is much appreciated. Thanks.

Pastor Paul Nelson

THANK YOU for the fruit basket and the gift certificate to SteppingStones. I will thoroughly enjoy both of them. Most of all, thank you for the warmth and love you have shown me. I treasure all of you!

In Christ, Muriel

Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

Starting this month, birthdays of St. John's members will be included in the Love Letter. The information is taken from our recently updated church records. If you see errors or omissions, please call the church office.

JANUARY 1
Robin Knerr
Kris Stepanek

JANUARY 2
Tim Potts

JANUARY 3
Heidi Lebeck
Sydney Honsbruch

JANUARY 6
Duane Flagel

JANUARY 8
Cindy Dudley
Linda Nowasell

JANUARY 9
Chana Weir

JANUARY 10
Andrew Walter

JANUARY 11
Luann Weigel

JANUARY 12
Armand Masuku
Dylan Ritter

JANUARY 13
John Dudley Albright

JANUARY 14
Jean Frana
LeRoy Locker

JANUARY 15
Ted Urfer

JANUARY 16
Travis Smith
Troy Smith

JANUARY 17
David Ashby
Jace Wilson

JANUARY 18
Tracy Reitz
Kelly Rose

JANUARY 19
Alice Beck
Kris Ness
Tyler Smith

JANUARY 20
Paige Honsbruch
John Martinek

JANUARY 21
Merle Lamb

JANUARY 23
Virginia Ashby

JANUARY 24
Jim Bailey
Agnes Mikel

JANUARY 26
Pam Ashing
Chad Beck
Thomas Heineman
Kathy Kriegel
Mark Lebeck

JANUARY 27
John Ruchotzke

JANUARY 28
Bev Cook
William Reitz
Earl Rohrsen

JANUARY 29
Mikayla Hatcher
James Nowasell

JANUARY 30
Nathan Beach
Norm Erickson

JANUARY 31
Albert Knight
Kyle Pedersen



STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Acolyte: Zach Osland
Greeter: Donna Beck
Reader: Brian Heineman
Ushers: Gordon Ashby, Don Beck

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Acolyte: Breanna Sanders
Greeters: Gaylen and Kathy Johnson
Reader: Dave Huth
Communion Assistants: R. Osland, S. Hagemeister
Coffee Servers: D.,D. Sundell, G., S. Broders

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Acolyte: Troy Smith
Greeter: Gary Cook
Reader: Nicole Behrens
Ushers: Donna Beck, Gary Cook

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Acolyte: Zach Osland
Greeters: Harlan and Michelle Honsbruch
Reader: Karen Klug Frischmeyer
Coffee Servers: S., C. Dudley, S. McDonough

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Greeters: Bob and Sandy Falck
Reader: Pam Ashing
Ushers: Brian and Nancy Heineman

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Acolyte: Katelin Dunn
Greeters: Jim and Sara Dunne
Reader: Amy Anderson
Communion Assistants: J. and D. Martinek
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Greeters: Nancy and Brian Heineman
Reader: Shirle Huth
Communion: Gordon Ashby
Ushers: Bob Kinseth, Natalie Pavey

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Acolyte: Joe Reitz
Greeters: Natalie Pavey and Kelly Rose
Reader: Sara Dunne

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

MONEY COUNTERS:

Sarah Dahlby Albright, Bob Ashing

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sat	5	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	6	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
Mon	7	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
		6:45 pm	Church Council, at Russ Crawford's
Tue	8	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	9	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Shirley Broders, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
Sat	12	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	13	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	14	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		2:30 pm	Caring Team, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	15	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	16	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
Thurs	17	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Jean Frana, hostess
Sat	19	11:30 am	WELCA luncheon and meeting, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship with liturgical dancers
Sun	20	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion, liturgical dancers
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
		TBA	Youth bowling activity
Mon	21	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	22	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle
Wed	23	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
Sat	26	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	27	7:30 am	Grace Matters, KGRN 1410 AM
		8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Semiannual congregational meeting and potluck
Mon	28	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
Tue	29	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	30	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Music Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room

ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY

December 10-January 8 — Shirley Jensen

Month of January — Judy Lebeck

January 8-February 12 — Bev Cook

LOVE LETTER

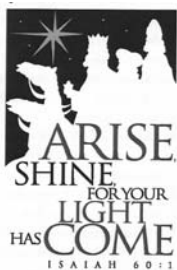
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Return Service Requested



GRACE MATTERS

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

JANUARY 6

Philip Gulley – If Grace is True...

Romans 11:33-36

One of the favorite questions many Christians love to ask is, "Who is saved? Is She? Is He? Am I?" The question grows in interest when people who do not profess Jesus Christ are included in the question. **Philip Gulley** is a popular author and Quaker minister, has some very important things to say about who gets saved. If grace is true, as a concept, a word, and as the defining characteristic of God, reasons Gulley, then it must be true for ALL people.

JANUARY 13

Jim Autry – Rethinking Miracle Stories

John 10:38

Jim Autry is a former Fortune 500 business executive, a leadership consultant, poet and author. But he is something else too. He is the loving father of an autistic son. Raising this son has caused Autry to read the healing miracles of Jesus in a way that might surprise many conventional or orthodox Christians. If you are wondering whether to believe in miracles, and whether they might be pointing to something larger, this program is for you.

JANUARY 20

Immaculée Ilibagiza (Part I) – Burning Hate

John 15:23-25

Immaculée Ilibagiza is an amazing woman. She narrowly escaped death in the Rwandan genocide of 1994 by hiding in the bathroom of her pastor's house for 91 consecutive days. In this compelling interview, the first in a two-part series, Immaculée gives an inside look at the faith that carried her through a horrific ordeal. She discusses the mystery of hatred and the necessity of Christian hope.

JANUARY 27

Ilibagiza (Part II) – Forgiving the Unforgivable

Luke 7:36-50

Immaculée Ilibagiza returns for the second of a two-part series on the tragedy of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She is the author of the book, *Left to Tell*, a gripping narrative of the ordeal that left her family and most of her village dead. In this broadcast Immaculée relives the jail encounter that brought her face-to-face with the killer who stabbed her parents and brother to death. This woman of faith will reawaken the power of forgiveness for all re seeking a new way of life.