

LOVE LETTER

MARCH 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

Reflecting on our time together

*"Owe no one anything, except to love each other,
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the Law."*

Romans 13:8

The Apostle Paul's ethic of mutual love for all is wonderful Christian calling. That has been my goal in my time as your interim pastor. As I prepare to leave that position, I offer some thoughts on our life together as a Christian community here in Grinnell.

First, having arriving in Grinnell in late January 2007, I have been blessed to have served St. John's during this interim period between the ending of Pastor Steve Jasch's tenure with his death in January 2007, and the start of Pastor .Kathy Roys' ministry among you in the coming months.

In many ways, it has been a difficult time for me in my personal life, as well as a difficult time for the members of St. John's. The call

process has culminated, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the

calling of Pastor Roys as your pastor. With you, I celebrate the promise and excitement of your congregation's progress in moving toward the future God prepares for St. John's and the community of Grinnell that this congregation serves.

During this interim period, I rejoice that congregational struggles and challenges have

been addressed. Some conflict developed and was addressed with Christian love and maturity by the Council of Ministers. A caring ministry has been initiated to engage the gifts of lay members of St. John's in the service of caring for all members and friends of St.

From Pastor Paul

I have received a call to serve as interim pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Urbandale. My last day as your interim pastor will be on Sunday, March 9. I join with all of you in looking forward to the start of your new pastor's tenure in the coming months. Please be assured that the Council of Ministers and I will work to ensure a smooth transition and provide for pulpit supply as well as leadership in St. John's confirmation ministry. I will pray for St. John's future mission and ministry and I leave this congregation with the belief that it will continue to grow as an exciting and spirit-filled place for ministry in the Grinnell community.

Pastor Paul Nelson



AROUND the CONGREGATION

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Palm Sunday

Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Worship with Holy Communion at 7 p.m., with music by Senior Choir

Good Friday

Good Friday service sponsored by the Grinnell Ministerial Association at 12:10 p.m. at St. John's.

Worship at 7 p.m. with music by the Celebration Singers

Easter

Festival worship service at 9:30 a.m. with choir and instrumentalists.

Youth of the church will serve breakfast from 7:45 to 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go to Kids Against Hunger

Worship, lunch during Lent

The Grinnell Ministerial Association annually sponsors midweek

Lenten worship and luncheons at various Grinnell churches.

The brief service begins at 12:10 p.m. and is followed by a

luncheon. On Good Friday, there will be a longer service **not** followed by a meal. Dates, locations and speakers for the remainder of Lent include:



March 5

United Methodist Church
Rev. Walt Claussen

March 12

First Baptist Church
Dr. George Drake

March 21 (Good Friday)

St. John's Lutheran Church
Rev. Jerry Laehn

Save some money

Anyone wanting to make copies for church purposes is asked to use the copier in the north end of the Music Room and not the copier in the church office. We pay by the page on the office copier but not on the machine in the Music Room.

In sympathy

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Phyllis Snook, who died February 14. Services were held February 22 at Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma. Burial was at Jackson Township Cemetery, rural Montezuma.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer, a worldwide ecumenical event sponsored locally by Church Women United, will be held at noon Friday, March 7, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church.

Confirmation date

In a change from previous years, the Rite of Confirmation will be held on Pentecost — May 11.

Reaching out

Sixteen members of our congregation under the direction of the Evangelism Committee are preparing to call on members who we have missed seeing in recent weeks and months. The group will do the visiting in pairs as their schedules permit.



We ask everyone in the congregation to pray for those involved in this important ministry. Those who will be calling are: Donna Beck, Nicole Behrens, Ted Clausen, Fred England, Bob Falck, Sandy Falck, Lamoyne Gaard, Addy Hanson, Cheryl Irland, Gaylen Johnson, Bobbie Kahler, Nancy Locker, Lance Longman, Sue McDonough, Brenda Mikel and Pat Starrett.

Church finances through January 2008

	2008	2007
Offerings	\$14,708	\$12,495
Budget	\$21,261	\$17,605
Expenses	\$14,463	\$17,374

St. John's Youth Ministry

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

Serving breakfast on Easter

Youth in grades 4-12 will serve Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 7:45 to 9 a.m. A freewill donation will be collected, with the money going to the Kids Against Hunger Project.

Looking ahead

A team of 12 volunteers (both adults and youth are welcome) will participate on Sunday, April 6, in a Kids Against Hunger food packaging session. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you can help.

Congratulations

Morgan Boehmer, daughter of Tami Ditzler and Jeff Boehmer, was one of 276 girls performing with the All-Iowa Drill Team at the girls state basketball tournament in Des Moines. Morgan is a senior at Grinnell High School, where she has been captain of the GHS Tiger Paws for the last two years.

Church Council Highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held February 20.

ST. JOHN'S will give a gift of \$250 to Bishop Philip Hougen in honor of his years of service to the synod.

COUNCIL members agreed to Pastor Nelson's request to relieve him of his interim contract effective March 10.

NEW windows will be installed on the north side of the building when weather permits.

ST. JOHN'S will participate in the Educational Partners In Covenant program under which Lutheran colleges in Iowa will match contributions from congregations up to \$750. The funds are available to college students from those congregations who plan to attend one of the colleges.

Message from Pastor Kathryn Roys

The following are excerpts from Pastor Kathryn Roys' letter accepting our call to serve as full-time pastor at St. John's. The full letter was mailed to the congregation earlier this week.

It is with pleasure that I accept the call to serve beside the Body of Christ called St. John's Lutheran Church in Grinnell. My first worship leadership with you will be May 3 and 4.

Pastor Nelson wrote in the last *Love Letter* that he sees new life springing up at St. John's. He hears it in the voices of hope and excitement; he sees it in you. It is apparent that the Holy Spirit has been guiding your ministry together, and no doubt St. John's will continue to celebrate a rise in new life this Easter season.

During Lent we reframe from Alleluias, but we will sing them together soon in praise of our living Lord!

*Your new partner in this journey,
Pastor Kathryn Roys*

Our time together

(continued from page 1)

John's. I trust, too, that Muriel Johannessen and I have modeled a kind of mutual and collegial decision-making process for St. John's.

But challenges remain. The ability and energy for outreach remains to be tapped for St. John's. Reaching out in creative and mission-oriented ways to Grinnell College remains an untapped resource for renewal. Many needs in the larger community also remain a challenge for the members of St. John's. To begin to see St. John's as a public church that reaches out into the community can quite possibly be a realistic gift for the larger community of St. John's.

And finally, I thank all of you for your love and support, and I pray for your continued growth as a vital and welcoming place for all of the Grinnell community.

*Peace,
Pastor Paul Nelson*

During the remainder of Lent and during Holy Week, Muriel Johannessen will lead both Saturday and Sunday worship services. In April, Muriel will conduct the Saturday services and guest clergy will lead the Sunday worship. As noted above, Pastor Kathy will start at St. John's at the beginning of May.

NOTES OF THANKS

WE would like to thank everyone for keeping our family in your thoughts, prayers, and your expression of sympathy thru cards during our recent loss of my brother, Greg. It is nice to know that we have such a caring church family.

Lance and Deb Longman

THANK you to everyone who attended the WELCA luncheon on March 23. It was a good time for all. Prayer partners were revealed. If you were not in attendance, please let your prayer partner know who you are.

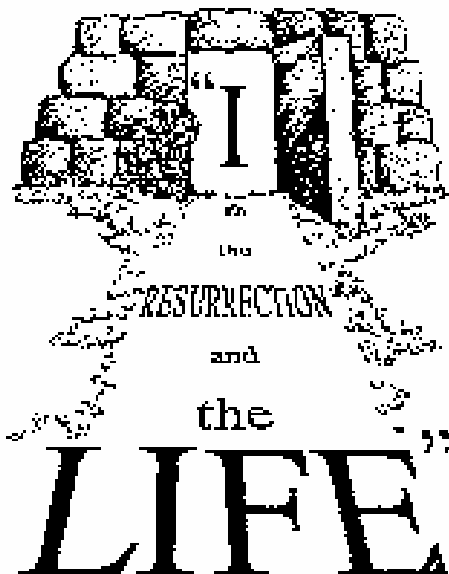
Mary Martha Circle

THANK you to Lydia Circle for the flower and the prayers.

Shirle Huth

A **VERY** big thank you to Muriel for visiting me in the hospital and at home. Also thanks also to Pastor Paul. And thanks for the cards and visits and to the ladies of the church for the meals they brought me at home. It was all very much appreciated.

Lorraine Graff



John 11:25

Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

Our baptized members who have birthdays in March are:

March 1

Jarren Ford
Steve Gustafson

March 2

Mike Anderson
Lori Oltrogge

March 3

Bryan Cook
Charlene Knight
Randy Smith

March 4

Roger Henderson
Rebecca Pinkerton

March 5

Tyler Huebner

March 6

Cheryl Irland
John Martinek Jr.

March 7

Karen Klug-Frischmeyer
Ashley Mikel

March 10

Breanna Sanders
Jena Sanders

March 11

Dorothy Wade

March 12

Karen Beck

March 14

Kimberly Busse

March 15

Connie Strom
Aaron Wade

March 18

Alexander Reid

March 19

Zen Masuku

March 20

Scott Beach
Brenda Crawford
Kelli Walter

March 21

Fred England
Ella Frana
Dave Huth
Paul Pedersen

March 24

Aimee Kramer

March 26

Pat Larson
Brian Wilson

March 27

Margaret Amo

March 31

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

MONEY COUNTERS: Rose and Keith Osland, Vicki and Fred Dillon

USHERS FOR SATURDAY WORSHIP: March 1 — Ed and Bev Hatcher; 8 — Natalie and Maylnn Pavey; 15 — Bob and Deloris Kinseth; 29 — Donna Beck

USHERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP: Terry Cline and Scott Jensen (*head ushers*) Brian Heineman, Steve Dudley

NURSERY ON SUNDAYS: March 2 — Sara Hagemeister; 9 — Tammie Van Hamme; 16 — Nicole Behrens; 23 — Sarah Dahlby Albright; 30 — Sara Hagemeister

ALTAR GUILD: March 1-March 11 — Nancy Beck; all of March — Jo Olson; March 11-April 8 — Bev Huebner

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Acolyte: Jarren Ford
Greeter: Sue McDonough
Reader: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Acolyte: Troy Smith
Greeters: Gladys Booth, Lu Ahrens
Reader: Nick Strole
Communion Assistants: Rose and Keith Osland
Coffee Servers: Y. and L. Cline, S. Jensen

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Acolyte: Ashley Mikel

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Greeter: Malynn Pavey
Reader: Karen Ashby

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Acolyte: Zach Osland
Greeters: Ray Parker, Fred England
Reader: Lamoyne Gaard
Coffee Servers: E. and V. Gerrish, J. Olson

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Acolyte: Breanna Sanders

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Acolyte: Joe Nowasell
Greeter: Deloris Kinseth
Reader: Gladys Booth

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Acolyte: Ollie VandeStouwe
Greeters:
Reader: Shirle Huth
Communion Assistants: J. and M. Ruchotzke
Coffee Servers: D. and L. Wade,, B. Wilson

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Acolyte: Troy Smith
Greeters: Steve and Cindy Dudley
Reader: Sue McDonough
Communion Assistants: Don and Doris Sundell
Easter Breakfast served by the youth

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Acolyte: Katelin Dunn
Greeter: Donna Beck
Reader: Ashley Mikel
Communion Assistant: Gladys Booth

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Acolyte: Joe Reitz
Greeters: Bob and Pam Ashing
Reader: Gladys Booth
Coffee Servers: G., K. Johnson, K. Rose

MARCH CALENDAR

Sat	1	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	2	8:30 am	Senior 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	3	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	4	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	5	6 pm	Soup Supper
		6:20 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal
		7 pm	Midweek Lenten worship service
Sat	8	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	9	8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, farewell for Pastor Nelson
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	10	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	11	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		10 am	Center for Renewal, Meeting Room
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	12	11:30 am	WELCA Board Meeting
		1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Marian Templeton, hostess
		6 pm	Soup Supper
		6:20 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal
		7 pm	Midweek Lenten worship service
Sat	15	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	16	9:30 am	PALM SUNDAY Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Mon	17	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Tue	18	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	19	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
Thurs	20	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Mary Schuchmann, hostess
		6:30 pm	Senior Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		7 pm	Maundy Thursday worship service
Fri	21	12:10 pm	Community Good Friday service at St. John's
		6:20 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal
		7 pm	Good Friday worship service
Sat	22	NO SATURDAY SERVICE	
Sun	23	7:45 am	Easter Breakfast served by youth of the church
		8:30 am	Senior Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	EASTER SUNDAY worship
Mon	24	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	25	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Meeting Room
Wed	26	6 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal
Fri	28	4 pm —	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
Sat	29	8 am-5 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	30	9:30 am	Worship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	31	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room

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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

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES



Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

GRACE MATTERS

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

MARCH 2

Tim Wise – Insulating Your Attic

Galatians 3:28

Racism can be a tough thing to get our hands around, especially when the majority white culture struggles to even recognize the privileges it enjoys. [Tim Wise](#), author and anti-racism activist, has a sharp mind for thinking creatively about this question. \

MARCH 9

Luci Shaw – The Crime of Living Cautiously

Exodus 16-3

God built risk into the universe. It is all over creation. It is part and parcel of the Christian life as well. Poet [Luci Shaw](#) understands life to be full of adventure and risk, with her own personal life as evidence. She joins the program to help distinguish faith from fear, and both from fanaticism.

MARCH 16

Peter W. Marty – Palm Sunday Special – A Life of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Program host [Peter W. Marty](#) takes you from a street fair in Palm Springs, California, to the dusty road in Jerusalem where Jesus made his final and triumphant entry prior to his death. Along the way, he stops to contemplate the silence of Jesus and

what Jesus was willing to absorb. Reconciliation becomes the focus of Jesus' ministry in those final days, as he demonstrates that being in a relationship is \more important than being right.

MARCH 23

Peter W. Marty – Easter Sunday – The Nonsense of Standstill Christianity

Mark 16:1-8

In this special Easter Sunday program host [Peter W. Marty](#) takes a candid look at the Christian life lived in light of the resurrection. If Jesus has been raised from the dead, there is no such thing as a standstill Christian. Living the Christian life well is all about trying to keep up with the risen Christ, who keeps showing up several steps ahead of us.

MARCH 30

Joy Newcom – When You Did Not Expect Joy

Psalms 16

[Joy Newcom](#) is the mother of two boys, one of whom was born with multiple birth defects. That birth and that child has ended up transforming her life. Much of it has been an involuntary transformation, taking her places she never asked to go. But every step of the way, joy keeps giving shape to the transformation. It's a hard but beautiful story of God working steadfastly with us through the circumstances of our lives.