

# LOVE LETTER

APRIL 2008

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

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

## Muriel's Musings

I was so moved by what I witnessed during our Maundy Thursday worship that I wanted to share my thoughts with you. (I told the Love Letter editor to discard what I wrote last week for this space.)

As we gathered in groups of 12 around the table, on Maundy Thursday we were young, old and middle-aged. When I gave bread, then wine to the young person on my right, telling him that this was the Body and Blood of Christ given for him, those were familiar words and actions. When that person passed the elements on, it was not such a familiar event.

As I saw the bread and wine move around the table, I was reminded of that first holy meal, when Jesus gave the bread and wine to his disciples with words that were so new to them. Surely they, too, had some hesitation as they passed the loaf and cup to one another, giving to all to eat and drink. Surely they had questions regarding the meaning of those words and the words of Jesus to "do this in remembrance of me." Later, when the disciples shared the Body and Blood with others during meals in their homes and gathering places, they understood more deeply. We continue to hear those words and share that experience today, and I trust God gives us new understanding as well. As I watched and heard the voices of the young and not-so-young bless each other through this precious gift on Maundy Thursday at St. John's in Grinnell, I thought of the early disciples and was struck by the reality that we were walking in their footsteps. That awareness touched me deeply.

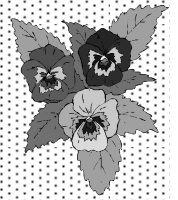
My prayer is that you, too, will have a new sense of gathering at God's table with all those who have gone before and all those on earth who share our faith in Jesus as you worship Christ, our Risen Lord.

*Muriel Johannessen*

CHURCH NEWS  
**AROUND**  
*the*  
**CONGREGATION**

**Mother-Daughter  
 SPRING TEA**

Lydia Circle invites all women and girls of the congregation to a Mother-Daughter Tea at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be presented by vocal groups from Grinnell High School. The event is for all women of the church.



**In sympathy**

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Emma Luttmann, who died March 15 at St. Francis Manor. Funeral services were held March 18 at the Smith Funeral Home. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery. At age 98 at the time of her death, Emma was St. John's oldest member. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

**With thanks and praise!**

A reception honoring Muriel Johannessen will be held after worship on Saturday, April 19. Muriel has conducted Saturday worship, led a Monday morning Bible study and helped out as needed during the interim period at St. John's. We are grateful for her presence in our midst.

**Thank  
 You!**

**Our delegates**

Nancy Locker and Bob Falck will represent St. John's at the 2008 Synod Assembly to be held May 16-18 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Coralville.

**Food pantry needs....**

Special needs of the MICA food pantry this month are pancake mix, pancake syrup, canned peaches and all varieties of canned juices. A collection basket at St. John's is located in the narthex. Thanks to all who have contributed.

**Get ready to welcome!**

Our new pastor, the Rev. Kathryn Roys, will arrive in Grinnell the first week in May. She will conduct worship for the first time on May 3 and 4.

During the month of April we will have guest pastors in our pulpit on Sundays. Muriel Johannessen will continue to conduct the Saturday evening services.

The Sunday schedule for April is:

**APRIL 6**  
 Rev. Dennis Haas  
 retired chaplain, Grinnell College

**APRIL 13 and 20**  
 Rev. Allan Thoresen, retired

**APRIL 27**  
 Rev. Larry Patterson, chaplain  
 Pella Regional Health Center

**Confirmation**

Bev Huebner will lead the confirmation class during April. The Rite of Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, May 11.

**In need of help**

The Boy Scout troop at St. John's is looking for adult leadership and/or help with troop activities. Contact Dale Lamb if you are able to assist.

**WELCA cluster meeting**

The WELCA Cluster Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 5, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kellogg. The event will include a business meeting, Bible study, brunch and program.

The speaker will be Becca Martin from the Beloit office of Lutheran Services in Iowa, who will talk about services offered by LSI. Love-in-Kind gifts — socks and underwear for boys and girls ages 5-13 — will go to LSI. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Adjournment is planned for 11:30 a.m. Anyone planning to go should contact Jo Olson.

**Comparison of church  
 finances through February**

	2008	2007
Offerings	\$25,384	\$22,188
Budget	\$42,522	\$35,211
Expenses	\$37,489	\$34,409

## St. John's Youth Ministry

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

### On April 6

Hang around after Sunday School (or come back at 11:45 a.m.) for **lunch and games**. Bring your favorite card and board game and spend time with friends until it's time for our shift (2:15 p.m.) at **Kids Against Hunger**, the local food-packaging effort for people in need around the world.

### On April 19

We will go to see the musical **"Godspell"** at the new Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts in Fairfield. More information will be given to those who have signed up.

### Serving in April

Youth members serving at the coffee fellowship on **April 19** are A.J. and Trent Baker, Chana and Christopher Weir, and Sydney Honsbruch. Parent helpers that day are Barb and Mike Baker and Harlan and Michelle Honsbruch.

### We're proud of you!

Congratulations to St. John's members involved in the outstanding production of "My Fair Lady" at Grinnell High School in March. Roger Henderson was musical director. Lisa Henderson was vocal coach. Cast members included Alec Henderson and Brandon Mikel.

## Church Council highlights

*The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held March 17. The next council meeting is April 21*

**THE FIRST PAYMENT** of \$3,000 has been made to Freeport Organ Company, Freeport, Ill., for improvements to the church organ. The work, designed to enhance the sound, involves adding digitalized equipment that is comparable to installing a 16-foot organ pipe. Cost of the project will be paid for with memorial funds.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** are being recruited for next fall. Plans for Vacation Bible School are under way.

**A CONTRACT** has been signed with Karr Tuckpointing Co. to tuckpoint portions of the building's exterior.

**EFFORTS** are in the works to establish a Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) program at St. John's. EPIC is a scholarship program between the three Synods in Iowa and the four ELCA colleges in the Synod — Grand View, Luther, Waldorf and Wartburg. Under the program, the colleges will match contributions from a congregation on behalf of a student from the congregation attending any of the four schools. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund can do so by marking the contribution on an offering envelope.

**THE IDEA** of a weekly email mini-newsletter was approved.

## Thrivent helps congregations, projects

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society made up of members who own Thrivent financial products such as insurance, annuities, mutual funds and more, sponsors a variety of outreach programs and activities in communities throughout the 50 states. .

Locally, Thrivent works to fund congregational projects. Last year Thrivent contributed \$500 to buy supplies for the Lutheran World Relief Quilters at the church. This spring Thrivent will make a donation to help pay the cost of the youth participating in the Kids Against Hunger event on April 6.

Thrivent is organized on a countywide basis by chapters. Serving from St. John's on the Poweshiek County Thrivent board are Nancy Locker and Mitzi Dufoe. St. John's congregation coordinators are Gladys Booth, Natalie Dunn and Jo Olson.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans was formed in 2001 by a merger of Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutheran, two longtime fraternal benefit societies. Thrivent is headquartered in Minneapolis and Appleton, Wis.

## NOTES OF THANKS

I know now what it means to be part of a church family. My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the prayers, good wishes and meals during my recovery from a fall. I don't wish a broken kneecap on anyone, but the experience surely made me realize and appreciate the caring community of St. John's..



*Mary Schuchmann*

Dear church family,

Thank you for all the calls, cards and food brought to me during my recent ailments. They were all very much appreciated.

*Your sister in Christ,  
Bobbie Kahler*

Thanks to everyone who contributed food and helped organize and serve at the Wednesday evening soup suppers during Lent.

*Fellowship Committee*



## Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

*Our baptized members who have birthdays in April are:*

### April 3

Mariah Mikel

### April 4

Lori Brown  
Brent Jaeger  
Keith Winburn  
Wyatt Winburn

### April 5

Nathan Ford  
Reid Henderson

### April 6

Stan Reitz

### April 7

Jolisa Ditzler  
Susan Erickson

### April 8

Lois Quindt

### April 9

Mitchell Klug-Frischmeyer

### April 10

Alec Henderson

### April 11

Eli Dunne  
Dennis Wilson

### April 12

Jake Crawford  
Jim Urfer

### April 17

AmyLynn Kline  
Nathaniel Nelson

### April 18

Ben Irland

### April 19

Ted Clausen  
Brian Heineman  
Stephanie Nelson

### April 20

Jacob Lamb

### April 21

Diane Beeler  
Nick Dufoe

### April 23

Shirley Broders  
William Dahlby Albright  
Kyle Jaeger  
Brenda Mikel

### April 25

Rose Osland

### April 26

Sue Rojohn  
Larry Wade

### April 28

Bill Burk  
Paul Kolpin

### April 29

Loren Kolpin  
Kara White

### April 30

Nancy Locker

## SERVING IN APRIL

**USHERS ON SUNDAY:** Keith Osland, Fred Dillon, Don Sundell, Harlan Honsbruch, Sydney Honsbruch, Gene Broders, Lance Longman

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Bev and Dan Huebner, Sandy and Bob Falck

### ALTAR GUILD

March 11-April 8 — Bev Huebner  
Month of April — Vicki Dillon  
April 8-May 13 — Dorothy Martinek

**STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

**Acolyte:** Zach Osland  
**Greeter:** Charlene Knight  
**Reader:** Sandy Falck  
**Ushers:** Charlene and Albert Knight

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

**Acolyte:** Breanna Sanders  
**Greeters:** Honsbruch family  
**Reader:** Verna Gerrish  
**Communion Assistants:** Jim and Molly Urfer  
**Coffee Servers:** N. and J. Dunn, V. Gerrish  
**Nursery:** Laura Weigel

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**

**Acolyte:** Troy Smith  
**Greeters:** Nancy Beck  
**Reader:** Bobbie Kahler  
**Ushers:** Nancy and Don Beck

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

**Acolyte:** Ollie VandeStouwe  
**Greeters:** Fred and Sara Hagemeister  
**Reader:** Nancy Heineman  
**Coffee Servers:** M. and J. Urfer, Lu Ahrens  
**Nursery:** A.J. Baker

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

**Acolyte:** Scott Bosse  
**Greeters:** Nancy Urfer  
**Reader:** Bev Hatcher  
**Ushers:** Nancy and Ted Urfer  
**Communion Assistant:** Karen Ashby

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20**

**Acolyte:** Katelin Dunn  
**Greeters:** Anita and Tom Ford  
**Reader:** Doris Selix  
**Communion Assistants:** Vic and Jean Frana  
**Coffee Servers:** Senior Youth  
**Nursery:** Renee Beach

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**

**Acolyte:** Zach Boehmer  
**Greeter:** Virginia Billman  
**Reader:** Jim Urfer  
**Ushers:** Gladys Booth, Virginia Billman

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27**

**Acolyte:** Joe Reitz  
**Greeter:** Stephanie Nelson  
**Reader:** Shirley Jensen  
**Coffee Servers:** N., B. Heineman, B. Wilson  
**Nursery:** Sara Hagemeister

*More Stewardship of Service on page 4*

**APRIL CALENDAR**

<b>Tue</b>	<b>1</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Evangelism Committee, Meeting Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>2</b>	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Music Room
<b>Sat</b>	<b>5</b>	8:30 am	Spring Cluster Meeting, St. Paul, Kellogg
		5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6</b>	8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
		11:45 am	Youth lunch, games, Kids Against Hunger project
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7</b>	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>8</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Dine
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9</b>	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Lu Ahrens, hostess
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal
<b>Sat</b>	<b>12</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>	9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
<b>Mon</b>	<b>14</b>	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>15</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
<b>Wed</b>	<b>16</b>	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship Committee meeting, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Music Room
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>17</b>	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Mary Schuchmann, hostess
<b>Sat</b>	<b>19</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
		6:30 pm	Reception following the service honoring Muriel Johannessen
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20</b>	8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
<b>Mon</b>	<b>21</b>	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>22</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Meeting Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>23</b>	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Music Room
<b>Sat</b>	<b>26</b>	5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>	8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
<b>Mon</b>	<b>28</b>	11 am	Bible Study with Muriel, Meeting Room
		6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tue</b>	<b>29</b>	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
<b>Wed</b>	<b>30</b>	7 pm	Confirmation Class, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Music Room

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(641) 236-4946

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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

**APRIL 6**

**Bill McKibben – Treating Our Planet Courteously**

*Isaiah 24*

Few subjects are more urgent than the crisis of our planet. The stresses we put on the natural resources of planet earth, not to mention the air we breathe and the water we drink, are growing each day. Our personal behaviors and global economies are all contributing to the crisis. **Bill McKibben**, author and writer-in-residence at Middlebury College in Vermont, is one of nation's most articulate spokespersons on the environment, climate change and the need for all people to live more lightly. His personal faith powers much of his message.

**APRIL 13**

**Robert Abernethy – Depth. Heft. Gravity.**

*Psalms 139*

All of us want to live lives of meaning. No person seeks to drift through life with a purposelessness. Yet some individuals have the gift of thinking with clarity on matters of the heart. Some know exactly how to put their faith into

words. These are people, by and large, who live and speak with depth, heft and gravity. **Bob Abernethy** is the executive editor and host of the PBS program "Religion and Ethics NewsWeekly." He joins the program to discuss why lives of meaning matter so much to him.

**APRIL 20**

**Jim Wallis – A Revival In the Works**

*Isaiah 42:1*

We live in a day when individuals from all walks of life are trying to make sense of the intersection between religion and politics. Most of us know we are not enamored with the extremes, where strident know-it-all's dominate the airwaves, but what is the middle ground? Or better said, how can people of faith think deeply about the moral and justice issues of the day? *nk Times* best-selling author, and faith-based activist **Jim Wallis** is as poised as anyone to speak about this topic. He is encouraged by a new movement emerging among America's religious faithful.