

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

MAY 2008

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

The Rev. Kathy Roys
Pastor

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

Let us WELCOME Pastor Kathy Roys!

Our new pastor, the Rev. Kathy Roys, will begin work at St. John's the first week of May and will lead worship at St. John's for the first time on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4. We are looking forward to her presence and her ministry among us. Here is a brief biography of Pastor Kathy, as she likes to be called.

Since 2003, Pastor Kathy has served as an associate pastor (three-fourths time) at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, a congregation about the same size as St. John's. She graduated in 1983 from Carroll College, Waukesha, WI, with a degree in social work. She received a

Masters in Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque in 2003 and was ordained the same year. Prior to attending seminary, she worked in business and as a pre-school teacher and college admissions counselor. A native of West Union, Iowa, she lived in Milwaukee, WI, and Knoxville, TN, before moving back to Iowa in 1997. She and her husband, Bob, have two children – Kristen, a graduate of St. Olaf College who is in the Peace Corps in Madagascar, and Jason, a sophomore at St. Olaf. Bob works in informa-



Pastor Kathy Roys

tion technology, combining traveling and work from home. As a lay person before her ordination, Pastor Kathy served on church councils in two different churches, taught education classes for both children and adults, and served as a worship leader, nursery coordinator and children's choir assistant.

Her installation service is planned for Sunday, June 1.



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Rite of Confirmation

Four eighth-graders will be confirmed at St. John's on Pentecost Sunday, May 11. They are Zach Boehmer, Scott Bosse, Katelin Dunne and Joe Reitz. Congratulations to all of you!

On May 18

Sunday School students will lead worship on Sunday, May 18. The older kids will lead the liturgy and everyone, preschool through confirmation age, will sing and lead the congregation in song. Ryan and Sarah Dahlby Albright are doing the organizing. Thanks, Ryan and Sarah!

May 18 also is the final day of Sunday School. The class that day will include some special activities.

At Synod Assembly

Nancy Locker and Bob Falck will represent St. John's at the South-eastern Iowa Synod Assembly on May 16-18 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville. On the agenda will be the election of a new bishop to succeed the Rev. Philip Hougen, who is retiring.

Please keep the Synod in your prayers as delegates seek God's will in finding new leadership.

Mother-Daughter 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 include musical entertainment and a special treat for children.

The event is for all women of the church. No advance registration is necessary.

Looking ahead

A Sunday School teacher for grades 1-3 is needed for the next school year. If you can't commit for the whole year, consider sharing the job and alternating months — or other creative options. Call Stephanie Nelson, 236-1680, if you can help.

Thank you, Muriel

Muriel Johannessen was honored and thanked for her ministry at St. John's at a reception following the Saturday evening worship service on April 19.

There's sure to be sand at Bible School this year!

A joint Vacation Bible School with the United Methodist Church is planned for July 6-10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. This year's theme is beach-related! There are many volunteer opportunities, so choose your favorite area to help, then call Stephanie Nelson, 236-1680, to let her know what you'd like to do.

Bible Story Leader (2 needed). Do storytelling each night..

Craft Leader (2 plus assistants) Decide on crafts and lead the craft activities during the week.

Discovery Time Leader (2) Lead one of the stations performing science experiments that will complement the lesson each night.

Recreation Leader (2) Lead recreation activities.

Lead Decorator (1) Take charge of decorating and putting together a team to decorate.

Mission Leader (1) Decide how to use the offering (with help from a booklet) and share with the kids how the money will be used.

Lifeguard Leaders (2) Help with individual groups of kids. (No swimming skills required!)

Anyone can help — young, old, male or female. Call Stephanie Nelson ASAP.

Comparison of church finances through March

	2008	2007
Offerings	\$48,371	\$37,773
Budget	\$62,783	\$52,819
Expenses	\$57,200	\$45,584

St. John's Youth Ministry

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

Serving in May

Youth members serving at the coffee fellowship on **May 18** are Zach Boehmer, Ollie Vande Stouwe, Eli and Katelin Dunne, Scott Bosse. Parent helpers are Gordon and Carolyn Bosse and Lori Vande Stouwe.

Congratulations to our GHS graduates

Eight members of St. John's will graduate May 25 from Grinnell High School. They will be honored at a Senior Breakfast at the church on May 18. Our good wishes to all of you.

A.J. Baker
Morgan Boehmer
Katelyn Ditzler
Kyle Jaeger
Jereyl Knerr
Zen Masuku
Danielle Nowasell
Shannon Potts
Brianna Vande Stouwe

Fighting hunger

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Kids Against Hunger food packaging event on April 6. The team from St. John's included Brandon Mikel, Ashley Mikel, Mariah Mikel, Zach Osland, Amanda Osland, Caprise Honsbruch, Scott Bosse, Josh Stepanek, Barrett Anderson, Sydney Anderson and parents Brenda Mikel and Kris Stepanek. While the team was working, it was announced that 10,000 meals had already been packaged that day.

Church Council highlights

The following is a summary of the Church Council meeting held April 21. The next council meeting is May 13.

DAN HUEBNER and others are trying to determine the problem with the church elevator, which has been working intermittently over the past month or so.

ENHANCEMENT of the organ continues in process.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS of the paid staff are being prepared.

Weekly eLOVE LETTER started

If you're reading this issue of the Love Letter, you may not need the new weekly email newsletter that St. John's began in mid-April. But we know that many people, for various reasons, don't read or seldom read printed publications. For those folks especially, the new eLOVE LETTER was created. For everyone, however, the email newsletter can serve as an update and a reminder of news and coming events at the church.

The plan is to send the weekly eLOVE LETTER to everyone who has given the church an email address. If you don't want to receive the email, please contact the church office and your name will be removed from the email list. If you do not have email and want to receive the newsletter in a printed form, call the church office and a copy will be mailed to you. A copy will also be posted on the bulletin board in the educational wing.

The monthly Love Letter will continue in its present form and will be mailed to each household in the church as in the past. The weekly eLOVE LETTER is simply an additional source of information and a way to connect members to the church on a weekly basis.

Colleges, congregations in partnership

St. John's has joined Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC), a scholarship program between the three synods in Iowa and the four Lutheran schools in the state — Grand View, Luther, Waldorf and Wartburg.

In the program, the four colleges will match the contributions from the congregation on behalf of a student from the congregation who attends any of the four schools.

The deadline for this year's scholarship program is May 15. If any graduating seniors plan to attend any of the four schools and/or any congregation members wish to donate to the program, contact Gary Cook — home phone 236-5620; work phone, 269-8507; or email, gcook@gmrc.com

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Friends,
Thank you so very much for the wonderful gifts, cards and reception you gave me. I felt so blessed to have been able to spend this time with you. You are amazing people and I pray God will bless you as you journey together with Pastor Kathy.

*With love, prayers and appreciation,
Muriel*

Thanks to everyone who remembered us on our 50th wedding anniversary.

Jack and Marian Templeton

Many thanks to Bev Huebner for taking charge of the confirmation class in March and April, after Pastor Nelson left. Her teaching skills were put to good use, and her commitment to young people and St. John's was obvious. Confirmation on May 10 will take place largely because of Bev. Thank you from the entire congregation.



Dear St. John's,
Thank you so much for your generous donations of food items to MICA. Your donations help many children and families as they make their way through hard times. With your help, we are able to maintain our food pantry, which provides not only nutritious food but also household and hygiene items for families and individuals in our community. Without your generosity, we would not be able to remain open to serve those in the greatest need. Thank you again for your gifts.

*Lani Esch
MICA staff and families served*

Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

Our baptized members who have birthdays in May are:

May 1

Kurt Falck
Michelle Honsbruch

May 4

Warren Busse

May 5

Rosalie Hartzell

May 6

Jenna Morrison
Kalen Winburn

May 7

Eunice Kelm

May 8

Melvin Beck
Vic Frana
James Havel

May 9

Dave Wierson

May 10

Carol Bauman

May 13

Renee Beach
Barb Havel

May 14

Stephanie Morrison

May 15

Duane Dufoe

May 18

Arlene Daveport
Matthew Erickson

May 19

Katie Henderson

May 20

Jason Hatcher
Irene Morrison

May 21

Jerry Reid

May 22

Gail Beck
Michael Reid

May 23

A.J. Baker

May 24

Harry Ashby

May 25

Nathan Weigel

May 26

Ken Pearce
Darrell Rojohn
Diane Ruchotzke

May 27

Georgia Diefenthaler

May 28

Anna Jasch

May 29

Jimmy Pinkerton

May 31

Nicole Behrens
Gladys Booth
Dennis Van Hamme



Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Acolyte: Jarren Ford
Greeter: Nancy Urfer
Reader: Bob Falck
Ushers: Ted and Nancy Urfer

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Acolyte: Caprise Honsbruch
Greeters: Jim and Molly Urfer
Reader: Fred Hagemeister
Communion: Sue McDonough, Sara Hagemeister
Coffee Servers: M. and D. Dufoe, F. England
Nursery: Tammie Van Hamme

SATURDAY, MAY 10

Acolyte: Ashley Mikel
Greeter: Christopher Weir
Reader: Ed Hatcher
 Communion Assistant: Nancy Beck
Ushers: Christopher Weir, Gary Cook

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Acolyte: Joe Nowasell
Greeters: Brian and Nancy Heineman
Reader: Kathy Johnson
Communion Assistants: G. Booth, A. Hanson
Coffee Servers: D., J. Martinek
Nursery: Nicole Behrens

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Acolyte: Zach Osland
Greeters: Nancy Heineman
Reader: Pam Ashing
Ushers: Nancy and Brian Heineman

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Greeters: Madge and John Ruchotzke
Reader:
Coffee Servers: Junior Youth
Nursery: Sarah Dahlby Albright

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer
Greeter: Sandy Falck
Reader: Molly Urfer
 Communion Assistant: Molly Urfer
Ushers: Bob and Sandy Falck

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Acolyte: Ollie VandeStouwe
Greeter: Scott Jensen
Reader: Dorothy Maratinek
Coffee Servers: F., V. Dillon, S. McDonough
Nursery: Shirley Broders

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Acolyte: Troy Smith
Greeter: Shirle Huth
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Ushers: Dave and Shirle Huth

MAY CALENDAR

Sat	3	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	4	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	5	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	6	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Dine
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	7	7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs	8	6 pm	Confirmation event with mentors, Fellowship Hall
Sat	10	2 pm	Mother-Daughter Tea, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	11	8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
PENTECOST		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion , Rite of Confirmation
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	12	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	13	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Wed	14	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Mary Lu Watson, hostess
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs	15	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Sue McDonough, hostess
Sat	17	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	18	8 am	Breakfast for graduating seniors
		8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship led by Sunday School
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	19	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	20	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	21	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	24	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	25	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, Preschool to Adult
Mon	26	6:30 pm	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tue	27	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Sarah Circle, Natalie Dunn, hostess
Wed	28	7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	31	5:30 pm	Worship

USHERS ON SUNDAY: Rick Weigel, Duane Dufoe, Fred Hagemeister, John Martinek, Trent Baker

MONEY COUNTERS: Diane Ruchotzke, John and Dorothy Martinek

ALTAR GUILD

May 1-May 13 — Dorothy Martinek
 Month of May — Diane Ruchotzke
 May 13-May 31 — Shirley Jensen

LOVE LETTER

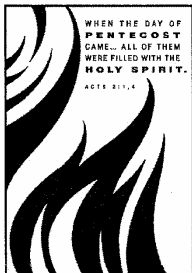
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Return Service Requested



PENTECOST
May 11

GRACE MATTERS

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

MAY 4

Bruce Campbell – Letter-Writing from the Heart
2 Corinthians 3:3

Otolaryngology is an important word, but a mouthful to pronounce. It happens to be shorthand for that branch of medicine that deals with ear, nose, and throat. [Dr. Bruce Campbell](#), head and neck surgeon at the Medical College of Wisconsin, “sees it all” on the cancer ward where he works and in the classrooms where he teaches. Campbell practices a particular kind of medicine that includes a thoughtful inclusion of his own personal faith. His patients are the direct beneficiaries.

MAY 11

Jules and Gedeon Naudet – Terror and Faith
1 John 4:18

[Jules and Gedeon](#) are a pair of French-born brothers who enjoy working together. They also happen to be award-winning filmmakers. Not only did they produce the acclaimed documentary “9/11,” containing the only known footage of the first plane striking the first tower of the World Trade Center, they followed that up with a documentary on faith, entitled: “In God’s Name.” This edition of Grace Matters explores the place of terror in American public and private life, and the role of the Christian faith as a response.

MAY 18

Wayne Muller – The Rhythm of the Christian Life
Deuteronomy 5:12

According to Holy Scripture, God built rhythm into the universe. Work and rest were meant to be fair players with one another. Something happened to this rhythm along the way, however. Rest got bumped to the periphery and work assumed center stage. Author and minister [Wayne Muller](#) reflects on how effectively we keep – and do not keep – the Sabbath commandment. Host Peter Marty looks at the distinctive rhythm of the Christian life.

MAY 25

Stephen Prothero – Religious Illiteracy
John 13:17

[Stephen Prothero](#) has conducted an interesting study of religious literacy in America. What he has found is that while many people have a deep faith and a gut sense of spirituality, their Biblical and religious knowledge is very scant. In other words, their faith is formed more on feeling and sentiment than accurate knowledge of valued sources. Prothero is chair of the religion department at Boston University and author of the book *Religious Literacy*.