

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

JUNE 2008

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

The Rev. Kathryn Roys, pastor
pastorkathy@iowatelecom.net

WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the school year

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

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

Installation of Pastor Roys

Sunday, June 1, 9:30 a.m.

Our new pastor, the Rev. Kathryn Roys, will be formally installed at the 9:30 a.m. worship service on June 1 by the Rev. Walter S. May Jr., assistant to the bishop. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

New bishop has his roots in Grinnell, St. John's

The Rev. Michael Burk, the new bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, is a son of our congregation. Raised in Grinnell, he was confirmed and ordained at St. John's. His father, Bill Burk, lives in Grinnell and is a member of St. John's.

He will succeed the Rev. Philip Hougen, who will retire on July 31 after 12 years as bishop.

Pastor Burk is currently serving as executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, headquartered in Chicago. In that position, he led the effort that produced our new worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

He is a graduate of Wartburg College, Waverly, and of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He earned a doctorate in American studies at the University of Iowa. Ordained in 1986, he has served as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Dysart, and St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Waverly, and as interim pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Newton, and Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City.



Rev. Michael Burk

He and his wife, Diane, are parents of three children—Audra, Adam and Aaron.

He will be installed to a six-year term as bishop on September 6.



AROUND the CONGREGATION

In sympathy

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Raymond Beck, who died April 30. Funeral services were held May 3 at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Kathryn Roys and Muriel Johannessen, AIM, officiating. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery. *In Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.*

Meeting coming up

The semiannual congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, June 29. The business will include election of several Church Council members (the positions of vice president and chairmen of the Fellowship Committee and Worship, Music and Arts Committee). A potluck will follow the meeting.

An urgent need

With natural disasters occurring around the world, there is a special need for personal care products for families in crisis. The WELCA board is encouraging the congregation to join in the effort to collect supplies to be distributed through Lutheran World Relief.

Needed items include bar soap, toothbrushes, combs, nail files, Band-Aids, wash cloths and hand towels (dark colors recommended). The items will be sorted into individual Health Kits. Details about the items can be found in the 2008

WELCA booklet. Bring donations to the church office.

For the beauty of the earth

Bring nature's beauty to our worship services this summer by providing flowers from your garden for the sanctuary — specifically for the small vases on the window ledges. If you would like to help, sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the front entrance.



Help with supplies

To carry out the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, "Beach Party Surfin' Through the Scriptures," the planning committee is looking for donations of the following items:

- toilet paper tubes
- 20 oz. clear plastic bottles w/ caps
- plastic dinner plates with lip
- 10 oz. clear plastic drinking cups
- shirt buttons 1" or more diameter
- wide craft sticks
- new or used sunglasses
- sand buckets
- bags of sandbox sand

Bring your donations to the labeled box in the Fellowship Hall by June 25. Thank you!

A salute to teachers

Thank you, thank you to our dedicated Sunday School teachers during the past year: Nicole Behrens, Pat Gustafson, Amy Anderson, Fred Hagemester, Keith Osland, Carolyn Bosse, Rose Osland. Assisting with music were Sarah



and Ryan Dahlby Albright. Substitute teachers were Anita Ford and Natalie Pavey. A special thank you to Stephanie Nelson for coordinating the education program.

At the ballpark

Lutheran Day at the Iowa Cubs baseball game will be Sunday, June 29. Tickets are only \$2, and all proceeds go to Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. Contact Jo Olson for more information.

Looking ahead

The 2008 ELCA Global Mission Event — a celebration of the global mission work of the church — will be held **July 17-20** at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Pastor Kathy has gone before and calls it "one of the highlights of my year." She would like to attend this year and is looking for someone from the congregation to go along. Talk to her for more information.

Comparison of church finances through April

	2008	2007
Offerings	\$55,017	\$77,011
Budget	\$85,045	\$88,029
Expenses	\$57,698	\$74,259

St. John's Youth Ministry

Tops in running

Congratulations to Danielle Nowasell, who won two state titles at the 2008 state track and field meet. In addition, Laura Weigel and Danielle were members of the distance relay team that placed sixth, and AJ Baker and Danielle were members of the 4X800 relay team that placed fifth.

Serving in June

Youth members serving coffee and sweets after worship on June 15 are Bradley Ditzler, Nate Beach, Renee Beach, Laura Weigel and Jimmy Pinkerton. Parent helpers are Scott and Julie Beach and Rebecca Clausen.

Go surfin' (without a beach)!

Vacation Bible School will be held evenings July 6-10 at the United Methodist Church. This year there is no cost to attend. Registration forms are available in our church office. Deadline for returning them to the office is June 6. Sessions will be held for children age 3 through grade 5 (as of July of this year).

Adults and young adults are still needed as helpers. If you have completed at least sixth grade, get a volunteer form from the church office and return ASAP.

2008 Synod Assembly 'Living in God's Amazing Grace'

Nancy Locker and Bob Falck of St. John's attended the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on May 16-18 in Coralville. They compiled the following report.

The theme for this year's gathering was "Living in God's Amazing Grace: Faithful and Bold. God's work. Our hands."

The most important item of business was election of a new bishop to succeed the Rev. Philip Hougen, who is retiring July 31. The choice was the Rev. Michael Burk, executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources of the ELCA, in Chicago. He was elected to a six-year term by an ecclesiastical ballot. He will assume his new role on August 1 and will be installed on September 6. (His connection to Grinnell and St. John's is described on page 1.)

This year's visitor list included a number of ecumenical and international guests. The Right Rev. Alan Scarfe, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, presided at the opening worship service. Bishop Stefano Msangi of the Pare Diocese in Tanzania led us in Bible study. The Rev. Phil Barrett and the Rev. Harry Olthoff from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) read lessons at the worship services. Bishop Gregory Palmer, bishop of the Iowa District of the United Methodist Church and recently installed president of the Council of United Methodist Bishops worldwide, presided at the closing worship service.



Diane Jacobson, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis and director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the ELCA, led us in a Bible study. Augsburg Fortress bookstore gave out complimentary copies of "Opening the Book of Faith," the first resource from the Book of Faith Initiative. The full resources will be available in the spring of 2009. (In 2007 the ELCA Church Council recommended that the Churchwide Assembly invite all members of the church to become familiar with the scriptures "so that we might live into our calling as a people renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor." The Book of Faith Initiative is a five-year program that offers resources to both congregations and individuals who wish to make a commitment to become part of the conversation base on opening the scriptures.) Delegates to the Synod Assembly adopted a resolution encouraging all congregations and church colleges to become Book of Faith congregations.

In response to the raid on May 12 at Agriprocessors Inc. in Postville, delegates adopted a resolution calling on congregations in the Southeastern Iowa Synod to encourage their members to increase their commitment to love their neighbor and model Jesus' compassion for the vulnerable and the poor; to engage in conversation regarding immigration, cultural diversity and race; and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform based upon principles set out by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and endorsed by presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson in the March 2008 issue of *The Lutheran*. In addition, the resolution calls for the Southeastern Iowa Synod to work in partnership with the Northeastern Iowa Synod to provide support to the people of Postville.

NOTES OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone for the thoughts, prayers, cards, food and memorials given during the illness and death of Raymond. A special thank you to Pastor Kathy and Muriel for the visits and the inspirational and heartfelt funeral service.

Alice Beck and family

Thank you to Sarah and Ryan Dahlby Albright for organizing and leading the children in the worship service on May 18.

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

We sang that hymn in our first Sunday worship together, and it has been my mantra time and again.

Thank you, God, for this Body of Christ who is called St John.

Thank you for all your grace, your warmth, and your ministry.

Thank you for welcoming us to join in your hope and service.

Thank you for your kind words, the little gifts that have shown up unexpectedly on my desk, for your patience in helping me to learn your ways, and for telling me your name — again!

We hope to be able to ready a house to become a home the first part of June. Many have offered to help in any way — let Jo know how you might be willing to do so, and likely we can help put your enthusiasm to work!

We look forward to formal installation on Sunday, June 1.

*See you in worship,
Pastor Kathy*



Wishing you a Happy Birthday!

Our baptized members who have birthdays in June are:

June 1

Amy Anderson
Brandon Mikel

June 3

Morgan Boehmer
Lisa Busse

June 4

Ernest Blankenfeld

June 5

Audrey England

June 6

Jim Booth
Gordon Bosse

June 9

Trent Tish
Jessica Wilson

June 10

Thad Nelson

June 11

Richard Weigel

June 12

Lisa Henderson
David Ness

June 15

Ruth Dalldorf
Alex Huebner

June 16

Prescott Arendt
Shawne Pedersen

June 17

Bradley Nowasell
Shannon Potts
Sophia Stone

June 18

David Beck
Bobbie Kahler

June 19

Sara Hegg Dunne
Alisha Ford
Allison Hagemeister
Kayne Pavey

June 20

Greg Huebner
Gaylen Johnson
Richard Kelm
Eric Pavey

June 22

Scott Lebeck
Janell Luebben

June 23

Gabrielle Dahlby Albright
Natalie Dunn
Jody Potter
Kent Rasmussen

June 28

Renee Pearce

June 29

Dawn Jaeger

June 30

Deb Longman
Madge Ruchotzke

Church Council Highlights

The following is a summary of some of the agenda items at the Church Council meeting on May 13.

Pastor Kathy shared some of her ideas, goals and visions for our congregation.

The contract for tuckpointing the building has been signed. Work will likely be done in the fall.



All St. John's college students eligible to take part in the EPIC scholarship program with Lutheran colleges in Iowa are participating.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Installation of Pastor Kathryn Roys

Acolyte: Jarren Ford

Greeter: Becky Wilson

Reader: Brian Heineman

Communion Assistants: G. and K. Johnson

Nursery: Laura Weigel

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Acolyte: Caprise Honsbruch

Greeter: Bobbie Kahler

Reader: Dave Huth

Communion Assistant: Nancy Beck

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Acolyte: Ashley Mikel

Greeters: Jim and Molly Urfer

Reader: Molly Urfer

Coffee Servers: M., J. Ruchotzke, N. Urfer

Nursery: A.J. Baker

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Acolyte: Joe Nowasell

Greeter: Charlene Knight

Reader: Brian Heineman

Communion Assistant: Gary Cook

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Acolyte: Zach Osland

Greeters: Deb and Lance Longman

Reader: Gaylen Johnson

Communion Assistants: F. Hagemeister, L. Gaard

Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

Nursery: Renee Beach

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Acolyte: Zach Boehmer

Greeter: Kathy Kriegel

Reader: Sue McDonough

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Acolyte: Troy Smith

Greeter: Steve and Cindy Dudley

Reader: Amy Anderson

Coffee Servers: B., P. Ashing, N. Pavey

Nursery: Tammie Van Hamme

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Acolyte: Ollie VandeStouwe

Greeter: Bev Hatcher

Reader: Gary Cook

Communion Assistant: Rose Osland

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Acolyte: Breanna Sanders

Greeter: Jan Sherlock

Reader: Stephanie Nelson

Coffee Servers: M., D. Dufoe, F. England

Nursery: Sara Hagemeister

JUNE CALENDAR

Sun	1	8:30 am	Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion and Installation of Pastor Roys
		10:30 am	Installation Reception
Tue	3	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Dine
		11 am	Bible Study, Meeting Room
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	4	7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	7	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	8	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Tue	10	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Wed	11	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Doris Sundell, hostess
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	14	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	15	9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS DUE			
Tue	17	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	18	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs	19	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Sue McDonough, hostess
Fri	20	4-11 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
Sat	21	8 am-5 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	22	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Tue	24	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	25	7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	28	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	29	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Semiannual Congregational Meeting followed by potluck
		1:05 pm	Lutheran Day at the Iowa Cubs at Principal Park

USHERS ON SATURDAY: (7) Bobbie Kahler, Donna Beck; (14) Albert and Charlene Knight (21) Sue McDonough and Kathy Kriegel (28) Ed and Bev Hatcher

USHERS ON SUNDAY: Lamoyne Gaard, Tom Ford, Bob Larson, Chana Weir, Addy Hanson

MONEY COUNTERS: Addy Hanson, Scott Jensen

ALTAR GUILD

June 1-June 10 — Shirley Jensen

Month of June — Margaret Amo

June 10-July 8 — Mitzi Dufoe

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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

JUNE 1

Martha Stortz – Inside Out, Upside Down

Matthew 5:1-12

The most extensive preaching we have from the lips of Jesus is recorded in Matthew's Gospel account, "The Sermon on the Mount." Jesus opens this sermon not with command but with blessing. These blessings reveal some of the major themes that dot the ministry of Jesus. [Martha Stortz](#), professor of historical theology and ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, helps us navigate these blessings, or beatitudes of Jesus.

JUNE 8

Jeremy Langford – Good Soil

Psalms 65

This edition of Grace Matters explores the necessity of growing and nurturing the seeds of God's Word that get planted in our lives. Host Peter Marty explores the strange phenomenon of growing many dimensions in our lives as we age, but leaving our faith presuppositions and knowledge at the third grade level. [Jeremy Langford](#), a communicator for the Jesuit community in Chicago, is guest on the program.

JUNE 15

Timothy Johnson – Facing the Big Questions in Life

1 Corinthians 13:2 (Encore show from February 18, 2007)

[Dr. Timothy Johnson](#), longtime medical editor for ABC news, is not afraid to ask the big questions of religion and science. As both minister and physician, he is intrigued by the interplay of two worlds that many people find hopelessly at odds. He brings his incisive mind and spiritual vitality to a conversation about the "hows" of science and the "whys" of faith.

JUNE 22

Rodney Clapp (*Topic yet to be finalized*)

JUNE 29

Bill Milliken – Kid Dropouts: An Adult Problem

John 15:15

[Bill Milliken](#) has his finger on the pulse of the high school dropout epidemic in America. He is founder of the organization Communities in Schools, an agency that connects community resources with students who need attention and care. This program highlights the poverty of relationship that many live with, and what it means to believe in another person the Jesus way