

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

AUGUST 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

Muriel Johannessen
muriel@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

Bob Falck, president

Nancy Heineman, vice president

Bev Cook, secretary

Gary Cook, treasurer

Dan Huebner, Properties

Donna Beck, Stewardship

Kelly Rose, Education

Lisa Henderson, Worship,
Music, Arts

Bobbie Kahler, Fellowship

Mike Schaeffer, Service

Sue McDonough, Evangelism

Amy Anderson, Youth

FROM PASTOR KATHY

We are at the threshold of another "God working among us" moment at St. John's. Before the dust had settled on the newly arrived boxes in our new home here in Grinnell, the congregation voted to expand its ministry in an exciting way. At our semiannual meeting, the congregation overwhelmingly supported a plan to create a half-time position for Muriel Johannessen to join me as a ministry partner in word and service at St John's.

I am delighted to begin the work of creating a team ministry that is sure to evolve in the coming months as we worship and pray together. The following is the result of a day-long retreat where Muriel and I focused on beginning to define our respective roles and responsibilities. We hope it will serve to help you understand our responsibilities.

As the called and ordained pastor at St John's, I remain the primary administrator, preacher, and have responsibility for the administration of the sacraments of Holy Communion and baptism. I will preside at funerals and weddings. Muriel will be the primary contact for youth, Christian education, service and fellowship. I will be the primary contact for worship, evangelism and shepherding ministries, as well as property and stewardship. We will share counseling responsibilities.

While we will each have our roles, you will likely see each of us involved across the spectrum of ministries at St John's, as we share the joy of serving Christ. And while both of us may interact with any given area, one of us will always be the primary communicator/leader to the congregation. Like anything new, the plan is likely to evolve over time. It will be evaluated at the end of one year.

Other details: Muriel will work Mondays and Tuesdays, preach one weekend a month, attend worship one additional Saturday and Sunday a month, with possible teaching opportunities those weekends. On Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. we will have staff meetings, which will include prayer for the congregation. Her other hours will be flexible.

We don't know all of what lies in store for St John's in the coming year, but we know confidently that God's Spirit is alive and vital amongst us.

*God's peace to you these warm summer months,
Pastor Kathy*



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Second Saturday Fellowship

All are welcome to join together for good food and great fellowship following Saturday night worship on the second Saturday of each month.

Second Saturday Fellowship

will be held at various restaurants, homes of church members or in the church Fellowship Hall. Locations will be posted in the *Love Letter* and the *eLove Letter* and announced at worship services.

In August the Second Saturday Fellowship will be held **August 9** at Melvin and Donna Beck's home. Please bring an appetizer to share. An RSVP for this month's event is not required but would be helpful for planning. Call Donna at 236-6161(w) for more information.

Serving after worship

Serving at the Coffee Fellowship after worship on August 17 will be Shannon Potts, Katelyn Ditzler, Kyle Irland, Nathan Ford and Kalen Winburn.

Looking ahead

Rally Sunday — the fall startup of Sunday School and Senior Choir — will be held September 7, the Sunday **after** Labor Day. A congregational brunch will be held after worship that day.

In sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to Jack Templeton and his family on the death of his wife Marion, who died July 15. Her funeral was held at St. John's on July 19, with burial at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Sympathy also to Brenda, Brandon, Ashley and Mariah Mikel on the death of their mother and grandmother, Mary Jane Heishman of Brooklyn, who died July 10. Her funeral was held July 14 at the Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn.

Sympathy also to the family of Allan Ashby, a former member who died July 11. He was the son of Virginia and Harry Ashby and the brother of Gordon Ashby. His funeral was July 17 in Davenport.

Birth

Congratulations to Casie Vandestouwe Kurk and Adam Kurk on the birth of a daughter, Myla Mae Kurk, on June 30. Myla is the granddaughter of Lori and Carter Vandestouwe and the great-granddaughter of Kent Rasmussen.

New directory in the works

It's time for a new church directory! (**Q:** *Can you guess the year of the last directory? See answer at bottom of next column.*)

Lifetouch, a photo directory company based in Eden Prairie, Minn.,

Benefit for disaster relief in Iowa

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

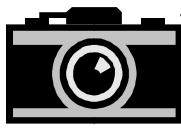
at St. John's

Sunday, August 10
3 to 5 p.m.

Homemade ice cream, pie, cake

Music by **Prairie Jewel Dixieland**

will be at St. John's from October 21 to October 25 to take photos of members for a new directory. Photos will also be available for purchase.. In a change from past directories, you will be able to make

 your appointments online. Those without Internet access will be able to sign up for an appointment.

Jo Olson is looking for assistance with various jobs related to the directory. Please contact her if you can help.

Clothing drive

Disaster victims are still in need. St. John's is collecting clothing for distribution in areas hit by flooding. Basic, serviceable items are what's wanted. A collection box is located in the elevator entrance to the church.

A. *The last church directory was published in 2003.*

Comparison of church finances through June

	2008	2007
Offerings	\$87,428	\$83,945
Budget	\$127.567	\$105.635
Expenses	\$101.753	\$85.839

Church Council Highlights

The following are highlights of the Church Council meeting held July 15.

PROPERTIES: The committee has met twice to walk through the building in order to familiarize Pastor Roys and committee members with the facilities and to look at ways they could be improved. A third walk-through session is planned for September.

EVANGELISM: A new member class will be held in September. A prayer ministry will be initiated, coordinated by Gaye Van Hamme.

EDUCATION: A total of 17 children and a number of adults attended this year's joint Vacation Bible School held last month at the United Methodist Church.

SERVICE: A contribution of \$2,500 was sent from St. John's to Lutheran Services in Iowa to be used for flood victims in Iowa. This is in addition to \$1,000 sent to LSI to aid victims of the tornado in Parkersburg.

WORSHIP: Council members granted organist Cheryl Irland's request for a leave of absence.

Bishop's Academy

Congregation members in leadership roles are invited to attend the 2008 Bishop's Academy on August 22-23 at Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center north of Tama-Toledo. The event is designed to bring together ELCA pastors, spouses and lay leaders to experience personal and congregational renewal. It is also a chance to get to know our new bishop, Michael Burk. Sponsor is the Center for Renewal at Grand View College. A brochure about the Bishop's Academy is available in the church office.

Book of Faith Initiative starting

The ELCA has embarked on an initiative called the Book of Faith. You'll be hearing more about it in the coming year. The Book of Faith Initiative invites Lutherans to become more fluent in the first language of faith – the language of Scripture – in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

The Bible is a book of faith

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their

faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

The language of Scripture is our first language of faith

The language of the Bible becomes our language. It shapes how we think and speak about God, about the world, and about ourselves. We become renewed, enlivened, and empowered as the language of Scripture forms our hearts, our minds, our community conversation, and our commitments.

We have a calling as the people of God

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture. We are renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word. As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered through the cross of Christ to serve God and neighbor.

Introduction

The first year of the Book of Faith initiative centers on inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative. Look for more information to come.

*From Book of Faith Initiative
Website www.bookoffaith.org*

Notes of thanks

I want to thank all of you for your prayers while I had total knee replacement surgery and during my recuperation. The meals provided were wonderful. Don't we have great cooks at St. John's!!!!!!! My crutches are now being replaced with a cane for a couple of weeks. It is great to be progressing so well. Love and God bless you.

Judy Lebeck

Thank you to our St. John's family for your care and concern at the time of Marion's death. It meant a great deal to us.

Jack, Mark, Scott Templeton and families

An Appeal

When Don and I joined St. John's about 20 years ago, we saw Autumn Leaves listed in the bulletin and wondered what it was. We asked some members and were told that it was a Seniors group that got together once a month for good food and fellowship. When we first started going, there were 25 to 30 people at the meetings. Now we are down to 8 or 10 due to deaths and moving away. This month we lost another dear friend and sister, Marion Templeton. Please let's not let Autumn Leaves decline any more. We have so many seniors at St. John's who could be coming and helping it to grow again. Jack and Marion (Templeton) were so dedicated to Autumn Leaves for years. Marion would be smiling down at us if we could grow again. So, seniors out there, mark it on your calendars to come join us at our next meeting, on August 20.

Doris and Don Sundell.

A Farewell

We would like to express our appreciation to the congregation for the ministry, fellowship and support we have experienced while here in Grinnell. We fondly recall the births and baptisms of Rachel and Allison as members of St. John's. As we prepare to move to Richmond, Virginia, we will deeply miss the congregation. Our prayers go out to all of you for health, happiness and a wonderful ministry. (Our new address will be 12412 Queensgate Road, Midlothian, VA 23114.)

The Hagemester Family

Happy Birthday!

Our baptized members who have birthdays in August:

August 1

Jennifer Ditzler
Christopher Falack
Anita Ford
Lamoyne Gaard

August 3

David Amo

August 4

Larry Deppe
Gladys Weber

August 6

Russ Crawford
Bev Hatcher

August 7

Carol Busse
Laurie Kramer

August 9

Helen Routier

August 11

Hannah Behrens

August 14

Donna Beck
Kenneth Beck
Stacey Dufoe

August 15

Dan Huebner
Scott Jensen

August 16

Doris Sundell

August 18

Russ Behrens
Verna Gerrish
Jim Pinkerton

August 19

Kyle Smith

August 20

Matilda Bauman
Malynn Pavey
Charles Urfer

August 21

Sara Hagemester
Wendy Gerrish Wessling

August 22

Jessica Olson

August 23

Kathy Johnson
Sandra Koch

August 24

Diane Winburn

August 25

Barrett Anderson

August 26

Sue McDonough
Julie Wierson

August 27

Kathryn Ness

August 28

Bob Ashing
Carolyn Bosse
Marjorie Christinson
Sydney Hatrcher

August 29

Thomas Helmke
Jan Sherlock
Kristin Simpson
Barbara Stone
Neoma Walter

August 31

Claire Behrens
Jordan Ritter

Getting ready for school

On Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, the worship services will include a Blessing of Backpacks — a symbolic send-off for all those returning to school this fall. Students — and anyone involved in education — are invited to bring a backpack, a lunch box, a notebook or anything else that represents school to receive a blessing.



STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Acolyte:
Greeter: Nancy Urfer
Reader: Donna Beck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Acolyte: Ollie Vande Stouwe
Greeter: Ray Parker
Reader: Pam Ashing
Communion Assistants: Jim, Sara Hegg Dunne
Coffee Servers: N. and B. Heineman, N. Urfer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Acolyte: Troy Smith
Greeter: Nancy Beck
Reader: Karen Ashby
Communion Assistant: Bev Hatcher

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Acolyte: Scott Bosse
Greeter: Jack Templeton
Reader: Nicole Behrens
Communion Assistants: Rose and Keith Osland
Coffee Server: Jo Olson, Addy Hanson

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Acolyte:
Greeter: Molly Urfer
Reader: Jim Urfer

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Acolyte: Joe Reitz
Greeters: Russ and Nicole Behrens
Reader: Ashley Mikel
Coffee Servers: Senior Youth

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Acolyte: Breanna Sanders
Greeter: Christopher Weir
Reader: Ashley Mikel
Communion Assistant: Bob Kinseth

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Acolyte: Jarren Ford
Greeters: Everett and Verna Gerrish
Reader: Lamoyne Gaard
Coffee Servers: Vicki and Fred Dillon

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Acolyte: Caprisse Honsbruch
Greeter: Nancy Heineman
Reader: Bob Falck
Communion Assistant: Bobbie Kahler

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Acolyte: Ashley Mikel
Greeter: Kelly Rose
Reader: Margaret Amo
Coffee Servers: John and Dorothy Martinek

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sat	2	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	3	9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Tue	5	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		7 pm	Evangelism Committee, Meeting Room
Wed	6	5:30 pm	Youth Supper and Meeting, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Worship Committee, Meeting Room
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Fri	8	5-11 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
Sat	9	8 am-5 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
		6:30 pm	After-worship supper at Donna and Mel Beck's
Sun	10	9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		3 to 5 pm	Ice cream social, church lawn
Tue	12	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
		6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
Wed	13	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	16	5:30 pm	Worship
Sun	17	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Tue	19	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	20	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs	21	9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Rosalie Hartzell, hostess
Sat	23	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	24	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
Tue	26	7 am	Men's Breakfast, Westside Diner
		1 pm	LWR Quilters, Room 9
Wed	27	7 pm	Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Sat	30	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun	31	9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

USHERS ON SATURDAY: (August 2) Ted and Nancy Urfer (9) Don and Nancy Beck (16) Jim and Molly Urfer (23) Brian and Nancy Heineman (30) Gary Cook and Christopher Weir

USHERS ON SUNDAY: Dennis Van Hamme, Dale Lamb, Brandon Mikel, Chris Weir

NURSERY ON SUNDAY: (August 3) A.J. Baker (10) Renee Beach (17) Sara Hagemeister (24) Tammie Van Hamme (31) Nicole Behrens

OFFERING COUNTERS: Todd Nelson

ALTAR GUILD

August 1-August 12 — Nicole Behrens
 Month of August — Mary Schuchmann
 August 12-September 0 — Jo Olson

LOVE LETTER

St. John's Lutheran Church
1224 East Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
(641) 236-4946

Non-profit Org.
U.S Postage
PAID
Grinnell, Iowa
Permit #134

AUGUST 2008

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

GRACE MATTERS

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

AUGUST 3

Wayne-Daniel Berard – Retrieving Our Jewishness
(*September 23, 2007 Encore*) **Mark 6:3**

If Christians are not careful, we have a tendency to view the Bible as an exclusively Christian book. Wayne-Daniel Berard, professor and author, who was born of a Jewish parent and adopted by a Catholic family, practices his faith today as a Christian and a Jew. He calls on Christians to explore "with open heart and mind" the Jewishness not only of Jesus but of themselves.

August 10

Francis Collins – Faith in Science, Faith in God
(*October 28, 2007 Encore*) **Genesis 1**

Among the top scientists in the world is Francis Collins. Long-time director of the human genome project that has mapped over 3 billion letters of the human genetic code, Collins is an articulate spokesperson for the glories of science. But he is also a person of deep faith who speaks about the place of God in biological science.

AUGUST 17

Philip Yancey – Part I: The Magnanimity of Grace
(*April 15, 2007 Encore*) **Ephesians 2:8**

Philip Yancey, popular author and spiritual guide, remains the "go to" person for any memorable discussion on the amazing

character of grace. With candor as a journalist and honesty as a Christian pilgrim, Yancey walks listeners through a love we had not counted on and a kindness we may not think we deserve.

AUGUST 24

Philip Yancey – Part II: Relationship in Prayer
(*April 22, 2007 Encore*) **Luke 18: 1-8**

Philip Yancey returns to take a close-up look at the shape of prayer. If you have ever wondered what difference prayer can make in your life, this program is for you. Yancey explores the importance of relationship and why a meaningful prayer life will never evolve without some genuine hunger on our part to be in God's close company.

AUGUST 31

Eboo Patel – Dangers of Religious Totalitarianism
(*September 9, 2007 Encore*) **Acts 2:1-21**

If you are tired of trying to make sense of why certain expressions of religion irritate you, you need to meet Eboo Patel. Chances are good that what is bothering, or even infuriating you, is what Patel calls "religious totalitarianism." Eboo Patel is an articulate man of faith who is founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core - an organization devoted to advancing religious understanding and respect.