

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

# LOVE LETTER

NOVEMBER 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,  
Associate in Ministry  
muriel@iowatelecom.net

## WORSHIP

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

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 a.m. Sunday, preschool  
through Adult Forum

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8 a.m. to noon. At other times,  
leave a message at the office,  
236-4946

## 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

## Called by God, Gathered in community, Sent forth to serve

Our fall stewardship theme is Stories to Tell and Gifts to Share.

We are part of God's ongoing story of love and rescue — for us. We recall it through the scriptures, and we tell again in how we live our lives.

### We are: Called by God

Reformation Day worship last weekend reflected our understanding of God's grace for us. Our response to this gift through our time, talents and pledges is an essential aspect of vital faith. As God's people, we have compelling stories to tell about what God has done for us, with us, and through us, and we have many incredible gifts to share with each other and the world.

### We are: Gathered in community

We gather in worship, but in ever increasing ways, we will find our vitality through studying God's story. Won't you join us this month at one of the many opportunities to study and grow in faith this month? (See the topics and dates inside.) We are also telling this

story by updating the faces who make up St John's in our newest photo directory. It was so fun to see you all looking your finest during the week, updating the story of who we are becoming.

### We are: Sent forth to serve

Confirmation students are learning that faith is a verb — we are called and gathered *in order to* serve the

God who sustains us.

Every confirmation student participates in serving others as a part of their faith formation process. How will you serve another this week?

Faith is more than words and creeds —

but our response includes actions. Call Don Sundell to help with the Thanksgiving Dinner; Muriel to help with the First Wednesday after school program; Roger Henderson or Natalie Pavey to lend voice to our singers; or call me to meet for coffee and discuss how you might find new joy in serving. It would be my privilege and joy to do so.

Your partner in the journey,  
Pastor Kathy



# CHURCH NEWS

## AROUND the CONGREGATION

### Jennifer Barger to preach

Jennifer Barger, a daughter of St. John's, will preach at worship on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2, and lead the adult forum on Sunday. Jennifer is assistant director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, which works to raise funds to support projects to fight poverty all over the world and also to engage ELCA members in education, public policy and good stewardship practices that help to build a world where no one has to go hungry. She is also in seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Being a member of St. John's in her growing-up years "gave me a solid foundation upon which to pursue work for peace and justice," she says.

### Knit one, Pray one

Is there interest in forming a group to knit prayer shawls for people in need of comfort? A prayer shawl is a hand-knit or crocheted wrap into which are woven prayers and blessings for the recipient. Both new and experienced knitters would be welcome. If you are interested, please contact Judy Lebeck, 236-7657, or Jo Olson at the church, 236-4946.

### Snacks needed

Our willing volunteers would welcome some extra help with snacks for the First Wednesday program at the church. Natalie Pavey helped the children "assemble" their own snacks in October, which was great. If you could provide supplies or healthy treats for this new program at St. John's, contact Muriel.

### Thanksgiving at St. John's

It's the 22<sup>nd</sup> year for the community Thanksgiving Day dinner at St. John's. Food donations, monetary contributions and volunteers are needed. You can sign up on the fliers included in the worship bulletins this month or call the church office. Serving will begin at 12:30 p.m.



Thanksgiving Day worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Offerings from the service will be given to the Grinnell Ministerial Association.

### Nativities to be displayed

As part of the downtown's Jingle Bell Holiday, the Grinnell Ministerial Association is organizing a display of nativities called "No Room at the Inn." It will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, December 5, in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Nativity sets from members of Grinnell churches will be on display for the public to view. There will also be an outdoor live nativity and music from local choirs. Refreshments will be served. A freewill donation will support the MICA food pantry, St. Joseph emergency shelter in Des Moines and the Grinnell Ministerial Association's fund to help homeless and transient people in Grinnell. St. John's will have two tables on which to display our nativity sets. If you have a nativity you would be willing to lend for that evening or if you would be willing to help set up our display tables, please contact Muriel.



Youth at St. John's enjoy a hayride and marshmallow roast on Sunday afternoon, October 19, at the Mikel farm north of town. (Photo by Amy Anderson)

## Adult education opportunities

A variety of topics will be offered at St. John's in the coming weeks.

### Adult Forum on Sunday mornings

**November 2:** Jennifer Barger, who will preach at worship on both Saturday and Sunday that weekend, will share stories and information from the ELCA hunger and disaster response ministry. In particular, she will discuss projects she has visited in Mexico and Nicaragua and will talk about disaster response in Postville, Iowa, following the immigration raid there this past summer.

**November 9:** Pastor Kathy will lead a discussion titled "Unplug the Christmas Machine: Simplify Your Holidays."

**November 16 — December 21:** Muriel will guide a class on prayer titled "Listening and Talking to God."

### Book discussion

Pastor Kathy will lead a discussion of "The Shack" by William Young. (The book has been on top of the paperback best-seller list for weeks.) You can choose from two meeting times — 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at the church, or 1:30 p.m. Friday, November 7, at the Comeback Café.

### Advent Study

Join Pastor Kathy for an Advent study based on Walt Wangerin's Advent devotional, "Preparing for Jesus." In this class, the story of Christ's birth, which we all know and love, will come alive in new ways as you prepare your heart and mind to receive the Christ Child this Christmas. We will meet Thursdays beginning November 13 at Saints Rest from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. (Yes, it's **a.m.!**) The book (\$11) can be ordered through the church. Please call the office by November 10 to register. Class size is limited.

## Youth News

Youth from St. John's will form a team for the Kids Against Hunger food packaging program on November 16 at St. Mary's Education Center. Serving refreshments after worship in November 16 will be Ashley and Mariah Mikel, Troy Smith, Tiffany Olson and Caprisse Honsbruch. Parent helpers that day are Brenda Mikel and Randy and Julie Smith.

## Stories to tell, gifts to share

The Bible tells the stories of God's faithful people before and after the time of Jesus. Did you ever think of



yourself as one of those writing the faith story today? We will give you an opportunity to explore the story of your faith through a series of questions for discussion within your family or another group. In the worship bulletins for the next few weeks

will be an insert containing a question to think about and talk about. We hope you will find the questions useful as you explore how God has molded and shaped you to be his disciple today.

*Muriel Johannessen*

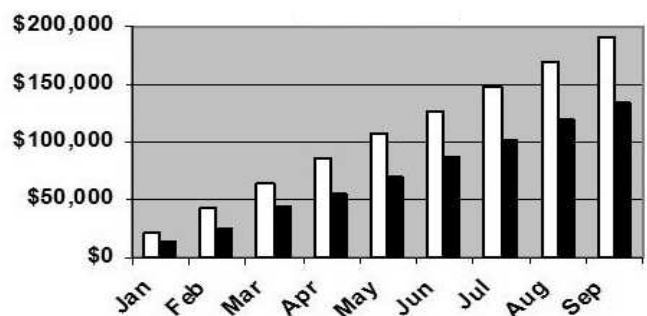
## World Community Day planned

Church Women United will hold its annual World Community Day at noon Friday, November 7, at Grinnell United Church of Christ/Congregational located at Fourth Avenue and Broad Street. A freewill luncheon will be served following the service.

The theme of the service is "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free." The speaker will be Chris Gaunt of Grinnell. Special music will be provided by the Grace Note string trio and the 4Tones vocal quartet.

Molly Urfer and Addy Hanson represent St. John's on the board of Church Women United of Grinnell.

## 2008 Financial Picture To Date



□ Offerings    ■ Budget

Average amount needed every month: \$21,261  
 Average amount received every month: \$14,862

## Notes of thanks

Many thanks to those who helped with the Synod Convocation in October at St. John's: Lu Ahrens, Bobbie Kahler, Nancy Locker, Jo Olson and Mary Lu Watson.

To members and friends of St. John's, We have blessed, packed, sealed and delivered the LWR quilts to Ankeny, where they are shipped around the world. We thank everyone for all the used blankets, sheets, mattress pads, material and even used drapes that we made into quilts. We have started making quilts for next fall's delivery. We are continuing to meet on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in Room 9. Alice Beck has joined the group. Jean Frana takes the sewn quilts home where she and Vic tie them. All are welcome to join us.



LWR Quilters

Contributions from St. John's members to the 2008 CROP Walk totaled approximately \$600. Thanks to everyone who participated.

## STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

*(Continued from page 5)*

### OFFERING COUNTERS IN NOVEMBER

Mike Shaeffer, Craig and Connie Weir

### USHERS: SATURDAY

(1) Karen and Gordon Ashby (8) Gladys Booth, Virginia Billman (15) Ted and Nancy Urfer (22) Don and Nancy Beck (29) Jim Urfer, Natalie Pavey

### USHERS: SUNDAY

Everett Gerrish, Dale Selix, Jim Dunne, Sara Hegg Dunne

### NURSERY (SUNDAY)

(2) Sarah Dahlby Albright (9) Shirley Broders (16) Laura Weigel (23) Tammie Van Hamme (29) Tammie Van Hamme

### ALTAR GUILD

October 14-November 11 — Karen Ashby  
November 11-December 9 — Brenda Mikel, Connie Weir



## Happy Birthday!

*Members who have birthdays in November*

### November 1

Taylor Mikel

### November 2

James Dunne

### November 3

Marilyn Deppe  
Caprisse Honsbruch

### November 6

Phyllis Reid  
Neil Stone

### November 7

Heather Anderson  
Russ Schuchmann

### November 8

Kelly Rose  
Karri Furness

### November 9

Mark England

### November 10

Gordon Ashby  
Joseph Nowasell  
Keith Osland

### November 11

Kerri Furness  
Lori VandeStouwe

### November 13

Erika Hegg-Arendt  
Laura Weigel

### November 14

Dorothy Martinek

### November 16

Kevin Cook  
Thomas Walter

### November 17

Rachel Hagemeister

### November 19

Craig Havel  
Pat Starrett

### November 21

Willis Snook  
Oliver VandeStouwe

### November 23

Maki Masuku

### November 24

Gene Broders  
Cassie Kurk

### November 28

Troy Beeler

### November 29

Steve Dudley  
Shawn Kramer

### November 30

Michael England  
Carol England  
Emma Helmke

*A birthday in October was incorrectly listed.. Cara Locker was born October 1.*

## Church Council highlights

*Here is a summary of the October meeting:*

The church telephone system is being upgraded for better access to the various phones in the building. Signage (vinyl letters) will be added at the north and south entrances to the church. Tuckpointing has been completed.

Council members discussed the possibility of reconfiguring several of the pews in the sanctuary to make worship more accessible and welcoming for persons in wheelchairs.

A task force was formed to work on guidelines for volunteers who help with church activities involving children.

**STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

**Acolyte:** Zach Osland  
**Greeter:** Karen Ashby  
**Reader:** Nancy Heineman  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

**Acolyte:** Joe Nowasell  
**Greeters:** Jean and Vic Frana  
**Reader:** Doris Selix  
**Communion Assistants:** Pam and Bob Ashing  
**Coffee Servers:** P., B. Ashng, L., T. Cline

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

**Acolyte:** Oliver VandeStouwe  
**Greeter:** Virginia Billman  
**Reader:** Sue McDonough  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

**Acolyte:** Jacob Lamb  
**Greeters:** Keith and Rose Osland  
**Reader:** Kathy Johnson  
**Coffee Servers:** Dorothy and John Martinek

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeter:** Sue McDonough  
**Reader:** Ashley Mikel

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeters:**  
**Reader:** Dorothy Martinek  
**Communion Assistant:** Sue McDonough  
**Coffee Servers:** Junior Youth

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

**Acolyte:** Chance Winburn  
**Greeter:** Nancy Beck  
**Reader:** Donna Beck  
**Communion Assistant:** Shirle Huth

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

**Acolyte:** Jarren Ford  
**Greeter:** Becky Wilson  
**Reader:** Brian Heineman  
**Communion Assistants:**  
**Coffee Servers:** Natalie and Jim Dunn

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

**Acolyte:** Caprisse Honsbruch  
**Greeter:** Molly Urfer  
**Reader:** Bobbie Kahler  
**Communion Assistant:** Molly Urfer

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

**Acolyte:** Ashley Mikel  
**Greeters:** Dave and Shirle Huth  
**Reader:** Molly Urfer  
**Coffee Servers:** Fred and Vicki Dillon

**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

Staff meeting — 10 am Tuesdays  
 Bible Study with Muriel — 11 am Mondays, Meeting Room  
 Men's Breakfast — Tuesdays at 7 am at Westside Family Restaurant  
 LWR Quilters — Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, Room 9

<b>Sat</b>	<b>1</b>	5:30 pm	<b>ALL SAINTS</b> Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	<b>ALL SAINTS</b> Worship with Holy Communion, reception of new members
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, preschool to Adult Forum
		Noon	Thrivent meal, meeting, Fellowship Hall
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5</b>	Noon-5 pm	First Wednesday after-school program
		12:45 pm	Confirmation
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>6</b>	6:30 pm	Book discussion, Meeting Room
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7</b>	Noon	CWU World Community Day, UCC Church
		1:30 pm	Book discussion, Comeback Cafe
<b>Sat</b>	<b>8</b>	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
		6:30 pm	Second Saturday Fellowship, Godfather's Pizza
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, preschool to Adult Forum
<b>Tue</b>	<b>11</b>	6:30 pm	Church Council, Meeting Room
<b>Wed</b>	<b>12</b>	1:30 pm	Mary Martha Circle, Westside Family Restaurant
		4 pm	First Communion meeting
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
		7 pm	Confirmation
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>13</b>	6:30 am	Advent Study, Saints Rest
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	5-11 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
<b>Sat</b>	<b>15</b>	8 am-5 pm	Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
		5:30 pm	Worship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>	9:30 am	Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, preschool to Adult Forum
		2 pm	Kids Against Hunter meal packaging
<b>Wed</b>	<b>19</b>	Noon	Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall
		4 pm	First Communion meeting
		7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
		7 pm	Confirmation
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>20</b>	6:30 am	Advent Study, Saints Rest
		9:30 am	Lydia Circle, Lynn Cline, hostess
		6:30 pm	Worship Committee meeting, Meeting Room
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22</b>	5:30 pm	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> Worship, Holy Communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>	9:30 am	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> Worship with Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, preschool to Adult Forum
<b>Tue</b>	<b>25</b>	7 pm	Sarah Circle
<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	7 pm	Celebration Singers rehearsal, Music Room
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>27</b>	10:30 am	Thanksgiving Day worship service
		12:30 pm	Community Thanksgiving meal, Fellowship Hall
<b>Sat</b>	<b>29</b>	5:30 pm	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30</b>	8:30 am	Choir rehearsal, Music Room
		9:30 am	Worship
		10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
		10:45 am	Sunday School, preschool to Adult Forum

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## LOVE LETTER

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### NOVEMBER 2008

LOVE LETTER is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church. Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month.

#### Return Service Requested



*O give thanks, for the Lord  
is good; the steadfast love  
of the Lord endures forever.*  
Psalm 106

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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

### NOVEMBER 2

**Stormey Denise Burroughs – Avoiding an Itsy Bitsy Life**  
*Luke 10:2*

The life of a refugee is never easy. Post 9/11 jitters and restrictions in America make the U.S. even less open to immigrants and refugees. Along comes **Stormey Denise Burroughs**, a young single mother and social worker in Michigan who became the loving foster mother to four teenage boys from Burma.

### NOVEMBER 9

**Kathleen Townsend – Responsibility for Your Neighbor**  
*Mark 12:28-31*

Since her childhood, **Kathleen Kennedy Townsend** has made a point of trying to put other people first. As the eldest child of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, she assumed an early sense of responsibility for what it means to be civically engaged on behalf of those for whom the systems of justice do not work well. One-time lieutenant governor of Maryland, Kennedy Townsend has a marvelous way of letting her Christian faith inform her commitment to stand up for all who live on the margins of society.

### NOVEMBER 16

**Everett Worthington – A Lesson in Humility**  
*Philippians 2:5-11*

**Everett Worthington** is a soft-spoken and gentle man who teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University. A personally tragic experience – the murder of his mother in the mid-1990s – caused Worthington to examine forgiveness in a whole new way. What he discovered was a fresh priority for the place of humility in shaping one's life.

### NOVEMBER 23

**Phyllis Tickle – The Sayings of Jesus**  
*Mark 1:40-45*

After spending a life immersed in scholarship with Scripture, **Phyllis Tickle** determined that faith and humility were often left behind among those who study the words of Jesus. She embarked on a journey to analyze the different ways that Jesus typically spoke. In this edition of Grace Matters, she discusses some of the interesting twists and turns that Jesus took with his words.

### NOVEMBER 30

**Advent I Meditation – A Conversation with Maximilian Kolbe**  
*1 Thessalonians 3:13*

In the first of a four-part **Advent series**, host Peter Marty converses with different guests who could not be present for an interview. Each week, the conversation involves one of the great saints of the church.