

# LOVE LETTER

APRIL 2009

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

## Come to the Table of Mercy

*Come to the table of mercy  
Prepared with the wine and the bread  
All who are hungry and thirsty  
Come and your souls will be fed\**

As the season's change from winter to spring and new life emerges, St. John's celebrates anew our life in Christ. Our Lenten devotional *Holy Habits* examine practices that center us in God's grace.

Our worship as Lutheran Christians is grounded in convictions about the centrality of the means of grace. The **means of grace are the ways our triune God creates faith** in the hearts of Christians, **forgives our sins, gives us eternal salvation** and causes us to **grow spiritually**. For Lutheran Christians, the means of grace include the Gospel (both written and proclaimed), as well as the Sacraments of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Our most recent hymnal provides 10 musical settings for Holy Communion — recognition of our commitment to gathering *regularly* around God's word and *holy supper*. We do just that during our high celebration times of the church year. Easter is not a single day, but a six-week festival and celebration of life — the gift of life in Jesus Christ. As Easter people we gather in community to be strengthened in God's word, celebrate our baptismal promises, and be nourished with the bread and wine of communion with our Lord and with each other.

The meal is served at the center of God's table, the font sits central to our sanctuary worship space. These things bring us into unity and relationship with God, as God intends.



# AROUND the CONGREGATION

## Lent, Holy Week at St. John's

Our Lenten journey concludes with one more midweek Lenten service, then Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. This year, we will once again have two services on Easter Sunday. The schedule is:

### Midweek Lenten worship, April 1

The final Readers' Theater conversations that may have taken place among witnesses to the last days of Jesus in Jerusalem. The 7 p.m. service follows a soup supper at 6 p.m. For the MICA food pantry, bring peanut butter, jelly or boxed cereal.

### Palm Sunday

Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday

Worship with Holy Communion at 7 p.m.

### Good Friday

Worship at 7 p.m. A community Good Friday service will also be held at 12:10 p.m. at Herrick Chapel on the college campus.

### Easter Sunday

A sunrise service with music by the Celebration Singers will be held at 7 a.m. An Easter breakfast served by the youth of the congregation will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A festival service with music by the choir and instrumentalists, will begin at 9:30 a.m.

## Births

Congratulations to Austin and Karla Mae Elling on the birth of a son, Emmett, on February 24, and to Renee (Pearce) and Ed Han on the birth of twin boys, Callum and Liam, on February 25.

## Baptized

Welcome to the newest baptized member of the St. John's family — Katelyn Nath, daughter of Chad and Terri Nath. She was born September 16 and baptized on February 28. Her sponsors are Tony Nath and Melissa Leonard.

## Pastoral Care

Please contact Pastor Kathy or Muriel if you need or want pastoral care. If you would like to include a name on the list of prayer concerns, please contact the church office. (Be sure to have the specific permission of anyone mentioned.)

## Directory coming

Our new church directories will be distributed after worship services on Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19.

## Caring Team

Karen Ashby and Norm Erickson are new members of the Caring Team, the group that visits homebound members. At the March 28 worship service, they will be commissioned to take Holy Communion to those desiring it.

If you know of someone in our congregation would like or benefit from visits by a member of the Caring Team, please contact Sue McDonough.

## Signing off

The April 12 program will be the final live broadcast of Grace Matters, the ELCA radio ministry hosted by Peter Marty. The program has been heard weekly on Sunday mornings on local radio station KGRN. Past programs will continue to be available on the Grace Matters website, [www.gracematters.com](http://www.gracematters.com)

## Looking ahead

The spring general meeting of St. John's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3, in the Fellowship Hall. For the program, a group from First Lutheran Church in Newton will describe their mission trip to Tanzania last summer when they helped to build a birthing center.

## Church finances to date

*Comparison of our offerings and our budget through February.*

**Needed to date:** \$42,470

**Received to date:** \$31,333

**Difference:** (\$11,137)

## St. John's Youth and Family Ministry

**YOUTH** of the congregation will serve breakfast on Easter Sunday from 8 to 9 a.m. A freewill donation will benefit youth projects.

**SIXTEEN** young people attended the overnight lock in on March 7. The kids enjoyed a game of shoe hockey, playing Rock Band, eating pizza and watching a movie. Thanks to Anita Ford and Keith and Rose Osland for serving as chaperones. Also thanks to Karin and Solveig (Grinnell College students) for helping chaperone and teaching the kids the shoe hockey game. It was Ashley Mikel's birthday as well and she brought birthday cake to share.

**ST. JOHN'S** will join with other churches and groups on April 29 to participate in Kids Against Hunger, the local food packaging project.

### Dates to Remember

**May 3**

Sunday worship led by Sunday School and youth

**May 10**

Bibles presented to third-graders and confirmation students

**May 17**

Senior Breakfast

**May 24**

Last day of Sunday School

**May 31**

Confirmation

## Helping everyone participate in the life of the congregation

In a continued effort to meet the needs of St. John's members, guests and visitors, the Worship Committee voted this month to order a hearing-assist system that includes a transmitter and four hearing assists to connect directly to our sound system. The system will transmit all sound that enters the sound system to the person wearing the unit.

Memorial funds are being used to purchase the units. Delivery and setup is expected sometime in April. Once the units arrive, they will be stored in the credenza in the narthex once they arrive. More information on how to use the units will be available at that time. Additional hearing assists can be ordered and added to the system as needed

In another effort to make St. John's accommodating and welcoming, the task force that is working on accessibility in the sanctuary is holding forums on March 28 and 29.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Upkeep of kids' activity packets

Someone (or a family) is needed to maintain the kids' activity packets that we provide to children during worship. The job involves periodic cleaning and restocking to make sure the packets provide a welcome activity for children. Can you help? Call the church office.

### First Wednesday program

Do you have a few hours once a month to spend with some delightful young people? Why not join us the First Wednesday (afternoon) of every month for games, activities and fun. Call Muriel to volunteer.

### Office assistance

Help in the church office would be greatly appreciated. Possible jobs include word processing, data entry, filing, folding, etc. Contact Pastor Kathy or Jo if you are able to help.

### Youth exchange and study program

The Iowa Resource for International Service (IRIS), a non-profit organization whose leaders have been working in Africa for more than 20 years, is looking for caring, capable volunteer host families in the Midwest who are willing to open their hearts and homes to high school students from Africa. Since 2003, more than 175 African students have spent an academic year in Iowa through this program. Students are ages 15 to 17, speak English and have insurance. They come here as high school juniors and are expected to return home after their year in the U.S. to complete their final year of high school. To volunteer or for more information, call IRIS at 1-866-333-6944 or email to [www.iris-center.org](http://www.iris-center.org).

## MANY THANKS

To St. John's Congregation, Thank you for the meals, cards, gifts, prayers and visits in the hospital and at home to celebrate the arrival of our son Emmett. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring church community.

*Austin, Karla Mae and Emmett Elling*

**A BIG THANK YOU** from the congregation to Don and Doris Sundell for donating a projector and cart for use in education programs..

**THANKS** to Karri Furness and her family for the **BIG** job of delivering our Lenten collection of food items to the MICA food pantry. And to Randy Smith and McNally's for providing the shopping cart that was used to collect the items at mid-week worship.

**WE** appreciate everyone who helped with the seventh- and eighth-grade overnight lock-in on March 7 — Amy Anderson, Rose and Keith Osland, Muriel Johannessen and Grinnell College students Karen and Solveig.

**THE** Readers' Theater group has been an important part of our midweek Lenten services this year. Thanks to everyone who has participated.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the annual Congregations Together in Mission event on March 14 in Cedar Rapids. Nine people represented St. John's — Pastor Kathy and Bob Roys, Muriel Johannessen, Bobbie Kahler, Nancy Locker, Sue McDonough, Jo Olson and Mary Schuchmann. The workshops provided a variety of ideas for enriching the life and ministry of our congregation.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

**April 3**  
Mariah Mikel

**April 4**  
Lori Brown  
Brent Jaeger  
Keith Winburn  
Wyatt Winburn

**April 5**  
Nathan Ford  
Reid Henderson  
Andrew Frana

**April 6**  
Stan Reitz

**April 7**  
Benjamin Dillon  
Jolisa Ditzler  
Susan Erickson

**April 8**  
Lois Quindt

**April 9**  
Jennifer Dillon  
Mitchell Frischmeyer

**April 10**  
Alec Henderson

**April 11**  
Eli Dunne  
Dennis Wilson

**April 12**  
Jake Crawford  
Kris Stepanek

**April 13**  
Jim Urfer

**April 16**  
Jeff Morrison  
Mona Snyder

**April 17**  
AmyLynn Bodensteiner  
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 24**  
Bob Roys

**April 25**  
Rose Osland

**April 26**  
Sue Rojohn  
Larry Wade

**April 27**  
Kristen Hatcher  
Trevor Jensen

**April 28**  
Bill Burk  
Braden Furness  
Paul Kolpin

**April 29**  
Loren Kolpin  
Kara White

**April 30**  
Nancy Locker

## Highlights of Church Council meeting

*The following is a summary of the Council of Ministers meeting held March 10. The complete minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the education wing.*

The terms of six members of the Council of Ministers will expire in June. The open positions are: vice president, secretary, chair of Evangelism and Shepherding, Youth, Service and Properties. Council members serve two-year terms and are eligible to serve two terms. If you are interested in serving on the council, contact Bob Falck or Pastor Kathy.

A new church treasurer will be needed in January 2010. Gary Cook announced he will step down at that time after more than 20 years of service over a 30-year period. "I've enjoyed all of it but it's time to have someone new," he says.

Some of the lighting in the sanctuary has been upgraded.

**STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**APRIL CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

**Acolyte:** Jacob Lamb  
**Welcome Team:** Nancy and Don Beck  
**Reader:** Carolyn Bosse

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeters:** Jim and Sara Hegg Dunne  
**Reader:** Brenda Mikel  
**Communion Assistants:** Keith and Rose Osland  
**Fellowship:** Jim and Natalie Dunn, Verna Gerrish  
**Nursery:** Nicole Behrens

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

**Acolyte:** Rachel Pinkerton  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

**SUNRISE SERVICE, 7 a.m.**

**Acolyte:** Chance Winburn  
**Greeters:** Don and Nancy Beck  
**Reader:** Gladys Booth  
**Communion Assistants:**

**FESTIVAL SERVICE, 9:30 a.m.**

**Acolyte:** Jarren Ford  
**Greeters:** Kelly Rose  
**Reader:** Dorothy Martinek  
**Communion Assistants:** Bob and Pam Ashing  
**Nursery:** Dorothy Wade

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

**Acolyte:** Caprisse Honsbruch  
**Welcome Team:** Kathy Barger and Vera Warnke  
**Reader:** Sandy Falck  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

**Acolyte:** Ashley Mikel  
**Greeters:** Larry and Dorothy Wade  
**Reader:** Doris Selix  
**Communion Assistants:** Austin Elling, Fred England  
**Fellowship:** D., B. Huebner, G., K. Johnson  
**Nursery:** Renee Beach

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

**Acolyte:** Zach Osland  
**Welcome Team:** Natalie and Jim Dunn  
**Reader:** Norm Erickson  
**Communion Assistant:** Norm Erickson

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26**

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeters:** Brian and Nancy Heineman  
**Reader:** Ashley Mikel  
**Communion Assistants:** Terry and Lynn Cline  
**Fellowship:** Keith and Rose Osland, Irene Morrison  
**Nursery:** Scott Bosse

**Altar Guild**

March 10-April 14 — Bev Huebner  
 Month of April — Mitzi Dufoe  
 April 14-May 12 — Vicki Dillon

**Weekly meetings and activities**

Staff meeting — Tuesdays at 10 am  
 Bible Study with Muriel — Mondays at 11 am, Meeting Room  
 No Bible Study April 20 or April 27  
 Men's Breakfast — Tuesdays at 7 am, Westside Family Restaurant  
 LWR Quilters — Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, Room 9

|              |           |                                   |   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>1</b>  | 12:45 pm                          | Confirmation                                |
|              |           | 6 pm                              | Soup supper, Fellowship Hall                |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Midweek Lenten worship                      |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>2</b>  | 10 am                             | Common Thread, Church Library               |
|              |           | 6:30, 8 am                        | Lenten Study Group, Saints Rest             |
|              |           | 5 pm                              | First Communion instruction                 |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>4</b>  | 8:30 am                           | WELCA Cluster meeting, St. John's           |
|              |           | 5:30 pm                           | Worship                                     |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>5</b>  | 8:30 am                           | Choir rehearsal, Music Room                 |
|              |           | 9:30 am                           | Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion     |
|              |           | 10:30 am                          | Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall          |
|              |           | 10:45 am                          | Sunday School, Preschool to Adult Forum     |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>8</b>  | 10:30 am                          | WELCA board meeting, Meeting Room           |
|              |           | 1:30 am                           | Mary Martha Circle, Jo Olson, hostess       |
|              |           | 5 pm                              | First Communion instruction                 |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>9</b>  | 6:30, 8 am                        | Lenten Study Group, Saints Rest             |
|              |           | 6:30 pm                           | Choir Rehearsal, Music Room                 |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion |
| <b>Fri</b>   | <b>10</b> | 7 pm                              | Good Friday worship, Tenebrae service       |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>11</b> | <b>No Saturday worship</b>        |   |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>12</b> | 7 am                              | Easter sunrise worship with Holy Communion  |
|              |           | 8 am                              | Easter breakfast, Fellowship Hall           |
|              |           | 9 am                              | Choir rehearsal, Music Room                 |
|              |           | 9:30 am                           | Festival Easter worship with Holy Communion |
|              |           | <b>No Sunday School on Easter</b> |   |
| <b>Tue</b>   | <b>14</b> | 6:30 pm                           | Church Council, Meeting Room                |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>15</b> | Noon                              | Autumn Leaves, Fellowship Hall              |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Confirmation, Meeting Room                  |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Celebration Singers, Sanctuary              |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>16</b> | 9:30 am                           | Lydia Circle, Sue McDonough, hostess        |
|              |           | 10 am                             | Common Thread, Library                      |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>18</b> | 5:30 pm                           | Worship with Holy Communion                 |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>19</b> | 8:30 am                           | 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 Forum     |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>22</b> | 7 pm                              | Confirmation                                |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Celebration Singers, Sanctuary              |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>25</b> | 5:30 pm                           | Worship with Holy Communion                 |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>26</b> | 9:30 am                           | Worship with Holy Communion                 |
|              |           | 10:30 am                          | Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall          |
|              |           | 10:45 am                          | Sunday School, Preschool to Adult Forum     |
| <b>Tue</b>   | <b>28</b> | 7 pm                              | Sarah Circle                                |
| <b>Wed</b>   | <b>29</b> | 7 pm                              | Confirmation                                |
|              |           | 7 pm                              | Celebration Singers, Sanctuary              |

**Ushers on Sunday**

Keith Osland, Fred Dillon, Don Sundell, Harlan Honsbruch, Gene Broders, Lance Longman

**Offering Counters**



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

## LOVE LETTER

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

APRIL 2009

The **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



### Thank you, St. John's

*We received the following letter from Lutheran Services in Iowa in acknowledgement of our support of disaster relief efforts in Iowa following last spring year's tornado and flooding in the state. St. John's contributed a total of \$8,655 in 2008. Pastor Stadie will speak at worship services at St. John's on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17.*

Lutheran Services in Iowa, the Iowa affiliate of Lutheran Disaster Response, thanks you for your support of disaster response efforts this past year. (It has been) amazing generosity. Your support is bringing hope to those impacted by tornadoes and flooding. On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for helping them find a "new normal" in their lives.

*Pastor Michael Stadie  
Disaster Response Manager*

### Community worship during Lent

Two more worship services remain in the midweek community Lenten series sponsored by the Grinnell Ministerial Association. This year's theme is "Living with Loss." The April 1 service is a brief service followed by a light luncheon. On Good Friday, the service is longer and is not followed by a meal.

#### April 1

at First Baptist Church

**Preaching:** Father Nick Adams

**Theme:** Loss of Community, text is Luke 4:1-15

#### April 10 (Good Friday)

at Herrick Chapel, Grinnell College campus

**Preaching:** Rev. Katie Snipes

**Theme:** Loss of Life, Mark: 15:12-26

