

# LOVE LETTER

MAY 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

## MURIEL'S MUSINGS

# God's path, not ours

In reading the first chapter of 1 John, I allowed my mind to imagine what it might have been like for those early Christians who had been witness to God's amazing power and mighty acts.

As I reflected on this, I was reminded of others who had also witnessed that power. An ordinary shepherd was told his barren wife would give birth to a child. Abraham believed, and the nation of Israel came into being. A

young man, adopted into the royal household, saw a bush burn without being destroyed, and was told by God that he had been chosen to lead his people out of slavery to freedom. Moses believed, the Israelites followed him and witnessed amazing miracles.

Later, as faith became weak and Israel was again a conquered nation, God's own Word entered the womb of a virgin and Jesus was born. Why did Jesus come to us?

We could say that Jesus came to bring us God's promise of salvation, and that is certainly true. But, I believe that is only part of the truth.

In each example I gave, God entered human existence, forming a

personal relationship with people, but also revealing God's path for them. Each time, faith had weakened, people had strayed from the vision of how truly awesome and

powerful and "beyond us" God is, and God was calling them back to that vision.

As I look at the church of Christ today, I wonder if we have, through our failure to grasp the wondrous miracle of God's amazing acts of grace and love, turned the roaring blaze into a faint spark. Have we

tried so hard to make God "like us" that we have lost the vision of who this powerful God truly is, and the total "otherness" of God? God doesn't fit into our boxes, no matter how hard we try to tuck Him into a safe place, unconnected to ordinary days, to be brought out when we need something.

I believe God is calling us in the church to open our eyes to truly see the God of miraculous happenings once more, to fall on our knees in worship, awe and adoration, and then to follow as and where God leads us. Who knows what pillars of cloud and fire we may see? Let's take God's path and find out together.

**"I believe God is calling us in the church to open our eyes to truly see the God of miraculous happenings once more..."**

Muriel Johannessen



# AROUND the CONGREGATION

## In sympathy

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Darrell Rojohn Sr., who died April 4. His funeral was held April 16 at St. John's. Sympathy also to the family of Judy Lindblom, a former member of St. John's and daughter of Ruth Mithelman, who died April 4. Her funeral was held April 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Marshalltown.

## First Communion

Four fifth-graders took First Communion on Maundy Thursday at St. John's. They are Mariah Mikel, Tiffany Olson, Amanda Osland and Josh Stepanek. Thanks to Donna Beck and Judy Lebeck for helping the children make the communion bread for the service.

## On May 3

Worship on Sunday, May 3, will be led by children and youth in the congregation, under the direction of Muriel and Ryan and Sarah Dahlby Albright.

## On May 16-17

The Rev. Michael Stadie, Disaster Response Manager for Lutheran Services in Iowa, will speak at worship services on both Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17. He will talk about LSI's role in disaster relief in Iowa in 2008, and the role that St. John's played in that effort.

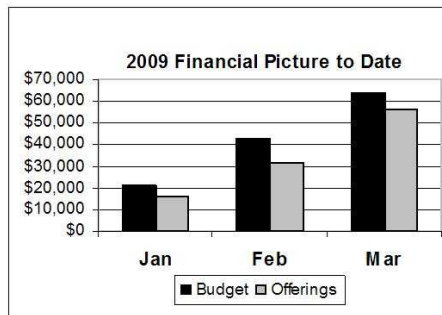
## For MICA

During midweek Lenten services at St. John's, members contributed approximately 600 pounds of food household items to the MICA food pantry. That's an average of 100 pounds a week! Thanks to Randy Smith of McNally's for the shopping cart (a great visual) and to Karri Furness and her family for transporting the food to MICA.

For May, the requested food items are Jello, pudding and canned fruit.

## New member class

Classes for prospective new members at St. John's will be held on Wednesdays, May 6 and 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If you know of anyone interested in joining St. John's, please tell them of this opportunity to learn more about our church and its ministry. Those attending are asked to bring their calendars in order to schedule a date when new members will be received. Call the office if child care will be needed.



Average needed monthly: \$21,235  
Average received monthly: \$18,806

# THANK YOU THANK YOU

We have many, many reasons to be grateful this month. Thanks:

**TO** the youth and parents for the wonderful Easter breakfast. The generous donations of \$293 were used to help with the expenses for the April 26 Kids Against Hunger project.

**TO** the choir, Celebration Singers and the musicians who added so much to Holy Week and Easter worship.

**TO** Gaylen Johnson and helpers for volunteering to paint Pastor Kathy's office while she was away.

**TO** Bev Huebner for working with our confirmation students in the weeks leading up to confirmation on May 31. Thanks, too, to the Faith Friends, who supported the confirmands with prayers and encouragement.

Thank you to all who supported our daughter Kristen's health and safe return through continual prayer.

*Pastor Kathy and Bob*

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on every detail of our Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services. You were a joy to lead!

*Pastor*

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and many expressions of sympathy in the deaths of my sister and cousin. Your support carried me through a very difficult time. May God bless each of you.

*Muriel*

*St. John's Youth and Family Ministry*

**HELPING** with the coffee hour on Sunday, May 17, will be Barrett Anderson, Troy Smith, Josh Stepanek, Jena Sanders and Breanna Sanders. Parent helpers that day are Mike and Amy Anderson and Rick and Kris Stepanek.

**GRADUATING SENIORS** at St. John's will be honored at the annual Senior Breakfast, planned this year for Sunday, May 17. The five



soon-to-be graduates are **Nathan Beach, Bradley Ditzler, Sydney Honsbruch, Curtis Smith and Chana Weir.**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Brandon Mikel and Laura Weigel** have been inducted into the National Honor Society at Grinnell High School.

**Ashley Mikel** is part of the Grinnell Middle School Destination Imagination team that will compete in the national competition May 20-23 in Knoxville, TN.

**IF** you know of young people in our congregation who have earned recognition, share the good news with the congregation via the church office. We'd specifically like the names of our 2009 college graduates.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>May 1</b><br>Kurt Falck<br>Abigail Furness<br>Sarah Reitz | <b>May 13</b><br>Renee Beach<br>Barb Havel            | <b>May 23</b><br>A.J. Baker   |
| <b>May 4</b><br>Warren Busse                                 | <b>May 14</b><br>Katelin Dunne<br>Stephanie Morrison  | <b>May 24</b><br>Harry Ashby  |
| <b>May 5</b><br>Rosalie Hartzell                             | <b>May 15</b><br>Duane Dufoe                          | <b>May 25</b><br>Paula Locker<br>Nathan Weigel                      |
| <b>May 6</b><br>Jenna Morrison<br>Kalen Winburn              | <b>May 16</b><br>Aaron Winburn                        | <b>May 26</b><br>Ken Pearce<br>Diane Ruchotzke                      |
| <b>May 7</b><br>Eunice Kelm                                  | <b>May 18</b><br>Arlene Davenport<br>Matthew Erickson | <b>May 27</b><br>Georgia Diefenthaler                               |
| <b>May 8</b><br>Melvin Beck<br>Vic Frana<br>James Havel      | <b>May 19</b><br>Katherine Henderson                  | <b>May 28</b><br>Anna Jasch   |
| <b>May 9</b><br>Dave Wierson                                 | <b>May 20</b><br>Jason Hatcher<br>Irene Morrison      | <b>May 29</b><br>Michelle Honsbruch<br>Jimmy Pinkerton              |
| <b>May 10</b><br>Carol Bauman                                | <b>May 21</b><br>Jerry Reid                           | <b>May 30</b><br>Genevieve Urfer                                    |
|  | <b>May 22</b><br>Gail Beck<br>Michael Reid            | <b>May 31</b><br>Nicole Behrens<br>Gladys Booth<br>Dennis Van Hamme |

**Making St. John's more welcoming**

**Hearing assists**

Anyone who has difficulty hearing the spoken words during worship is welcome to try the new hearing assists.. The assist device consists of a small wireless headset that is connected to the microphones used during the service. The assist increases the volume of what is spoken into the microphones; it does not pick up conversation in the pews and does not amplify the organ or the choir. It is simple to use, with a single on-off switch that also controls the volume. The devices (we have six) are stored in a metal case on the cabinet in the narthex.

**Sanctuary accessibility**

Following the congregational forums on accessibility in late March, the Task Force on Sanctuary Accessibility is continuing to move forward with plans to make our worship space more accommodating for all.

# STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE IN MAY

## SATURDAY, MAY 2

**Acolyte:** Troy Smith  
**Welcome Team:** Jim and Molly Urfer  
**Reader:** Bev Hatcher  
**Communion Assistant:** Natalie Pavey

## SUNDAY, MAY 3

**Service led by youth of our congregation**  
**Fellowship:** Lynn and Terry Cline,  
 Jim and Molly Urfer

**Communion Assistants:** Russ, Brenda  
 Crawford

**Nursery:** Laura Weigel

## SATURDAY, MAY 9

**Acolyte:** Jarren Ford  
**Welcome Team:** K. Kriegel, J. Wilson-  
**Reader:** Verna Gerrish  
**Communion Assistant:** Bob Falck

## SUNDAY, MAY 10

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeter:** Jan Hammes  
**Reader:** Jo Olson  
**Communion Assistants:** Molly Urfer,  
 Sue McDonough  
**Fellowship:** Steve and Cindy Dueley,  
 Tom and Anita Ford  
**Nursery:** Gaye and Tammie Van Hamme

## SATURDAY, MAY 16

**Acolyte:** Rachel Pinkerton  
**Welcome Team:** G. Booth, V. Billman  
**Reader:** Ed Hatcher  
**Communion Assistant:** Bob Roys

## SUNDAY, MAY 17

**Acolyte:** Chance Winburn  
**Greeters:** Keith and Rose Osland  
**Reader:** Gladys Booth  
**Communion Assistants:** Gaylen and  
 Kathy Johnson

**Fellowship:** Youth  
**Nursery:** Nicole Behrens

## SATURDAY, MAY 23

**Acolyte:** Jacob Lamb  
**Welcome Team:** Bob and Sandy Falck  
**Reader:** Shirle Huth  
**Communion Assistant:** Bev Hatcher

## SUNDAY, MAY 24

**Acolyte:** Caprisse Honsbruch  
**Greeters:** Duane and Mitzi Dufoe  
**Reader:** Pam Ashing  
**Communion Assistants:** Vic, Jean Frana  
**Fellowship:** John and Madge Ruchotzke,  
 Lu Ahrens  
**Nursery:** Scott Bosse

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

**Acolyte:** Rachel Pinkerton  
**Welcome Team:** Brian, Nancy Heineman  
**Reader:** Nancy Beck  
**Communion Assistant:** Donna Beck

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeters:** Molly and Jim Urfer  
**Reader:** Jim Urfer  
**Communion Assistant:** Shirle Huth  
**Fellowship:** Fred and Vicki Dillon,  
 Sue McDonough  
**Nursery:** Dorothy Wade

## USHERS ON SUNDAY

Rick Weigel, Duane Dufoe (*head ushers*) John Martinek, Trent Baker, Russ Crawford

## OFFERING COUNTERS

Diane Ruchotzke, Harlan Honsbruch

## ALTAR GUILD

April 14-May 12 — Vicki Dillon  
 Month of May — Dorothy Martinek  
 May 12-June 16 — Bobbie Kahler

Women of the ELCA

## SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, May 3  
2 p.m.

Fellowship Hall  
Program

From Newton to Tanzania  
Stories of First Lutheran's  
mission trip to Africa

Brief Business Meeting. Dessert  
All women of St. John's invited.

## Highlights of Church Council meeting

*The following is a summary of the Council of Ministers meeting held April 14. The full minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall and the education wing.*

A proposed policy on sabbaticals for the congregation's ministerial leadership, both full-time and part-time, was approved by the council. The policy, developed by a committee of four council members, will be presented to the congregation at the semiannual meeting June 28.




Options for office copiers are being explored. The lease on the current copier expires in May.

Increased attendance at worship services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter was noted.

New possibilities for small fellowship groups within the congregation are being considered by the Fellowship Committee.

# MAY 2009

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell  
236-4946, stjohngri@towatelecom.net

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Dates to remember this month</b>  <b>WELCA Spring Meeting, May 3</b>  <b>Senior Breakfast, May 17</b>  <b>Family Bike Ride, May 17</b>  <b>Last Day of Sunday School, May 24</b>  <b>Pentecost, Confirmation, May 31</b></p>						
<p><b>3</b>                      9:30 am Worship led by youth of St. John's                      10:30 am Coffee Fellowship                      10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum                      2 pm WELCA Meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b>                      11 am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b>                      7 am Men's Breakfast                      10 am Staff Meeting                      1 pm LWR Quilters                      6 pm Pre-baptism orientation</p>	<p><b>6</b>                      Noon First Wednesday                      12:45 pm Confirmation                      6:30 pm Study Group                      6:30 pm New Member Class                      7 pm Celebration Singers</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      10 am Common Thread                      6:30 pm Evangelism Committee</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b>                      5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion                      6:30 pm Second Saturday Fellowship</p>
<p><b>10</b>                      8:30 am Choir rehearsal                      9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion                      10:30 am Coffee Fellowship                      10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum</p>	<p><b>11</b>                      11 am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b>                      7 am Men's Breakfast                      1 pm LWR Quilters                      6:30 Church Council</p>	<p><b>13</b>                      9:30 am Communications Team                      10:30 am WELCA Board                      Noon Mary Martha Circle                      6:30 pm Study Group                      6:30 pm New Member Class                      7 pm Celebration Singers</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b>                      5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p><b>17</b>                      8 am Senior Breakfast                      8:30 am Choir rehearsal                      9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion                      10:30 am Fellowship                      10:45 am Sunday School/Adult Forum                      3 pm Family Bike Ride</p>	<p><b>18</b>                      11 am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>19</b>                      7 am Men's Breakfast                      10 am Staff Meeting                      Noon Autumn Leaves                      1 pm LWR Quilters</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      6:30 pm Study Group                      7 pm Celebration Singers</p>	<p><b>21</b>                      9:30 am Lydia Circle                      10 am Common Thread</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>                      5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p><b>24</b>                      9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion                      10:30 a.m. Fellowship                      10:45 am S.S., Adult Forum  <b>31 Pentecost</b>                      8:30 am Choir rehearsal                      9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion, Confirmation                      10:30 am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p><b>25</b>                      MEMORIAL DAY  </p>	<p><b>26</b>                      7 am Men's Breakfast                      10 am Staff Meeting                      1 pm LWR Quilters                      7 pm Sarah Circle</p>	<p><b>27</b>                      7 pm Confirmation                      6:30 pm Study Group                      7 pm Celebration Singers</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>                      5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion</p>



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MAY 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**



**Pentecost**  
May 31

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

# FAMILY BIKE RIDE

3 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Start in St. John's parking lot

Short and longer distances

Helmet and water bottle required.

Questions?

Call Bob

Falck,

236-  
5225



## St. John's part of EPIC program

Scholarships to Iowa's Lutheran colleges are available to young people in our congregation. St. John's is a member of Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC), a matching scholarship program involving the three ELCA synods in Iowa and the ELCA colleges in the state — Grand View, Luther and Wartburg.

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

St. John's has established a special fund to accept contributions to EPIC.

Students interested in the program and congregation members wishing to contribute to the program can contact Gary Cook — home phone 236-5620, work phone, 269-8507, or email at [gcook@gmrc.com](mailto:gcook@gmrc.com)

Deadline for applications to the fund is May 15.