

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

# LOVE LETTER

JULY 2010

**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

During the school year

## ADULT FORUM

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

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**Bob Larson**, president  
**Russ Behrens**, vice president  
**Vicki Dillon**, secretary  
**Rose Osland**, treasurer  
**Fred Dillon**, Properties  
**Duane Dufoe**, Stewardship  
**Pat Gustafson**, Education  
**Lisa Henderson**, Worship  
**Marilyn Deppe**, Fellowship  
**Kathy Johnson**, Service  
**Fred England** and  
**Sue McDonough**, Evangelism  
**Chad Nath**, Youth

DIXIELAND JAZZ SERVICE

# OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Saturday, July 31, 5:30 p.m.  
on the church lawn



Music led by  
Prairie Jewel Dixieland  
and St. John's musicians

Potluck following the  
service. Bring a lawn  
chair, a dish to share and  
your own table service.  
(A-I, bring main dish, J-R,  
side or salad, S-Z dessert)

If it rains, we'll be inside.

No worship on Sunday  
that weekend,



## Staying Connected This Summer

One of the best parts of “summertime” for many people is that it presents an opportunity to get away on vacation or to change ones daily routine with outdoor activities. Some of these getaways and activities occasionally take us away from the St John’s on weekends.

So, how can we stay connected? Let me suggest that one of the simplest and most important ways we can stay connected is to continue to use the Daily Lectionary for your daily devotions. St John’s provides two devotional publications for daily use: “Taking Your Faith Home” and “Christ in Our Home.” Both bring God’s Word to your Mondays and daily life. You can find copies of both are in our narthex. And they will slip nicely into a suitcase or a desk drawer and set conveniently on a nightstand.



These resources can be a tool to connect us to God and one another as we walk through the part of the church year which is sometimes called Ordinary Time. It is the time that is not a part of the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter. It also refers to the Sundays after Pentecost. It is days when we are going about the everyday work of being the church, being people of God in our community — around our kitchen tables and picnic tables.

The Sundays of Ordinary Time take us through the gospels and the ministry of Jesus. The Time after Pentecost is a teaching time, a growing time in the life of the church. We hear stories of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee and his journey to Jerusalem. There are parables that cause us to ponder. There are miracles that cause us to wonder. There are teachings that challenge us and words that comfort us.

All in all, it can hardly be seen as ordinary stuff because it involves the mighty acts of God and a “Living Word” that speaks to us today to raise life out of death.

Ordinary Time resumes for us in the days of summer, leisure and vacations. We need to take time to rest and to be renewed. And that is in all areas of life — including spiritual.

The surprises and the mysteries of the gospel have the power to restore and refresh us like nothing else can. Christ comes to us through word and sacrament to speak a word of peace and to hold us in love.

Ordinary time in the church is far from boring. It is a counting of days lived within the grace of God.

It is a counting of days lived within the grace of God.

It is a counting of days lived within the grace of God.

*Your partner in these ordinary,  
blessed days of God’s grace,  
Pastor Kathy*



# AROUND the CONGREGATION

## Officers, council members elected

New leadership was chosen at St. John's semiannual meeting on June 13. New officers are Bob Larson, president; and Russ Behrens, vice president. New council members are Pat Gustafson, representing Education; Marilyn Deppe, Fellowship; Duane Dufoe, Stewardship; and Fred Dillon, Properties.

Continuing in office are Vicki Dillon, secretary; Rose Osland, treasurer; Lisa Henderson, Worship; Kathy Johnson, Service; Fred England and Sue McDonough, Evangelism; and Chad Nath, Youth.

Outgoing council members were thanked for their service. They include Nancy Heineman, who has served as council president; and council members Donna Beck, Dan Huebner, Bobbie Kahler and Kelly Rose.

## MICA this month

Needed at the MICA food pantry this month are pancake mix, muffin and bread mix, and syrup. A collection basket is located in the front entryway at St. John's. *A big thank you to those from St. John's who recently helped MICA move from the Veterans Building to the Community Center.*

## THANK YOU

**ST. JOHN'S:** Thanks to everyone for their calls and prayers, beautiful cards, and memorial gifts. Your thoughtfulness and remembrances of my mother, Dorothea Heneke, are very much appreciated

*God bless you,  
Darla Pearce*

**THANK YOU** for the prayers, cards and words of condolences during my mother's illness and after her passing. A special thank you to Pastor Kathy and Muriel for their calls of support.

*Denny and Becky Wilson*

**THANK YOU** to council members who have completed their terms of council service. They are Nancy Heineman, Donna Beck, Dan Huebner, Bobbie Kahler and Kelly Rose.

**Snapshot of church finances**  
*Comparison of our offerings and our budget through May.*

**Offerings to date:** \$91,134

**Expenses to date:** \$100,981

**Budget to date:** \$104,500

**Expenses vs. Offerings:** (\$13,366)

## Campfire and more

Calling ALL high school youth! A campout is planned for Friday July 9, starting at 5 p.m. There will be fishing, grilling, bocci ball, yard games. Call Chad Nath, head of the Youth Committee, at 990-7276 to find out more, help or attend!

## Vacation Bible School

You can still register for Vacation Bible School, to be held Sunday through Thursday, July 11-15, 6 to 8:15 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. This year's theme is "Galactic Blast."

Registration forms are available in the church office at St. John's.

The St. John's children participating in Vacation Bible School will sing the songs they learned at the worship service on Saturday, July 17.

## Second Saturday Fellowship

As a kickoff to Vacation Bible School, Second Saturday Fellowship will meet after worship on Saturday, July 11, for a picnic at Ahrens Park. You will find the group at the shelter house nearest the daycare center.

## Goodies for Graduates

Help send our three 2010 high school graduates off to college with a reminder of their church family. Once again we will give our graduates "Care Bags" filled with items such as towels, personal care products, quarters or bills for the laundry. Please bring your donations to the church office by August 1.

## Read and discuss

The novel "Same Kind of Different as Me" will be discussed at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, in the Meeting Room.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2010

## Keep focus on Jesus through the mission that holds us together

Our Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly was held May 21-22 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Your delegates were Bob Larson, Nancy Locker and Pastor Kathy.

The theme was “Their Eyes Were Fixed on Jesus.” Bishop Michael Burk used this theme during the worship



service to call us to keep our focus on Jesus and what he has commanded us to do – preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, free the oppressed and aid in the recovery of sight to the blind. To illustrate his point, he mentioned that as a young boy at St. John’s he went with a group to a farm home at night to sing songs. There were no lights, as the woman was blind, He knew she couldn’t see, yet when the door was opened, she seemed to be looking at each one. (The woman in his story was Howard McDonough’s grandmother.)

There were faith story videos from congregations across the synod that demonstrated God’s mission of serving others. Several area churches were among those featured. A video from Elim Lutheran Church in Marshalltown described their prison ministry. Another told of the Jasper County Coalition (First Lutheran and Holy Trinity in Newton, St. Paul in Kellogg and St. Andrew in Sully) and what they are accomplishing by working together. Eloise Froah, daughter of Emma Helme, was one of the speakers in the video about the coalition.

We welcomed a new congregation – Holy Trinity of North Liberty. We also celebrated the special anniversaries of congregations and ordinations. Among those honored was Pastor Otto Zwanziger, a former pastor at Trinity, Malcom, who celebrated 55 years in God’s service. (He was Nancy’s confirmation pastor.)

Elected to serve on the Synod Council were Pastor Kathy and Pastor Jack Mithelman, son of Ruth Mithelman who is now at Grand View University in Des Moines.

A video was shown telling of the ministry we are doing in Haiti, We learned that ELCA Disaster Response has collected \$11.4 million and that Lutheran World Relief received 220,000 quilts last year.

Various forums were held on Saturday morning. At a forum on Kids Against Hunger, participants put together 16,084 meals. Pastor Kathy attended a session on “Making Your Church Greener.” Bob attended a very informative session titled “With Faith and Focus – Lutheran Services in Iowa Remains.” Nancy attended a session led by Dr. Norma Cook Everist of Wartburg Theological Seminary titled “Encountering the Text in Community,” which was based on the theme verses found in Luke. We encountered the text using three methods – through the person of Jesus, through community, and through healing ministry.

At the closing service, the picture of Jesus kneeling in the garden that we have above our altar was shown.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the actions of our church.

*Nancy S. Locker*

## HYMN SING

at worship services the weekend of July 24-25

Who doesn’t like to sing the good ol’ hymns? From Advent and Christmas (December) through Christ the King (November), we will sing our way through the seasons of the church year. Come, worship and enjoy!

## STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

### SATURDAY, JULY 3

**Welcome Team:** Kathy Kriegel, Jessica Wilson  
**Reader:** Molly Urfer

### SUNDAY, JULY 4

**Acolyte:** Eli Dunne  
**Greeters:** Rose and Keith Osland  
**Reader:** Doris Selix  
**Communion Assistants:** Fred and Vicki Dillon  
**Fellowship:** Rose and Keith Osland, Irene Morrison

### SATURDAY, JULY 10

**Welcome Team:** Marilyn and Larry Deppe  
**Reader:** Ryan Dahlby Albright  
**Communion Assistant:** Bob Roys

### SUNDAY, JULY 11

**Acolyte:** Barrett Anderson  
**Greeters:** Ray Parker and Fred England  
**Reader:** Barbara Stone  
**Fellowship:** Kathy and Gaylen Johnson, Kelly Rose

### SATURDAY, JULY 17

**Welcome Team:** Julie and Scott Beach  
**Reader:** Julie Beach

### SUNDAY, JULY 18

**Acolyte:** Chance Winburn  
**Greeters:** Madge and John Ruchotzke  
**Reader:**  
**Communion Assistants:** Vic and Jean Frana  
**Fellowship:** Youth

### SATURDAY, JULY 24

**Welcome Team:** Molly and Jim Urfer  
**Reader:** Sarah Dahlby Albright  
**Communion Assistant:** Molly Urfer

### SUNDAY, JULY 25

**Acolyte:** Sarah Reitz  
**Greeters:** Diane Ruchotzke and Alice Beck  
**Reader:** Margaret Amo  
**Fellowship:** Lynn and Terry Cline, Lu Ahrens

### SATURDAY, JULY 31

#### **OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Welcome Team:** Donna Beck and Malynn Pavey  
**Reader:** Norm Erickson  
**NO WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**

#### **USHERS ON SUNDAY**

Ted Clausen and Mike Anderson (head ushers)  
Julie Beach, Scott Beach, Renee Beach, Loren Kolpin

#### **MONEY COUNTERS**

Pat and Steve Gustafson, Donna Beck

#### **NURSERY**

(July 4) Nicole Behrens (11) Scott Bosse (18) Dorothy Wade (25) Laura Weigel

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

July 1-July 14 — Sue McDonough  
Month of July — Pam Ashing  
July 14-August 11 — Margaret Amo

## The Lord's Prayer...An Amazing Gift

Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer after they saw him pray and asked for help to develop a deeper relationship with God. We may overlook the amazing gift this is, as Jesus teaches us how to communicate with Our Father in Heaven.

Join us as we explore this familiar, yet surprising prayer on four Wednesdays at 6 p.m. starting July 7. The class, taught by Muriel, will continue on July 14, July 21 and August 4. (No class on July 28.)

## Church Council Summary

*The following are highlights of the Church Council meeting held on June 8.*

**A FINANCE COMMITTEE** is being formed to develop an investment policy for the church. Members will be Rose Osland, Loren Kolpin and one member yet to be named.

**A SETTLEMENT** for roof damage sustained in the April hail-storm has been received. A task force composed of Keith Osland and Donna and Melvin Beck will monitor the repair project.

**THE PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** will be asked to look at parking in the church's north lot. Some drivers are not pulling up close enough to the concrete barriers, making passage through the parking lot difficult.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS** discussed what kinds of church records should be kept in the lockbox at the bank. Rose Osland will check to see what records are currently in the box.



**New and retiring council members gathered for an evening retreat in June at the lake home of Nancy and Brian Heineman.**

## GETTING ACQUAINTED

Kathy Johnson is reveling in her recent retirement after 37 years in family practice nursing. Among her new activities is service on St. John's Church Council as head of the Service Committee. In that job, she coordinates the coordinators of outreach programs such as Meals on Wheels, LWR Quilters, Community Meal and the Thanksgiving Dinner for the community.



Kathy Johnson

Kathy and her husband Gaylen have been members of St. John's since their move to Grinnell from Story City in 1990. Kathy likes the feeling of fellowship at St. John's. "It's like a family," she said. "We love that aspect of it."

The Johnsons have a son, Chad, who lives with his family in Sioux Falls, S.D., and twin daughters, Kelly Rose and Karri Furness, who live in Grinnell and are also active at St. John's. There are a total of eight grandchildren.

The grandkids are a focus for the Johnsons, especially in the summer. Kathy and Gaylen attend ball games at Ahrens Park almost every night. "One time we had five in one night," Kathy said. "There are just lots and lots of ball games."

With Kelly as head of the Rec Department and Karri one of the managers of the new aquatic center, Kathy also spends time at the pool. (To help out, she even works four hours a week at the pool's concession stand.)

That routine will change in August, however, when it's Iowa State Fair time. "Anyone who knows me knows I love the fair," Kathy said. "I'm like a child when it comes to the fair."

She remembers a day at the fair as the highlight of her summers growing up on a farm near Story City. "We didn't have a lot of money and we looked forward to that one day all year."

These days the Johnsons and their family attend the fair for several different days. "We're there when the gates open and we stay until 11 o'clock," Kathy said.

*One of a series of brief profiles of members of St. John's Church Council.*

## Happy Birthday!

*to our baptized members who were born in July*

### July 1

Alyssa Bosse  
Rick Stepanek

### July 2

Sue Bailey

### July 3

Tami Lai

### July 6

Shirle Huth

### July 7

Lauren Hagemeister

### July 8

Ryan Ness  
Darla Pearce

### July 9

Dorothy Meyers  
Ken Dalldorf

### July 10

Ben Kline  
Curtis Smith

### July 11

Kim Clark  
Fred Hagemeister

### July 12

Peggy Kolpin  
Kimberly  
Youngdale

### July 13

Sydney Anderson

### July 14

Chad Nath

### July 15

Philip Arendt  
Susan Mikel

### July 16

Luke Longman

### July 17

Karen Billman  
Virginia Billman

### July 19

Sarah Dahlby  
Albright  
Connor Morrison

### July 21

Lu Ahrens

### July 22

Tami Ditzler

Leora Jones

### July 23

Doug Longman  
Josh Ringler  
Heather Gannon

### July 24

Chad Weigel

### July 25

Shaeanna Lai  
Jo Olson

### July 26

Megan Brown

### July 27

Ryan Barger  
Fiona Urfer

### July 28

Muriel Johannessen

### July 29

Laura Ness

### July 31

Terry Cline  
Judy Lebeck


## Opportunity to serve others

An ecumenical effort is forming in Grinnell to help ex-offenders paroled to our community to adjust to life outside prison walls. The effort will take the form of a Re-entry Support Team of five to eight volunteers who will meet weekly with a recently released prisoner to assist him or her with basic needs such as housing, employment, finances, clothing and transportation. The team will also function as a support system. An organizational meeting is planned for late August. If you are interested in learning more about the effort, contact Pastor Kathy.

**Some people complain because God  
put thorns on roses, while others praise  
Him for putting roses among thorns.**

# JULY 2010

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, 236-4946  
 email: sfjohng@iowatelecom.net

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>5</b> <b>OFFICIAL HOLIDAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b> 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters 6:30 pm Book discussion	<b>7</b> 6 pm Bible Study	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm Mary Martha Circle	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm High school youth campout	<b>10</b> 5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion <i>Special music by Dahlby Albrigts and friends</i> 5:30 pm Second Saturday Fellowship, at Ahrens Park
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Worship <i>Special music by Dahlby Albrigts and friends</i> 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>12</b> 11 am Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters 5:30 pm Church Council.	<b>14</b> 6 pm Bible Study	<b>15</b> 9:30 am Lydia Circle	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm Worship
<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</b>						
<b>18</b> 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>19</b> 11 am Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters	<b>21</b> Noon Autumn Leaves 6 pm Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion <i>Hymn Sing</i>
<b>25</b> 9:30 am Worship <i>Hymn Sing</i> 10:30 am Fellowship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> on the church lawn Dixieland Service 5:30 p.m. Potluck to follow

**Women's Retreat**  
Sinsinawa Center

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## LOVE LETTER

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(641) 236-4946

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JULY 2010

The **LOVE LETTER** is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church. Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month. Contact: Mary Schuchmann, schuchr@pcpartner.net

**Return Service Requested**



Dixieland Outdoor Worship  
Saturday, July 31, 5:30 p.m.

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## OUR BENEVOLENCE DOLLARS Good Neighbor Fund

*One of a series of articles on ministries that St. John's supports through its annual budget. The 2010 budget includes an "Emergency Fund" of \$3,500 that is meant to be used for disaster relief worldwide and special needs among the congregation.*

In difficult economic times, financial hardship can be found close to home and in unexpected places.

That is the basis of the congregation's "Good Neighbor Financial Assistance Program." The program, which was established by the Church Council in 2007, is meant to help congregation members and their immediate families who are facing unanticipated expenses.

The written description of the fund calls for a committee to be appointed by the chair of the Service Committee. The committee is to review applications and make the decisions on how the money will be used. At the present time, Muriel is coordinating the program.

Here are some general guidelines for eligibility:

- For an emergency or unexpected expense.
- For expenses not covered by other income sources such as insurance.
- For expenses that would cause a financial strain to the individual or family, or when there is simply no other way to pay the bill.
- For temporary, not ongoing, support.

Examples of need might be a medical expense not covered by insurance, the cost of travel to a medical facility for treatment, or living expenses incurred by someone who has unexpectedly lost his or her source of income.

Applications are available from the church office, Pastor Kathy or Muriel. If you know someone in need in the congregation, you can start the application process for that person, but the person must agree and approve the submitted application.