

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grinnell, IA

LOVE LETTER

AUGUST 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

Resumes September 12

ADULT FORUM

Resumes September 12

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

A Prayer for Mid-Summer

For all things bright and beautiful,
For all things dark and mysterious and lovely,
For all things green and growing and strong,
For all things weak and struggling to push life
up through rocky earth,
For all human faces, hearts, minds and hands
which surround us,
And for all nonhuman minds and hearts
paws and claws, fins and wings,
For this life and the life of this world,
For all that you have laid before us, O God,
We lay our thankful hearts before you.
In Christ's name, Amen.

Gail A. Ricciuti



*Dixieland
Music*

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

on the church lawn
Saturday, July 31, 5:30 p.m.
Potluck after the service
If it rains, we'll be inside.



Muriel Johannessen
Associate in Ministry

God's call to the church today

A book I'm reading for Spiritual Practices tells of God entering into and renewing relationships with humans since the dawn of crea-

tion. I was particu-

hostility. It is a message that bears repeating. I fear we who follow Jesus are not being the example of that love and gentleness in our world today. People were drawn to the early church by that love, but are we so busy quarreling, as the churches in Corinth and other places were, that people lose sight of the One we follow?

larly struck by the reminder of the many ways God acted to bring people back into the harmonious relationships always intended for us. After an event such as the Exodus, people would be faithful for a time, but stray again from God's will by chasing other gods and other dreams. Each time, of course, chaos ensued, and God would come to us in a new way, with Abraham, Moses, David, the prophets and other leaders.

Finally, God entered our lives totally through the birth and life of Jesus. Again, for a time, people believed and followed, but even during his lifetime on earth, some resisted. He didn't fit their idea of a Messiah, you see, but he did exemplify God's vision for humankind. While the religious leaders taught people to separate themselves in order to remain "pure," Jesus reached out to bring others into the community. They resisted his embrace of "sinners," and his emphasis on bringing God's kingdom to fruition through love and gentleness instead of separation and

"whoever says 'I abide in him,' ought to walk just as he walked."

1 John 2:6

ought to walk just as he walked."

I believe, just as in the time of Luther and the other reformers, that God is calling us in today's church to reformation, to become once more the people of God that Christ came to show us how to be. As we read in 1 John 2:6, "whoever says 'I abide in him,'

Will you join me in prayer that this will be true for us and for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world? When we seek first to live as Christ taught, our church will indeed be renewed and reformed. Let us pray for God's Spirit to fill and renew us all today!

Muriel



AROUND the CONGREGATION

Third ~~First~~ Wednesday

Starting this fall, the Wednesday afternoon afterschool program will meet on the third Wednesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday. The program offers study, crafts, music and snacks on a day when the public schools have early release in order to offer teacher workshops. The first Third Wednesday afternoon will be September 16. The time is 1 to 5 p.m.

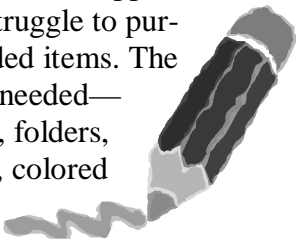
MICA this month

Needed at MICA in August are personal care items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and lotions. A collection basket is located in the front entrance to the church.

Collecting school supplies

Churches in the community are gathering school supplies for families who struggle to purchase needed items. The basics are needed—notebooks, folders, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers.

Bring donations to the church by August 10. A box marked "School Supplies" is located in the front entryway.



Second Saturday

Second Saturday Fellowship will head to Casa Margaritas after worship on Saturday, August 14. Everyone is welcome. Join the group at the popular Mexican restaurant at about 6:45 p.m.

Mentors needed

We need four Faith Friends—adults willing to share their faith and help guide our seventh-grade confirmation students as they explore Christ's life and teachings and how they relate to life today. The commitment is one hour a month. Both men and women are needed. If you can help, contact Pastor Kathy.

Looking ahead

An orientation meeting for parents of confirmation students will be held Wednesday, September 1. Watch for details.

Rally Day—the start of Sunday School and fall activities at St. John's, will be Sunday, September 12.

Snapshot of church finances

Comparison of our offerings and our budget through May.

Offerings to date: \$107,355

Expenses to date: \$122,039

Budget to date: \$125,400

Expenses vs. Offerings: (\$14,703)

THANK YOU

St. John's received a thank you in response to donations sent to Nashville after a devastating flood in June. Here is an excerpt:

Thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift to assist First Baptist Nashville with flood-relief efforts in our city. We have been overwhelmed with the support we have received from the body of Christ. I must tell you that our Lutheran friends have been the most generous of all!

*Dr. Frank Lewis, Senior Pastor,
First Baptist Nashville (Tenn.)*

WE would like to thank everyone for their calls of concern, prayers and support, visits at both GRMC and Mercy in Des Moines, Pastor Kathy's many visits and communion, flowers and the many, many cards Ken received since his January hospitalization.

We are grateful for your continued prayers and support as Ken continues his recovery and physical rehabilitation at the Iowa Veteran's Home in Marshalltown. Please stop by and see him there.

God bless you all for the comfort you've offered in so many ways. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

*Sincerely,
Ken and Darla Pearce*

THE MUSIC of Ryan and Sarah Dahlby Albright and their friends Dean and Denise Schmitz from Des Moines helped us praise God in new ways at worship on both Saturday and Sunday, July 10 and 11. A huge thank you for ALL that you put into the services.

THANK YOU to Vic and Jean Frana for the beautiful little bouquets in our sanctuary windows every week this summer. We are grateful they are willing to share their garden.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Welcome Team: Jordan Esbrook, Chris Weir
Reader: Sandy Falck

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Acolyte: Barrett Anderson
Greeters: Doris and Don Sundell
Reader: Sarah Dahlby Albright
Fellowship: Vicki and Fred Dillon, Virginia Deppe

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

Welcome Team: Chad and Terri Nath
Reader: Shirle Huth

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Acolyte: Chance Winburn
Greeters: Jim and Molly Urfer
Reader: Farrah Deppe
Fellowship: Youth

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

Welcome Team: Eric Hartz and Norm Erickson
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Communion Assistant:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

Acolyte: Sarah Reitz
Greeters:
Reader: Verna Gerrish
Communion Assistants:
Fellowship: M., J. Ruchotzke, E., M. Olson

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

Welcome Team: Don and Nancy Beck
Reader: Bobbie Kahler
Communion Assistant: Terri Nath

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

Acolyte: Rachel Pinkerton
Greeters: Luann and Rick Weigel
Reader: Lisa Henderson
Fellowship: Kathy, Gaylen Johnson, Kelly Rose

USHERS ON SUNDAY

Chris Weir, Mark Kolpin, Joe Reitz

MONEY COUNTERS

Mark Kolpin and Nicole Behrens

NURSERY

(August 8) Dorothy Wade (15) Scott Bosse
(22) Vicki Dillon (27) Nicole Behrens

ALTAR GUILD

July 14-August 11 — Margaret Amo
Month of August — Mary Schuchmann
August 11-September 8 — Madge Ruchotzke



CHURCH ROOF PROJECT

A chance to add insulation

The hailstorm that battered Grinnell in April caused major damage to the roof at St. John's as well as to most buildings in the north side of town. Property insurance will pay the cost of a replacement shingled roof for both the sanctuary and the education wing. Bids are expected from three roofing companies by an August 2 deadline.

The project presents an opportunity to make the building more energy efficient by adding insulation as part of the new roof. The insulation would be in the form of solid foam attached to the plywood that forms the base for the shingles.

Adding insulation would reduce both the heating and cooling costs. The project would be eligible for an Alliant rebate for approximately \$5,000.

Until the bids are in, the cost of the project has not been determined. Whatever the additional amount for insulation, it will need to be raised and/or borrowed. There is no provision in the 2010 church budget for an expense like this.

According to our constitution, the expenditure must be approved by a vote at a regular or special meeting of the congregation. Such a meeting is set for **Sunday, August 29**, after worship, in the sanctuary. Notice of the meeting will be included in the worship bulletins the weekends of August 14-15 and August 21-22.

If the work is approved, a completion deadline of October 31 would be set.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Fred Dillon, Mel or Donna Beck, Keith Osland or Pastor Kathy.

Church Council Summary


The following are highlights of the Church Council meeting held on July 13.

MAGNETIC TAGS saying "Usher" and "Greeter" have been ordered to help visitors identify our worship assistants..

BECAUSE of safety concerns about the stability of the baptismal font in the center aisle, council members will ask the Worship Committee to discuss placement of the font in another location or securing it in the aisle location.

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 NO WORSHIP SERVICE BECAUSE OF OUTDOOR SERVICE ON JULY 31	2 11 am Bible Study	3 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters 5:30 pm Evangelism Committee	4 1:30 pm Third Wednesday planning meeting 5:30 p.m. Final class on the Lord's Prayer	5	6	7 5:30 pm Worship
8 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship	9 11 am Bible Study	10 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters 5:30 p.m. Church Council	11 10 am Adult Education Task Force 1 pm WELCA Board	12 1:30 pm Mary Martha Circle	13	14 5:30 pm Worship Pastor Jack Mithelman preaching 6:45 pm Second Saturday Fellowship at Casa Margaritas Youth Camp Out
15 9:30 am Worship Pastor Jack Mithelman preaching 10:30 am Fellowship	16 11 am Bible Study	17 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters	18 Noon Autumn Leaves	19  FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 9:30 am Lydia Circle	20	21 5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion
22 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship	23 11 am Bible Study	24 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters 7 pm Sarah Circle	25	26	27	28 5:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion
29 9:30 am Worship and Service of Healing 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 am Special Congregational Meeting	30 11 am Bible Study	31 7 am Men's Breakfast 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pause for Prayer 1 pm LWR Quilters				

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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

Saying Thanks

The Rev. Jack Mithelman will preach at St. John's in August

It's rare for a pastor to *ask* to preach to a congregation. But that's the case with the Rev. Jack Mithelman, who will preside and preach at worship services at St. John's on August 14 and 15.

Pastor Mithelman, who was baptized and confirmed at St. John's, says he asked Pastor Kathy "for the privilege of coming to preach as a way of saying 'thanks' to all the ways the congregation witnessed to me and continues to care for my mother (Ruth, now at St. Francis Manor)."

Pastor Mithelman currently serves as one of the campus pastors at Grand View University (ELCA) in Des Moines, and as senior pastor at Luther Memorial Church in Des Moines. He is a graduate of Wartburg College in Waverly, with a degree in music education. Following two years of teaching, he began working for the American Lutheran Church as a resource specialist. He completed his theological education at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1990. After graduation, he served parishes in Hayward, Minn., and Coon Valley, Wis.



Pastor Jack Mithelman

He is married to the Rev. Rachel Thorson Mithelman, senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines.

They have two children: Christian of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Constance, a junior at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

Asked about any special memories of his growing-up years at St. John's, he replied, "You are opening a very big box of things!"

He says the Sunday School, children's and adult choirs, and "general observation of the saints of God in this place" formed his faith.

"Most of all, I remember the constant examples of faithfulness those of my generation were privileged to observe. I had outstanding Sunday School teachers from beginning to end. The senior choir, as individuals and as a group were rich examples of love, faithfulness, and good-humor."

He said his message at St. John's on August 14-15 will not be memories strung together but rather "words of thanksgiving and challenge to continue to be the community I know and love."