

**January
2013**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Ithaca, OH

The Messenger

Worshipping God, Growing in Faith, Serving Neighbors--near and far

Guest Performance planned for January 20



During worship on January 20, while Pastor Joene is on vacation, we welcome back Joseph Helfrich. This folk singer, known simply as Joseph, is a multi-instrumentalist, and storyteller who has been performing in public for over 25 years. Chris Stump will lead our worship service and Joseph will provide the message for the day! If you missed Joseph last year, make plans to come!!

2013 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our Council members were installed on December 2, 2012, and were invited to our December council meeting. Please remember that all members are welcome to our meetings, held on the 1st Monday of each month, beginning at 7 p.m. If you would like to know what's going on at our meetings, we post the most recent approved notes on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

President	Rhonda Kress
Vice President	Chris Stump
General Treasurer	Jane Brown
Recording Secretary	Shannon McCullough
Elders	Pam Yeomans, Donna Miller
Trustees	Dean Ehlers, Dick Kinninger, Mark Mills
Deacons	Mickie Ary, Neva Birt, Charlotte Delong

Thanks to our out-going council members: Anita Schneider, Ken Bailey, Terry Birt, Tom Knick, Heather Eley and Judy Small. For however many years you served, your service is very much appreciated.

Altar Flower Signup Sheets for 2013

are posted and ready for your signature!!

**Prices for flowers have not changed!! It's still
\$25 for a centerpiece or \$30 for a set of vases**

Please see the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary (or see Mary Hofacker).
Payments can be made by designating "altar flowers" on your offering envelope.

2013 Offering Envelopes



are now available on the back table. If you are new and would like to use envelopes this year, please contact Shannon McCullough (skmccullough@earthlink.net or 884-7006)

Or, if you prefer a simpler way of giving, ask us about our Simply Giving Program.

Communion Wine

Did you know? That Tom & Joyce Knick have supplied our communion wine for the past 18 years?? It's now time for them to take a break! If you would like to supply a bottle of wine for communion, all you are asked to do is place \$5 in the offering for each bottle and mark your envelope "communion wine". We'll do the rest!! Thanks to Tom and Joyce for donating all these years!

Thrivent Members

Please remember to re-designate your Thrivent Member Choice Dollars to St. Matthew, or any other charity!!

Thrivent is requiring we do this every quarter!!

You should receive an email from Thrivent

when your funds are available from them. This is your reminder to

re-designate your funds! The email will instruct you on how to do this. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call our Treasurer, Jane Brown, at 884-5483.

Deut. 8:18

Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealthy.

The offering is an act of worship, an instance in which we are invited to give up something we value—our money—as a sacrifice to God.

The purpose of the Sunday morning offering is not to collect funds for covering the church's operating expenses. It is a worship event that provides us with an opportunity for expressing our love for God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something we value.

Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life by Mark Allan Powell; Thomas B. Eerdmans Publishing; Grand Rapids, MI; 2006

**STEWART
PUBLISHING
REZROE**



OUR MONTHLY WELCA MEETING

will be held at the home of Earlene Morris on Wednesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. We will continue our studies in the Gather magazine with the January issue.

Thanks for your donations of mittens / hats for the Head Start Mitten Tree.

Don't forget that we are serving at the Grace Resurrection Center in Greenville on January 16. If you would like to help, please let us know.

Quilting for the month of January continues in our homes. Our first regular meeting will begin on March 25, 2013 at 1pm. Location will be decided at a later time. We are in need of someone to machine stitch squares together. All we are asking is that you sew 6 squares in a row, and then Suzanne or Jane will assemble the quilt and sew the strips together. I am afraid the word "quilting" is saying to people that these quilts are difficult to make. I like to think of these quilts as comforters. Warm comforters, that are sturdy and warm, and very useful to the people receiving them. If you can help us sew, please let us know. The squares are all cut and ready to be pieced together.

Castine Food Bank Report

The Castine Area Food Bank packed 96 meals to help 131 families - 403 people at Thanksgiving. There were 31 multiple family households, this being the reason we helped more families than the number of meals we packed. Our average cost per grocery order was \$30.

At our Christmas packing on Dec. 17 we were able to pack 100 meals - helping 138 families....426 people.

We want to thank all of our churches for their donations, and support. A special thank you to those who helped pack, pick up orders, and deliver.

Gratefully serving the Lord, Dianna McDonald

During the months of January through March, we collect items for the Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Each kit is to contain:

- One light-weight bath-sized towel (between 20" X 40" & 52" x 27", dark color recommended)
- bath-size bar (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping (2 per kit)
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- Metal nail clippers (file optional)

Any donations you are able to make are greatly appreciated! A donation box is located at the back of the sanctuary.

ONE Ministry - Castine Food Bank

The following list are items designated (one shopping item for every month of the year) for the Castine Food Bank. Here is our list for 2013:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| January | canned soup or broth |
| February | canned fruit |
| March | canned meat |
| April | Kool aid or fruit juice |
| May | pastas |
| June | spaghetti sauce |
| July | Cereal |
| August | Sugar |
| September | Flour |
| October | Peanut butter |
| November | Chili ingredients |
| December | crackers |



If I Won the Lottery..... by Jane Brown

Gary and I very seldom buy a lottery ticket. I guess the only time is when the Power Ball Lottery is advertised over and over again on the news on TV. We bought a ticket for \$2.00 the last time the Power Ball winnings increased to \$550,000,000. After buying the ticket I started thinking, what I would do if I actually won the lottery? I started calculating the after tax amount I would have left over and it got so complicated with Federal, State, Local, and other taxes that I just rounded it off and said I would probably have approximately \$234,000,000 left. Wow, I thought...the taxes take almost half of the winnings and that is just the first go-around. So then with this figure in mind, I started thinking "what WOULD I do with all that money?" My first thought is a smaller house for us, maybe a new car,



A HUGE Thank You to everyone who came together to help our adopted family who were so very much in need. Thank you for your generous donations of clothes, toys, shoes, personal items, groceries, gas cards, Christmas decorations, etc... President Schneider commented, "I can't tell you what a joy it has been to be involved with helping this family at this time of the year. They are going to have a Christ filled Christmas, all because of you."

but we really don't need either one. We could buy a couple farms to help out our farming operation, but why would we want to farm anymore with all this money? Gary said we would keep farming just like we have been doing. I was happy he said that. Our lifestyle would not change to drastically. And then I thought about the various organizations that are asking for donations. So I made a list.

I decided I would give \$100,000.00 (or more) each to my church, ELCA Southern Ohio Synod, Castine Food Bank, Grace Resurrection Community Center, Wernle Home, World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, Malaria Relief, Red Cross, and others, some of the other churches in the area, some friends, some people in need, and many other places in need. And I would gladly give \$100,000.00 or more to Joe Mills because he said if he won he would give all his Facebook Friends that amount. I thought that was very nice of him to post this on his Facebook page. And then I would have \$232,000,000.00 left to spend.

So I upped my giving to one million to each of these organizations, friends, and family, and others in need.... And then I would have \$200,000,000.00 left to spend. And then I wondered what people would think of my gift. Would they accept my gift gladly or would they think it is "ill-gotten gains?"

The problems and ethics of the lottery and gambling have been on the minds of church members from the beginning of time. As I researched this issue, I find many various ideas about giving this type of winnings to the church and other church organizations. Many churches have raffles, bingo, and even Monte Carlo nights and this helps them raise money for the extra causes of the church but refuse to accept money gained from the lottery and gambling.

Jesus fed the 5000+ with two fishes and 5 loaves of bread. He took a small amount and made it a way to feed the hungry. Would this \$2.00 purchase be classified as the same?

Like I said there are many problems and questions in winnings such as this. And I still have that 199,999,950.00 now left to spend, I bought groceries.

As all of you know, Gary and I didn't win the lottery, someone else did. Am I glad I didn't win? Yes, I am glad I did not win this huge amount because my figures say I still have A LOT of money yet to spend, and what in the world would I do with all of this money? I will continue giving my smaller amounts to each of the above organizations, helping out family and friends when needed, and hoping and praying that the family who did win this lottery will give a lot of the money away, have a safe life, and hopefully their life does not change to an unrecognizable lifestyle.

In case of Church cancellation due to bad weather,

we will continue to use our "One Call Now"
update system for our regularly worshipping members.

If you do not receive a call, tune into the following:

TV: Channel 2 or Channel 7;

Radio: AM 1290, 97.5 FM News Talk Radio WHIO, K99.1 FM;

OR WEB: www.wdtn.com, www.whiotv.com, www.newstalkradiowhio.com,
www.k99online.com, or www.953theeagle.com

From the Pastor

This past November, I celebrated six complete years of ministry at SMLC. We moved to the parsonage in early November 2006, I was ordained on the 19th. Since then, I've completed two cycles of the church year: Mark, Matthew and Luke.

It may be an understatement to many of you that the past six years have been a time of change. As we were ending the last church year, I created a list of all the changes that have occurred since I began serving at SMLC. Some of the changes were fairly uncontroversial, like gifting bibles to third graders. Some of the changes were physical that just had to be, like removing and replacing the maple trees out front of SMLC's building. Some of the changes were significant, but have been, in my mind a great improvement, such as printing the entire worship service in the bulletin, making worship an easier process to follow, especially for visitors. Some of the changes were quite significant; ending the shared parish relationship with Trinity after over 100 years tops the list in my mind.

Most of the ministries at SMLC that were in place when I came still happen; I also created a list of what has not changed. We still support LWR and Church World Service, we still have a two year catechism program. Only a couple of ministries have ended, including dart ball and volleyball.

Yet, even though much has remained the same at SMLC, I recognize that during the past six years, I have brought a lot of change. For some of you, maybe too much change. As I reflected on this, I was reminded of the biblical tradition of the Sabbath Year. God created in six days and rested on the seventh, we learn from Genesis. In Exodus and Leviticus the people are instructed to rest on the seventh year, repeating the pattern of creation and rest. "God spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai, telling him to speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you come to the land that I am giving you, the land must be given a rest period, a Sabbath to God. For six years you may plant your fields, prune your vineyards, and harvest your crops, but the seventh year is a Sabbath of Sabbaths for the land." (Leviticus 25)

In the academic world, and increasingly among clergy, every seventh year professors and pastors take a sabbatical. Usually three months, the time is away from regular duties. Not a vacation, the time is used for reading, writing, or special projects. For example, Bishop Holloway is taking a sabbatical now, through February.

This year, my seventh at SMLC, I am taking a sabbatical; I am taking a Sabbath year. No, I am not asking for, nor taking three months off from my regular duties. I *am* taking the year off from suggesting new ideas. Yes, for this church year, ending next November, I will not be suggesting or adding anything new at SMLC. Some of you, including my immediate family, wonder if I can do this; they doubt that I can avoid suggesting something new. You may have noticed that I love trying out new ideas. If you have a new ministry suggestion, I will pray with you and support you, as I am able.

However, even though I'm not going to introduce new ideas at SMLC doesn't mean I'm just going to be sitting around. I'm going to use this year for two purposes. First, I want to spend time and energy on my relationship with God. I want to deepen in faith. I will be spending more time reading, especially the bible, and more time in prayer. I will meet monthly with my spiritual director and may be using retreat time for meditation. Also, I will be intentionally spending time with you, the people of SMLC, and time with the community we live in. I've been told that one of my strengths is pastoral care in time of crisis. Yet, I don't spend enough time 'just' visiting and being with you everyday. I hope to change that this year, during my Sabbath time.

Please pray for me during this Sabbath year, that I may deepen my faith in the God who creates, loves and redeems us. Please pray that I am able to use my energies to deepen my relationships with you, the people I serve God with. Please feel free to invite me to visit in your home or at your place of work, for lunch or for coffee, and feel free to ask how I'm doing on this year of Sabbath time.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Joene

REMEMBERED

in our thoughts & prayers

January Birthdays

19th Anita Schneider
23rd Carolyn Kinninger
27th Hannah Eley
29th Dean Ehlers

January Anniversaries

None this month

Blessings

Patty Mong
Rondette White and baby
Tammy—friend of Mickie
Phyllis Fisher

Prayers of sympathy and healing for the families of:

Myron Brown

December Prayer Concerns

Sandy Thompson
Mickie Ary
Sharon Rismiller
Tom Knick
Linda Kinninger
Earlene Morris
Suzanne Lammi
Joel Kress
Dorothy Hunt
Frank Flint
Heather, Devon & Hannah
Gloria Scheiding
Helen & Karl Garner
Alice & Ralph Stutz
Pastor Hilbert & Mary Piel
Bea Zimmer (and Fred)
Eileen Holt
Gene Morris
Maximillian Burkett
Marvin Fourman



Melanie Morrow
Mitzy & Rueben Kyrk
Rebecca Mastalerz and husband
Mary Beth & Ron Doucette & family
Jim McDonald
Nathan McDermott
Larry Bemis
Dee Bruner
Pat Koogler
Sharon Karns
Linda Sinele
Jerry Brandon
Donny Moyer
Bill Oler
Deanna Jones
Sandy Finkbine
Marsha Bruner
Jim Stump
Rachel Lammi
Sue Bayham
Carrie Steele
Penny Smith
Durinda Stutz
Susie George
Randy Post
Doug
Baker Family

**To reach us for the prayer chain, please call Rhonda Kress at 417-7412
or email rhonda.j.kress@gmail.com**

A note of thanks...

"Thank you for everything you and the church have done for Myron and our family."
—The Browns, Brumbaugh's, and Simons'.

St. Matthew Adult Sunday School class—"Thank you for your thoughtful and wonderful gift of food. We enjoyed it and it helped us out." —Frank, Lisa and Jordon Hart

"Thanks to council and my church family at St. Matthew. The Christmas gifts and bonus were very much appreciated" Shannon McCullough and family

"Thanks to everyone at St. Matthew (and council) for the Christmas bonus. We are blessed to be able to serve God with you." —Pastor Joene and family

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany of Our Lord Communion 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Donna Miller Acolyte: Alysson Pahl Bread: Linda Kinninger	7 7 pm Council meeting	8	9 7 pm WELCA	10 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	11	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord Communion 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Kristine Herr Acolyte: Hannah Eley	14 Pastor Herr on vacation through January 22	15	16 GRCC Soup kitchen	17	18	19
20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Joseph Helfrich as Guest Lector: Anita Schneider Acolyte: Karr Stump	21 Newsletter entries due	22	23	24 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	25	26
27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Rhonda Kress Acolyte: Hannah Eley	28	29	30	31 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton 5 pm—GRCC Food Bank		

Church Address

6825 St. Route 722
Ithaca, OH 45304
Office Phone/Fax: 937-884-7006
E-mail: skmccullough@earthlink.net



Pastor Joene Herr
Phone: 937-564-5802
E-mail: joeneherr@yahoo.com

*Wheelchair accessible + Elevator on premises +
Holy Communion celebrated - 1st Sunday of every month- major church festivals*

We're on the web!!
www.smlc-ithaca.com
Facebook: St. Matthew

Sunday Worship services:
9 am —Traditional worship
10 am— Coffee Break (food & fellowship)
10:15 am—Sunday School for all ages



St. Matthew Lutheran Church – Ithaca
7820 State Route 722
Arcanum, Ohio 45304

Dated Material