

**April
2013**

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Ithaca, OH

The Messenger

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

Rogation Service April 21

Rogation comes from the Latin word 'rogare' which means to beseech. As we gather on Rogation Sunday, we beseech God's blessings upon the seed, the soil, the weather, those who labor in the fields, and all of God's creation.

CLOTHING DRIVE

A clothing drive for GRCC (Grace Resurrection Community Center) will begin the first day after Easter. Good, clean, used clothing will be accepted on April 7th and 14th at church. It would be appreciated if all donated clothing would be either folded and placed in boxes, or hanging on hangers (in order to save work for the volunteers at GRCC). There will be tables set up in the church basement for the clothes. Boxed clothing, underneath the tables. Boxes are available, if needed. All items will be delivered to GRCC on Soup Kitchen Day, April 17th.... for questions call Jane Brown or any WELCA member.

LYO Fundraiser's

WICK'S PIES

We still have a few Wick's Pies left. See Faye Harman for the flavor's available. They will be sold for \$5 each, until they're gone!

FAVORITE RECIPE COOKBOOKS

Cookbooks are now just \$10 each. Ask about discounts when buying 3 or more!!

GARAGE SALE

We will NOT be having our annual Garage Sale at the Parsonage during Old Fashioned Days this year. We will resume this fundraiser in 2014.



OUR MONTHLY WELCA MEETING

will be held at the home of Earlene Morris on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. We will continue our studies in the Gather magazine, "Gathered to Share the Story". The theme verse is Acts 14:27 "When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles". Donna Miller is our hostess for the evening.

On April 13, we will be traveling to Abiding Lutheran Church in Fairborn for the Spring Gathering. Bishop Callon Halloway will be there to talk to everyone about his upcoming retirement.

Don't forget that we are serving at the Grace Resurrection Center in Greenville on April 17. If you would like to help, please let us know.

We continue to work on quilts at home. Please remember us with donations of material, thread, or batting.

ONE Ministry - Castine Food Bank item of the month: Kool aid or fruit juice

Spring Project

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Matt. 6:21
*Where your
Treasure is, there
Your heart will be also.*

When we worship God, we make God (rather than ourselves) the center of our devotion. Doing this always involves some element of self-denial or sacrifice, giving up something we value, giving up attention to our wants and our needs in order to focus on God. The point isn't that how we spend our money reveals what sort of people we are, but that how we spend our money determines what sort of people we become. "Give from the heart" people say. But Jesus seems to speak of something else: Give where you want your heart to be, and let your heart catch up.

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

During the months of April, May, and June, we collect **new bars of soap** (in it's original wrapping—any size or brand) for Lutheran World Relief. There is a box at the back of the sanctuary for your donations.

From the Pastor

At the Oyster Supper in February I announced, prematurely, that SMLC would be hosting mid day lunches for senior citizens. Unfortunately it looks as if SMLC won't be able to offer that ministry. Although the agency that provides the meals was supportive, our facility didn't pass a Health Department review. So, SMLC won't be providing free meals for people over 60, we won't be able to offer games like bingo or euchre to bored seniors, we won't be able to invite the visitors to stay for a weekly senior focused bible study.

You may grumble all you want about government interference, or the unfairness of the evaluation. I, however, am thankful that we live in a country with some oversight, instead of countries like China. Recently news stories there included one about over 6000 dead pigs being thrown into rivers; water that was meant to be used for drinking and washing and recreation. More close to home, I am reminded of the recent issues with Lake St Mary, and it's poisoning due to run off from local farms and communities. Unfortunately we can't trust each other as a society to monitor our activities for the greater good; often selfish or shortsighted acts win out. Health departments can help monitor for the greater good.

Our reality is the septic system at SMLC was put in place over 50 years ago. For current standards, it is less than half of what is required for a 3 bedroom home. While one could argue that church building restroom facilities aren't used as often as a home, our current system isn't sufficient, according to the health department, for daily use by a group.

For the past two plus years, we at SMLC have been exploring and discussing options for renovations of the existing restrooms, to allow for handicapped accessibility. Discussion among council has led to recognition of the limitedness of our existing elevator. Built over 25 years ago, the elevator is too small for modern, larger wheelchairs or scooters used by many with limited mobility.

Our conversations need to turn to the goals, the reasons for any renovations. Is SMLC planning a renovation 'just' to be able to say we offer handicapped accessibility? Or, will the renovations lead to new uses, new ministries at SMLC. What needs are there in our community that SMLC might be able to meet if we had the facilities. What is our vision for the future at SMLC?

I invite prayers and discussions for the future of both the SMLC facility and the congregation. We have served God in southeastern Darke County for over 150 years. How is God calling us to serve him, through serving the community in need, in the future? What commitments will we or should we make to be able to serve? Please share your vision and concerns with each other, with the council and building team, as well as with me, your pastor.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Joene

REMEMBERED

in our thoughts & prayers

April Birthdays

3rd Chris Stump
Karla Guinigundo
5th Delbert Hofacker
7th Joel Hoke
11th Frank Flint
12th Floyd Hoke
TJ Kress
22nd Dave Shoemaker
24th Donna Miller
25th Bea Zimmer
Kristie Stump

April Anniversaries

3rd Ted & Gloria Scheiding—48th
6th Marvin & Carolyn Fourman—50th
17th Rick & Faye Harman—31st
20th Leon & Phyllis Fisher—45th

Blessings

Ton Knick



March Prayer Concerns

Sandy Thompson
Alice & Ralph Stutz
Dorothy Hunt
Helen Garner
Helen Bartocci
Pastor Hilbert & Mary Piel
Fred & Bea Zimmer
Joel Hoke
Pam Yeomans
Jim Cox
Don Schneider
Evelyn Myers
Kirk Zimmer
Brad Fasick
Durinda Stutz
Marilyn McNitt
Hannah
Harold Warner
Adele Strunks
Gary & Lois Veach
Marla Siert
Aloha Moore
Luanna Fisher
Delores Bruner
Susie George
Ester Heltzel
Margaret Cullers
Nelda Morris

Debra Winterrowd
Tammy Sawicki
Janet Grote
Edy Morris
Sue Bayham
Dan Holt
Jackie
Mike Delong
Pharol
Jackie Baby Hunter
Sue Witeof
Tammy
Doug Smith
Debbie Condon
Louise Riffell
Harold Warner
Peggy Lockman Sanders
Mary Ann Ryan's mother
Kaw Prairie Community Church

Prayers of sympathy and healing for the families of:

Robert Koffer
Joyce Junior Campbell
George Heyning
Lonnie Norris
Bill Dodt
Paul Robinson
Jerry Jackson
Tom Wrenn

**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...

"How do you thank people for all the thoughts and prayers sent up during my hospitalization and since I've been home: Cards, phone calls, instant messages, e-mails, food, flowers, offers of help and visits while I was in the hospital and since I have been home. Also a special thank you to Kevin and Josie for the snow removal job they performed on our, hopefully, last snow of the season, March 6th!! Also to Shannon for being Joyce's chauffeur back and forth to the hospital. I never realized how much it means to a person who is being "held captive" in a hospital room to see a friendly face or receive a card. Thanks, also for the beautiful prayer quilt and to all the people who tied prayers in it for me. To all, I sincerely say "Thank You". God bless...—Tom Knick and Joyce too.

"A big thank you to church council. We certainly have a great church family here!!
—Ted & Gloria Scheiding

A P R I L

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Noon- Confirmation (make-up day) 7 pm Council meeting	2	3	4 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	5	6 9-4 pm Effective Lead- ership for Small Churches in Dayton
7 2nd Sunday of Easter Communion 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Anita Schneider Acolyte: Hannah Eley Bread: Jessica Pahl	8	9	10 Pastor at Stillwater Cluster 7 pm WELCA	11 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	12	13 WELCA Spring Gathering & Bishop's meet- ing—Fairborn
14 3rd Sunday of Easter Communion 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Donna Miller Acolyte: Karr Stump Bread: Anita Schneider	15	16	17 GRCC Soup kitchen	18 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	19 Newsletter entries due	20
21 4th Sunday of Easter Communion Rogation service 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Kristine Herr Acolyte: Julia McCullough Bread: Shannon McCullough	22	23	24	25 9-11 am—Clergy Meeting/W. Milton	26	27
28 5th Sunday of Easter Communion 6-7:30 Confirmation Lector: Ron Fasick Acolyte: Joel Hoke Bread: Neva Birt	29	30				

Church Address

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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
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Dated Material