



The Messenger

October 2018

St. Matthew Lutheran
Ithaca, OH

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

E-I-E-I-O WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE BEGINS October 10, 2018 AT GORDON UMC

Encounter Jesus — **I**mpact the community — **E**nergize souls —
Ignite passion — **O**vercome sin.

5:30 p.m. — Meal

6:30 p.m. — worship service

7:00 p.m.—age appropriate breakout groups

(Adult, Youth Group (grades 6-12), Kids Club (Toddler –5th))

**WE ARE ALL ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND/OR HELP OUT
WITH THIS MID-WEEK OPPORTUNITY!!**

Join us in Fellowship at the kick off to this
service at Gordon UMC

October 10 5:30 p.m.

Hamburger / Hot Dog Cookout
Bring a side dish or dessert to share!!

Our extended family of Gordon and Grace will be attending and members from the Gordon and Ithaca Communities will be invited!

From the Pastor



Several weeks ago I shared the following article with the councils from all three of our congregations and felt as though I should share it with everyone. It is inspiring to see congregations in other parts of our country building similar relationships to ours and I feel as though this can be an example to all of us as we find new ways to live into our commitments to one another. The Church was never meant to be a series of independent isolated groups of people, but one body that is both the recipient of and the giver of the life found in Jesus Christ. So, "let's get busy, and live boldly!"

Pastor Travis

An excerpt from the August edition of The Living Lutheran magazine titled "Stronger Together: Blended Congregations" by Robert C. Blezard

In many cases, Lutherans are working with full communion partners to consolidate churches into a congregation whose identity is both/and— neither fully Lutheran nor the other. That's the case with Spirit of Faith Lutheran-Methodist Church, Woonsocket, S.D. It formed as a single church after decades of being three struggling independent congregations (one Methodist and two Lutheran) that shared Rhonda Wellsandt-Zell as pastor. Each of the three congregations was just getting by. In addition to facing the expected 21st-century church challenges, they had a confusing worship schedule that rotated every week and had to shoulder the costs of maintaining three facilities in close proximity. "All three buildings were in dire need of some pretty significant repairs and renovations," said Rachel Anderson, treasurer of Spirit of Faith. It was clear that the path was unsustainable and something had to be done. Understanding this, Wellsandt-Zell recalled the day she challenged members to get serious about their future: "I said to them, 'We have to decide. Are we going to live or are we going to die?'" The congregations decided to live. "I said, 'Well then, let's get busy and live boldly!'" Wellsandt-Zell added. After a period of study and prayer, one of the Lutheran churches went out on its own and the other two congregations voted to merge in 2016 to form Spirit of Faith. "Through our visioning process, we began to realize that it wasn't so much about the buildings, but what we were called to do as the church," Wellsandt-Zell said. "Once we started doing strong mission focus, looking outside the walls beyond ourselves, everything changed." Envisioning a life beyond its walls, Spirit of Faith demolished its Lutheran church building and moved into the larger Methodist facility. But this spring they tore down that building too. As they await this fall's completion of a new structure suitable for ministry in the 21st century, they are meeting in community places, including a lumber yard, public pool, baseball field, courthouse lawn and nursing home. "The transformation of the thinking was that we are the church—we the people," Wellsandt-Zell said. "The building is a tool for us to carry out the mission."

This transformation also brought them a new identity that isn't entirely Lutheran and not entirely Methodist, but something bold and new. "We've really felt more and more just like we're all in this together and we're all family," said Anderson, who belonged to the Methodist church before the merger. "We are all there for the same reason: We want to hear the word of God." Wanda Swenson, who came to Spirit of Faith from one of the Lutheran churches, agreed: "The Lutheran and Methodist thing doesn't really matter. We've had a common purpose and goal and mission, and that has united us. It just instills in us the energy to go out into the community and do things for others." When new people join Spirit of Faith, they are given three options to identify themselves—as a Methodist, a Lutheran or simply Spirit of Faith. It has helped the congregation reach people who are unchurched or ambivalent about denominations. As a result, the old way that we measure the vitality of a church—finance and attendance—is out the window. "You should be asking, 'What is God doing in people's lives? How are we impacting the neighborhood? What's happening to people's priorities? And how are the people who are in poverty connected to this ministry?'" Duran said.

HELP NEEDED!!

**We are seeking all who would like to participate
in our Wednesday night service!**

There are several opportunities. Would you be willing to:

- ◆ Prepare a meal?
- ◆ Lead an adult bible study?
- ◆ Help with worship?
- ◆ Help with the kids or youth?

Please see Pastor Travis or Shannon at if you'd like to know more or are willing to serve!!

LWR KITS DELIVERED!!

On Sunday, September 30, we blessed our Lutheran World Relief kits before sending them out in the world.

Thanks to everyone who donated.
Thanks to Sherry Marten who does our shopping and packing. Thanks to Ken Bailey who delivers them to the drop off in Dayton.

This year we sent: 77 Personal Care Kits, 752 bars of soap, 102 School kits and several quilts.



Giving Opportunities

Please consider a donation to one or more of the following projects. All you need to do is place your donation in an envelope and earmark it for one of the following:

Communion Wine — Just \$5 will buy a bottle of wine. (or consider giving an extra \$1 on communion Sunday!

Partnership E-I-E-I-O Service — Yes, it's at Gordon, but it replaces our Sunday School with Wednesday night meal, a short worship service and bible study for adults, youth and kids. If you have given to Sunday School funds in the past, please consider giving that donation to the Gordon EIEIO service.

Stained Glass Window Repair — Council has decided to repair a few stained glass windows each year. This is very costly! If you would like to give to this fund, please do so.

Restroom Project — As long as our handicapped restroom is still a possibility, we would like to continue to allow this fund to grow.

2019 Congregation Council members needed!

President, V.P., Deacon, and Trustee

Please consider serving a term or two!! 12 meetings, (or less) per year

We also need Southern Ohio Synod Representatives (2) and members for next year's nomination committee (3) (these last two are non-council positions)

Pam Yeomans or Kristie Stump have descriptions of each office if you are interested

*ONE Ministry— Castine Food Bank item of the month:
Canned Soup or Broth*

Joint Newsletter Coming Soon

We are excited to announce that beginning in November, you will see a new look to the Newsletter, which will include news from all 3 churches.

Confirmation

If you are a 7th or 8th grade student or older who has not been confirmed and would like to be included in the next Confirmation class, please see Pastor Travis or Shannon by the end of October.



The annual CROP Walk for Hunger is October 14, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Greenville City Park. (Registration begins at 1:30, Shelter #3) . If you would like to walk, please see Pam Yeomans for your packet.



ATTENTION, TREASURER\$!

It is time again when your written reports are needed for the upcoming annual congregational meeting. These reports should include figures from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. In advance, **thanks** for your cooperation and diligence! Please submit your reports to Shannon by Thursday, October 25.

WELCA Directory Updates

Soon, we will be asking you to verify your information for our WELCA directory. Please update us with any new address, phone numbers, birthdates, and email addresses? You can send your information to Shannon at skmccullough@earthlink.net any time before the end of November.

If you are not happy with your picture in our current WELCA book, or would just like an updated one, please email one to Shannon.

REMEMBERED

in our thoughts & prayers

October Birthdays	In our Prayers		
5 — Earlene Morris 12 — Ron Fasick 19 — Dick Bartocci Jessica Qualls 20 — Julia McCullough Shannon McCullough 21 — Dick Kinninger Ralph Stutz 27 — Jane Brown 29 — Len Brown—Pastor Marla's husband	Pastor Jim Castello Lottie Hoke Matthew Sinele Donna Miller Sandy Thompson Jane Brown Linda Kinninger Marna Levin Bob Mendenhall Gloria Scheiding Sharon Archer Sue Wolfe Carl Vore Krista Zimmer	Linda Sink Ryan Burkett Jerry Adkins Annette Sheppard Emily Moody Carol & Ed Joliss Laura Covert Crystal Garman David Pike Addy Cass Sonnie Abbott Dorla Chumney Wilson Bunger Victims of Hurricane Florence	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayers of sympathy and healing for the families of:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doris Lephart Rick Sease Janet Harshbarger Leora Oda Ann B Janet Shetters Grant Ray Starks</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October Anniversaries</p>			
1 — Gene & Sandy Thompson 12 — Rich & Diane Richard 19 — Dick & Linda Kinninger 27 — Rick & Cindy Emrick			

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Greeter: Donna Miller **Bread Bakers:** Mary Hofacker (7th) Jane Brown (28th)

Please remember—our Prayer Requests and Announcements begin at 8:45 a.m

7 9 a.m. worship with Communion Lector: Jessica Pahl Acolyte: Alysson Pahl	20 Men's Brotherhood at Huston's
8 7 p.m.—Council Meeting	21 9 a.m. Worship Lector: Donna Miller Acolyte: Alysson Pahl
10 EIEIO kickoff at Gordon	22 October Newsletter articles due
14 9 a.m. Worship Lector: Karr Stump Acolyte: Karr Stump	24 5:30 p.m.—EIEIO at Gordon
17 10 a.m. GRCC Soup Kitchen	28 9 a.m. Reformation Worship with Communion Lector: Bob Brown Acolyte: Anna Stump
18 5:30 p.m.—EIEIO at Gordon	31 5:30 p.m.—EIEIO at Gordon



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

Dated Material

Church Address

6825 St. Route 722
Ithaca, OH 45304

Office Address:

7820 State Route 722, Arcanum
Office Phone/Fax: 937-884-7006
E-mail: skmccullough@earthlink.net



Pastor: Travis Qualls

Phone: 937-621-7897

Email: PastorTravis@smlc-ithaca.com

Associate Pastor: Marla Brown

Phone: 937-776-9348

Email: marlaebrown@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: Christopher Stump

Phone: 937-564-8851

Email: Christopher@stumpfamily.org

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)