



The Tidings

APRIL 2016

Ministerial Moments

Easter has passed; Spring has sprung and all things are new again! Well, almost all things no one is getting any younger these days! Still it is good to experience the later daylight and warmer temperatures even if we had a relatively mild winter. As usual, the daffodils and crocus were blooming before Wurstmarkt. It always feels good when the first flowers bloom.

Joan Chittister reminds us that “Religion celebrates what the rest of the world forgets – the inherent goodness of life itself.” (The Liturgical Year, pg. 165) Religion, particularly the liturgical year, has given us seasons and feast days for our celebration.

Because Christ was resurrected on a Sunday, originally every Sunday was celebrated as Easter. A day designated as Easter Sunday only came later. Because every Sunday was celebrated as Easter, celebration became the centerpiece of the church. As we enter into Eastertide, we will continue to celebrate the resurrection of the living Christ and to revisit those stories of the early days of the church.

April 3, the Sunday after Easter, is Doubting Thomas Sunday or as I have come to call him having grown up in Missouri, Thomas, the Show-Me Disciple. The Sunday after Easter is sometimes called Holy Humor Sunday. One of the reason for this is that God, in the Resurrection, had the last laugh on the Romans and those who sought to get rid of Jesus. There is a wonderful song Sandi Patty sang several years ago called “They Could Not”. It speaks of others seeing Jesus as a simple carpenter but when they sought to put him in the grave; “They Could Not”, because He rose again.

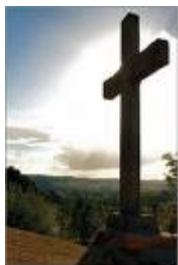
The second Sunday after Easter is usually the Sunday Jesus greets the disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He then takes Peter aside and ask him if he loves Him three times. When Peter answers “Yes, Lord”, Jesus commissions him.

After that, the lectionary stays mostly in John and Acts but moves away from the Resurrection in its story as we move toward Pentecost which this year occurs the week after Mother’s Day.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

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Pastoral Relations Committee

Your Pastoral Relations Committee is: David Barbee, Bobbi Duffie, and Curt Werner. We will be meeting sometime in April, after I get back from vacation.

A New Quilt

A new quilt is ready to be started. LaJune Fulton embroidered and pieced this quilt top which looks like it will be very pretty when finished. If you know someone who likes to quilt have them contact Kathy Matzenbacher or Marlene Karsten for information regarding times they will be working on it.

Greeter and Ushers for April and May

April 3: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter

April 10: Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, Ron Geisel

April 17: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn

April 24: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald

May 1: Linda Jones, Tim Campbell

May 8: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters

May 15: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner

May 22: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

May 29: Ruby Lheman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

125th Anniversary

Keep the date in mind, June 12th. Our new conference minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, will be preaching. I know that some of you have brought in pictures to be used and that Evangelical Daughters is making, or having made, some favors for those who come. Beyond that I don't know what the Anniversary Committee has decided. If you have ideas about the meal or how stories and pictures should be presented please speak to your committee: Kevin McDonald, Duane Waeltz, David Schneidewind, and John Barrett.

Wurstmarkt News

We thank all those who helped with the wurstmarkt this year. Attendance was a little down. Evangelical Daughters cleared over \$600.

April Birthdays

Ken Fitch	2
Mike Raban	3
Savanah Sinn	5
Kay Trotter	7
Betty Bollmeier	8
Eli Schmierbach	10
Sandy Triefenbach	11
Jeremy Dressel	15
Allison Curry	15
Karen Bearley	17
Danielle Sigman	18
Joyce Fitch	26
Melinda Schneidewind	30



April Anniversaries

Irving & Mabel Schickedanz	23
Milton & Blanche Schmierbach	29

Comments from the Church Mouse

The weekend of March 19th saw a lot going on at our church. It was the spring Wurstmarkt, which had many of our people working and 350 people eating our scrumptious German meal. From the potato peelers, to the vegetable cookers, to the grillers, to the waiters and waitresses, we showed what good workers and helpers we were. Even with all the quick cleaning up, I was able to glean enough morsels to tide me over for quite a while.



Thinking of helpers, I was really impressed with young Ashlynn Cathcart. She worked so hard and from morning to the end of the Wurstmarkt. What a helpful and dependable second grader! She even saw me once scurrying from one of my holes in the furnace room, but she just smiled and went about her jobs helping her grandma, Susie Stewart.

That Funds and Fellowship committee does a great job under Susan Oyler's leadership. Every one of that group's members worked a job or two or three.

And the dessert tables were over-laden with wonderful items. Friedens has some talented bakers. I love the dessert crumbs and was hoping for more from the gooseberry custard pie, but the containers were "picked clean". Oh, well, I can't complain because overall I got enough tidbits from the Wurstmarkt.

Well, yes, I can complain. Marlene Karstens had made banana cream and coconut cream pies that sounded delicious. However, they were stored in coolers, and I couldn't even get a whiff of them.

Evangelical Daughters had some good looking baked goods, too, but they were all wrapped up and not really available for me. They also had some sharp knives for sale. The knives reminded me of the part of the nursery rhyme that goes, "...and cut off their tails with a carving knife". I am not blind, but I didn't want to see Lorrie Lehman or Lea Barrett with knives in their hands while they were handling craft and bake sales. Eeek, the thought makes me close my eyes and shiver.

Since I don't want to think of knives, I'll think of something pleasant. From my hidey-hole near the organ, I was blown away by the Sunday service anthem on March 20. Eight choir members sounded like a lot more when they sang "Behold, Behold Your King". It was really pretty impressive.

I was also impressed with the Lenten banner placed to the right of the altar. Kay Trotter had made it, and it looks good. Remember, how I appreciate the helpers of this church.

That Sunday, the 20th, I awakened to see snow flurries and the cars across the street actually had snow on them. I heard a human say that it was the first day of spring. Well, it sure didn't look it.

Enjoy spring time and visit my church often.

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2: Quilt Show at Mascoutah UCC ; 1-2 pm Meet & Greet new Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson, Zion UCC New Baden						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Daughters Mtg 6:30 pm Pastor Gail out of office until 13		Choir 7:00 pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Guest Speaker Carol Mercer	Pastor Gail Back	Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm Circus in Town	Choir 7:00 pm			Red Bud UCC BBQ DuBois Lunch- eon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Choir 7:00 pm		Earth Day	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Armenian Martyrs' Day				6:00 pm Family Care Meeting New Athens		



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*"Through the Spirit we are
a Church on the Move:
Welcoming, Caring,
Sharing."*



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