

# ST. MATT'S MESSENGER



## *From the Pastor's Pen*

BY REV. NICHOLAS BONSKY

A few months ago, I came to you with a need: There was a family in our community struggling to afford specialized formula for their child—the cost was simply too high.

And without hesitation, you stepped forward.

Because of your generosity, we were able to provide not just formula, but real support during a difficult season. I'm happy to share that today, that family is back on their feet and doing well. That's something worth celebrating!

It's a powerful reminder of what can happen when we trust in

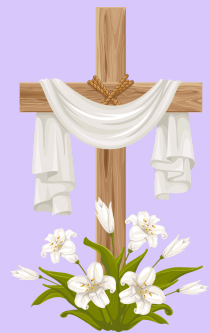
Jesus and commit ourselves to serving others the way He calls us to.

I share this with you today because the funds you gave for that need haven't run out. There is still some remaining and our intention is to continue using those funds to help families in need right here in our community. Some may be families we already know, others may come to us through different connections. However they come, our purpose remains the same: To share the love of Christ as far and wide as we can.

*Pastor Nick*

## *THIS MONTH'S SERMON SERIES:*

*“Easter Sunday”*



*“Encounters with  
Jesus”*

*Detailing the time after  
resurrection and interactions  
with the disciples.*

# *UWF April Mission*

BY MARY ANNE DULUK

The April Mission at St. Matthew's will support NOAH, where we will be assembling 300 lunches on Sunday, April 26 (delivery will be early morning April 27). The United Women in Faith will be collecting funds for the purchase of the items included in the bag lunches.

Included in each lunch will be:

- A sandwich (meat, cheese, lettuce), with a limited number of meatless, and no-cheese sandwiches
- A salty snack
- A sweet treat
- A juice box
- A napkin

Several members of our congregation have generously volunteered to shop for the lunch items, but the United Women in Faith will be collecting funds to pay for them. Lunches have typically cost between \$650.00 and \$700.00. (Donations can be given to Mary Anne Duluk, or left in the office mailbox. Please make checks out to **St. Matthew's UMW**)

Last year NOAH served 29,635 lunches, which support the unsheltered community in Detroit.

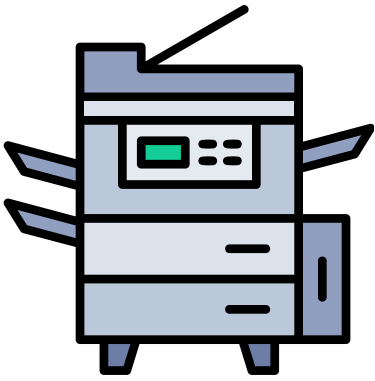


The Noah at Central program recognizes that meeting basic needs is the first step toward stability and self-sufficiency. The Bag Lunch Program ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness have access to a nutritious meal, providing both sustenance and a sense of community. This program is a cornerstone of efforts to build trust and connection with those they serve.

While the lunches primarily address hunger in our community, they also serve as a gateway to the other services NOAH at Central UMC provides. Meeting this immediate need creates opportunities to build relationships and introduce members of the NOAH community to a comprehensive range of support services that include street outreach, drop-in casework assistance, health and hygiene services and housing navigation.

Additional information can be found at [noahatcentral.org](http://noahatcentral.org).

For more information regarding the Mission programs at St. Matthew's, please contact Drew Doty, Mary Anne Duluk, or Jenny Ronayne.



# OFFICE SPACE

BY KIM DESANTIS

*This space is dedicated to happenings and processes that are facilitated through the church office.*

*Church phone: (734) 422-6038*

*Cell phone: (313) 510-0283 (text too!)*

*[kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org](mailto:kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org)*

## *Building Use*

Now that Spring is here, our building use calendar will be getting busier! Graduations, birthdays, and family reunions are all great opportunities to rent our Fellowship Hall. As members, you receive a discounted rate! Please contact the office for more information or to reserve your date.



## *Calendar*

And speaking of building use, keep in mind that if your church committee, team or group will be using any part of the church, please see me prior to make sure the room(s) are available and if so, fill out a usage form. This ensures that there are no surprises, overlapping, or interference with other planned events. Thank you!



## *Livonia Spree*

Save the dates! Livonia Spree will take place June 23-June 28, with set up June 22 and take down June 29. More information will be coming soon!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 1  
David Dorton  
Janet Walker

April 12  
Ruth Bone

April 13  
Marilyn Bone

April 14  
Joe Black

April 22  
Carol Nelson

April 23  
Corey Allshouse

April 27  
Margaret Schlack



Have a May birthday or anniversary? Please contact Kim DeSantis to be in next month's issue!



# Roger Nelson

## Member Spotlight

### **Where did you grow up?**

Native Michigander for 75 years. Grew up in West Bloomfield near Walnut Lake.

### **What was your employment?**

Retired telecommunications manager, oversaw phone systems for large banks and hospitals.

### **What led you to St. Matthew's?**

Friends with children of similar age to our sons were contented members at St. Matthew's.

### **What do you like the most about St. Matt's?**

All the incredible, welcoming, loving, passionate and involved members and leader and their outreach.

### **What has been your involvement?**

Small group and Emmanuel (adult Sunday school) study leader, mission trips, working at Spree, and Sunday offering counting team.

### **What are some memorable moments?**

Spiritually moved by participating in the Maundy Thursday reenactment of the Lord's Supper, lovingly concluded by Tonda Rose singing, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?"

### **What do you do for fun?**

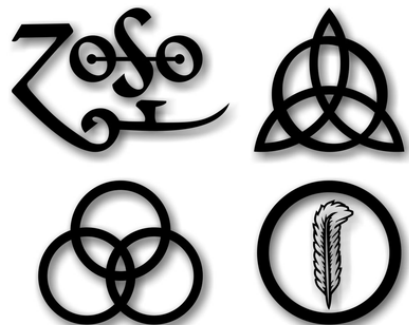
Family times, golfing, camping, traveling and reading.

### **What is your favorite restaurant /food?**

Deadwood Grill - jerk chicken pasta.

### **What is your favorite song?**

Any song by Led Zeppelin!



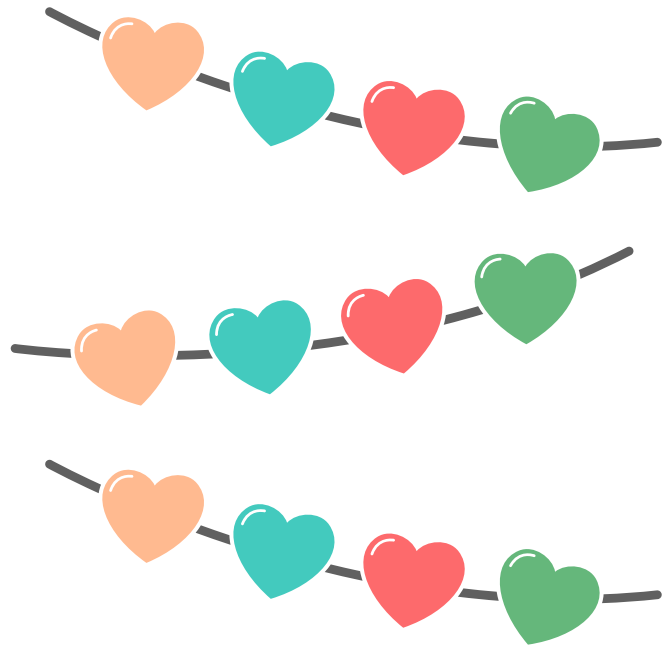
# *Acts of Love*

BY CAROL KAHAIAN

God is Love. John 4:16

During Lent we were asked to reflect on our relationship with God. In Matthew 22:38, we are instructed to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Reflecting on loving yourself brought forth many Acts of Love. These are some of the hearts posted during Lent:

- Being a truthful person.
- Being thoughtful.
- Being kind.
- Being patient with those that annoy me.
- Having a good laugh.
- Apologizing for harsh words.
- Celebrating good news.



# *Cass Food Mission*

BY KEN DULUK

For over 30 years, St. Matthew’s has supported Cass Community Social Services with twice weekly food deliveries. It has become a vital part of our Mission efforts here at St. Matthew’s. Below is a summary of the meals provided through Cass’s meal programs.

Cass supports the food needs of their local community (Davidson and Woodrow Wilson area) as follows:

- 400 hot meals per day
- 300 bag lunches per day which include a sandwich, fruit, snacks, and a drink (very similar to the NOAH lunches)
- Breakfast, made up of hot or cold cereal, juice, donut or muffin and fruit

The St. Matthew’s food delivery provides approximately 35% of the food donations made to Cass Community Social Services through our food deliveries on Tuesdays and Fridays. The major contributors of this food are the Value Mart grocery store located at Six Mile and Inkster and Entenmann’s located on Newburg south of I-96. Church members can donate nonperishable food by leaving it in the box located in Fellowship Hall.

As a church we can be proud of the support we provide to Cass.



## *Easter Flowers*

*Thank you to the following people who purchased Easter flowers for our altar this year:*

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Marie Adams, in memory of Ike Adams & Kim Rexwinkle - 1 tulip and 1 daffodil

Allshouse Family, in memory of family that has passed - 1 small lily and 1 hyacinth

Besecker Family, in memory of Don Besecker - 1 daffodil

Al Eardley, in honor of David Eardley & Nancy Van Loon - 2 hyacinths

Darlene & Jeff Ebersole, in memory of our parents - 1 hyacinth, 1 tulip, and 1 daffodil

Fellow Worshipper, in honor of Ken Duluk & Fabian Lanzy - 2 daffodils

Alyson Gay, in memory of John & Dee Dee Gay and Eric John Gay - 1 hyacinth and 1 daffodil

Henry & Pigeon Families, in honor of Henry Pigeon and in memory of Colleen Pigeon  
& Karen Henry - 1 hyacinth, 1 tulip and 1 daffodil

Harold Herrick, in memory of Barbara A. Herrick - 2 hyacinths

Corrine Kert, in honor of Claire Bien - 1 large lily; In gratitude - 1 large lily


Cathy Miner & Salikah Lehr, in memory of Daniel Lehr - 1 small lily and 1 hyacinth

Margaret Northey, in memory of Dick & Paul Northey - 1 medium lily and 1 tulip

Karen Reid, in memory of Jack & Jason Reid - 2 daffodils

Dan & Jenny Ronayne, in honor of our parents - 1 large lily and 1 tulip

Randy & Laura Roulrier, in memory of Janet & Allan Ralph and Randolphe Roulrier -  
1 hyacinth, 1 tulip and 1 daffodil



**Please join us on  
Sunday, May 31, as  
we honor those who  
have survived cancer  
and the caregivers  
that helped in their  
healing.**

There are over 18 million cancer survivors in the United States, and St. Matthew's is blessed to have many members who have survived various forms of cancer.

We would like to focus our May 31 service on hearing from some of our members while we celebrate what they have overcome and acknowledge the caregivers who have made their healing possible.

If you have a cancer survivor story to tell and would like to share it with the congregation, or if you have any ideas to make this service special, please contact Jenny Ronayne at 734-776-1789 or [jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org](mailto:jennyronayne@stmatthewslivonia.org).



# APRIL



## At a Glance

### Continuing Events

Mondays at 9:00 AM - Classical Bells

Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:00 AM -  
Food deliveries to Cass Community  
Social Services

Wednesdays at 8:00 AM - Coffee at  
Anastasia & Katie's, (19215 Merriman  
Rd, Livonia, MI 48152)  
- ALL ARE WELCOME! -

Thursdays at 10:00 AM - Cherub Chime  
Choir

### Upcoming Events

April 2 - Soup Dinner (6:00 PM)

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service (7:00 PM)

April 3 - Good Friday Service (7:00 PM)

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 7 - Book Club (10:00 AM)

April 13 - Classical Bells Preschool Concert (9:00 AM)

April 14 - UWF Bible Study Circle (10:30 AM)

April 16 - Pubology (6:30 PM)

April 21 - Staff Meeting (11:00 AM)

April 21 - One Board Meeting (7:00 PM)

April 26 - Pack NOAH lunches (11:30 AM)

### Important Reminders

➔ Good Friday service will take place at 7:00 PM at Newburg UMC, 36500  
Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, MI 48150

➔ Please remember to take your flowers home with you after Sunday's  
Easter service.

➔ Church offices will be closed on April 6, the Monday following Easter.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATES BELOW FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

**APRIL  
2**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**  
6:00 PM Soup/Bread in Fellowship Hall  
7:00 PM Service in the Sanctuary



**APRIL  
3**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
7 PM at Newburgh UMC  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
Livonia, MI 48150



**APRIL  
5**

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**  
10:30 AM Sanctuary



**APRIL  
26**

**NOAH LUNCHES**  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hall



**MAY  
31**

**CANCER SURVIVOR SUNDAY**  
10:30 AM Sanctuary



*“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come,  
see the place where the Lord lay.”*

*~ Matthew 28:6*



**If you have any questions or  
anything to add to the newsletter,  
please contact Kim DeSantis at  
[kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org](mailto:kimdesantis@stmatthewslivonia.org)**

**Church Phone: (734) 422-6038  
Cell Phone/Text: (313) 510-0283**

**Deadline for May submission:**

**April 20**

