

## Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church hosts bazaar

By Reverend Dennis J. Stroh

Each fall, the ladies of the Dorcas Circle at Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church (DML) host their annual bazaar, which includes white elephant items, craft items, and baked goods for sale. The bazaar this year will be on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 1860 E. Hile Road near Airline Road.

Of particular interest to many in the community are the baked goods. Slovak Kolach, a sweet bread or nut roll with either a walnut or poppy seed filling rolled like a jelly roll, is the most popular. Its origin is from central Europe, most notably, Slovakia. Most of the Kolach is baked by retired DML pastor, Reverend Kenneth



**The baking pastors:** Reverend Christopher Anderson, Reverend Dennis Stroh and Reverend Kenneth Michnay.

Michnay, who just happens to be of Slovak heritage.

Not wanting to be outdone, retired pastor Reverend Christopher Anderson, who is also a DML member and has a Swedish heritage, bakes several loaves of bread of Swedish origin.

A third pastor, the current pastor of DML, Reverend Dennis Stroh, who is of German heritage, leads several DML members in baking a modern version of the Kolach we call Kolachky. It is a yummy smaller nut roll about the size of a Twinkie. Many of our members bake various Slovak treats and other sweets for the bake sale.

While many people may not know about Kolach, many also do not know much about Lutherans, either. When people are asked on surveys what they think about various denominations, there are strong opinions about Catholics, Baptists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and many other denominations. But when asked about Lutherans, most people select "don't know" or "unsure." A reason for that may be because we are, as Garrison Keillor of *Prairie Home Companion* fame calls us, "shy Lutherans." I think that is because we prefer not to bring attention to ourselves.

Many people in our area know little to nothing about DML. We are often mistakenly called "Dr. Martin Luther King Church," even though we have had a presence in the community for nearly a century. We will celebrate our 100th year in the Muskegon area in 2015. The church was founded by Slovakian immigrants in Muskegon in 1915 with the original church located at the corner of Eighth Street and Hume. In the 1960s, the members decided to relocate to our current location on Hile Road near Airline across from Whitlow's Restaurant.

DML is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than four million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther, who is credited with starting the Protestant Reformation in 1517.

Like any good stew or bread, one must mix various ingredients together to make a product which is greater than the individual components themselves. While Lutherans in America started out as many separate groups of Germans, Scandinavians, people from central and eastern Europe and the like, we have had a history of merging into larger homogeneous groups. In fact, 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the ELCA, a merger of three separate Lutheran bodies. DML, although founded by Slovakian immigrants, has become a melting pot of sorts. There are few ethnic Slovaks left among our ranks, and although we remember our Slovak roots, we prefer to focus on the fact that we are all children of God. We have been mixed together by the Holy Spirit to become the expression of the body of Christ in Fruitport Township.

The Psalmist said, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8) I'm sure that if you taste our Kolach and other treats at the bazaar you will see that they, too, are good. I also invite you to taste of the warm and friendly people of DML and you will find that we are good, too, with just a little hint of shyness. We would be pleased to welcome you to our worship service any Sunday at 10 a.m. •

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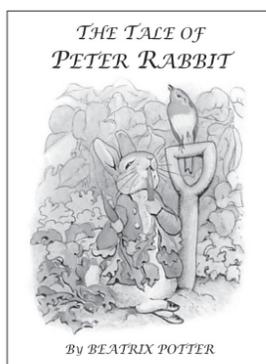
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## Shred Day Report

Saturday, September 21, 2013

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It was GREAT! About 200 cars in 4 hours!



County Clerk Waters was greeted by five (5) cars waiting before the KRM trucks arrived. The longest line was at the 10 a.m. start time with 17 cars waiting for secure disposal of their confidential documents. Everyone loved it and thanked us. As they entered the parking lot and pulled up parallel to the trucks, KRM staff; Matt Grupa, Chris Annis, Larry Osborn, and Darryl McDonald; would assist with unloading boxes and bags of documents, emptying the contents into bins that were then dumped into the shredder, filling the back of the truck with approximately 9000 pounds of paper for recycling.

City of Muskegon Clerk Ann Cummings presented the first 100 participants with a free shred bag from KRM which KRM then matched with another 100 so 200 participants will now be able to bring their bag to KRM for free shredding for the life of the bag.

Muskegon County Sustainability Coordinator Sarah Damm busily stuffed the free shred bags with the flyer for the October 12th "Clean Your Closet" event to take place at the City of Muskegon DPW parking lot at:

1350 E. Keating Ave.  
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

