



# Churches Serve Meals To The Benefit Of Others

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about 15 to 20 KCs in the kitchen,” said Tim Dockter. “The group who benefits from the proceeds from that evening will provide six to 10 workers to bus tables and do other jobs.”

The proceeds from the fish fry meals go to Troop 604, Barnesville Community Education, and Assumption Youth Group.

“The Knights of Columbus have been having our fish fry meals during Lent since 2001. This will be our 19th consecutive year assuming that the weather cooperates,” said Dockter.

Rollag Lutheran Church and Park Lutheran Church each serve meals at the Steam Threshers event.

Rollag Lutheran members serve Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the four-day Labor Day weekend event at Steamer Hill.

They have been serving meals on the hill since the festival began in 1953.

Members from Rollag Lutheran serve 1,800 meals to people over the two full days that they work.

Pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage, along with other goodies are served for breakfast.

Lunch menu consists of a ham

dinner with all of the trimmings including real potatoes. About 750 pounds of potatoes are peeled by volunteers.

On Friday the group also serves hot dogs, barbecues and hamburgers.

In the beginning, all of the food was made in homes by the volunteers. With updated health regulations, food must be made at the church.

Sixty-five percent of the profit goes to repair and upkeep of the church and 35 percent goes to WELCA, the church women.

The women donate to at least 10 different non profits at the end of the year. Profits from Steamer Hill go to those in need.

“There is always a challenge to get enough help,” said Linda Bang. “It has gone so well though and our workers get to know each other on a different level. The fellowship is pretty cool!”

Rollag Lutheran is part of a three-point parish. The other churches are Gran and Park.

Members of Park Lutheran Church also have a food stand at the Steam Threshers Reunion. They provide meals for Saturday only.

Park has been serving on Steamer Hill since the event first

started. Although the membership is small, they band together with friends and family to put on the meal. About 30-38 people help on Saturday.

They serve a meatball and mashed potato dinner along with all the trimmings. Also for sale are hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecues, baked beans, potato salad, the Norwegian delicacy rommegrot and other items.

About 1,200 full meals are served as well as 1,700 sandwiches. It takes a lot of work and people to provide that much appetizing food.

Half of the profits goes to the upkeep of the country church building. They are saving for a new roof at present. The other half is given in mission aid.

“We try to help people out,” said Susie Braseth. “We love meeting people at Steamer Hill. I love it up there. It is hard work, but I like it. People come out of the woodwork to help.”

Park’s stand is located on the parade route next to the merry-go-round.

Our Savior’s Lutheran (OSL) Church in Barnesville serves up the smelly, but delicious, to some, lutefisk dinner.

The dinner has been held for



Members of Rollag Lutheran Church peel hundreds of pounds of potatoes for use for the meal that they serve at Steamer Hill.



At St. James United Church of Christ in Barnesville, the community can enjoy a turkey dinner with all of the trimmings and sides on Thanksgiving Day. Members of St. James give up time with their own families to make sure others don’t have to be alone on the holiday.

59 years in November. The men’s group of OSL church are the ones who prepare and serve the dinner.

On average, 500-600 people are served each year. It takes about 50 men to prepare, serve and cleanup.

The lutefisk arrives at the church hydrated in large slabs. The men cut the 800 pounds of fish into smaller pieces and soak it in a salt water brine for 24 hours.

On the day of the meal, the lutefisk is boiled for just the proper amount of time. Not too much is boiled ahead so that the fish is served fresh and hot.

Jay Kluck is one of the men who oversee the soaking and cooking of the fish.

“It is a good fundraiser,” said Kluck. “What I like best is seeing the people come and enjoy the lutefisk. We pride ourselves on cooking it just right and having one of the best lutefisk meals in the area.”

Those who love lutefisk flock to

the church building from far and near to get a good helping of the fish drenched in butter.

For those who aren’t that fond of lutefisk, meatballs and gravy are also served. Mashed potatoes, corn and coleslaw are also usually on the menu along with another Scandinavian delicacy, lefse.

The meal is served family style so diners get all of the food they can hold including real potatoes.

The money raised goes back into the church for special projects. A portion also goes to community projects or to help members of the congregation in need.

One area church serves a dinner in the spring. St. John’s Lutheran Church puts on a grilled pork dinner complete with baked potatoes, coleslaw and vegetable.

The whole congregation gets into the preparation of the meal and serve about 150 people.

The idea of a community dinner began soon after St. John’s moved

into its new building in the early 1990s.

Members of the congregation wanted to give something back to the community and also help those in need. The profits from their dinner are put into a benevolence fund and used to support many community projects.

Among the recipients of St. John’s generosity have been the local ambulance and fire department. In response, fire and ambulance personnel have at times helped serve the dinner.

One recurring theme from all of the church members was the fun everyone had while preparing and serving the meal. Relationships are built and strengthened by working side-by-side.

There are other groups who serve food to the community at events throughout the year. It is a great way for people to get a good meal and at the same time donate money to good causes.

## CLAY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

If you are a Clay County resident and would like to learn more about the veteran’s benefits and resources that you may be entitled to, please contact the Clay County Veterans Service Office to schedule a “General Benefits” appointment.

In order to apply for any veteran’s benefits you will need to be able to provide a copy of your military discharge papers. The Veterans Service Office can assist you with obtaining a copy of your military discharge documents, if necessary.

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### Am I entitled to veteran benefits?

Contact your local County Veterans Service Office. They will assist you with reviewing your records and applying for any applicable benefits.

### What types of benefits can the Veterans Service Office facilitate application for?

State and federal VA benefits include, and are not limited to: healthcare, dental programs, assistance with paying for nursing home care, compensation and care for service-related injuries, low-income pension, mental health and financial counseling, financial assistance, death benefits, and more!

### Can I make an appointment just to see what is available?

Yes, our office regularly provides “General Benefits Appointments.” We also provide “Ultimate Honors Briefings” for end-of-life planning purposes.

