

## Tough winter....first day of spring!

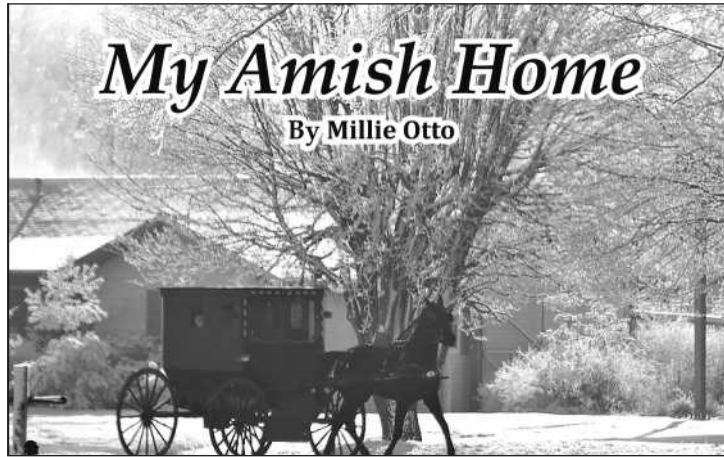
"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, that ye have also seen me and believe not, all that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!! John 6: 35,36,37

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28,29

Wednesday morning and it is early. I had to get up early in case I can take Erwin to work. I just didn't know. It seemed like there was a block in the road and I didn't know how to get around or over it. I looked outside and it was snowing, seemed quite cold, so, I opted to stay at home.

We didn't go to work Monday morning, it was just too cold and windy yesterday (Tues.) Erwin had an appointment with the heart doctor, so we didn't go to work.

Now today, I just don't know, it snowed during the night and is cloudy this morning, but it's still dark. So, it's hard to tell what it will be like. I really don't like



### My Amish Home

By Millie Otto

these indecisive mornings. Hopefully, the weather will settle soon and I will, too.

This has been a tough winter. Sometimes I feel like I'm not myself anymore. Does that make sense? So maybe again we'll just stay home and I'll try and get some things done.

I need to do laundry. I can usually get that done because we like to have clean clothes to wear. I surprised myself last week and actually got some of the windows cleaned. It seemed like they were smiling after that.

I've also been working on granddaughter Julia's quilt. Slowly, slowly, I'm making progress on that.

We, my siblings and I have been doing some more cleaning out. Saturday afternoon we worked in the barn/shop, cleaning out and toss-

ing things of our dad's things, tools, etc. It was not the most pleasant job. Pigeons, starlings and sparrows have taken up residence in there. They have no respect. We have to cover up everything that we want to sell. A lot of things had to be power-washed.

This is now Friday as I finish up. It is the first day of spring and it is 80 degrees this afternoon. We did go to work yesterday and today. That helps me feel better. I guess the weather has a lot to do with it.

Daughter Rachel had workday yesterday. We washed the dishes out of her china cupboard. I got so involved, I forgot to watch the time and was late to pick up hubby. It wasn't real late, but still. I really did enjoy the time spent with the daugh-

ters and grand-daughters. Great granddaughter Janae has her own miniature sewing machine that really works, battery operated, of course. So while some of the girls were sewing, she could, too. It was so precious.

In closing--Ability is what you are capable of doing.

Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.--Lou Holtz

Try these yummy bars. Have the coffee ready!

#### Caramel Chip Bars

1/2 cup butter  
32 caramels  
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk

Combine in a large saucepan. Cook over low heat until smooth, stirring to prevent burning. Cool.

1 box yellow cake mix  
1/2 vegetable oil  
2 eggs  
2 cups mini chocolate chips  
1 cup white chips

Combine and mix well. Stir chips in last. Dough will be stiff. Put 3/4 into a greased 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Cool 10 minutes. Pour caramel mixture over crust. Drop remaining dough on top. Bake until done.

## Pastor Stahl's Weekly Message of Faith



Happy Easter Everyone! JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We are now in Holy Week, the most important days of the Christian calendar. Our Lord Jesus Carried His Cross out to Calvary, and Paid the price for our sins. For over 6 hours, He hung on the cross, an instrument of torture and shame. He Did all of that for you and me.

The women came to the tomb that first Easter morning, trembling and afraid. They had witnessed so many horrible things on Friday. The beating their Master and Friend took, the pain He bore in carrying the cross and then being nailed to it. He suffered the slings and arrows of the angry crowd, the mocking, the insults. "If He is the Son of God, let Him come down from the Cross!", the soldiers jeered. Yet there was no hatred in His Heart, only Love and Mercy. "Forgive them, Father, for they don't know what they're doing."

The women witnessed all of it on Friday: the blackness of the sky, the earthquake, the taunts of the crowd. Their Lord Died at 3:00 P., after hanging on the Cross for over 6 hours. They hastily buried Him in a borrowed tomb, but they didn't complete their embalming on Friday before the Sabbath began. They started out Sunday morning by going to the tomb to finish the job. But the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, and the Body of Jesus was gone! Where had they put Him? Weren't the horrors of Friday bad enough? Suddenly they looked into the tomb and saw an angel: "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He isn't here! He Is Risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His Body. Now go and tell His Disciples, including Peter, that Jesus Is Going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He Told you before He Died." (Mark 16:6,7) The angel

wanted the women to come and see the place where Jesus was laid, then go and tell everyone that He Is Risen from the dead. But that is not what the women did. "The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened." (Mark 16:8)

And that is where the original ending of Mark stops. The women were frightened and ran off and didn't tell anyone. Why didn't Mark have a more complete ending? Why did he just stop where he did? Perhaps he ended his Gospel that way because he wanted all of us to spread the Good News. Come and see the empty tomb, then go and tell everyone you know that Jesus Is Alive! Come and see, go and tell!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Anchor and Cornerstone of our Faith. Our Lord Died for each of us; He Took on the world's sins, including yours and mine, and willingly gave up His Life for each of us. There was no hatred in His Heart, only Love and Compassion. He Treated even His enemies with Mercy, even Praying for them. As the old Gospel song goes, He could have called on 10,000 angels to come and rescue Him, but He Gave Himself up for us all.

Do we deserve it? Absolutely not. We deserve death. But God Is Rich in Mercy, and Sent Jesus to the Cross so we wouldn't have to. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans: "For the wages of sin is death, but the Free Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) One only has to look at the Cross and know that God went the full limit to Save humanity.

God Has Given us so much; all we can do is proclaim, "My God, How Great Thou Art!"

God Bless all of you!  
Happy Easter!  
Pastor Jeff Stahl  
Countryside and Ogden United Methodist Churches

## The Empty Tomb

John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, sepa-

rate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman,



why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Arthur Quilt Show accepting entries



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The Arthur Quilt Show Committee is accepting entries for the 35th Annual Arthur Quilt Show to be held April 30-May 2 at the Otto Center south of Arthur on the County Line Road.

To obtain an entry form, entry rules, vendor space or any other additional information contact Jolene Stutzman, committee chairperson at 217-543-2287 or email her at stitchandsew20@gmail.com

Deadline for entries is April 17 and there is a small entry fee per item.

Entries will be judged in each of eight categories: Youth,

Baby/Wall/Lap, Mixed Media/Artistic, Heirloom, Embroidery & Applique, Pieced (hand quilted only), Pieced (machine quilted only), and "Land That I Love" (Patriotic themed quilts). Ribbons and gift certificates will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each category along with the Best of Show winner receiving a \$150.00 gift certificate and all are redeemable for merchandise at participating Arthur merchants. Visitors to the show will determine the winner of the People's Choice Award ribbon.



Big City Service with a Small-Town Touch

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## OSF Peace Meal Menu

Here is the Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, April 2 through Wednesday, April 8.

Thursday, 4/2/26 - Taco boats with taco meat, beans, sour cream, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes, fruit cup, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 4/3/26 - Closed for Good Friday.

Saturday, 4/4/26 - BLT, tossed salad with chicken, cheese and tomato, diced peaches, Oreo fluff, whole wheat bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 4/5/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 4/6/26 - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes

and gravy, corn, fruit cup, whole wheat bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 4/7/26 - Swedish meatballs, broccoli, spiced apples, wheat bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 4/8/26 - OSF Peace Meal is closed.

OSF Peace Meal provides seniors, age 60 and older, with a nutritious lunch Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday and Wednesday. There is a suggested donation of \$4.00 for each meal, however, no senior will be denied a meal because of an inability to financially contribute. The Illinois Link Card is an accepted form of payment. For more information, please go to <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/osf-peace-meal/> or call 1-309-665-5900.

The Homer Peace Meal congregates site is at the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street. It is currently carry-out only. For reservations, please call 1-309-665-5900. Home delivery in southern Champaign County is currently available in Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum.

Menu substitutions may occur due to global supply chain shortages, but a nutritious meal is still guaranteed.

The OSF Peace Meal menu is submitted to the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.