

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we look to this weekend and the start of June, there are three events that I would like to highlight for you to consider attending! All events take place this Saturday (June 5). One is in Wilton, and the other two are but a short drive from Wilton.

Saturday morning is the **Blood Drive** at the Wilton Community Center. If you are a regular blood donor, thank you! If you have never given blood, or have not given in some time, this Saturday would be a wonderful time to begin or renew your commitment. There is a great need for blood right now! Please donate and give the gift of life.

Also, Saturday morning is the **Dairy Breakfast** that kicks off "June Dairy Month." The Monroe County event will take place at MDS Dairy (9314 Kansas Avenue, Sparta). The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. and runs to 11 a.m. It features the following menu--Ham and Cheese Omelet, pancakes, Culver's strawberry sundaes (donations encouraged to support local FFA chapters), donut holes, cookies, buttered toast, cheese, coffee and milk. Cost is \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 (ages 6-10), with children 5 and under, free.

This year, **COVID-19 vaccinations will be available at the Dairy Breakfast**. If you have not yet had your shot(s), this would be an easy way for you to get yours! Please do so for the safety and well-being of your family members, friends, fellow church members, and others in our local communities.

The Dairy Breakfast Opening Ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. During the event, there will be educational displays, children's activities, dairy farm viewing, an antique tractor display, horse drawn wagon rides, and an animal education area. Cheese curds will also be available for purchase from the Monroe County All Breeds Jr. Dairy Club. See the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast Facebook page for more information!

Also this Saturday, the **Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR)** are having a special event-- "**Dawn Through Dark National Trails Day**." There will be guided and self-guided hikes at designated times. The guided hikes include: bird walks, hike/play for families with young children, local history, Llama trekking, a leisurely walk to favorite KVR spots, a way-finding adventure for families with older children, hikin' with lichens, saving our diversity: identifying invasives, and a night walk at 8:15 p.m. (For a full listing of times, go online to kickapoofriends.org.)

There will also be live music from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (A bring-your-own-blanket picnic will be held by the Visitor's Center. Brats and other food will be available for purchase during these times.) All events are free, but attendees must have an annual pass or purchase a day permit. (*La Crosse Tribune*, Sunday, May 23, 2021, p. B2)

As we move into summer and the month of June, these are but a few of the many activities we can look forward to attending once again. Let us thank God for the gift of life. Let us remember the nurses, healthcare workers, and other volunteers who make the Blood Drive possible. Let us also remember the farmers, farmworkers, county agents, FFA and 4-H leaders, volunteers, and students; ecologists, foresters, naturalists, and others who care for, and help us care for, God's creation. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy