

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

605 Spruce St. – Madison, WI 53715 – 608.256.8463

[www.stmarksmadison.org](http://www.stmarksmadison.org)

February 2015 NEWSLETTER

## The Month of Love

I am so glad it is February! We've had plenty of good snowstorms in February and March. We've seen plenty of grey days, even into April but in my mind, by the time February comes we are more than half way through the winter, the sun shines brighter and the days of arctic temperatures are fewer. With Valentine's Day right in the middle, it is also considered the month of love.

As with many holidays, Valentine's Day has its roots in Christian martyrdom. A popular hagiographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. In the Middle Ages the Feast of Valentine, a holiday of the church turned toward romantic love.

I would like us to use Valentine's Day to focus on God's great love for us and how we live out this love or share this love with others. We can even use Valentine of Rome as an example as we consider how we might reach others whom the Empire as declared insignificant.

One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 John 4:7, "love one another for love comes from God. If a person does not love, it is because they do not know God because God is love".

We have been given \$2500 to use as a new ministry opportunity. How shall we use this money to show God's love? Let us continue to be prayerful about how we can share God's love with others forever grateful that we love because God first loved us. We are beloved children of God. Yea for the month of love!

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

### Inside this Issue

- ✦ Pastor's Letter
- ✦ Food Pantry
- ✦ Financial Giving
- ✦ Regular events.
- ✦ Birthdays
- ✦ Special Events
- ✦ Council Corner



# St. Mark's Food Pantry



Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon & Thursday 5:45-7:30 p.m.

Thank you to all who brought soup for the "Souper Bowl" offering. During these cold months it is great to have a wider variety of soups to share with our guests.

Cans with pull-off tops are also great for people who are homeless as they are often able to run into a gas station and heat up their cans of soup.

If you were not able to be present on February 1<sup>st</sup> because of the snow storm, the Food Pantry will happily accept cans of soup through the month of February.

Thank you for your dedication to this ministry.

## Financial Giving

### January Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1770.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 1686.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd from FCBC	\$	\$ 960.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Rent Rec'd from MOSES	\$175.00	
Rent Rec'd from Forward! March	\$50	
Rent Rec'd from Raging Grannies	\$50	
Rent for kitchen use	\$100	
New Ministry Opportunity	\$2500	

**Thank you to members and friends who help St. Mark's serve in Christ's name.**

### St. Mark's Calendar

Every Tuesday  
Every Thursday  
Every Friday

Food Pantry 10 a.m. – 12 Noon  
Food Pantry 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.  
Friday Free Meal 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

## February Birthdays

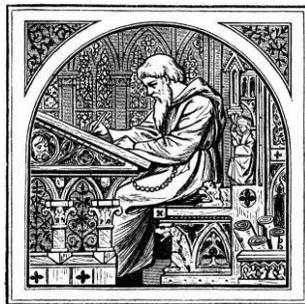
February 24 Ron Peterson



### Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>

#### The Imposition of Ashes and the Lord's Supper at 5:00

We will have a short worship service based on these two rituals. Stop on your way home from work or before going to your evening activities and participate in these tangible reminders of our Christian identity.



#### Council Corner

The Peace of The Lord Be With You,

I don't know about you but I'm always happy to see January end. Yes, there are other months with 31 days but somehow, for me, January seems like the longest month in the year. February, on the other hand, being a short month is easier for me to deal with. And after February comes March and I start looking forward towards spring. It won't be long now and the weather will become warmer and the days are already longer. Life is about to become much better as we roll into spring.

I feel that St. Mark's is on a similar path. I believe we too are headed towards "spring". The winter has been long and cold but better days are coming. Our finances are on firm ground, we've been paying our Mission Investment Fund loan regularly, we have a start on our playground, the basement floor will be completed soon and we continue to feed people, both at our Friday meal and the food pantry. The one area I think we still need to see improvement is in our worship attendance. I think this is an area where we can all help. If you know of friends, neighbors, co-workers or even folks who formerly called St. Mark's home you can invite them to join us. Lots of things have changed at St. Mark's over the past 16 months. It's time we let others know what a special place St. Mark's is. So help us fill our pews by inviting others to this special place at the corner of Spruce and Hickory streets.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller