

# 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 2014 NEWSLETTER

Beth Kennett writes in an article on authentic community, "individuals today are becoming more and more isolated. We work alone, we play alone, and we even make decisions alone. We have been duped into believing that life is easier if we do not involve others. In his book, *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam states, "The single most common finding from a half century's research on the correlates of life satisfaction, not only in the United States but around the world, is that happiness is best predicted by the breadth and depth of one's social connections." Where once we could fall back on social capital — families, churches, friends — these no longer are strong enough to cushion our fall. In our personal lives as well as in our collective life. . . we are paying a significant price for a quarter century's disengagement from one another." There is scientific evidence to prove that we are damaging our health through a lack of relationships and personal contact with others". If we are going to be a community, we have to figure out the rules of engagement so people feel valued and safe. One way of doing this is by developing a congregational system based on healthy boundaries.

Bill Wilson from the Center for Congregational Health writes, "If you think you are above and beyond the need for clear boundaries, you probably have a problem". He went on to say that "Boundaries are our friends. Just as clear rules make a game more enjoyable for all the participants, clear boundaries make congregational life richer and more Christ-like for all". In the weeks that come we are going to be talking about what we can do to make our congregation healthier with strong and loving boundaries. We began this process when we decided to strengthen our business practices, to update the rental contracts, and to restructure staff. It is good to be warm and welcoming but it is a false hospitality unless we have covenants in place to determine how our mission is going to be fulfilled. I am thrilled that we have made it to this place in our journey. Instead of dealing with a different crisis every week we are truly and enthusiastically planning for the future. This is a great place to be.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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# St. Mark's Food Pantry

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



February food pantry needs are: Canned Tuna, Spaghettios, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, cereal bars, & peanut butter. Thank you for your donations, together, we can feed our neighborhoods...one family at a time.

Happy  
Birthday To  
You....

## *Weekly Prayer Focus*

### **February 2014**

2/2	Brian & Jim Benz
2/9	Mary Lee Eaton
2/16	Sandy, Kenton & Lily Fowler
2/23	Mel & Esther Gabriel

February 1  
Natalie Schoer

February 9  
Mark Alesia

February 24  
Ron Peterson

## **Financial Giving**

### **Previous Month's Giving Summary**

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2,265.00	\$8,500.00
Friends	\$1,562.80	\$ 850.00
Rent Rec'd	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Gift from Anon Donor for St. Mark's Revitalization	\$2,500	

**Thank you to members and friends who co-labor with  
St. Mark's to serve in Christ's name.**

#### A \$2500 Revitalization Grant

In case you have not heard, St. Mark's received a \$2500 grant through the Synod for our revitalization. We discussed at the Annual Meeting how this money should be spent. Our priorities are advertising, a new sign (at least by the parking lot door) and a program to be offered during Lent. We also want to put some money aside as a safety net. This is very exciting and our first real opportunity to INVEST in something beyond our weekly expenses.

## St. Mark's Community Calendar

**Every Tuesday**  
Except on Holidays

**Food Pantry 10 a.m. – 12 Noon**

**Every Thursday**  
Except on Holidays

**Food Pantry 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.**

**Every Friday**  
Except on Holidays

**Friday Free Meal 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

**March**

**Lenten Program look for details in March newsletter!**



Memorials made in  
Memory & Honor of  
Donna J Wrend

### How about a Memorial Fund?

I was (and still am) incredibly excited by the grant of \$2500 for the revitalization for of St. Mark's we received through the Synod. This was our first chance to INVEST in outreach in a long time. It made me realize how important it is to have funds that are not going just for operating expenses. It may be time to begin a Memorial Fund. We received over \$800 dollars in memoriam in honor of Donna Wrend. What if we put this money, not for operating expenses but for special projects. This would be a great way to honor our members who have died but have given so much. For example, given Donna's love for singing and music, I can see some of this money being used for special music. Tell me what you think! ~ Pastor Lori



**LENT**

**LENTEN PROGRAM** Ash Wednesday is late this year - not until March! But join us for a four week Lenten Program on Spirituality and Creative Writing. I am working on clarifying details with a local spiritual director who will help us use creative writing tools to develop a closer and more meaningful relationship with God as known through Jesus Christ. It should be great fun!

## Council Corner

### Your Council

#### Officers

Lynn  
Miller  
President

Jim Mayer  
Vice-  
President

~

#### Members

Kate  
Krueger  
316-1734

Jim Mayer  
257-1136

Lynn  
Miller  
224-0615

Tom  
Taves  
798-3205

Debbie  
Thorp  
255-2289

The Peace of the Lord Be With You,

On January 26<sup>th</sup> we discussed was forming a committee to write a Ministry Site Profile for St. Mark's. This document is the first step in extending a call to a pastor. It is a comprehensive document which includes information on our congregation's demographics, budget, church programs, mission, vision, and leadership needs. It is important that we complete this document because it will help us identify our needs, goals, mission and vision. This in turn, will help us determine those qualities in a pastor who, we think, will be successful in leading us into the future. If you are interested in serving on this committee please let me know.

During the past year we have been successful in catching up on all our outstanding bills and moving toward sound financial footing. We have met with the Mission Investment Fund staff and have reached a tentative agreement on repaying our building loan. Bishop Froiland has been elected and is eager to help St. Mark's emerge as a vital congregation on the south side of Madison. There is still a lot of work to be done but I feel more confident than ever that we are on the right track and will continue to make significant advances this year. I will continue to work closely with the congregation to keep you informed and solicit your thoughts and ideas.

Together we have a bright future here at the corner of Spruce and Hickory Streets.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller

# February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:30 AM St. Mark's Service</li> <li>■ 10:45 AM St. Mark's Annual Meeting</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM FCCC Service</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Food Pantry</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM FCCC Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM School Snack Program</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:45 PM Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12:00 PM Meals For Madison</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:30 AM St. Mark's Service</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM FCCC Service</li> </ul>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Food Pantry</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM FCCC Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM School Snack Program</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:45 PM Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12:00 PM Meals For Madison</li> </ul>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:30 AM St. Mark's Service</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM FCCC Service</li> </ul>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Food Pantry</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM FCCC Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM School Snack Program</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:45 PM Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12:00 PM Meals For Madison</li> </ul>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:30 AM St. Mark's Service</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM FCCC Service</li> </ul>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Food Pantry</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM FCCC Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM School Snack Program</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:45 PM Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12:00 PM Meals For Madison</li> </ul>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:30 AM St. Mark's Service</li> <li>■ 11:00 AM FCCC Service</li> </ul>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Food Pantry</li> <li>■ 7:00 PM FCCC Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8:30 AM School Snack Program</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 5:45 PM Food Pantry</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 12:00 PM Meals For Madison</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>