

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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March 2015 NEWSLETTER

Following God's Call

Last night Lynn, the boys and I went to hear Doug Pagitt and a musician named Heather Lyn. Doug Pagitt is a pastor and author who recently wrote the book *Flipped*. The book is about the sayings of Jesus that seem paradoxical or are a flip. "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it". Matthew 10:39. "The first shall be last". Mark 10:31. He was a passionate speaker encouraging us to think more openly about our relationship with God. He was the third of contemporary prophets to visit Madison this winter. In January Nadia Bolz Weber, the heavily tattooed ELCA pastor led a workshop at First Baptist Church. Shane Claiborne and Doug Pagitt made it to Madison just this week. All three contemporary prophets interpret our culture's shift away from the established church as an opportunity to more faithfully live out the Gospel. I agree. It has been a delight to be here at St. Mark's as we have talked about how we want to grow our spiritual lives rather than spend endless hours discussing the color of tiles for the basement floor. As I remember the meeting we chose tile color was over within minutes and we have been very happy with the result.

One of the benefits of imagining church beyond the boundaries of the established church is an opportunity to be more faithful, more like Jesus to not let the "business" of church get in the way. On March 22nd Rev. Erik Jelnik, the Director of Mission for the South Central Synod will be coming to St. Mark's to preach. After worship we will have a meeting to explore new ministry opportunities. Please come on that day and welcome him and be a part of this conversation. It is a good step forward that he can be with us, representing the Synod and being a part of our hopes for the future. By then it will be spring, a tangible reminder of God's efforts at renewal for all of Creation.

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Pantry



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

Bathroom Boxes - Lenten Mission Project

The South Central Synod Refugee Committee intends to welcome ninety families to the Madison area this year, some of those refugees will be from Bhutan and Iraq. As a part of this effort they are collecting Bathroom Boxes. We have started filling bathroom boxes by bringing in toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, disposable razors, soap, deoderant, shampoo, towels and a shower curtain. Each box is partially assembled and a sign up sheet to each box for the missing item. Please join us in filling these essential bathroom boxes.

Celebrating Mission - We received our participation award for sending \$400 to the Synod in 2014, acknowledging our commitment to the ELCA and the important work of the larger church. After years of not being able to give, it is great to give!

Financial Giving

February Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2075.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$2855.00	\$ 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	\$150	
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.



March Birthdays

March 4th Carlene Kelly
March 29th Max Jonaskrueger



Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time on March 8th. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

March 8th – Annual Meeting, to approve 2015 budget and discuss new ministry opportunities.

March 22nd – Rev. Erik Jelnik, Director of Mission for the South Central Synod will be preaching.



Council Corner

The Peace of the Lord Be With You,

Have you had enough of winter yet? I have!! The other day Lori showed me a picture of a small snowman lying on a deck with several knives stuck in him and the caption said "Die Winter, Die". Well that's sort of how I feel at this point. It's time to move on to spring and warmer days. It's been another long cold winter in Wisconsin. Now that March is here I have hope that warmer days are on the way.

And speaking of hope, isn't that is what Easter is all about? The hope that, like Jesus we too will rise to everlasting life. Indeed, for me that is more than hope, it's a certainty. Just as spring follows winter resurrection follows death. After winter all nature springs to life. Flowers come up, the grass turns green the days become warmer and new life is born.

I find it particularly gratifying that after a long cold winter St. Mark's too is showing signs of new life and rebirth. Although winter is often the time when church attendance drops off and finances do too St. Mark's finds itself in better financial shape than it has in a long time. We've picked up new members and most Sunday's find a visitor or two in the pews.

Now is a good time to ask yourself how you can help St. Mark's continue to grow. We still need ushers, readers and volunteers willing to do their part. If you can help with any of these activities please see Pastor Lori or myself. Together we can make sure St. Mark's remains alive and well.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller