

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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www.stmarksmadison.org

April 2014 NEWSLETTER

A Year Later

On St. Patrick's Day I celebrated a year as pastor. It has not been as definitive a role as in other congregations given our unique circumstances. I started out temporary and was temporary until November when MIF assured us they were not going to close our doors and Bishop Mary said I could stay. There is a group working on the Congregational Profile to describe the congregation, the needs of the congregation and the vision of the congregation. Assuming the Congregational Profile matches my Pastoral Profile, I can be installed as pastor and this transition time will be over.

I think there is value in taking this step by step. I said on Sunday that Bishop Mary had a quote on her blog regarding her bike riding treks, "You can get anywhere if you go slow enough". I think it is true for congregations as well. And hopefully, if we are responding to the winds of God's Spirit, we are always in transition, always finding new ways to experience and share God's unconditional love.

In the last year we have been able to:

- bring the books back into the office (crucial for our financial health),
- paid off all old debts including the credit card.
- cut up the credit card.
- website up and running, updated regularly.
- restructured staff role.
- Created a sustainable budget
- Started paying monthly on our MIF loan, making eight out of the last twelve payments
- Revamped the Food Pantry
- Updated rental agreements
- Begun updating our signs
- Started to advertise

I said last spring that it takes a minimum of two years to "turn around" a church. Now that the hard work is done, we turn to the exciting and daring work of reaching out. I believe three things are needed to "turn around" a congregation. The first is a vision, then a structure that supports that vision and then the willingness of the community gathered to reach out, trusting the winds of God's Spirit to guide the process. May this be the windiest spring ever!

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.



On Tuesday April 8th the Roundy Corporation is giving the St. Mark's Food Pantry 3,000 pounds of food and a check for \$500! Woohoo! We also want to celebrate All Saint's Lutheran, Midvale Lutheran, St. Matthew's New Life Lutheran Church and Trinity United Methodist for their ongoing food pantry collections and drop offs. Thanks to them we had a greater variety of food items to share this long and cold winter.

The food pantry is still in need of cans of pineapple and cans of chicken noodle soup.

Financial Giving

March's Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1910.00	\$ 4206.66
Friends	\$ 355.00	\$ 700.00
Rent Rec'd	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	

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

St. Mark's Calendar

Every Tuesday

Food Pantry 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Every Thursday

Food Pantry 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Every Friday

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

Apr. 5 & 19

Lenten Program: Spirituality & Creative Writing
at 9-10:30a.m

Good Friday

April 18th 7:00 Worship Service

Easter Sunday

April 20th Easter Celebration and "Sundae"

Lenten Spirituality and Creative Writing Class

We had our first Creative Writing class on March 20th. It was great fun. Learning about creative non-fiction as a way of writing can assist us in our spiritual journeys whether our medium is journaling, writing poetry or writing our very own parable. We meet again on April 5th from 9:00 to 10:30. Our facilitator Sandi Reinardy does a great job. Coffee and treats are provided. Feel free to bring a friend.

You are welcome to drop in but it would also be great to have people register. Email me at stmarks@tds.net if you would like to participate.

Brat Fest Sign Up!

Not only is spring coming but summer will be here before you know it. Start the summer out right by working the Brat Fest. It is a fun and rewarding fundraiser for St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Here is a list of fun jobs.

Sparkle Supervisor

Supervises 5 Sparkle patrol volunteers in your area. You will have a designated area to monitor all tables, trash and recycle bins. Make sure all volunteers stay on task at all times and are mindful of the customer to make sure they are having an enjoyable experience. Offers training on how to maintain the cleanliness of the area you supervise.

MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR A PRE-EVENT MEETING TO BE TRAINED ON EXPECTATIONS DATE:
TBA

***Upon arriving report immediately to Volunteer check-in tent to sign in and receive your name tag

***Must be at least 21 years old

***Reports directly to the Condiment Commander

Sparkle Patrol

Empties trash cans, cleans tables, retrieves water in 5 gallon buckets, maintains cleanliness of surrounding port-a-potty and assists customers as needed.

***Upon arriving report immediately to Volunteer check-in tent to sign in and receive your name tag

***Must be at least 14 years old

***Reports directly to Sparkle Supervisor

Grill Supervisor

Maintains grill area, makes sure all grill volunteers are on task at all times. Offers training on how to grill. Delegates all responsibilities in the grill area; when to load up the grills when to slow down, monitors trash in surrounding area and keeps the area clean

MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR A PRE-EVENT MEETING TO BE TRAINED ON EXPECTATIONS DATE:
TBA

***Upon arriving report immediately to Volunteer check-in tent to sign in and receive your name tag

***Must be at least 21 years old

***Reports directly to Grill Commander

Griller

This is a "Hot Job", fast paced, very smoky, contacts could be a problem here. A little lifting, filling grills, turning brats, etc. Expect to shower after this job. We have 20 - 6' grills. **bring your sunscreen & hat, this job is in the sun.

**must be at least 18 years to sign up

***Upon arrival please immediately report to Volunteer Check-in tent to sign in and receive your name tag

***Reports directly to Grill Supervisor

Here is how to volunteer. Debbie Thorp will be happy to help anyone struggling with this.

Volunteers Adding Shifts

ONLY group leaders are allowed to delete shifts from any volunteer. If you sign up for a shift and then find you can not work it, the volunteer will need to contact the group leader to have the shift deleted from their profile.

🔗 Log on to: www.volunteer.bratfest.com

🔗 You will need to create a profile and select which group you will be working with.

○ After creating a profile you will need to wait for the Admin to approve you. This can take up to 48 hours.

🔗 Once you have been accepted you will receive an email stating you are allowed to sign up for shifts. Please log in using the username and password you created along with your profile.

🔗 When you are logged in you will see all the EVENTS you are allowed to sign up for.

🔗 You will see the option to sign up by Task or Sign up by Time

🔗 To sign up by task click the down arrow to see each Event open to your group

🔗 Select the Event (ie Brat Fest 2014, Take your Brat to Work Day, Brat Fest Set Up etc)

🔗 After selecting the event you will see the list of tasks that are open for your group

🔗 Select the task you would like to work

🔗 A box will pop up with the available times for that task. You can change the date to see different available times by clicking the drop down arrow.

🔗 To sign up by time select the box that reads "sign up by time"

🔗 Then select the Event you would like to work (ie Brat Fest 2014, Take your Brat to Work Day, Brat Fest Set Up etc)

🔗 Then select the date you would like to work using the drop down arrow

🔗 Next select the time you would like to work using the drop down arrow

🔗 When you find the time you would like select the ADD SHIFT button

○ You have just been assigned to a task. You will receive an email confirming your volunteer time.

🔗 Repeat the following steps if the volunteer is working more than one shift

Available shifts are on a first come, first served basis, if you no longer see available shifts they are either not opened to your group or are filled by other volunteers. Questions or concerns please contact Nicole@bratfest.com

****** Brat Fest reserves the right to cancel or shorten any shift due to but not limited to, inclement weather or lack of customer demand.**

Council Corner

The Peace of the Lord Be With You,

Last month I wrote about getting ready to attend the 2014 LEAD meeting. This was my first LEAD conference and it was GREAT! There were over 300 people in attendance and it was an incredible experience sitting in worship with that many folks. The Keynote speaker was Rozella White, ELCA Director for Young Adult Ministry. She spoke about the characteristics of the Millennial Generation (people born between 1982 and 1995). It is thought there are about 80 million millennials which make them the largest generation in American history. Thus it is important we understand who these people are and what some of the characteristics of this group are. One of the most interesting observations about this group is that about one third is under age 30 and are unaffiliated with a community of faith. Clearly this is a group that merits our attention as we begin reaching out.

The first workshop I attended was Welcoming and Affirming All the Members of your Congregation. This workshop focused on the congregational make-up of churches these days. For instance, do we still think in terms of the traditional nuclear family when we talk about congregation members? For example, what do we mean when we use the term “spouse”? Do we use language which assumes heterosexual relationships? Do we make public statements that are not partisan but faith based and advocate for all? Roles and social attitudes are changing and, as a church, we need to keep up with these changes. Sometime this means re-examining how we think and the language and images we use.

The second workshop I attended was Celebrating Mission. In this workshop they stated that one of the primary focuses of the synod was outreach and that the synod will be working with congregations to enhance outreach. The synods vision can be summarized as Care, Connect and Equip as we move ahead together in mission.

My third workshop was Between Sundays - Using sites like Facebook and YouTube and Websites to Engage Active Congregants and Seekers. This workshop focused on using electronic outreach like web pages and Facebook to reach both members and nonmembers. The presenters stressed keeping your website up to date and using pictures to show events. Change content frequently and be sure to post events, updates and devotionals.

As my first LEAD conference I was very impressed with the quality of the presentations, the lively worship experience and the hard work of the Synod staff to pull this off!

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller