

# 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)

May 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Hospitality

I've joked somewhat that Isaac is St. Mark's leading evangelist. Not one hundred per cent of the time, but close, if a visitor walks into the church he introduces himself, he explains about coffee hour and how we have snacks after worship (majorly important) and when the visitors are leaving he not only invites them back for the following Sunday but often follows up with, "so can we expect to see you next Sunday?" It's that last sentence that is so great. I just invite them back I'm never quite as forward as he is.

Assistant Professor Erik Carter, PhD, in his book *Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities* says that families with a person with a disability often need to be invited to worship eight times before they believe the invitation is authentic. I wonder about other groups of people who have not always felt welcome. How many times do we need to invite them so they know we mean it? This Sunday we will read the story of the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch. In the first century he was not allowed in the Temple to worship God. He would not have been welcomed in the faith community. But he read the Scripture and he wanted to commit his life to the living God and so Philip, one of Jesus' followers, baptized him and welcomed him into the community of faith. We need to be like Philip, who was like Jesus, who welcomed everyone.

On Sunday mornings it is good to welcome visitors. Share your name and ask them their name. Explain a little about our worship experience before we begin. It's okay to say, "We are a tiny congregation but we have many projects going on". Remember to treat each other with kindness, teasing in ways that lift up. I am grateful for the unique community of St. Mark's. I am excited about sharing this community and I hope you are as well.

Blessings,  
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.

On Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Lynn Miller, Pat Kreitzman (a Food Pantry volunteer) and Lori Powell met the Roundy's Foundation at Copps on Shopko Dr. for their Annual Food Giveaway. Roundy's Foundation donated to the food pantry 2800 pounds of food and \$500. This is the second year in a row they have honored St. Mark's and we are incredibly grateful!

## Financial Giving

### April Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1855,00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 356,00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd from FCBC	\$ 960.00	\$ 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	\$25	
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.



## May Birthdays

May 8	Jean Buchanan
May 21	Chris Scoville
May 26	Howard Mueller



## **Brat Fest Memorial Day Week-end**

If you are having difficulty signing up, talk to Debbie Thorp. Pam and Gary (our neighbors from across the street) have signed up, Chris Scoville has signed up and the Powell Miller family plans on it. That each worker has to have their own email address is challenging us this year so contact Debbie if you need assistance.

## **Summer Book Club**



I am still hoping to use our redevelopment money for a summer book club for kids in the area who want to improve their reading skills. If we do it, it will be during the month of July from 10:00 AM to Noon on weekday mornings. It would be experiential – not just sitting and reading a book but exploring the story in many different elements. I need a few people who can help me organize it. We can pay! I do have willing volunteers ready to read individually with children but two or three program people would be great! Call Lori at the office 256-8463.

## **Council Corner**

The Peace of the Lord Be With You,

Last Sunday in worship Karen Grinder (who often fills in when Ogden is off playing the piano for the Wisconsin Singers) invited her friend Jaime Ruiz to play the trumpet for us in worship. It was so great to have special music in worship. It has been an enjoyable spring here at St. Mark's, the Easter Egg Hunt included! I was finally able to put our new signs on the building. From either Hickory Street or Spruce Street we are easily identified, "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, ELCA".

The latter part of this month will be especially busy with Brat Fest the week-end of Memorial Day and then the following week-end Synod Assembly. Synod Assembly this year is in Madison and the theme is "The Open Table: Always Room for One More". I am excited because here at St. Mark's we have worked to be more welcoming, to expect diversity, to have variety in the ways we worship God. The Assembly will provide workshops, speakers and musicians to inspire us as we live-out our call to be followers of Jesus. Visitors can attend for \$100 if they do not sign up for meals. Let me know if you would like to join me May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31st.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller