

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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July 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Building Our Ministry

This Sunday we will read from the Gospel of Mark how Jesus sent his disciples out two by two to share the Gospel. He told them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick and their sandals.

Many of us will be traveling this summer but we will not travel so lightly. We can't imagine traveling so lightly! At the very least we will take money, some clothes, a cell phone, and either a Kindle, an iPad, or an iPod. We can't imagine living with all of these devices as they help us stay, "connected".

What if we didn't need to be so "connected"? What if the point of traveling is being open to something new – new feelings, new experiences, of letting go of old baggage we really shouldn't be carrying around anyway. Isn't our vacation time intended to refresh us and help us let go of the stress of everyday living?

I'm not going to try and convince you to travel as lightly as Jesus suggests. When we go camping we are going to take two tents, sleeping bags, our favorite LL Bean travel mattresses, food and all sorts of other equipment and supplies to ensure our needs for comfort are met.

I am going to encourage you to let go of old baggage and issues. I am going to suggest you find a quiet space to spend with God. In that quiet time, say a prayer of thanks. Gratitude for what is good in our lives helps us to let go.

Travel. Travel lightly. Share the joy of the Gospel.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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# St. Mark's Food Pantry



In the last four weeks we have had fifteen new families sign up to use the food pantry. I am not sure why the sudden influx but I am glad the food pantry can be of use to struggling families.

## Two New Volunteers Needed!

With Shari moving and one of our regular volunteers in conflict with a daughter's gymnastic lessons, we could use two new volunteers. One for Tuesday and the other for Thursday. Pass the word! Free Training and a pleasant work atmosphere.

### Financial Giving

#### June Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1714.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 285.00	\$ 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	
Brat Fest Fundraiser	\$688	
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.



## July Birthdays

July 7	Shirley Jonas
July 8	Susan Alesia
July 14	Dorothy Annen
July 26	Don Annen



## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bay Creek Kid's Wagon Drive Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>

It's time to start collecting school supplies for the wagon drive. Pens, paper, spiral notebooks, crayons, markers, glue sticks, rulers are the supplies needed. We will have a box here at the church for donations and on the morning of August 1<sup>st</sup> transport our donations to Franklin Elementary School.

## COUNCIL CORNER

The Peace of The Lord Be With You,

Can you believe we're half way through summer already? My goodness, where does the time go? The days are already getting shorter. (Okay, maybe that's not good news.) If you've been behind the building lately you've noticed our playground has expanded by a geometric climbing dome and we still have to complete the tire swing. Once the tire swing is done the playground will be complete. (At least until Pastor Lori comes up with a new idea!) Once finished we plan on having a community get together to celebrate the playground and meet some of our neighbors.

We have been requested to increase our Mission Investment Fund payments by \$200 a month to \$800. I believe we can do this but we will need a congregational meeting to vote on this change. Watch for information about this meeting in upcoming announcements. It is important to have as many members at the meeting as possible. These meetings are our best way to keep the congregation informed about what is happening at St. Mark's and to get your input.

You may have notices that I have been doing a lot of lectionary reading lately. I don't mind doing readings but I hate to monopolize the podium. If you would be willing to read please let Pastor Lori or I know. Reading and communion assistant are simple ways of serving. We could also use a few more ushers. Please consider these opportunities to serve at St. Mark's.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller