

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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www.stmarksmadison.org

August 2014 NEWSLETTER

The Blessing of Change

This Newsletter is a little late. I was planning on sending it out last Friday but that was when our friend Tom Taves died. It is right, fitting and good that we put aside regularly scheduled activities to honor someone in death and celebrate their going home, to recognize that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even death.

We have worked hard this summer to remember that change is all around us and to determine what changes here at St. Mark's we want to realize. I have appreciated the input from our three strategy meetings. Because of these meetings the floor is almost finished, we will vote on our completed Congregational Profile at our fourth strategy meeting, the playground equipment arrives tomorrow, and beginning September 7th we will have our first ever "Child Friendly Worship" Service. In addition we continue to explore ways to be good stewards of this building. Change is all around us but these are changes that we feel good about. Thank you again for your input in these decisions.

We will have our fourth strategy meeting on August 17th – just next week-end. I am on vacation August 24th Rev. Jerry Folk will be leading worship on that day. The following week-end is Labor Day and then September 7th starts the fall program year.

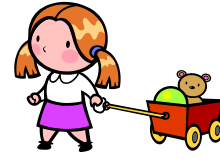
Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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Thank you Wagon Drive

The Wagon Drive was on August 2nd and the St. Mark's Food Pantry was once again the recipient of all the food collected. Thank you to all of the kids of the wagon drive and for this kid driven ministry. The food pantry has had many new guests this summer. Every donation helps!



St. Mark's Food Pantry and Garden



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

The Food Pantry Garden has been producing green beans, zucchini and tomatoes. In addition local farmers have been dropping off cucumbers, sweet corn and more zucchini. This is a great help as we have seen an increase in the number of families we have served this summer.

Financial Giving

July's Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1526.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 260.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd from FCBC	\$ 995.00	\$ 960.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Rent Rec'd from MOSES	\$175.00	
Dolly Matthews Memorial	\$1085.00	

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.

August 15th

August 17th

August 24th

September 7th

Putting Together the Playground

After Worship 4th Strategy Meeting

Rev. Jerry Folk in Worship

Child Friendly Worship



August 17th, After Worship Strategy Meeting

This will be our fourth and final strategy meeting for the summer. We need to vote on the Congregational Profile. We need to celebrate all that has been accomplished this summer. We will review the plans for the Child Friendly Worship Service to take place the first Sunday of every month. Come and be a part of this important discussion.



Bible Study – You Asked for It!

I have been trying to get a Bible Study off the ground for the past sixteen months. The question is always, when would we have it? Beginning September 21st we will have a monthly Bible Study following worship. If we begin at 10:45 and end by 11:30 everyone should make it home in time for the Packer game. If this time does not work, we will think of something else. We



Go to a Garage Sale! Supplies for Baby Care Kits

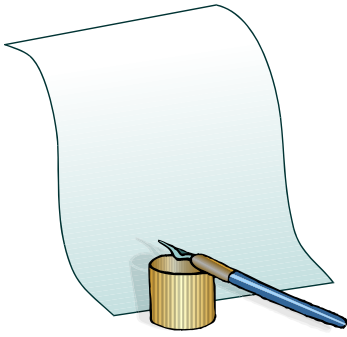
Betty Smith is reminding all of us of to collect items for the Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Service. As long as items are in good shape with no stains, they can be purchased used, from infant up to 2T. Baby blankets up to 52" square, four cloth diapers, one jacket or sweatshirt with a hood, one baby cap, two pairs of socks, one hand towel (dark recommended) two long or short sleeved gowns (without feet), two diaper pins or large safety pins, two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap in the original wrapper. After worship September 7th we will line the halls with tables and assemble the layettes. This is our way of participating in the denomination wide mission day, "God's work, Our hands on September 7th.

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday
Sept. 7, 2014**



From Bishop Eaton:

"Thank you for considering participation in the "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014. Whether we plant gardens in urban communities, write letters to soldiers and veterans or serve meals to people and families who are food insecure, we dedicate this day to be church together – as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – for the sake of the world."



Council Corner

The Peace of the Lord Be With You!

Instead of having Council meetings we have had our congregational strategy meetings. This has been a great way to accomplish the work we needed to this summer. Starting in the fall we will need to revisit what kind of leadership structure will work best for St. Mark's. Congregational meetings are great for input and information sharing. Council meetings are better able to handle some of the nitty gritty details of church life. Hopefully we will have time to discuss this at least a little at our meeting on August 17th.

On a personal note, on August 1st I was accepted into Candidacy for Associate in Ministry Program. This will take approximately two years and then I will be rostered. My focus is on Administration and I hope to help Pastor Lori with some of the administrative tasks here at the church. One of my responsibilities will probably be building management and interfacing with our various renters.

Bishop Mary sent out a letter to all congregations following the sentencing of our former Bishop, Bruce Burnside. I have posted in on the bulletin board. I continue to appreciate the ways Bishop Mary reaches out to pastor to all congregations.

Also posted on the bulletin board is a quote for light switches in bathrooms in the basement. Currently we have lights that are supposed to automatically go on when someone enters the bathroom and go off when there has not been movement. They work erratically. This quote from our electrician would address this situation by putting lights with switches back in the bathrooms.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller