

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

605 Spruce St. – Madison, WI 53715 – 608.256.8463

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September 2016 NEWSLETTER

New Beginnings

Fall is a paradox. It is a time of new beginnings and it is a time of endings. School children begin a new year of school in new classrooms with new teachers and new opportunities. Those of us who have outgrown the school schedule, still tend to find new jobs in the fall, take on new commitments and maybe sign up for a class after the more relaxing days of summer.

However, the growing season comes to an end. Our outside activities have to be modified. And something as simple as watching the leaves change colors on the trees remind us that life itself is always changing. Fall is a beautiful time and it can be a melancholy time.

Here at St. Mark's we have some very specific goals for fall. Whether we reach these goals or not will help us determine if we are at a new beginning or at a new ending.

On October 1st, the Synod is starting a renewal process with congregations that are interested in a new beginning. Five to seven volunteers from each congregation are needed to attend the workshop and take the information back to the congregations. This workshop begins the process to match congregations with coaches – something we have talked about. If you are able to attend, please let me know by September 18th. My hope has always been for St. Mark's to be renewed yet the process is always filled with a step forward and then a step backward. Participating in the Synod's Renewal Process through Connect would be a big step forward.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministries



This month we thank the Wagon Drive for including us in their "Back to School" collection.

A quick reminder that we do not give out expired food in the food pantry. If it is within a year, we put it in the hall and let people decide for themselves if they want to take it.

Financial Giving

July and August Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2255.00, \$1445.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 371.00 \$ 92.00	\$ 350.00
Rent from 7 th Day Adv	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00

- Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods \$737.50
- Rent Rec'd from MOSES \$175.00
- Rent for kitchen \$250
- Rent from Synod \$300

Thank you to members and friends who give generously to the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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.



September Birthdays

September 30 Kate Krueger

Strategic Planning for 2016 – Latest Updates

End of Summer Party Review: We successfully brought five families, new to the neighborhood together as we desired, giving them an opportunity to meet their neighbors. A HUGE thank you, thank you, thank you to Mina and Tony Esser for playing games with the children, to Norm Scoville for grilling, to Chris Scoville for bringing prizes, cookies and supervising games, to Lynn Miller for cleaning up the courtyard and putting fresh wood on one picnic table and staining the other two, to Debbie Thorp for bringing prizes, to Howard Mueller for helping with set-up and to our other volunteers from the food pantry that assisted us. It was an important event for us to accomplish.

This Sunday is God's Work our Hands Sunday:

For the 3rd year in a row we are putting together layettes after worship. Bring cloth diapers and bars of either Ivory soap or another gentle soap for this activity.

Fall Program Schedule begins September 18th from Noon until 2:00

Messy Church: a program for families who want to introduce their children to church. It includes lunch, a story and activities to help us learn about the story.

Book Study: Using Jim Wallis's book, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge Forward*. Lunch will be provided. Let the office know if you would like a book.

Activities from the South Central Synod

We need 5 to 7 volunteers for Connect. Read this paragraph and think about signing up!

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is Proud to Present: "CONNECT!" Connect is a unique, two-year process for developing a strategy for your congregation's future. It is a renewal process that strives to empower congregations to grow spiritually, discover their gifts as a congregation, and live out their faith in the community by sharing the gifts with which they have been blessed. The first session will be held Saturday, October 1. For more information and/or to register, contact DEM, Rev. Erik Jelinek

Women's Synod Wide Event Hosted by the SCSW Women of the ELCA The Cracked Pots & Transformations Saturday, September 24, 2016 Join women from around the synod for a day of learning and sharing! LOCATION: Good Shepherd – West Lutheran Church 7291 County Highway PD, Verona