

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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September 2014 NEWSLETTER

God's Preference for the Poor and Oppressed

Following the story of Moses through the book of Exodus offers some interesting insights as we struggle with the work of justice. According to one of the speakers on Sunday at the Rally for Ferguson, Missouri our country is more divided by race than at any other time since 1968. This issue is a particularly difficult one here in Madison, Wisconsin. The Annie E. Casey Foundation spearheaded a study titled "Race for Results" that looked at twelve indicators of success for black children. Wisconsin scored the lowest making it the worst place in America to raise a black child. It is a difficult issue. We would be mindful to pay attention to God's willingness to stand with the Israelites as they made their way to the Promised Land and see the parallels between Israel's liberation and the work of racial justice in this country. God always stands with the poor and the oppressed.

It is also important to think of our own behavior. On the one hand, I was not comfortable teaching my brown boys to put their hands in the air and chant, "Don't shoot" as they did at the rally. In part because young adults with autism and Down syndrome have also been treated harshly and died at the hands of police. On the other hand, it is important to be mindful of the privileges we have simply because of our white skin.

One of the great benefits of knowing the Bible is having a sense of how God works and has worked in history, in understanding why God stands with the poor and the oppressed. This is one of the reasons I am excited about our upcoming Bible Study on September 21st. We will be using Brian McClaren's new book, *We Make the Road By Walking*. Brian's book is fifty-two chapters (if we did a once a week Bible study we could do the whole Bible in a year) "that gives an overview of the Biblical story and a fresh introduction or re-introduction to the Christian faith".

We are going to begin with doing Bible Study once a month after worship on the third Sunday of every month. The first Sunday of every month is a Child Friendly Worship Service – the third Sunday of every month is Bible study. I look forward to learning together.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Pantry and Garden



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

This month I want to give a great big thank you and shout out to our wonderful food pantry volunteers. We have changed some things around this past year and they have done a wonderful job of responding. We are getting more food in – and out – to the people who need it. Our food pantry volunteers are gracious and kind to each guest. Cari Chadwick, Dennis Doren, Pat Kreitzman, Barb Zimmerman, and Louie Larsen make up the Tuesday crew. Cari Chadwick, Ryan Pierce, Jennifer and Tawyme Lindsley, Beth Werner and Kathy Schulting make up the Thursday crew. They are terrific!

Financial Giving

August Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2350.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 357.00	\$ 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	
Tom Taves Memorial	\$65.00	

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.

September 21, 2014

Bible Study from Genesis to Revelations using Brian McClaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, after worship.



Playground Update:

After weeks of working on it the first part of the playground is completed. The climbing dome is about \$200. It has not been purchased yet as a few of the air conditioning compressors went out in August and needed to be replaced. Also we were unable to get free mulch and therefore will be purchasing mulch in the near future. We will finish this playground. Already the climbing structure creates a more welcoming place for families. This playground was made possible by the Dolly Matthews Memorials. I look forward to completing this project in the near future.

Bible Study, September 21st

On Sunday the 21st, following worship we will begin Brian McClaren's book, *We Make the Road by Walking*. It is intended to help congregations read the entire Bible in a year if they are participating in a weekly Bible study. We will begin with once a month but just maybe we will get so excited by the stories we will be able to consider twice a month in the near future. These books can be ordered from Amazon.com.

Thank you to all who participated in God's Work, Our Hands

We put together 32 layettes which will be sent off in October with other layettes and quilts assembled by area ELCA congregations. They will then be sent to areas of need around the world. A special thanks to Betty Smith and Debbi Thorp for putting this mission project together. Thank you!

Council Corner

Just a few notes for this month: the basement floor is almost completed. The tiles are down. I have plastered and repainted the walls where it has needed it. The molding will come soon. The biggest part of the playground is done. I will be spending the next few months continuing to update myself on Quick Books and creating more comprehensive financial reports. I am glad God has given us this ministry to share together! Lynn Miller, Council President



September Birthdays

Sept. 7th Darren Schoer
Sept. 18th Rose Brown
Sept. 27th Joanne Kessler
Sept. 30th Kate Krueger

(Birthday file found!)