

# 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)

September 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Gratitude

The book of James is one of the best resources on how to live a Christian life. The book of James, while initially penned by the brother of Jesus was finalized by input from the community that followed Jesus. James, the original author may not even have lived long enough to see the final edition.

James tells us that all good gifts are from God and to live lives of gratitude. Some people have a gratitude journal where they write down five things they are grateful for each day. Some people just pray the word, “thanks”.

There is some thought that there is more frustration and anxiety in our nation now than at any other time in recent history. Many of our nation's institutions that once worked, no longer do so. What foundational pieces can we count on? While the church universal might be going through changes, our relationships with God are as they have always been. Daily gratitude is one way of reminding ourselves of this and keeping ourselves open to God's loving presence. It doesn't mean we aren't sometimes anxious or worried about what is going on around us but our perspective is bigger than the present times. We can also contribute to calm and rational problem solving when we are anchored in God.

In a mindset of gratitude, I am grateful to God for the enduring ministry of St. Mark's and all who do their part to keep the ministries healthy.

This includes our upcoming Rummage Sale! Next spring curb and gutters come to the neighborhood. We are having a Rummage Sale, October 10<sup>th</sup> to get a head start on paying the \$7000 this will cost St. Mark's. Details in the newsletter.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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# St. Mark's Food Pantry



Potatoes, apples and sweet corn have been the highlights of the Food Pantry the past few weeks. We have gained a few new volunteers for Tuesday morning but are still in need of a volunteer for the second Thursday of each month. On Thursdays we open the waiting room at 5:30, unpack the farmer's market vegetables and are ready for guests at 5:45. We close at 7:30 on Thursdays. If you know someone looking for a volunteer experience, pass the word.

## Financial Giving

### August Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2855.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 203.00	\$ 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	
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.



## August Birthdays

Sept. 7                      Darren Schoer  
Sept. 30                     Kate Krueger

## **God's Work – Our Hands September 6<sup>th</sup>!**

On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, during fellowship time we will put together the layette kits as our project for God's Work, Our Hands. We have done this the last two years. Last year we assembled 40 kits. Each kit needs, 2 t-shirts, 2 gowns or sleepers without feet, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers, 1 sweater with baby cap or jacket with hood, 2 bath bars of gentle soap, 2 diaper pins and 2 pairs of socks. Gently used, clean items can be used instead of new.

## **Info Meeting about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome – Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders happen in WI, yet there is very little recognition of the life-long effects of the brain impairments resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure, and there are even fewer services for adults with FASD. There is planned a very interesting and important all day event to discuss awareness and services for adults with FASD. Please call Jackie for more info at: 414-365-8839 or website at [www.orchidsfasdservices.org](http://www.orchidsfasdservices.org).

Further questions contact Mina and Tony Esser, [minatony@charter.net](mailto:minatony@charter.net)

## **“The Spirit Awakening the Church” with Diana Butler Bass – September 20**

**Time: 2:30 – 6:00 pm – First Congregational Church – Watertown -**

**If You Go: First Congregational UCC is located at: 120 Kuckkan Lane, Watertown**

Diana Butler Bass is a well-known author, speaker and scholar specializing in American religion and culture. A reviewer says of *Christianity After Religion*, "**Diana Butler Bass offers a fresh interpretation of the spiritual, but not religious trend. She shares a hope-filled vision of an awakening society, suggests how the church can participate and points to indicators that we are on a meaningful journey toward the future.**"

Butler Bass holds a PhD in religions studies and has authored eight books, including her most recent book,

*Christianity after Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening.*

Early bird price: \$20 before September 1. For more information or to register, call the Church:

**Phone: 920-261-6213**

## **New! Diakonia Program**

***“Let the one who would be great among you be your servant (Diakonos).”***

In a nutshell...this two-year program will help you to become the best follower of Jesus you can be! You will learn more about what it means to share the love of Jesus with others and practical ways to use your gifts to do that within your congregation, your neighborhood and the world. **Starting September 12 - Yes, there is Still Time to Register!**

The classes will be held at St. Mark's, 605 Spruce Street, Madison, WI.

Please register by September 10 by contacting Barb Zimmerman at 608-535-0264.

## **You Are Invited to a Discussion on Faith & Firearms – Saturday, Sept. 19 - 4:00 – 5:30 pm Lake Edge United Church of Christ, 4200 Buckeye Road, Madison**

A Presentation by Dr. Michael Chan, Professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary in St.

Paul, MN The conversation around guns in America suffers from a lack of deep listening and productive conversation, especially when it comes to talking with those with differing viewpoints than our own. As people of faith, it is all the more important that we learn how to engage in contentious conversations in ways that are respectful, loving and productive. Join this conversation where every voice, respectfully spoken, is recognized.