

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

January 2015 NEWSLETTER

A New Year

We had fifteen visitors in the month of December. There is much excitement around our January 10th performance of *Old Befana, A Magical Epiphany Musical* as offered by Ken Lonquist and Friends. If you are not familiar with Ken you should Google him. He is a Madison resident offering all kinds of music but his children's music is some of the best you will hear. It is creative and offers more musical sophistication than other children's music. It won't drive you crazy – always a plus in children's music. We have new volunteers in the Food Pantry that have brought much enthusiasm. All of this makes me excited about what 2015 will be like for St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

We want to bring the best parts of our past into the future but we also want to be open, allowing change where necessary. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Aslan reminded the children, "Things never happen the same way twice". Life is always changing and we want to be free to enjoy new ways of being faithful, new ways of being the church.

One of the most important things we can do collectively is find new ways to offer hospitality. Everyone can welcome visitors. We can offer our name, ask them their name and say what we like about worshipping at St. Mark's. One of the benefits of being a small church is that we can be a little more real – visitors can be who they are without needing to put forth their "best" behavior. The point of worship is praise and communion with our God. The best way for any of us to be in worship is to be open and authentic. God does love us just as we are.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and seeing how God leads us in 2015.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Pantry



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

We had our Annual Food Pantry inspection by CAC in December. Some of the changes we have made in the food pantry regarding food distribution were well received. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, the inspection went very well. We are no longer a small food pantry but have become a medium sized food pantry as we have increased food distribution by thirty per cent in the past year. We are able to sustain this, in part because of the congregations that regularly collect food for us. They are St. Matthews New Life Lutheran Church, All Saints Lutheran Church, Midvale Lutheran Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church.

Financial Giving

December Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2595.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$1779.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd from FCBC	\$	\$ 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 for kitchen use	\$505	

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.



January Birthdays

Jan. 6 Isaac Powell Miller
Jan. 21 Alex Andino
Jan. 24 Mason JonasKrueger

*Attached is a flyer for **Old Befana, a Magical Epiphany Musical** for January 10th at 6:30 PM. Please share this flyer with friends. The flyer has been posted on the Madison Metropolitan School District Website as well as several other websites. On Dec. 29th our neighbor Rob Summerball, Lynn, Lori, Isaac and Tony took flyers house to house in the neighborhood. Let's make this a community building/neighborhood building fun activity that welcomes folks to St. Mark's!*



From the Council President:

The Peace of The Lord Be With You,

It's a new year and a new beginning. St. Mark's has been blessed by God's loving grace and many friends during the past year. We've made remarkable progress with a new basement floor, the start of a playground, the addition of MOSES as a renter and new benches for outside. We have also received many gifts for our ongoing missions. The food pantry has been fortunate to get donations from friends. Trinity Lutheran Church on Washington Island has contributed clothing for distribution to those in need. Jim Benz has kept us supplied with apples and many of our members have contributed their time and talent to help keep St. Mark's alive and well.

We are grateful for the many blessing we have received and continue to receive. Yet there is still more to be done. To continue our work we need your help. St. Mark's is about service – to our community, to our neighbors by providing food and clothing and to our worshipping community. I have asked before and I am asking again. We need ushers and lay readers. It would also be great to have a few volunteers available for snow shoveling and for cutting grass. Please consider helping in any way you can. There will be an usher and reader sign up on the bulletin board. Please consider adding your name to any date(s) that you are available and volunteering for any activity you can help with. Together we can make 2015 a great year!

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller