

# 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)

October 2014 NEWSLETTER

## Building Relationships

A good friend to St. Mark's and the Friday Meal died on Sunday. I was here the first day he walked through our doors, over three years ago. I had dropped something off for Pastor Mary and was sitting on the couches in the welcome area chatting with her when Dave Thoreson walked in. He said he was a recently retired Air Force Lt. Colonel and he wanted to volunteer. He assured us that he would be a good volunteer. Every Friday from then on, Dave, also known as Air Force Guy was present at the Friday Meal doing his part to create hospitality for our noon guests.

We will miss Dave. He wasn't a great cook. Sometimes when he heard a hard luck story he would give the teller of the story cash even if it wasn't in the story teller's best interest. He loved talking and sometimes talked more than he worked. And yet, we will miss Dave. When the rubber met the road, he could always be counted on. He always showed up.

There is an old adage about life suggesting that it is enough to simply show up. It may not always seem like enough but it is a large and powerful first step. It is committing to being in relationship and taking the work seriously.

Relationships happen here at St. Mark's when we show up – even if we aren't sure what our contribution is. Through God's guiding spirit, the first step, just showing, is the beginning of community. Dave was a member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Fitchburg. He loved his church and talked often about the good work they are doing. Still, Dave both enriched and was enriched by the community we have here. With his death we are reminded of how important relationships are and how the first step is always, just showing up.

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.

The Food Pantry has been blessed the past six weeks with donations from the Middleton Farmer's Market. Fresh produce is always a big hit with our guests at the Food Pantry. Now that harvest season is winding down, we are back to needing vegetables. Onions, carrots and celery are always welcome and as the days get colder are a great beginning to many soups.

## Financial Giving

### August Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$17850.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 262.00	\$ 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	

**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.

## October Birthdays



Oct. 7 Jackson Schoer  
Oct. 7 John Kessler  
Oct. 9 Bonnie McCulley  
Oct. 25 Kathrine Moore  
Oct. 28 Sandy Fowler  
Oct. 28 Cindy Johnson

## **Special Worship Services in October**

### **October 5<sup>th</sup>**

Child Friendly Worship Service

Shorter liturgy, fun songs, abbreviated worship service – a perfect opportunity to introduce young children to worship.

### **October 12<sup>th</sup>**

Bring your dog, cat, parakeet or whatever pet graces your life for a blessing in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi. If your pet becomes anxious in group settings, bring a photo of your pet and they will still be blessed.

### **October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Karen Grinder, guest accompanist



### **From the Council President,**

The Peace of the Lord is With You!

Ready or not fall is officially here! The trees are changing color, there is a crispness in the air, school is back in full swing (Thank God!), and our "snowbirds" are planning to return to the warmer southern climate. As always, we will miss them! My summer was busier than I thought it would be. Lori kept me occupied with jobs at church. Working on the basement hallway floor, building a playground, grass cutting and lots of other small, but necessary, jobs. With the cooler weather my jobs haven't stopped, just changed focus. I am currently learning Quicken so I can record and retrieve financial data. We need this information for our friends at MIF who are keeping track of how we are doing with our loan. Happily, our financial health has improved enough to keep up monthly MIF payments. True, we aren't making full payments but at least we are making regular payment. We also need better financial data so we can budget more accurately. Our former method of throwing darts at a board to determine our budget was more fun but less practical. Better budgeting will keep us on firmer financial footing and help us develop a more realistic budget.

This fall we would like to finish the playground (install a climbing dome), get new signage for the church and install the trim around the basement hallway. We have made great progress at St. Mark's but there is still much to be done. I encourage you to think about ways you can help by offering your time and talent. We continue to need lay readers, ushers and council members. Please consider how you might serve as we head into the cooler months ahead. Have a great fall!

Yours in Christ,  
Lynn Miller