

# 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 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Football and Faith:

It is football season; Friday night high school teams play, Saturday college teams play and on Sundays the pros play. I hope those of you who are not football fans are enjoying endless Sunday afternoon walks through the colorful autumn leaves and all the other terrific parts of fall the football fans are missing.

For non-football fans, Russell Wilson is the quarterback for the Seattle Seahawk's and a former Badger. As long as he isn't playing against the Packers, he is a great guy and has an earnest faith. He believes God has blessed the Seattle Seahawks. Aaron Rodgers, the quarterback for the Green Bay Packers has suggested that God does not care so much about the outcome of football games. I don't know what his spiritual life is like but he is effective in using his star status to support others. I believe that God loves them both with an infinite love that does not have loyalties to a particular football team. God loves us with that some amazing, endless, life sustaining kind of love. Regardless of who wins what games, we are loved. That should feel like a win but sometimes we also want the kind of validation for our hard work and talents that winning a game can provide. Sometimes we let external success determine our self-worth.

Fall is a season to put things to rest. Let us put to rest a false sense of success, let us put to rest our overly critical personal evaluations, let us put to rest the belief that we are only as good as other people think we are. Let us enjoy the beauty that is all around us as we prepare for the fallow season. In the space that opens up, may we find new ways of discovering God's infinite love for us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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October 10<sup>th</sup>!
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## St. Mark's Food Pantry



The food pantry this month has benefitted from many generous food deliveries. In the near future we will need to discuss a fundraising event to enhance the Food Ministries budget. Still waiting to hear whether we have been given an ELCA World Hunger Food grant.

### Financial Giving

#### September Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2085.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 232.00	\$ 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.

#### October Birthdays



Oct. 25 Kathrine Moore  
Oct. 25 Cedarose Keeley  
Oct. 28 Sandy Fowler  
Oct. 28 Cyndi Johnson

#### Rummage Sale – October 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Thank you to all who have dropped off stuff for the Rummage Sale. It's not too late to clean those closets, basements, and garages and add to our**

**growing inventory! A sign up sheet is in the narthex for volunteers able to work the sale.**

**Baked goods are also needed for the bake sale part of the sale. Talk to Pastor Lori if you have items to drop off.**

## **Around the Synod**

### **Aid European Partners Assisting Refugees**

From 9/23/15 ELCA press release: As ministers of the European Union consider a plan this week for countries to receive and settle refugees streaming in from the Middle East and Africa, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to support the humanitarian efforts of its European companion Lutheran churches and partners, as they assist people seeking refuge now and anticipate their needs for the coming winter. Read the full story: <http://www.elca.org/Newsand-Events>

### **Alleviating Poverty: Who's Responsible? Sunday, October 11 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Join Wisconsin Council of Churches and sponsors for this two hour highly interactive forum as they bring together diverse leaders from Madison's faith community to:

- learn about poverty in Wisconsin;
- consider theologically the role of individual and collective responsibility in alleviating poverty; and
- seek common ground for solutions.

Theological Reflections offered by:

- Pastor Nic Gibson, High Point Church, Madison
- Fr. D. Jonathan Grieser, Grace Episcopal Church, Madison
- Bishop Harold Rayford, Faith, Hope & Love Family Church, Madison

High Point Church, Micah Center

7702 Old Sauk Rd, Madison

### **Author of Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory, and Faith to Speak October 18 & 19 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Brookfield**

Heidi Neumark is an author, speaker and Lutheran pastor who has served congregations in the South Bronx and presently in Manhattan. Her experiences in congregational and community organizing in the Bronx led to a highly acclaimed book, *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, winner of the 2004 Wilbur Award given by the Religion Communicators Council. Her latest book, *Hidden Inheritance* is scheduled for release in October 2015. She writes regularly for the *Christian Century* and other journals. In her present position, Pastor Neumark also serves as the executive director of a shelter for homeless LGBTQ youth.

**Book Talk 1:00 pm-2:30 pm – Fellowship Hall.**

**Monday Oct. 19th**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**145 E. Lisbon Rd.**

**Oconomowoc, WI 53066**

**Book Talk 7:30pm – 9:00**