

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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November 2016 NEWSLETTER

A Re-forming Faith

This month starts a year-long celebration marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. I have to be honest; the people most excited about this celebration are the Lutherans. The Reform traditions (this includes the UCC) are acknowledging this event but it is the Lutherans who are enthusiastic. The year-long celebration will end October 31, 2017 – five hundred years from the actual date Martin Luther nailed his list of grievances onto the door of the chapel.

We acknowledge that churches make mistakes. We can empathize with the passion of Martin Luther. Most of his ninety-five complaints were against the church's practice of selling indulgences. If you paid the church a certain amount of money, your sins would be forgiven and you could go to heaven. At the time, the Vatican wanted to build a huge church in honor of God – what would become St. Peter's Basilica. Lutherans call this cheap grace – the thought that one could buy one's way into heaven. One cannot buy one's way into the life of God – it is open and available for all.

Some say the church is experiencing another reformation as we re-form our congregations and our faith lives to more authentically follow God.

If there is one thing you could change about church, one part that makes us less faithful rather than more faithful, what would that be? Or, what is the one thing church's can do but do not? Should we post these on our door?

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministries



As we approach the holidays, we are looking for Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and any other group that would like to do a food drive. Families are always look for special items during the holidays and this is a great way to make that happen. The federal commodities have become more healthy, less salt, dried and unsweetened fruit which is great for people on special diets.

Financial Giving

September Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$ 2020.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 75.00	\$ 350.00
Rent from 7 th Day Adv	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods \$737.50		
Rent Rec'd from MOSES \$175.00		
Rent for kitchen \$55		

Thank you to members and friends who give generously to the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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.



November Birthdays

November 12 Esther Gabriel

November 17 Tony Powell Miller

November 29 Norm Scoville

Strategic Planning for 2016 – Latest Updates

Connect:

Oct. 1: A fun and gracious team from St. Mark's attended the first Connect Retreat. We read three passages from Acts and looked at the beginnings of the early church. These Bible studies were the beginnings of conversations about the hopes of the new church and how these hopes parallel our own. It was a good retreat and we came home with two important thoughts: 1) We want a Hospitality Ministry not a Food Ministry. 2) As with the calling of the first seven deacons, we need people focused on caring for the congregation and people focused on reaching out.

Oct. 23rd: Completed our October homework. The focus of our Connect efforts is, "to grow spiritually as a way of preparing ourselves to reach out to the neighborhood and community".

Oct. 25th: Lori met with Rob Nelson, pastor of New Heights Lutheran Church and our church coach. One thing to focus on is "safe points of entry" for people who have not been church or have had a disappointing church experience.

Book Study on November 6th

The book study, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and a Bridge to the Future* continues on November 6th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. A sack lunch is served. There are important videos on the sojo.net website interviewing young black men and their experience of being stopped by the police. Viewing some of these videos can be a helpful part of the conversation.

Activities from the South Central Synod

Worship With Us! The Synod Staff Invites You To Worship with Holy Communion Every Thursday at 12:00 noon. Each week, we gather with others from our synod for Word and Meal. The gospel is shared and different pastors in our synod serve as the preacher each week. Please join us for this mid-week time for worship that will leave you restored and renewed! Bring your brown bag lunch as we enjoy fellowship at 12:30. We are located at: 6401 Odana Road, Suite 20, Madison

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2017 – Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30, 2017

Madison Marriott West – PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

Recurring positive feedback about our assemblies is clear and positive...attending assemblies helps our leaders feel more connected to the larger church and God's kingdom. This is an important way to walk together, so save the dates on your calendars today! Remember these dates so you don't schedule your baccalaureate or wedding or anything that requires a pastor. All pastors in a call are expected to attend Synod Assemblies and should be thinking of lay leaders who would benefit from having a bigger church view by attending assembly and being a voice in our shared work. Plan ahead!