

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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[www.stmarksmadison.org](http://www.stmarksmadison.org)

November 2014 NEWSLETTER

## Thanksgiving

I have a list of what I call my “Amazing Graces”. Opportunities or circumstances or something that happened to me that helped me find my path in life. For example, growing up in a small farm town was an “amazing grace”. It felt like we had the whole world to play in while I was growing up giving us confidence, and nurturing a sense of adventure and curiosity.

When I went off to college I lucked into a job in the Student Union which allowed me the opportunity to make friends with everyone who walked through the Student Union. On Saturday nights it was a great way to make money as well as study. I worked at a church when I was in college and for reasons that made no sense to me, the pastor asked me to lead the Adult Bible study. I learned that age doesn't matter when we earnestly seek to know God's Word and strive to live faithful lives. These were “amazing graces”.

As one would expect, I consider the adoption of Isaac and Tony, as well as meeting their father, my husband, Lynn as “amazing graces”. It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time. For all the hurt and turmoil that comes with living and being in relationship with very fallible humans, it matters that we count our “amazing graces”, the blessings that have come to us along the way.

On Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are having a Service of Gratitude. The word “thanksgiving” is listed sixty-nine times in the Bible. If we add the words gratitude and grateful the feeling of gratefulness is listed much more than sixty-nine times..

What are your “amazing graces”? What are the blessings that have helped you find your way even when you have had to walk the rocky path and were not sure where it would end?

Let us be thankful for the many ways God comes to us this season.

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 Clothing Give-a-way (for lack of a better term)**

distributed more than two hundred items of clothing this past week. There are still many brand new baby clothes thanks to the wonderful people from Trinity Lutheran Church on Washington Island. They give us the clothes to distribute as our location is easier to get to than theirs – no ferrys for us!. ☺

### **Financial Giving**

#### **October Giving Summary**

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1865.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 296.89	\$ 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	
Memorials	\$100	

**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.



### **November Birthdays**

Nov. 12 Esther Gabriel  
Nov. 16 Pam Bradford  
Nov. 17 Tony Powell Miller  
Nov. 26 Tom Alesia  
Nov. 29 Norm Scoville

## **Special Worship Services in November** **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

This is both a Child Friendly Worship Service as well as All Saints Day. We will light candles in remembrance of those who have died this past year.

## **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Service of Gratitude

Thanksgiving may be a made up holiday but if we are happier when we live grateful lives. This service will be joyful and inspiring.



**Daylight Savings Time Begins Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Sleep in and come to church!**

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

The Peace Of The Lord Be With You,

Have you ever noticed how, as you get older, the time seems to fly faster? Here we are in November already. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas isn't very far behind. Personally, I find this to be a time of year when I feel both a little melancholy and, at the same time, excited about the upcoming Holidays. I feel melancholy when I think of the friends and family that have passed on to their heavenly home this past year. And I'm excited when I think with anticipation of the joy that comes with the holiday season.

We've lost several good friends at St. Mark's this year and my brother passed away last May. It's difficult during the holiday season to think about friends and family that are no longer with us. That, of course, tends to put a damper on our spirits and increases our longing for those that have joined their heavenly family. In Matthew 11:28 we read "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." It is on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> that we celebrate All Saints Day by remembering those who have passed to their heavenly home this year. I invite each of you to come to church and light a candle for friends and family who have passed into eternal life with the Father this year. Come celebrate and honor the lives of people who have been a part of both our church and personal lives.

Yours in Christ,  
Lynn Miller