

# 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)

November 2017 NEWSLETTER

## Gratitude

Dear Friends:

It is common knowledge by now that simply being grateful, being thankful and expressing gratitude is good for us. There are more than forty research studies that look at how thankfulness impacts our health and well-being. Of course, we can't just say the words and expect the results. We have to put some effort into being grateful. We can pray words of thanksgiving to God or we can write in a gratitude journal. I always enjoy gratitude journals posted on Facebook. I can see who else is grateful for the scent of pine trees or the smell of really good coffee and I feel more connected to these friends.

I am grateful for a faith community that doesn't feel hindered by its size but continues to be faithful in mission. That is actively taking on the challenge of the basement without asking anyone to "save" us, confident that God has equipped us for the task.

I am grateful for a worshipping community that is willing to explore outside of the box as we imagine new ways to be in worship. It enriches my spiritual life to find new ways to praise God.

I am grateful for the volunteers who show up on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and other mission days and give themselves to the ministry of this church. We are connected to many people (one hundred every week!) who come here offering themselves while others receive what they need. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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# St. Mark's Food Ministry



**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry continues to have a high volume of visitors, many of them new. While unemployment rates are low in Madison, many of the new jobs are service jobs with low wages. These are the folks who are coming to the food pantry. People with employment but are not making a living wage. It is an important ministry to provide them with enough food to tide them over once a month.

**Friday Meal:** The Friday Meal has enjoyed a surplus of vegetables. Participants always express gratitude for vegetables that are not canned.

There will not be a Friday Meal the Friday after Thanksgiving this year. we have a history of not providing food on this day but this is something we may want to reconsider in the future.

## Financial Giving

### October Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$3445.50	\$2200.00
Friends	\$ 62.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd 7th Day	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
Rent Rec'd Foods Mins	\$ 737.50	\$ 737.50
Rent Rec'd MOSES	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Chef Joel	25.00	

**We have received some extra funds for the waterproofing of the basement. Thank you! And thank you to members and friends who support the ministry of St. Mark's.**

### November Birthdays

November 9 Shawn Petersmark-

November 12 - Esther Gabriel

November 17 Tony Powell Miller

November 29 Norm Scoville



## **Connect to Mission:**

As a part of our Connect Program we are invited to find new ways of praying together as a congregation. Last Sunday during our Reformation Service we had three different prayer stations. We are going to continue to explore different kinds of prayer stations in the next few months. Erik Jelinek, the Director of Missions will be meeting with us on December 16th to talk about the Connect Program and our process going forward.

## **Work Day November 11 9:00 to Noon (or completion). Come join us!**

To prepare for Badger Basement we need to temporarily remove the wheelchair ramp in the Fellowship Hall. Dave Hart, Lynn Miller, and Debbie Thorp have looked at it and are beginning the process of thinking through how to do this but other experts are greatly welcomed. For those not working on the ramp, there are also smaller projects. **All are welcome!** We cannot work in the Sanctuary as our rental church will be in worship. Coffee and donuts or bagels will be provided.

## **Thanksgiving Service November 26th**

This is our regular worship service but there will be some “congregational participation”. It should be a fun way to end the week-end in which we focus on gratitude. This is also a “Sing a New Song Sunday” - let us know if you need the music turned down a little. As much fun as it is learning new songs, we want the experience to be good for everyone.

## **Worship on Sunday, November 19th Focus on Immigration:**

The ELCA has a long history of providing support to refugees. On this Sunday we will focus on the work of our local Synod as well as think about how Jesus would respond.



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## **Around the Synod**

1. Boundary Training for Church Leaders, Wednesday November 15th. All Day Workshop.
2. Statement on Refugees by Bishop Mary of early “retirement”. Bishop Mary had a mild heart attack several weeks ago. She is doing fine but has put out an announcement that she will be leaving her term early. She and her husband would like to move closer to Minneapolis where their children live.