

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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December 2014 NEWSLETTER

Advent into Christmas

The Advent Season is about preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ into the world again. As we follow the Revised Common Lectionary, the Year B begins Sunday, November 30th. Through the texts assigned to year B we learn about *why* the coming of Christ is so important. This isn't the year when we ponder with Mary the magnitude of her story. This isn't the year when Joseph struggles with his choices. This is the year when we read about the darkness in the Bible stories as a way to see the darkness in our times.

There is darkness in Ferguson, Missouri between the police and the protestors. There is darkness when communities choose a military style of police enforcement rather than a community police enforcement strategy. There is darkness when corporations refuse to pay their employees a living wage while reaping profits. There is darkness when politicians refuse to work together. Into this darkness Christ comes, leading the way in articulating a different vision for how God's people can live together. This is the light! *We* carry this light with Christ.

The great civil rights leader Howard Thurman wrote a Christmas poem that describes the work of Christmas. The work we do all year long in confronting the darkness, working our way through the darkness, and finding hope in the darkness. It is the ministry of Jesus Christ. A hymn was written using Howard Thurman's Christmas poem. The refrain is:

*I am the light of the world.
You people come and follow me,
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

As we work our way through the darkness, we put our hope in the light of the world who comes to us on Christmas Day!

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Pantry



Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon & Thursday 5:45-7:45 p.m.

We are very grateful to Thrivent Lutheran for giving the Food Pantry fifty four turkeys for the Thanksgiving holiday. On the day we handed out the turkeys (recipients had to register with the Food Pantry during the month of November) We also served twenty-five families. Whew! That we continue to have enough food to feed the families coming to the Food Pantry is a lesson in God's bounty.

On Sunday December 7th I will have Thank You cards for the congregation to sign for all of the volunteers in the Food Pantry whose good nature and dedicated efforts make it all work.

Financial Giving

October Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1345.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 345.00	\$ 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	
Rent for kitchen use	\$250	
Fundraising	\$550	

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.



December Birthdays

Dec. 4 Mel Gabriel
Dec. 11 Betty Smith
Dec. 18 Julie Horst
Dec. 21 Keefe Keeley



Just Carols and Cookies

December 14th at 4:00 everyone is invited to come and just sing Christmas songs and eat cookies. This is way better than shopping! Just an hour of singing the songs we love to help us appreciate the season. This is an event to invite **EVERYONE** to. I will be getting out a flyer this week that you can hand out to neighbors, friends, co-workers. It's an easy invite because it is *just* carols and cookies. Seriously, how much fun is that?! Let me know if you would like to bake some Christmas cookies for this event.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

4:00 December 24th Family Candlelighting Service



Church President Activities:

Okay, so Lynn did not get an article in for December. He has changed out twenty-five light bulbs including the ones in the sanctuary. He has put new ballasts in the fellowship hall lights to make the room brighter. He scraped off the peeling paint in the kitchen, plastered in the holes and painted it. It looks so much better! He did the same with the wall under the west stairs. He put new gas in the snow blowers and new salt by each of the doors along with snow shovels. He is figuring out what project he would like to offer as a part of his *Associate in Ministry* status – sounds like a community-wide Bible study in the Alpha tradition. He didn't get an article in but I'm going to give him credit for all of his hard work during the month of November, Thanks, Lynn. May you someday get the nap you deserve.