

# 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)

December 2015 NEWSLETTER

## The Meaning of Christmas:

It is difficult to connect our cultural celebration of Christmas with the high holy day of the Christian church. The Christian celebration nourishes my soul and reminds me of God's great love for humankind. The cultural celebration can be fun but it can also be tiring and stressful. When Isaac was small he believed Christmas Eve was a separate holiday from Christmas Day. He liked Christmas Eve because that was the night we went to church to hear the story about how the angels sang because a baby was born. On Christmas Day, people exchanged presents. It was fun but entirely different than remembering when the angels sang.

Maybe the most inspirational and nourishing way to celebrate Christmas is by participating in simple and focused events, by being less frantic and more purposeful. By asking the question; what can I do today to that honors the person of Jesus Christ. What event can I support, what time can I give, what donation would be a worthy choice to celebrate the coming of Jesus and his message for all. It is difficult to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas, choosing when and how we celebrate may help.

Join us in worship the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> to hear Rev. Bryan Sirchio share songs of peace, justice and God's inclusive love.

Join Betty Smith on December 12<sup>th</sup> at her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party – details in the newsletter.

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 we will once again do Carols and Cookies, simply singing Christmas songs and eating cookies.

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 is our Lessons and Carols Worship Service.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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## St. Mark's Food Pantry



Typically an organization will organize free turkeys for food pantries and the food pantry of St. Mark's always participates. This year, there were no turkeys to give. We did have other food items we generously shared with the guests of the food pantry.

The food pantry is low and donations to the pantry or a food drive would be appreciated. Know a Girl Scout or Boy Scout Troup that needs a project? Have them contact me at either [stmarks@tds.net](mailto:stmarks@tds.net) or 256-8463, Lori.

### Financial Giving

#### November Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1755.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 316.00	\$ 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	
Misc. Rent	\$315	
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.

### December Birthdays



Dec. 4th Mel Gabriel  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Betty Smith  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Julie Horst  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Keefe Keeley



## Happy Birthday Betty Smith!!

On Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Betty turns 90 years old. Come and help us celebrate!

Location: Clarion Suites at the Alliant Energy Center  
2110 Rimrock Rd

Date: Dec 12, 2015

Time: 1-5 pm

Please, no gifts. Any donations can be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church or to their food pantry.  
RSVP to Debbie at 608-255-2289



### **Sermon in a Song is coming Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**

The first "Sermon in a Song" Sunday is Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Rev Bryan Sirchio will be in worship sharing songs about God's love, justice and peace. **Bring a friend! This will be fun!**

### **The Conversation on Race – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Update:**

Forty-five people from the Bay Creek Neighborhood came together with representatives from MOSES, MUM, and YGB to talk about systemic racism in Madison and what each of us can do to create a more just society. It was a good conversation. I am grateful we could host it – there may be further conversations in the future.



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### **Around the Synod**

**Covenant Lutheran Church in Stoughton Invites You to A Special Contemplative Service "Longest Night"**

**Date: December 21**

**Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Address of Church: 1525 N. Van Buren Street, Stoughton**

This holiday season is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. If yours is one of those, you are not alone. Pastor Mark Petersen will share a comforting message that is focused on healing, hope and light. Join the members of Covenant Lutheran for this special service of comfort and hope.

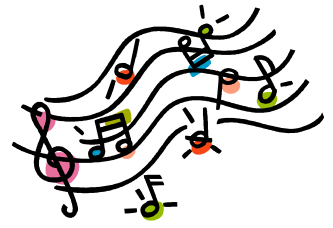
**Synod Assembly 2016 – Our Theme Will Be: "One Story: Always Re-Forming!"**

**Dates: Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells**

**It's Not Too Early to Start Thinking About Who You Will Send To Synod**

**Assembly 2016 to Represent Your Congregation!**

Just



# Christmas Carols & Cookies

*Sunday, Dec. 20, 4:00 PM*

*An hour of enjoying singing your favorite Christmas songs and enjoying cookies and hot chocolate. It is a stress free musical interlude out of a busy holiday schedule.*



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
605 Spruce St., Madison

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