

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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December 2017 NEWSLETTER

Waiting and Watching

We are entering into Advent, a time of waiting and watching. Advent teaches us that even in the darkest of nights we should look for signs of God's presence and the tiniest of lights. From that light, hope grows, Christ is again born into our world. We will follow more deeply, with greater intention, allowing God's grace to overwhelm us so we can offer the same grace to others, literally changing the world in which we live.

It is a good time for us to have our final Connect meeting with Rev. Erik Jelinek, the Director of Mission for the Synod. We started the Connect process eighteen months ago as a way of helping our congregation articulate our mission for St. Mark's. It has been a helpful process. We have learned to center ourselves in the Holy Scriptures, letting the story of God's people guide our thinking and our hopes for ministry. The Connect program has helped us to embrace ourselves as a congregation seeped in urban ministry. Through the Connect process we have learned that renewal is not about hoping new members will join us but rather being an authentic place for everyone, old members as well as new members to grow spiritually.

It will be important to have as many of us as possible at the meeting on Saturday, December 16th. It will be from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. I will have the coffee on and Lynn will bring the donuts.

See you soon!

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministry



Food Pantry: Thanks to the generosity of the Goodman Community Center that shared their excess and Lynn Miller who agreed to pick up at the last minute, the Food Pantry received 30 Thanksgiving Baskets. These have been renamed as Christmas baskets and are a welcome addition to the food pantry.

Friday Meal: The Friday Meal feeds between 40 and 60 individuals each week. Numbers vary depending on the weather we are having that day. In the rain, fewer people are able to walk to St. Mark's. We have continued cleaning outdated food and finding new sources for salad ingredients.

Financial Giving

November Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2770.50	\$2200.00
Friends	\$ 2.00	\$ 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
Kitchen Rental	\$ 225.00	

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.



December Birthdays

December 11 Betty Smith
December 21 Keefe Keeley



And sometime in December baby Keeley will be born!



Team Meetings December 3rd

Following worship on Sunday we will have Team Meetings. We have some business items to attend to in preparation for our December 16th Connect Meeting.

Administrative Team: 1. Final preparations for Badger Basement. 2. Finances for Badger Basement. Replacing the cleaning crew with TPM.

Mission and Outreach: 1. Publicity for Carols and Cookies, Christmas Eve. 2.

Worship Team: 1. Part of the Connect Program is finding new ways to include prayer in ministry. Prayer stations in worship. 2. Christmas Eve Service.

Connect to Mission December 16th 9:00 to 10:30: Very Important Meeting!



This is the last time we will meet with the Director of Mission for the Synod. How do we see ourselves moving forward?



Carols and Cookies December 17th 4:00

Simply an hour or more of eating Christmas cookies and singing Christmas carols. No stress involved. Perfect for getting into the holiday spirit.

Christmas Eve Services

9:30 Service celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent

5:00 Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service



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

Around the Synod

SAVE THE DATE! Synod Assembly 2018 – Saturday, May 5 & Sunday, May 6 – Kalahari, Wisconsin Dells - SAVE THE DATE! Prepare to elect your voting members at your annual meetings. Annual assemblies are life-giving and life-changing for congregational members! Council presidents should be thinking about lay leaders in your congregations who would be energized by lively engagement with other leaders in our Church and inviting them to attend as a voting member or visitor!