

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

605 Spruce Street, Madison, WI 53715

www.stmarksmadison.org

December Newsletter 2016



A Light Shines in the Dark

Richard Rohr, a Catholic priest, theologian, and spiritual leader for the Center for Action and Contemplation (prayer and action, action and prayer) in one of his daily meditations talked about true unity. He said that true unity only comes when we celebrate diversity. When there are efforts to make everyone the same, there cannot be true unity. We can only have unity in our diversity. The early church had to learn this when they came together Greek and Jew, male and female, rich and poor. It is an important lesson for us as a nation, a community, and a church. It is one way we can light up the darkness in the Spirit of Jesus Christ – by each being our own unique selves!



Pastor Lori Powell

Advent is about recognizing the darkness that is around us and waiting for the light. We are patient because we know the light is best illuminated in the darkness. Without darkness it is difficult to see the light. Knowing this, it is still difficult to be grateful for the darkness.

In this season of Advent we engage in activities that make it easier to wait for the light. Let us join together for:



Sunday, December 18

Christmas caroling after worship for two shut-ins and then Christmas Carols and Cookies at 4:00!

Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Christingle Celebration 4:30

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Day Worship 9:30

Blessings,
Pastor Lori

St. Mark's Food Ministries

Through sharing and renting our kitchen we are able to make partnerships in the community that enhance our mission. We have had an ongoing relationship with Chef Joel as he has taught classes out of our kitchen and last year taught a class to the neighborhood, food pantry, and neighbors on our behalf.

Since Energy Assistance allows us to put our sign in their yard, I offered them our kitchen and fellowship hall for their staff Thanksgiving Celebration. Below is a portion of their thank you:

Thank You from Energy Assistance:

Without question, St. Mark's provided us with not only an exceptional facility, but allowed us to bring our staff team all together, making it much more enjoyable. In addition to proudly displaying your sign, should we be able to provide further assistance, don't hesitate to call us. In that spirit, please find a contribution of \$100 towards your efforts in the community.



Love Our Neighbors!



Financial Giving November Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$ 1705.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 1246.00	\$ 350.00
Rent from 7 th Day Adv	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00

Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods \$737.50

Rent Rec'd from MOSES \$175.00

Rent for kitchen \$350

Thank you to members and friends who give generously to the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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

December 11 Betty Smith

December 18 Julie Horst

December 21 Keefe Keeley

Strategic Planning for 2016 – Latest Updates

Connect:

Pastor Rob Nelson would like to meet with us on Tuesday, December 6th. The time is tentatively scheduled for 4:00 to 5:30 depending on how many can make it. There are two short videos from the Synod to watch. This meeting is open to anyone attending St. Mark's and invested in our future. Let me know if you can make it!

Book Study on December 11th

The book study, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and a Bridge to the Future* continues on December 11th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. A sack lunch is served.

There will also be information on upcoming MOSES activities that relate to the disparities in the criminal justice system.

Christmas Cookies are needed for the 18th



Love making Christmas cookies but need help eating them (yea, right!). Bring a dozen or two to the Christmas Carols and Cookies event on the 18th.

Coming in January:

New Member Class

Soupalooza Fundraising Event for Standing Rock.

Activities from the South Central Synod

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2017 – Saturday, April 29 & Sunday, April 30, 2017

Madison Marriott West – PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!