

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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February 2016 NEWSLETTER

The Season of Love

On February 10th, at 6:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church we will celebrate Ash Wednesday. In the imposition of ashes we are reminded that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. There are several places in the Bible that reference this language; Genesis, Job, and Ecclesiastes are usually noted. Sometimes people are uncomfortable with the idea that they are nothing but “dust”. How can we be dust when we are God’s children and loved unconditionally?

In the verses noted there are usually words to the effect, “you put breath in me and then the breath returned to you” meaning, that life, all life, belongs to God. When the ashes are placed on our foreheads it is our acknowledgement that God is the God of life. We get to live and breathe and make choices both good and bad but life, even our lives are from God. This is how we begin Lent, with humbleness and a sense of awe that God is. One of the tasks of Lent is to get to know the God of life.

We have talked lately about how knowing God and knowing ourselves are dual and complimentary paths. The more we know of ourselves, the better we are able to understand God in all of God’s mystery. Our worship in Lent will be focused on better knowing ourselves as we learn more about God. Why? Because then we will be better at sharing God’s love and February is the season of love. Is anything more joyful than going about the work of loving? So glad to share this journey with you!

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministries



The Food Pantry and the Friday Meal have experienced a steady stream of guests this winter.

As always, we are thankful for the congregations that partner with us providing food and volunteers. The Federal government just released new poverty guidelines. Families that are eligible for the food pantry include: a family of one with an annual income of \$21, 978, a family of two with an annual income of \$29, 637, a family of three with an annual income of \$37, 296, a family of four with an annual income of \$44, 955 and so on. While some families are able survive on these incomes other families struggle often because of medical expenses.

Thank you for this important ministry!

Financial Giving

January Giving Summary

| | Actual Giving | Budgeted Monthly |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Members | \$1224.00 | \$ 2200.00 |
| Friends | \$1145.00 | \$ 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 from Chef Joel | \$50 | |

January was a low rent month but we have more rents scheduled for February.

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.

February Birthdays

Feb. 1 Natalie Shoer
Feb. 24 Ron Peterson



Isaac says we should invite people to church so we can sing Happy Birthday to them!



Annual Meeting Recap:

I want to thank all of the people who participated in the Annual Meeting and for the commitment and ideas that were a part of the meeting. Just to recap the three main points.

1. On the issue of New Ministry Initiatives. Lori is going to talk with Chef Joel about doing cooking classes. In the past he has offered to teach for free with a focus on staples that are in the food pantry. These classes would be open to any in the community. These classes may also be a precursor to a new worship service involving the preparing of food and then worship over a meal.
2. Lynn has set up an appointment with Grant Communications to get a quote on new phones. He will also follow up on pricing a new sign for Park Street. We will see if we can afford both.
3. Our curb and gutter bill may not be the \$7600 as listed. The city won't know until they are in the project how many sewer caps we will need. We agreed not to put back the sidewalk terrace which is a savings. If the bill remains high we will pay one half of the cost and spend the next eight years paying on the tax bill at 3% interest (\$400 per year). If the bill drops by half, we will pay all at once.



Sermon in a Song to return March 6th!

February 10th Ash Wednesday

We will celebrate at 6:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Ave. Good Friday will be celebrated here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Noon.

Around the Synod



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

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!