

# 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)

February 2017 NEWSLETTER

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

Dear Friends:

Last Sunday we added something new at the beginning of worship as our nation traverses this new and unsettling time. I said we would keep this up while the unprecedented events continue.

We say together: God is good! **All the time!** All the time! **God is good!**

It is a reminder to us that regardless of what happens our very selves are grounded in God's amazing love.

I've been thinking about a phrase from the hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which is often referred to as the National Anthem for black Americans. This song speaks to the cry for liberation and affirmation essential to black Americans. The phrase, "Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us" is a reminder to us of the need to remember our history. Our history includes God's enduring presence through difficult and seemingly hopeless circumstances.

Every large denomination has voiced strong disappointment regarding the recent travel ban for Muslims in and out of this country. In Madison alone, the ELCA Refugee Committee has been settling one hundred refugees per year for the past several years. They were hoping to assist one hundred ten this year. Here at St. Mark's, we put together bathroom kits for these refugee families as a part of our ministry.

We are not a Christian nation. We are a nation that allows freedom in the practice of religion. But there has never been a more important time to be a practicing Christian.

Let us be the light of the world, grounded in God's love.

Blessings, Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

### Inside this Issue

- ✿ Pastor's Letter
- ✿ Food Pantry
- ✿ Financial Giving
- ✿ Birthdays
- ✿ Annual Mt minutes
- ✿ New Members
- ✿ Connect Update
- ✿ New Member Classes
- ✿ Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday
- ✿ Brat Fest
- ✿ Activities Around the Synod



# St. Mark's Food Pantry



The new Outreach Team is working on how to promote both the food pantry and the Friday Meal. While the Friday Meal is a community meal and everyone is welcome, it is recommended that the Food Pantry support families who are at 185% of the poverty level. For example, a family of four may have an income of \$44,000. That may sound like a solid middle class salary but if they also have old medical bills or other unpaid bills, they would be welcome at the food pantry. Guests do not show us their financial situation, only an ID. This is just an example to demonstrate we would like to support families who may be working but still struggling financially.

## Financial Giving

### December Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$ 2785.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 124.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
from 7 <sup>th</sup> Day		
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Rent Rec'd from MOSES	\$175.00	
Rent Chef Joel	\$50	

**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



February 24th Ron Peterson



**New Members:** With excitement and warmth we welcomed new members on Sunday. Keefe and Cedarose Keeley (Cederose joins as an Associate Member), Tony and Mina Esser, Lisa Manion and Mark Weerda, Chris Anderson and Jim O'Connor. Check out the bulletin board with their photo on it. Welcome!!!

**Annual Meeting Minutes:**

1. Meeting was called to order by prayer offered by Pastor Lori.
2. Passed a Safe Sanctuary Policy with an addendum for rental contracts.
3. Financial Update and development of 2017 budget. Office supplies was increased to \$400. New Ministries was increased to \$2000. Pastor's salary was increased by \$1000 with a \$1000 for Professional development. We use a faith based budget and used the 2016 budget to determine 2017 but also taking into account new members.
4. Broke into Ministry Teams: Worship, Administrative, Outreach – great ideas were generated for upcoming projects.
5. Ended with prayer thanking God for the church and dedicated members.

**Revitalization Update:**

Anyone interested in finding out their personality type for our next Connect discussion is welcome to go to [123test.com](http://123test.com) disc personality test. The short test is free.



**New Member Class**

There will be a New Member Class following worship on Sunday, February 12th. Anyone wanting to learn about St. Mark's should come. New Member Sunday will follow on February 19th. New members will be recognized in worship.



**Fat Tuesday – Ash Wednesday on Sunday, February 26 Intergenerational Worship Event:**

Lent is a time of turning away from the temptations of the world and focusing on God. Before Lent is a party, sometimes celebrated as Mardi Gras, also celebrated as Fat Tuesday when fats and sugars are used up and not a temptation for Lent. We will begin in the sanctuary for worship, move to fellowship hall for pancakes, sausage and fruit and back to the sanctuary for the beginning of Ash Wednesday. Special Music, games and fun! Bring a friend!



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

**Around the Synod**

What? The Next 500 Years” - Saturday & Sunday April 29 & 30, 2017

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2017 – “Now

Time: 8:30 am Saturday – 12:30 pm on Sunday\*