

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

March 2018 NEWSLETTER

Lent: The Continuing Journey

The Lenten Journey

We are in the middle of Lent. I've noticed on Facebook people who have "switched" their Lenten discipline. Instead of giving up Facebook maybe they are giving up chocolate. The environmentally conscious are giving up plastic (straws, the plastic that holds six packs together, grocery bags). Anything that reminds us to think God and takes some effort contributes to our Lenten journey. I was surprised on Ash Wednesday that when I went to help Tony with his prayer beads he ended up with a bracelet that said, "God loves Tony". Then others found the alphabet beads and different words and themes were identified. Maybe we can't get too much of hearing about how God loves us. Maybe looking at these words every day during Lent will help us more deeply feel God's love and then share this love with others. Lent is about becoming aware of God's love for us.

The congregation voted on February 18th to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This is an important way to declare God's love for all. Several years ago the congregation had a series of Bible studies on homosexuality, since then our practice has been inclusive. Becoming an official Reconciling in Christ congregation was a necessary and natural next step. We are on a mission to share the unconditional love of God!

I've discovered that better than alphabet beads are engraving plates that say, "Jesus loves me". If you would like another Lenten bracelet, supplies will be available on Sunday. ☺

Blessings,

Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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March 30th 7:00 PM
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A Word from our new Church President:

Last Sunday I was elected President of St. Mark's and I'm humbled to act as President and represent St Mark's. This is such an exciting time in the life of St. Mark's church. When Mark and I joined, we were very impressed by the generous and giving nature of the food pantry and Friday meals ministry, especially for so small of a congregation. And in the short time I've been a member, I've seen more and more good come from this church and its people. From football stars to new moms, we are starting to attract attention!

I'm hoping we can continue to generate that excitement and still demonstrate our care and compassion to our community and our world. I want everyone to see what I see—a community of believers who have strong roots in our theology, and a generous nature to those around us in need.

Pastor Lori and I and the Ministry Teams will be working on goals in the coming weeks. Our immediate attention is on Easter, which will be upon us before you know it. Easter is my favorite holiday so I am looking forward to a joyous celebration of the resurrection following the long days of Lent. Lisa Manion



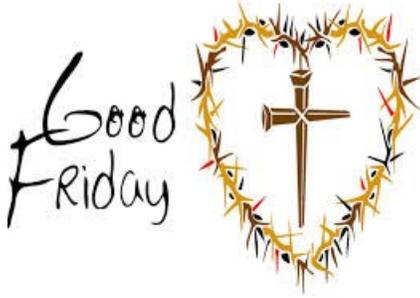
Financial Giving

February Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$3005.00	\$2200.00
Friends	\$ 204.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd 7th Day	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
Rent Rec'd Foods Mins	\$ 737.50	\$ 737.50
Overeater's Anon	\$ 25.00	\$.00
Rowing Club	\$ 50.00	
Chef Joel	\$ 75.00	

**Thank you to members and friends who support
the ministry of St. Mark's.**

Save the date! Our last Connect meeting is April 21st and we have to present our action plan to our fellow participants. We have a good start on an action plan! Yea!



March 30th Good Friday Service 7:00

Without going through Good Friday it is difficult to celebrate the joy of Easter morning. Come join us for a meaningful worship service honoring the witness of Jesus Christ. If you need a ride, please let the church office know.

Brat Fest Sign Up (signs of spring, signs of summer, sign up for shifts!)



Dear Volunteers,

It's time for Brat Fest again. It will be held Friday, May 25th - Monday, May 28th. The hours of operation will be:

Friday 5AM to 9PM, Saturday 10 AM to 9:PM, Sunday 10AM to 9PM, and Monday 10AM to 6PM

Brat Fest will pay each charity \$8/hr for volunteers. All volunteers will receive a free Brat Fest shirt. Every person signing up must have their own email address. If you want to sign up your whole family, see me and I can sign up the group.

A great times is had by all. Visit their website to see bands and activities. www.bratfest.org

If it appears most positions are already booked, wait until April 9th. Positions open up as volunteers are verified or removed because they have not been verified.

For any questions, please contact me. Debbie Thorp 608-255-2289, dthorp@books4school.com

ONLY group leaders are allowed to delete shifts from any volunteer. If you sign up for a shift and then find you can not work it, the volunteer will need to contact the group leader to have the shift deleted from their profile.

☑ Log on to: www.volunteer.bratfest.com ☑ You will need to create a profile and select which group you will be working with.

****** Brat Fest reserves the right to cancel or shorten any shift due to but not limited to, inclement weather or lack of customer demand.**



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!

2018 Annual Congregation Meeting Held Sunday, February 18, 2018. (Notes Mark Weerda)

Meeting Outcome: Elect New Church President:

Motion: Nominate Lisa Manion for Church President for 2018

Made: Mark Weerda; Second: Christine Anderson; Vote: Carried.

Finances: Lynn reviewed profit and loss statement. We currently pay \$1000 for MIF loan. The breakdown is \$450 on principal and \$550 on interest.

Budget: **Motion:** Include a 3% raise to the pastor's salary in 2018 budget.

Made: Jim O'Connor; Second: Dave Hart; Vote: Carried Budget not able to be approved due missing MIF.

Motion: Direct Treasurer to prepare 2018 budget showing including the MIF payments by end q1 2018. This will be distributed to the Congregation for approval at another meeting. Made: Mark Weerda; Second: Jim O'Connor; Vote: Carried

Statement of Welcome:

Statement of Welcome to become a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. **Motion:** Change the word "invited" to "encouraged". Made: Christine Anderson; Second: Lynn Miller; Vote: Carried

Motion: Accept statement. Made: Mark Weerda; Second: Linda; Vote: Carried

Ministry Team Reports

Admin Team: Admin team presented for approval by the congregation, a list of fees to be charged when organizations rent space in our building. **Motion:** Approve rental fees list. Made: Dave; Second: Mark Weerda; Vote: Carried.

Worship Team: Thanked members who help with worship. Encouraged everyone to seek opportunities to volunteer related to worship activities. In past months, Worship Team have added banners and candles. Introduced a few experienced-based activities to worship. Door and prayer stations. Lent creative stations.

Next focus: prayer garden. Not funding through budget. Looking for volunteers to help execute as spring.

Mission and Outreach Team:

As follow-up to the Connect Program, members of this team and Pastor Lori have reached-out to the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association. We have learned they have submitted a grant request to the city of Madison for a neighborhood needs assessment survey. Pastor Lori has provided a statement of support to be included with the grant request. If the grant request is approved, the association has agreed to allow St. Mark's to use the results as input to our planning for outreach. We have agreed to let the association hold meetings at St. Mark's as part of the assessment, if it is approved.

New Business:

Topic: Can we change the annual meeting to warmer time of year?

Discussion: Moving of annual meeting is not required, we can address issues and hold all congregation meetings at multiple times throughout the year. But budget decisions best align with having our annual meeting in the early part of the church's fiscal year. Annual meeting can stay on its current schedule. But we can and should hold an all congregation meeting during the warmer months of the year when our snowbirds would be able to attend.

Action: Lori and Lisa coordinate having a second all congratulation meeting in the summer months to allow snowbirds to attend.

Closed

The meeting was closed by singing grace as prayer.