

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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March 2016 NEWSLETTER

Spring and Rebirth

This Sunday, March 6th our worship will center on the hidden as well as overt messages in the African American spirituals. I am looking forward to this worship service as I stand in awe of the faith and courage demonstrated in these songs. It is fitting that we should spend time in Lent learning about the faith journeys of people who experienced slavery and held on for a new day. The spirituals teach us that even in the depth of sorrow, one can be grateful for God's presence. They teach us about God's guidance and ways to leave harmful circumstances. They also teach us that Easter comes, there is a new day when God's love overcomes all.

In our community and in our nation racism remains an important topic. As a predominately white congregation, one of the things we can do to fight racism is to learn more about African American culture and experience. Learning about the spirituals is a part of that.

Lent is also a time when we "repent", we turn away from that which is harmful and turn towards that which is good. While there is much good to be said about the vision of the United States, we must never forget the sin of slavery and always be turning towards human rights. Jesus set a great banquet table and welcomed all people. This is the vision that informs our sense of community.

Easter comes early this year on March 27th. May our Lenten journey prepare us for the joy of new life as celebrated on this day.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministries



The congregations that continue to donate both food items and financially to the food pantry include: Trinity United Methodist, St. Matthews New Life Lutheran, Midvale Community Lutheran, and All Saints Lutheran. There are other groups and organizations that also do food drives to benefit the food ministry.

There will be a special collection on March 20th for Easter baskets (cereal bars, snack packs, candy, or other finger snack treats). It is helpful to offer families these “extras” during the holidays.

Financial Giving

February Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2395.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 53.00	\$ 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 for kitchen	\$100	
Rent to Synod	\$150	

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.

March Birthdays

March 4 Carlene Kelly
March 29 Max JonasKrueger



Annual Meeting Recap – and Follow Up:

1. The best price for a new phone system remains at \$1750. Until we know exactly how much new curb and gutters are going to cost we need to wait before spending this much money. However, by switching from TDS to Charter we can save \$80 per month. We will have to switch our email address. The new address will be available the first week of March.
2. Chef Joel has agreed to teach our first cooking class for people who attend the food pantry as well as open the invite to the neighborhood. Thursday, April 7th is the date, more info to come.

March 6th Worship – What African American Spirituals have to teach us about the Lenten journey.



Sunday, March 20th
Friday, March 25th
Sunday, March 27th

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship 9:30
Good Friday Worship Noon
Easter Worship 9:30

Around the Synod



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

LEAD Workshop is March 12th in Janesville. This is a day spent with other Lutheran congregations participating in workshops and worship as a way of challenging ourselves to grow. Cost is \$25.

Rev. Everett Mitchell is preaching this day. He is a former Associate Director of MUM, a former District Attorney, pastor of Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church, Director of Cultural Affairs at UW Madison and is running for a Circuit Court Judge seat. He is a passionate orator and will talk about how to racism in Madison as the keynote LEAD speaker.

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!