

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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March 2017 NEWSLETTER

Lenten Practices Lead to New Life

Dear Friends:

It is March and it is Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year it is March 1st. If we ever doubted that Christianity is mixed in with secular or pagan practices, The dates of Ash Wednesday and Easter are determined by the first full moon that comes after the vernal equinox or March 21st. The word Lent literally means “spring”. The early church recognized Easter by practicing an Easter vigil, wondering if Jesus would come again on the day his resurrected life began. By the 4th century, followers were also practicing a vigil of the forty days of temptation Jesus experienced in the wilderness before his ministry. What we now call Lent.

The central practices of Lent come from the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. These have been our assigned Gospel readings from the lectionary for the past several weeks. The practices of Lent include prayer, fasting and acts of charity or generosity.

Here is how we are going to celebrate Lent here at St. Mark's.

Prayer:

We are going to talk about different ways of praying in worship, we are going to explore different versions of the Lord's Prayer, and we are going to pray for a different part of the world every Sunday.

Fasting:

Fasting is difficult for Lutherans! We are going to fast from regular coffee and use fairly traded coffee as a way of honoring the coffee growers and sustainable farming.

Charity and Generosity:

I have the names of four people, currently incarcerated who are in need of support. We are going to share cards and anything else we are allowed to, to remind these individuals, they are not forgotten.

Blessings, Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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The Food Pantry



Annual Inspection – The Food Pantry passed the Annual Inspection on Tuesday, February 28th. We did well!

The Food Pantry is ready to hire a New Coordinator!

The Food Pantry always had a coordinator but two years ago, after searching for one and not finding the right person I picked up the pieces – in part – to learn exactly what the job responsibilities are. We have maintained an Annual Salary in the Food Ministry budget during this time. It is time to hire. I need more time to work on pastoral care and outreach. There is a job description. The hours are from 9:00 to Noon on Tuesdays and 5:30 to 7:30 on Thursdays. The position pays \$100 per week. I will be posting in various places including the neighborhood association.

Financial Giving

February Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$ 2980.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 673.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd	\$ 860.00	\$ 860.00
from 7 th Day		
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Rent Rec'd from MOSES	\$175.00	
Rent Chef Joel	\$25	
Rent from Diakonia	\$250	
Rent from Rowing Club	\$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.

March Birthdays



March 29th Max Jonaskrueger

Connect Update and Meeting:

Lynn and I attended the February 18th Connect Retreat and received our next Connect homework assignment.

On Sunday, March 12th following worship we will have a Connect Meeting focused on the gifts of the congregation. At this time we will also break into our ministry groups: Administration, Mission and Outreach, and Worship. What gifts does your ministry group bring to the whole and what ways do you imagine the congregation celebrating these gifts?

I look forward to this meeting as helping us to continue living out our vision and finding more opportunities to connect to our surrounding community.



Keep Checking the Brat Fest Website www.volunteer.bratfest for opportunities. While the good jobs may be gone and many shifts filled, sometimes people cancel!



School Board Forum at St. Mark's on Thursday, March 9th

We are hosting the Neighborhood Association's school board forum. 7:00 to 8:30. Come and hear the candidates.



On March 12th! Set your clocks ahead by one hour!



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

Around the Synod

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2017 – “Now What? The Next 500 Years” - Saturday & Sunday April 29 & 30, 2017

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