

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

April 2016 NEWSLETTER

Holy Mirth

There is an ancient Easter tradition, going back as far as the third century of celebrating Holy Humor Sunday or Laughter Sunday. In the 15th century Churches in Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

The observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. I wonder why? My own sense of joy comes from being loved by God. Isn't that something to delight over?

I believe church should be a place of fun and merriment, that we serve Christ best when we serve joyfully. We will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday on April 3rd, following the more familiar April Fool's Day. Bring a joke to church on that day!

On a more business note, I would like us to begin conversations around either bringing in a consultant or working collectively to create a campaign of radical welcome. If we serve joyfully, how do we tell others about it?

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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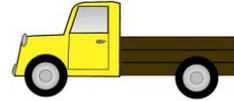


St. Mark's Food Ministries



Great News! Once again Copps/Roundy's Corporation is donating to the Food Pantry during their Spring Food Giveaway. We need a pick-up truck or two, or a couple of large SUV's to pick the food up at 2:00 PM on April 18th at the University Ave. Copps. This is a generous donation. They typically give a check for \$500 and 2500 pounds of food. If you can help, contact Lori.

Need a truck on April 18th!



Financial Giving

March Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1774.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$.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	\$50	

April begins our new rental contract with the Seventh Day Adventist Church at \$800 per month.

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.

April Birthdays

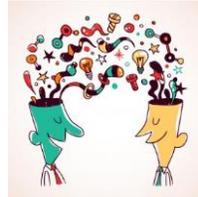
April 1st Lori Powell
April 25th Maxine Moore



Strategic Planning for 2016

Annual Meeting Recap – and Follow Up:

1. When we switched to Charter we were given new phone lines. We were able to get a new phone system for \$35 and not \$1750. Woohoo!
2. Construction has begun for the new sewer pipes on Spruce St. but you can always park in the parking lot on Sundays. We do not have our final estimate yet on our contribution for this work. Reminder that the city said we could pay part of the bill now and stretch the remaining amount over eight years with a yearly amount due in December.



What's this about a consultant?

In the process of renewing St. Mark's we have focused on an asset based model. We have considered our strengths and have focused time and energy on what we do well. We have not been good at marketing or telling our story in ways that are invitational – solid invitations to invite others to worship. When the Spruce St. construction is complete we have an opportunity to do a comprehensive media campaign. It might be helpful to have a consultant, experienced in renewing, help us tell our story. They could give us guidelines on what is helpful and what is too much information. They could let us know which ways of communicating; Facebook, Twitter, snail mail are most effective. How do we speak to emerging generations or new cultures? What could we add to worship? Are we ready to hire someone to help with creative worship ideas? As a worshipping community we need to make these decisions. Having input from someone who has gathered the important data for us could be very helpful.

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!