

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reaching Out With the Unconditional Love of God

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May 2016 NEWSLETTER

Planting Seeds

It's that time, to plant seeds and watch the seeds grow and marvel at the wonder of it all - that God made our creation so filled with miracle and blessing. With the decisions made at our Congregational Meeting on April 17th we are planting seeds here at St. Mark's. The seeds that we are planting include recognizing our gifts as well as the gifts of those in our neighborhood and community. We will use the gifts of the congregation and the extended community for the purpose of community renewal.

We agreed at our meeting to:

1. Use an Asset based community transformation strategy to include our larger members in the vision and ministry of St. Mark's.
2. Monthly coaching with The Center for Progressive Renewal as they help us with evangelism and worship to coincide with the completion of the street reconstruction.
3. In the fall begin a once a month children's program to teach unchurched families about God's love.
4. Rent to only one other congregation.

It was an important and courageous decision by the congregation to move forward with this vision. It will be exciting to see how God leads us into future ministry opportunities. Not unlike the thrill of watching the seeds in our gardens grow into recognizable plants. What great fun to plant seeds and to grow God's Kingdom!

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

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St. Mark's Food Ministries



The Food Pantry has once again been blessed. Thanks to Gary Gates, John Evanchenko, Barb Zimmerman, Pat Kreitzman, and Lynn Miller with Tony and Isaac 2,700 pounds of food and a check for \$500 was donated by the Copps, Roundy's Foundation. This was followed up by another large gift from David and Denise Soli. We are very grateful to the people who contribute to the Food Pantry. In April there was an increase in guests to coincide with the extra food. It is great to have food to share.

Financial Giving

April Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$1580.00	\$ 2200.00
Friends	\$ 453.00	\$ 350.00
Rent Rec'd from FCBC	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Rent from Seventh Day Adventist	\$800	
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	
Rent Rec'd from MOSES	\$175.00	
Rent for kitchen	\$50	

Thank you to members and friends who give generously to the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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.

May Birthdays

May 8 **Jean Buchanan**
May 21 **Chris Scoville**
May 26 **Howard Mueller**



Strategic Planning for 2016 – Latest Updates

1. As of the latest evaluation by the city engineer, it looks like only one of the three sewer pipes from the building is in use. The other two appear capped. If this is true (they will perform a die test later this week) our bill for the street reconstruction would drop from \$7000 to under \$4000. This is a bit of good news to contrast with the chaos of the construction project.
2. The sound system – I think Lynn has the traveling microphone sounding fairly clear and loud. We have a quote from Fearings for a new sound system that would give us the basics for \$600. The system could be added onto as our needs grow. Something to think about.



Upcoming Events!!

April 29th and 30th Synod Assembly in the Wisconsin Dells

May 15th Day of Pentecost – Wear red as a sign of the spirit!

May 26th – 30th Brat fest Memorial Day Week-end
You can continue to check the website for open shifts.

June 2nd National Wear Orange Day to focus on reducing gun violence.

June 4th Race for the Cure – at this time the race is still scheduled to go down Hickory Street. We will have toilet paper ready.

June 12th Day of Recognition for Graduating Seniors
Max JonasKreuger graduating from East High School
Isaac Powell Miller graduating from LaFollette High School
Cedarose Keeley graduating from UW School of Social Work

(more from our graduates in the next newsletter)