

February 2019

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reaching Out with the Unconditional Love of God!

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

605 Spruce St, Madison, WI 53715



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Eaton's Letter for the New Year

Dear siblings in Christ,

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. As communities of Jesus that nurture life changing relationships with God, one another and the world, we are confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. Whether worshipping wherever two or more are gathered, engaging in lively conversations about faith, or rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, we strive to share God's grace and love in Christ for all people and creation. This reflects the vitality we find in Jesus Christ, our own spiritual life and our desire to participate in what God is doing today.

Within each community of Jesus there are leaders who strive to model an attitude of servanthood, trustworthiness, humility, patience and listening first while striving to work with others in healthy ways. These leaders teach all ages, motivate believers, build consensus, share a vision, discern direction and facilitate action. Their attention is focused on growing disciples who are sent into their daily life to love and serve others as



*Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA*

friends, neighbors, parents, citizens and workers. Together we recognize the importance of growing disciples and multiplying leaders who serve inside your congregation and beyond your walls.

As our congregations plan their work for the coming year and how to use the resources God has entrusted to them, I invite you all to think about the relationships that bring you vitality and the leaders you nurture for God's mission in the world. While you make many decisions, remember you are not alone. We are all partners in sharing the gospel. Together, by God's grace, we can do what God is calling us to. May you go forth to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Serving together in Christ's name,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 17

10:30 am

www.StMarksMadison.org 608-256-8463
StMarks@StMarksMadison.org



Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 17, at 10:30 am

A Special Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 17 at 10:30 am following worship at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA will attend as the synod's representative.

The agenda for the meeting includes:

- Vote on the Revised St. Mark's Lutheran Church 2019 Budget to reflect the addition of an ELCA Grant (see below)
- Vote on the recommendation to extend a Call to Rev. Lisa Nelson to a 1/3 time position of pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Please be sure to read Rev. Lisa's introduction on page 3 of this newsletter. Rev. Nelson will be preaching and presiding this Sunday, February 10 at 9:30 am worship. This is a great opportunity for you to meet her and hear her preach.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church 2019 Revised Budget

To Be Considered at the February 17, 2019 Special Congregational Meeting

Financial Category	2018 Actuals	2019 Budget	\$ Change
Funding	77,583	90,420	12,837
Giving	51,406	54,800	3,394
General Grant (Not Received, yet)	0	12,000	12,000
Food Ministry Donations	13,677	13,000	(677)
Budgeted Rental Income	11,975	10,620	(1,355)
Unbudgetted Rental Income	525	0	(525)
Expenses	(83,441)	(85,793)	(2,352)
MIF Mortgage	(16,000)	(24,000)	(8,000)
Pastor Payroll	(16,188)	(26,003)	(9,815)
Other Staff Payroll	(15,975)	(11,790)	4,185
Utilities	(13,908)	(14,000)	(92)
Building Regular Maintenance	(7,012)	(7,000)	12
Unplanned Building Repairs	(9,296)	(200)	9,096
Insurance	(3,150)	(1,800)	1,350
Misc/Office Services/Food	(1,913)	(1,000)	913
Resulting Balance	(5,858)	4,627	10,485

My Story: Pastor Lisa Nelson

My story began 52 years ago in Los Angeles California. My parents were graduate students at UCLA, studying sociology. My brother was born 3 years later, and we were raised in Fresno, CA, where my parents taught at Fresno State. My dad still lives in Fresno, and my mom did until her death in January 2017. My brother and his family live in McFarland, WI. What a strange and wonderful coincidence that is.

I went straight from being an English and French major at Fresno State to studying theology at Luther Seminary in St Paul MN. After I graduated from Luther, I was ordained on October 31, 1993. My first call was to Wiota, WI—in the southwest corner of the state between Darlington and Monroe. I was the only pastor in a town of a hundred with a congregation of over 400 baptized members. It was a great place to learn the ministry.

In January of 1998, I moved to Madison to serve as Pastor of Missions and Family Ministry at Bethel Lutheran. I also got married in September of that year to Robb Kosky, who now serves as pastor of St. Paul's in Waterloo, WI. I left Bethel after our twins were born in 2001. Matthew and Nathan are now seniors in high school and will be 18 in April.

The twins kept me busy, but I did continue to teach Lay School of Ministry and pulpit supply all over the synod. In 2005, our third son, Seth, was born. At that time, I was working as the part time Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Family Ministry. Then, in April of 2008, I became the part time pastor of Faith Lutheran in Columbus, working along side their full time pastor.

In addition to our three boys, we also have 2 cats (Rahab and Bathsheba) and a dog (Gandalf). We live in Sun Prairie in a little blue house in an older neighborhood. We just bought a canoe and hope to take it



Pastor Lisa Nelson

out when the weather warms up—if that ever happens. My husband and I also love to read, so you'll probably find us reading books in our canoe on a quiet lake.

St Mark's has a history of service and justice and does great food ministry. You are a wonderful group of people, who are primed to answer God's call to meet your neighbors with God's unconditional love and acceptance. I believe God is calling the Church to engage the people around us without expectations or agenda. The Holy Spirit is alive and well at St Mark's and calling this congregation to new and exciting things. I hope to be a part of this.

Pastor Nelson is being considered for Call at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



Thanks, Dave!

Snow Removal

Thanks to Dave Hart for keeping our sidewalks clear of snow and ice! Dave comes over whenever it snows to make sure our walkways are safe and easy to navigate. You're a blessings, Dave!



Welcome Guest Preachers in February

February 10:

Pastor Lisa Nelson, Faith Lutheran in Columbus, and Candidate for Call at St. Mark's.

February 17:

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

See Something That Needs to Be Done?

If you see something that needs to be repaired, cleaned, replaced, etc.; please share your concern with President, Lisa Manion. Have an idea how to take care of the issue? Be sure to let us know how we can help! To leave a message at the church email StMarks@StMarksMadison.org. or call the office at 608-256-8463.

Assisting in Worship

We appreciate our worship assistants who greatly enhance our worship. You can participate by reading lessons, serving communion, offering prayers and more. Please check out the opportunities and add your name to the sign up sheet on the office door!

St. Mark's Food Ministry

Food Pantry & Friday Meal Volunteers



One of the most unique things about St. Mark's Lutheran Church is our Food Ministry. Our Food Pantry and Friday Meal serve many people in our community. Volunteers are what keep this ministry running!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Food Pantry or the Friday Meal, please speak to Tony Esser or contact the church office.

Our Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon, and on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Volunteers help clients shop, restock shelves and help with cleaning and straightening the pantry. No experience or special skills required to volunteer!

New Stuff

New Baby Changing Table

Our upstairs restroom now includes a baby changing table. Both downstairs restrooms are equipped with changing stations. Now both upper and lower levels are prepared for the little ones!



New Thermostat

The thermostat in the Food Pantry has been replaced with a 7 day programmable unit. This allows for our pantry to be warm and welcoming by the time staff arrive. Previously, the thermostat was kept at a very low temperature, and our volunteers, staff and clients had to wait quite a while for the space to reach a comfortable temperature.

What Matters . . .

Stay connected to events and stories of faith in action in our synod! Email Synod Communicator & Event Manager, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters." Thank you for your partnership!

Our Friday Meal volunteers work from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to help setup the food serving line, serve food and clean up afterward. No cooking skills required! This is a great opportunity for both individuals and groups! Consider assembling a group of friends, relatives, co-workers, classmates, etc. to volunteer for a Friday Meal.



Quart & Larger Size Containers Needed

Quart and larger size containers with lids are needed for our Friday meal. People who attend are encouraged to take leftovers home. Bring clean containers any time. See Betty Smith for information.