

January/February,
2020

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



The Body of Christ

Pastor Lisa Nelson

Everyone you meet is struggling with something in their life. That is the nature of life. We gather together and meet God with all our failings and accomplishments, sorrows and joys, and God accepts us as we are. God calls us to accept one another in the same way.

Father Larry Janowski is a poet and Franciscan priest, who wrote a poem called, "Communion Procession." He watches the body of Christ as they come forward to receive communion from his hand.



Pastor Lisa Nelson

"The body of Christ...

- ... must have been working in the garden
- ... smells of playground sweat
- ... is missing two fingers
- ... must be six months pregnant
- ... cannot look me in the eye
- ... is still grieving his wife
- ... has made three months of sobriety
- ... has a baby in each arm
- ... is growing her hair back
- ... has a smile like fireworks
- ... must be two inches taller than last week
- ... has a son in Afghanistan
- ... needs confidence to come out of the closet
- ... should have divorced him years ago

- ... has hands nearly translucent
 - ... has been giggling all through Mass
 - ... tries hard to hide the Parkinson's
 - ... reminds me of my grandfather
 - ... has skin the color of coffee
 - ... still hasn't the knack of her wheelchair
 - ... has to let go of that anger
 - ... can't remember to turn off his cell phone
 - ... has more faith than I
 - ... surely mustn't realize what that T shirt says
 - ... is beautiful
- Amen."

Annual Meeting!

Sunday, February 9

Following Worship; About 10:45 am

Please plan to attend our annual meeting as we approve a budget for 2020, elect officers and consider other business as needed.

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



Ash Wednesday Meal & Worship

Wednesday, February 26
Worship at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent which continues for 6 weeks. In Lent, God calls us to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection.



Ash Wednesday is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

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Soup Supper at 6:15 pm

Join us for a meal of soup and bread before worship on Ash Wednesday, February 26. There is no charge for the meal. There is no obligation to bring anything. However, if you would like to contribute, you are welcome to bring a salad or dessert to share. If you would like to help with soup, please see Chris Anderson or Jim O'Connor.



New Bishop Election Process

Our synod, the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, is one of 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As a synod, we meet annually to worship together, share the joys of ministry, and conduct business. Every six years, we also elect a bishop.

This year, we will use a different election process than before. For the first time, we have a Bishop Call Committee, who will research the nominees in much the same way as a congregational call committee researches a pastor. This will give us an opportunity to know the nominees before we enter the election process.

The process will look like this:

- January: Town Hall Meetings – for rostered leaders, such as clergy and deacons, and Assembly Voting Members. These gatherings will describe the strengths, challenges, hopes, and issues that best describe our synod at this time, as well as build a profile describing the needs we have in a potential bishop.
- February: Summary of the Town Hall meetings, resulting in a “Bishop Profile.”
- February 20 – March 10: Conference Nomination Caucuses are held. Ours is Feb 23 at 2 p.m. Partic-

ipants are rostered leaders and lay voting members of the 2020 Synod Assembly. Each Conference will identify up to five persons for consideration for nomination as bishop.

- April: The Bishop Call Committee researches the names coming from the Conference Nomination Caucuses. This committee will conduct interviews and do background and reference checks and then, bring forward 4-6 nominees for consideration as bishop by the synod.
- May 1–2 Synod Assembly: The Nominees are introduced to the gathered Assembly.
- May and June: Forums are held involving nominees.
- June 20: The members of the Synod Assembly reconvene for the Election of the Bishop.

Dear God, bless this process, our synod staff, all the leaders and congregations of our synod, the Bishop's Call Committee, and the nominees for bishop. Send your Spirit of wisdom and courage to each person involved in this process, raise up for us a leader, and embolden us all to be the Church you have called us to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank You

Pastor Lisa Nelson

Thank you to all of our St. Mark's Community for the Christmas gift. I look forward to using the gift card to Jung's Garden Center!

Pastor Lisa

LEAD 2020

Registration Now Open

Save \$5 and register by February 20
Registration Deadline: March 4

The synod annual Leadership, Education and Development Day, "LEAD," will take place on Saturday, March 14. We are grateful to our host location this year, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Madison campus).

This year, our keynote relates to Stewardship. We will also have 24 workshops on a variety of topics that are relevant to all!

The Keynote by Eric H.F. Law

Holy Currencies: Creating Sustainable and Missional Ministry

Called a "must-read for Christians paralyzed in survival mode," *Holy Currencies* teaches you how your ministry can become sustainable, grow, and thrive. Money is not the only currency your ministry needs. Author Eric H. F. Law shows us how the six blessings of time and place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth, wellness, and money flow through successful missional ministries. And they can flow through your ministry too! Learn how to use these gifts to rejuvenate, recirculate, regenerate, and expand your ministry through Law's insightful stories, instruction, processes, exercises, and activities.

Like Us On Facebook!



"Like" St. Mark's on Facebook! "Share" with your Facebook Friends! <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Lutheran-Church-1174929545990062>.

Wall Repair & New Paint

Thanks to Jerry Buss & Jim O'Connor

Sunday school room number 4 got a facelift with some repairs to damaged walls and new paint all around. The room looks great! We continue to look for ways to improve our property as outside groups and organizations continue to seek us out for meeting and event space. This improvement will also be helpful as we consider possible rental options.

Tools in the book help evaluate how your church uses each gift and enables church members to measure and value the six blessings. *Holy Currencies* will push you to think beyond your church's current boundaries and create rich, sustainable missional ministries.

What Happens at LEAD?

Worship – We will start with worship

24 workshops – you can attend up to 3

Networking and Displays – Ample time for connecting with people from other congregations is provided. Attendees reflect that talking to people from other congregations is one of the best things about LEAD!

Displayers from Synod and Lutheran Affiliated Organizations will be there to share opportunities for shared ministry.

A box lunch is provided to all paid attendees. Eat lunch with others to network or bring your lunch into a workshop.

Free childcare for all ages and free lunch for children ages 3+

Registration Fee: \$25 before 2/20 \$30 after 2/20

Register Online Now: <https://bit.ly/SCSWLEAD2020>

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!

Friday Meal: Day After Thanksgiving



Many thanks to all who participated in the Friday Meal following Thanksgiving, November 29, 2019. Traditionally, this has been the one Friday all year that a meal hasn't been provided at St. Mark's. This year, our congregation decided to change that.

Not all who participated are pictured here. Many people helped by donating food and funds; time preparing meatballs, baked potatoes and all the fixings; serving and cleanup following the meal. It was well attended and appreciated — not to mention, really tasty! Thank you!



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 the key to our Food Ministry"

If you're interested in volunteering for the Food Pantry or the Friday Meal, please email StMarksFeeds@gmail.com, leave a message at the church office or speak to Tony Esser, Food Ministry Coordinator.

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! Tony Esser, Food Ministry Coordinator, and Barb Zimmerman, Records Manager, will be glad to have you on the Food Pantry team!

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! A great opportunity for both individuals and groups! Assemble a group of friends, relatives, co-workers, classmates, etc. and volunteer for a Friday Meal. Elaine Bogen, Friday Meal Coordinator, will welcome you and your group to the Friday Meal Team!



Thanks to all of our wonderful Food Ministry Volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!