

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

March 2014 NEWSLETTER

The Lenten Journey

I don't always look forward to Lent but this winter has been so long I am embracing Lent as tangible evidence that spring will come. Our new snow plow guy, Steve Jindal, otherwise known as "Snowman" has done a great job for us but I think he is ready for something new as well. With the hope of springtime, this year, I am embracing Lent with enthusiasm. There is the Creative Writing and Spirituality class I am looking forward to, and then there is the Lenten Journey itself.

It is a paradox, that having ashes put on our foreheads turns into a blessing. It is a paradox that the death of Christ brings new life to us. Our God is great at turning, or redeeming our darkest moments so that we become strong in our broken places. In the spirit of our creative writing class, I have a poem to share from Jan Richardson.

"A Blessing for Ash Wednesday, Will You Meet Us"

*Will you meet us in the ashes
will you meet us in the ache
and show your face with in our sorrow
and offer us your word of grace.
That you are life within the dying
that you abide within the dust
that you are what survives the burning
that you arise to make us new.
And in our aching you are breathing
and in our weeping you are here
within the hands that bear your blessing
enfolding us within your love.*

Blessings,
Pastor Lori



Pastor Lori Powell

Inside this Issue

- ✦ Pastor's Letter
- ✦ Food Pantry
- ✦ Financial Giving
- ✦ Birthdays
- ✦ St. Mark's Looking Ahead
- ✦ Council Corner
- ✦ St. Mark's Calendar



March 9
Turn
Your
Clocks
Ahead!

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon & Thursday 5:45-7:45 p.m.



Happy
Birthday
To You....

March food pantry needs are: Canned Tuna, Spaghetios, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, cereal bars, & peanut butter. Thank you for your donations, together, we can feed our neighborhoods...one family at a time.

Weekly Prayer Focus

March 2014

3/2	Pam & Gary Gates
3/9	Kris & Dave Hart & boys
3/16	Barbara Heath
3/23	Darren & Julie Schoer, Jackson & Natalie
3/30	Robert & Carlene Kelly

March 4
Carlene Kelly

March 29
Max
JonasKrueger

Financial Giving

Previous Month's Giving Summary

	Actual Giving	Budgeted Monthly
Members	\$2,128.00	\$8,500.00
Friends	\$1,280.00	\$ 850.00
Rent Rec'd	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00
Rent Rec'd from St. Mark's Community Foods	\$737.50	

Thank you to members and friends who help
St. Mark's serve in Christ's name.



Don't forget to
turn your clocks ahead
MARCH 9!

St. Mark's Calendar

Food Pantry 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

Every Tuesday

Except on Holidays

Every Thursday

Except on Holidays

Food Pantry 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Every Friday

Except on Holidays

Friday Free Meal 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

March 22, Apr. 5 & 19

**Lenten Program: Spirituality & Creative Writing
Specified Saturdays at 9-10:30a.m**



*Gifts given in memory of:
Norman and Marj Pettey
Donna Wrend*

Lenten Spirituality and Creative Writing Class

The Lenten season is a great time to focus on one's spiritual life. Rather than give something up for Lent, think about doing something different and creative for yourself. This is a six week Lenten class that meets three times, March 22nd, April 5th and April 19th. The classes will be from 9:00 to 10:30 and there will be coffee and treats! Our facilitator will be Sandi Reinardy. She is currently in a Master's of Fine Arts Program with a focus on creative writing and she already has a Master's degree in Journalism. She was raised a Catholic and her undergrad degree is in theology though she has yet to find a church that is a perfect fit for her in Madison. You are welcome to come for one week or all three. You are welcome to drop in but it would also be great to have people register. Email me at uccpowell@tds.net if you would like to participate. I'm looking forward to it!



Celebrating Joyce March 9th!



After thirteen years as the church's administrative assistant Joyce has decided to step down. Joyce was with the church through the difficult and challenging remodeling. Joyce kept many of the administrative pieces going through the interim time and she willingly went along with a cut in her hours last spring when we were restructuring. Joyce has always stepped in and been as helpful as she can be. She will be joining us in worship this Sunday, March 9th so we can say thank you. We have a few gifts for her to let her know how much we have appreciated her efforts. If you want to make a contribution towards these gifts you can send in a check or put one in the offering plate. Come and say thank you to Joyce this Sunday. Chocolate cake after worship!

Council Corner

The Peace of the Lord Be With You,

The synod is holding its annual LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) meeting on Saturday, March 8th. I have never been to a LEAD event before so I thought I would attend to see what I've missed. This looks to be an interesting day for worship, workshops and presentations. The good news is there are many workshops to choose from. The bad news is that I can only attend three. Oh, it's so hard to choose! After thinking about it for a while and considering that St. Mark's is undergoing redevelopment I chose three workshops that I think will be interesting and, hopefully, useful.

Following is a brief description of the workshops I will be attending. They seemed to be the most likely to address information we can use at St. Mark's as we continue in our redevelopment process.

Welcoming and Affirming All the Members of your Congregation - Not everyone in your congregation is the same, and we give thanks that God has made us that way. But everyone in your congregation deserves to feel welcomed, safe, accepted and an important part of the community. This workshop will help congregations recognize and support couples who wish to have life-long, monogamous, relationships. This workshop will also offer ideas and support for those who are honest and willing to be a place of welcome. This workshop will NOT be an opportunity to discuss positions on human sexuality in the church. If you attend this workshop, it is assumed you will work to be an inclusive congregation.

Celebrating Mission - Join in a conversation about mission, technology and the church today. We will be looking at a variety of ways we can enhance a congregation's outreach ministries.

Between Sundays - Using Facebook and Websites to Engage Active Congregants and Seekers - Social media and websites can be a powerful mission tool. This workshop will help you learn the best use of these technologies for your congregation.

I am particularly interested in the workshops covering how technology can be used effectively to support our mission. I'll let you know what I learned in the next Council Corner.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Miller

St. Mark's March 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 St. Mark's Worship 9:30 FCBC Worship 11:00	3	4 Food Pantry 10 a.m. FCBC Bible Study 7 p.m.	5 Snack Prog 8:30 a.m.	6 Food Pantry 5:45 p.m.	7 Church Wrmn Mtg 8:30 Friday Meal Noon-1 p.m. WPFIL Mtg 4:30-8:30	8
9 St. Mark's Worship 9:30 FCBC Worship 11:00	10	11 Food Pantry 10 a.m. FCBC Bible Study 7 p.m.	12 Snack Prog 8:30 a.m.	13 Food Pantry 5:45 p.m.	14 Friday Meal Noon-1 p.m.	15
16 St. Mark's Worship 9:30 FCBC Worship 11:00	17	18 Food Pantry 10 a.m. FCBC Bible Study 7 p.m.	19 Snack Prog 8:30 a.m.	20 Food Pantry 5:45 p.m.	21 Friday Meal Noon-1 p.m.	22 Lenten Class 9:00 a.m.
23 St. Mark's Worship 9:30 FCBC Worship 11:00	24	25 Food Pantry 10 a.m. FCBC Bible Study 7 p.m.	26 Snack Prog 8:30 a.m.	27 Food Pantry 5:45 p.m.	28 Friday Meal Noon-1 p.m.	29
30 St. Mark's Worship 9:30 FCBC Worship 11:00	31					