

May, 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



Where Have You Seen God Lately?

Pastor Lisa Nelson

In your neighborhood? At St Mark's? Work? Home? School? With family or friends?

I saw God at worship on Easter Sunday in the beautiful new banners hanging on the walls and the blooming flowers by the altar. I heard God in the music of the piano, tambourines, and maracas. And I tasted God in the bread and wine of holy communion. I felt God in the gathering of people around coffee, tea, and muffins.

I see God in the smiles of Skyla and Rhea, our St Mark's little ones, and in Pepper the Dog when she comes with Todd.

I see God in the curls of green fern shoots in my backyard and the reaching of the clematis for their trellis. And I don't even have a green thumb. Those perennials are tough.

I see God in the willingness of my kids to do some heavy lifting in our backyard. They like to show off their muscles but not always in the ways I want. Yesterday, they were a big help.

I see God in my husband, who gets up in the morning to make sure the kids get off to school on time because I don't do mornings if I can avoid it.



Pastor Lisa Nelson

I see God in my dog, Gandalf, who greets me at the door whether I've been gone two hours or two minutes. I feel God in the ruffling of his fur and the weight of his paw on my leg.

I met God in a woman at the Friday noon meal at St Mark's. She was funny, articulate, and homeless. I tasted God in the great food I ate there, thanks to Epic (via CAC) and Elaine, who goes to get it for St Mark's.

I met God at the St Mark's food pantry as the volunteers unloaded a number of van loads of food from congregations who support this food ministry and other volunteers guided customers around the shelves so that they could take what they want.

I plan to see God in our neighbors in the south side of Madison this spring and summer as we plant a garden and visit on benches and maybe even have a cookout.

Where have you seen God lately?
Peace, Pastor Lisa
pastorlisa@stmarksmadison.org

"The gospel doesn't need a coalition devoted to keeping the wrong people out. It needs a family of sinners, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors, and shouting, 'Welcome! There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk.' This isn't a kingdom for the worthy; it's a kingdom for the hungry."

Rachel Held Evans

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



South Park St. Development Update

Good News!

Housing Project

Developer (Heartland) drops housing project for the homeless at 1202 South Park. The high volume of police calls at Heartland developed Rethke Terrace and Tree Lane has exposed challenges in housing so many of the city's most vulnerable at the same sites and inadequacies in the funding model to pay for critical support services for tenants

Grocery Store

The Pic 'n Save grocery store is still closing, however the new development request for proposal (RFP) issued by the City of Madison for the city-owned South Park Street site focused on attracting a grocery store. This new and much less ambitious RFP asks for only 3 things:

- Construct a grocery store.
- Extend Cedar Street.
- Meet the recommendations of related neighborhood and city plans.

The RFP also notes that housing, including affordable housing, office or retail space would be a welcome addition to the site, but are not a requirement.

You Can Help at St. Mark's! There Are Many Ways You Can Help!

We rely on volunteers for most of our maintenance and lawn care. The sanctuary and hallways need frequent vacuuming and dusting. Restrooms need to be cleaned regularly, and paper products re-stocked. Stairwells and lower level hallways need to be cleaned and mopped. Please look for ways that you can pitch in to keep our building looking great!

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.

South Madison Unite



This organization is a coalition of South Madison residents and their allies who seek to ensure equitable, convenient, and uninterrupted access to a full-service supermarket on South Park Street.

To receive updates and news regarding this issue:

- join South Madison Unite at <https://www.southmadisonunite.org/join-us.html>
- "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/southmadisonunite/>

ICE Detains Youth Pastor



ICE has detained Betty Rendon, student pastor at Emaus Lutheran in Racine, along with members of her family. Please join in sending cards and notes of support to Betty Rendon at the Kenosha detention center. Your messages will be of comfort to Betty and her family as well as letting ICE know we are watching and part of community support. Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to:

Betty Rendon; Kenosha County Detention Center;
4777 88th Ave Kenosha WI 53144

For more information go to <https://bit.ly/2LR9ILU>

Facility Updates



Recycling of unusable St Marks electronic devices was completed recently. Computer monitors, computers, fax machine, telephones, a small printer and an old commercial office copy machine.

Plans for an expanded playground, a vegetable garden and general courtyard space improvements are underway. Some great ideas have surfaced for making this space inviting to the neighborhood as place to gather for casual, social interaction and another way for us to engage with neighbors. Got an idea? Want to help ? See Pastor Lisa or Alisa Toninato.



Faithful Innovation

What is Faithful Innovation?

St. Mark's is a participant in Faithful Innovation

This is a process, not a program, in which a group of congregations form an intentional “leaning community.” Participating congregations will be discerning their unique answer to this question: “*As we listen to God, one another, and our neighbors, what future do we imagine God is bringing forth in our midst?*” The answer needs to come from Christ and our willingness to ask hard questions and listen for answers, as well as our ability to take risks, secure in our standing in Christ.

Session II

At the second session in Milwaukee on May 5, we worked on creating “experiments” meant to help us learn new behaviors to build and improve our relationships with our neighbors. Rather than having a goal, each experiment is designed with a feedback loop that will help us to discern what the next experiment will be. It is an ongoing process. One of our experiments is to create a gathering space in the courtyard and playground area to provide a casual, informal way to engage with our neighbors. You are encouraged to participate!

Dwelling in the Word

As we journey through this process of Faithful Innovation, we are invited to “dwell in the Word.” We are encouraged to read Acts 16:6-15 every day and consider what God might be saying to us, to notice

Asking God Questions

The questions we ask shape how we think about God, our congregation, each other, and our neighborhood. We want to learn to regularly ask “God Questions” of each other along this journey. We will listen for God’s answers, dwell in scripture together, share stories about what God is doing at St. Mark’s, and notice where God might be at work in our lives and in our neighborhood.

Examples of “God Questions”

- What might God be up to?
- What might God be saying to us?
- How do we sense God’s presence in our daily lives (in our workplaces and in our neighborhoods)?
- What does God care about in our local communities?
- How might God be leading our congregation to join in something God is already doing?

Next Team Meeting

Tuesday July 23 at 6:00 pm

Join us for this next meeting! We will be meeting with our team coach for a meal. Speak to Pastor Lisa or President Lisa Manion for details.

Acts 16:6-15

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and

new things in the scripture that perhaps we haven’t noticed before. We are encouraged to consider what these things might mean for us as individuals, as the community of St. Mark’s and for our neighborhood.

from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.

The History of St Mark's

1930-Present

In 1929, Pastor Morris A. Sorenson of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, who served at McFarland Lutheran Church, went house to house in the south side of Madison, asking about interest in forming a Lutheran congregation. The interest was there, and people met at the Adventist Church on Colby and Van Deusen.

In October of 1929, at the same time the stock market was crashing and the Great Depression beginning, the congregation of St Mark's formed. Pastor Sorenson wrote to all the pastors of the Madison Circuit and asked for support. They all said yes. The congregation made a \$1,000 bid for two lots at Spruce and Hickory.

St Mark's was officially incorporated in May 1930, and in December of 1930, St Mark's officially called Pastor Sorenson, who also continued to serve McFarland Lutheran. They began building in July of 1932. Once built, Pastor H. B. Hanson was called to serve full time at St Mark's and did so until 1936.

Pastor Thomas Sande served from 1936 to 1941 when he was called to serve in the army. Pastor Morris Sorenson served both McFarland and St. Mark's during the war. In March of 1946, pastor Waldo Wold was called to St Mark's, and he stayed until 1955 when he left to serve Wiota Lutheran in southwest Wisconsin. Later in 1955, Pastor J.A.O. Lien became pastor of St. Mark's, and then in 1959, Pastor Donald Rice took his place.

The building was expanded in the summer of 1965 and worship services were again held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Pastor William Simpson accepted the call to St Mark's in 1967, and his wife, Joanne, organized a day care in the basement of the church. Ann Straub was hired as a parish worker to serve the neighborhood, and when she resigned in 1969, Pastor Holle Plaehn was called as associate pastor and was instrumental in the Madison jail ministry.

In 1971, fifth graders were allowed to receive holy communion. In 1972, Pastor Simpson resigned, and Pastors Donald Rudrud and Wayne Vetter were called. Pastor Vetter left in 1977. That same year, Pastor Andrea Degroot-Nesdahl was called to St Mark's and was the first woman pastor to serve in this synod/district. In 1978, Pastor Don helped establish the Triangle Ministry in Madison and then took another call. Pastor Andrea became the solo pastor of St Mark's. Then in 1995, she became one of the first female bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

And from 1996 to 2011, Pastor Mary Pharmer served at St Mark's, followed by Pastor Lori from 2013 to 2018 and Pastor Lisa Nelson from April of 2019 to the present.

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!

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.



Synod Assembly Summary

May 4 & 5, 2019

Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall, Madison

Our Theme

“Building Beloved Community: Strengthening Our Souls for Leadership”

Keynote Speaker Ruth Haley Barton, Founder & CEO of The Transforming Center Her keynote addressed the challenges of spiritual leadership in a high performance culture. We also took time to assess the states of our souls and explored crucial disciplines for forging and maintaining a connection between our souls and our leadership as we strive to build beloved community.

Workshops & Other Activities 18 Workshops spanned a variety of topics and Youth & Young Adults enjoyed a special lunch gathering with Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld and Judith Roberts, ELCA Director for Racial Justice Ministries.

Offerings

Designated for the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund used to support Pastors & Deacons in times of Crisis/Special Need and Synod Ministries. \$4,529.68

Blessings of the Backpacks - 1,000 backpacks to feed children in the southcentral synod of Wisconsin were packed and distributed.

GHM—8 congregations participated, 3,209 rolled bandages, 123 newborn kits and 57 hospice kits were received and transported to GHM in St. Paul.

Heart & Hands Award Two congregations received this year’s Heart and Hands award for building beloved community through creative partnering.

Advent Lutheran Church/Madison Christian Community for long-term partnering of two congregations for one spirit-led purpose

St. Peter’s Lutheran—Loganville for partnering with local experts to meet a pressing community need through timely “Farm Stress & Suicide” Forums

Assisting in Worship

We appreciate our worship assistants who greatly enhance our worship. You can participate by reading lessons, serving communion, offering prayers and



Resolutions Passed

1. Memorialize the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to adopt proposed social statement Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action
2. Every Congregation Should Support SCSW Diaconia Program
3. Memorial on Carbon Fee & Dividend
4. Faith In Society Forums for the 21st Century
5. Supporting Refugee Children
6. No Way to Treat a Child: Protecting the Human Rights of Palestinian Children
7. Immigration Reform and Refugee Resettlement

For the full resolutions, contact the synod office at 608/270-0201 or email Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life at vickih@scsw-elca.org

Elections

Synod Council Treasurer - Bruce Hutler
Female Clergy - Rev. Naomi Garber
Lay Male - Eric Kneuve
Lay Female - Mary Nervig
Youth - Emily Sullivan
Consultation Committee Rev. Karen Hofstad
Discipline Committee Rofe Nervig, David Nesestuen, Carolyn Butts, Rev. Ann Walsvik

Next Synod Assembly

May 2 & 3, 2020 Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

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!

more. Please check out the opportunities and add your name to the sign up sheet on the office door!



Pastor Lisa Nelson & Bishop Vivane Thomas-Breitfeld at Pastor Lisa's installation



Palm Sunday



Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld rescues Rhea from minor melt down!



Good Friday



Easter Sunday