

October/November,  
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



## ELCA Churchwide Assembly Highlights

Pastor Lisa Nelson

Emmy Kegler wrote a book called *One Coin Found: How God's love stretches to the Margins*, referring to the story in Luke 15 where a woman losing 1 of 10 valuable coins and searches the whole house until she finds it. And when she does, she throws a party to celebrate. Emmy recently spoke at Trinity Lutheran in Madison. She says she prefers to call herself queer rather than lesbian because queer describes more than just her sexual orientation.

An experience at a nondenominational church as a teen taught Emmy that no matter how passionate she is about following Jesus, some churches will judge and dismiss her in a hot minute. She has also learned that even in open and affirming churches, there are people who will claim she can't follow Jesus and be queer.

Despite the pain of these judgments, Emmy went to St Olaf College where she met people who accepted her and loved her. And at Luther Seminary, she became an ELCA pastor. Now, she pastors Grace Lutheran, which she describes as a "small servant-hearted neighborhood congregation, focused on feeding the hungry and community outreach" in Northeast Minneapolis. (I have to pause here and say that description could fit St Mark's Lutheran.)



*Pastor Lisa Nelson*

In her book, she points out that a coin doesn't get lost on its own. It gets dropped, tossed aside, forgotten. The Church has neglected or rejected queer Christians in a similar manner. And God has grabbed a broom and swept the whole house, searching for that lost coin. Then, God finds that grimy, dusty coin and brushes it off, calling everyone over to see what she has found.

That's the kind of God we have: One who finds the lost and brings them home. One who throws a party to celebrate the found one. One who accepts us, even when others reject us. One whose Church feeds the hungry and is neighbor to all. Our God is a God of celebration, who wants you to be part of the party.

Lisa Nelson

### Celebrating New Members!

Sunday, October 27

We would like to celebrate all our new members on Sunday, October 27th during worship. Please let us know if you would like to be officially welcomed to St Mark's. There are no requirements. If you worship here, this is your church.

[www.StMarksMadison.org](http://www.StMarksMadison.org) 608-256-8463  
[StMarks@StMarksMadison.org](mailto:StMarks@StMarksMadison.org)



## Wear Red on Reformation

Sunday, October 27

Everyone is invited to wear RED on Oct 27th, which is Reformation Sunday, the day we celebrate the work of Martin Luther and the ways the Holy Spirit has moved through the Church.



## RIC Reformation Celebration

October 27; 3:00pm at St. John's, Evansville



St. Mark's is a Reconciled in Christ Congregation, which means we openly welcome and celebrate LBGTQ+ folks. All of the RIC congregations in the synod are hosting this RIC

Reformation Celebration at St. John's Lutheran Church in Evansville on October 27 at 3:00 pm. All are welcome! St. John's is located at 312 S. Third St, Evansville, WI

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

### Keeping Our Property Clean & Neat!

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 Jim O'Connor. 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](mailto:StMarks@StMarksMadison.org). or call the office at 608-256-8463.

## Spruce Street Halloween Block Party

Thursday, October 31; 5:00-8:00 pm

It's all about relationships. In this case, relationships with the families in our neighborhood. On Thursday, October 31, we'll join with our neighborhood for a Halloween block party. We'll hand out candy and glow sticks to trick-or-treaters and parents haunting the neighborhood.

Spruce Street will be closed from Gilson to Hickory. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to pass. Bring your own drinks, plates and flatware.

At St. Mark's, we'll set up and decorate a canopy where we can hand out our treats. We'll also open our doors so folks have access to restrooms and a place to warm up if it's cold.

Please plan to join us on the lawn in front of the church on Halloween to share in the fun with our neighborhood! Questions or ideas? Talk to president Lisa Manion or Mark Weerda. We had a blast last year. This year will be even more festive as the whole neighborhood gets involved! What a great way to connect with our neighbors. Costumes encouraged!



## Friday Meal November 29: You Can Help!

The day after Thanksgiving has been the one day during the year that St. Mark's hasn't had a Friday meal. This year, volunteers from our St. Mark's congregation are going to fill that gap. We need help with food prep, serving and so on. If you are willing to donate food, help with food prep, etc. please talk to Chris Anderson or Lisa Manion. Thanks!!

# From Our President

Lisa Manion



It's been a while since I've written, and I would like to take this opportunity to report to you about the state of St. Mark's.

When Pastor Lisa Nelson was first proposed to us by the synod, one of the things that made her call possible was that the bishop

secured a grant for St. Mark's through the ELCA. That grant for \$12,000 made it possible for us to afford Pastor Lisa. Through some miscommunication, by the time the bishop had gone out on medical leave in July, we still had not received the grant money from the ELCA. We began paying Pastor Lisa in April without the grant funds, so things were getting tight by July. Fortunately, Rev. Walter Baires, the synod's Director for Evangelical Missions and Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop came to our rescue and intervened with the ELCA. We quickly received the grant money for January through July. Since then, we've been receiving \$1000 each month. The grant ends in December, and we can apply for another grant next year. We will pursue that.

The grant funds, along with your generous giving, and other donations have allowed us to keep our head above water all year. All bills have been paid. We have been consistently paying MIF \$2000 per month to pay off our immediate overdue debt with them. It will take us another couple of years to pay that off, but at least we are on the right track and are able to start to work toward moving St. Mark's out of the "seriously delinquent" status that we are in. Once that amount is paid off, we will be on a regular schedule of mortgage payments.

We managed to stay fairly dry in the basement this year. When the water tables got very high, we had a little seepage into the basement. This was nothing compared to what we faced a couple of years back (the water then would be at least a few inches deep). This time, the water was just in puddles in certain places. The sump pumps did the job and kept the bulk of the basement dry. It took a couple of days of no rain to lower the water tables and once that happened, there was no additional water in the basement. Jim, our handy-dandy facilities guy, is looking at the cause and some remedies, if they are possible. Our building is holding up well and isn't causing us major issues.

Lisa Manion

## Help in Worship

### Sign Up Today!

Our worship is enhanced by the variety of people participating in worship leadership. You can serve as Lector by reading the Bible lessons, or as a Communion Assistant. Add your name to the sign-up sheet on the office door. You are welcome to sign up for multiple dates and may also serve as both lector and communion assistant on the same date, if you like. If you would like more information about these opportunities, speak to Chris Anderson or email her at [StMarksFeeds@gmail.com](mailto:StMarksFeeds@gmail.com)

## 39 LWR Baby Care Kits!

Many, many thanks to Chris Scoville and Deb Thorp and to all who donated items and helped assemble Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Chris and Deb do a great job every year coordinating this effort. This year, we sent 39 kits to LWR. Thank you!



## Get to Know Pastor Lisa!

Pastor Lisa would love to get to know you better! She would enjoy meeting with you over coffee or tea. If you're willing, please share your email address with her. You can contact Pastor Lisa at: [PastorLisa@StMarksMadison.org](mailto:PastorLisa@StMarksMadison.org).



# Volunteer Thanks! Wells Fargo

## Food Pantry Waiting Room Facelift

Thanks to Liz, Mark and Brook from Wells Fargo Bank who cleaned and painted our Food Pantry waiting room on September 20. It is part of our mission to maintain an inviting and dignified experience for all who utilize our Food Pantry and our Friday Meal. We are grateful to these and all volunteers who help us with our Food Ministry Mission. We couldn't do it without them!



## 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](mailto: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!

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

**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!



*St. John's Lutheran Church, Evansville  
Donate Time & Supplies*

## 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](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org) to be added to "What Matters." Thank you for your partnership!

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