

September, 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

*Here are some highlights from my two days at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. I wasn't a voting member but participated in the celebration of the ordination of women. The Assembly was held August 5-10, 2019.*

First of all, the worship was amazing, especially the worship celebrating the ordination of women. 400 clergy women processed into the worship space to join the almost 1000 people already present.

Secondly, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected as bishop. She became the first woman presiding bishop of the ELCA in 2013. (The presiding bishop is the leader of the entire ELCA or Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.)

### **TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATED: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the Predecessor Bodies of the ELCA**

It's really next year in 2020, but we don't have another Churchwide Assembly until 2022.

April Larson attended this Churchwide Assembly, as did Elizabeth Platz, the first woman ordained in the Lutheran Church in America—one of our predecessor bodies. Barbara Andrews was the first woman ordained in the American Lutheran Church, another predecessor body, and has since passed away. (The ELCA was formed on January 1, 1988)

St Mark's was the first congregation in Madison to call a woman: Andrea Degroot Nesdahl in 1978, who later became the second bishop of a synod in the ELCA in 1995. Bishop April Larson became the first bishop of a synod in the ELCA in 1992.



*Pastor Lisa Nelson*

### **The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women of Color in the ELCA**

Lydia Rivera Kalb was the first Latina woman and Earlean Miller was the first woman of African descent to be ordained in the Lutheran Church in America in 1979. In October of 2018, there were 2,979 women active in the ordained ministry of the ELCA. 289 of them were women of color.

In 2019, eight women were elected synod bishops, raising the number of women bishops in the ELCA to 23. In 2001, Margarita Martinez was the first woman of color and first Latina woman to be elected as a synod bishop. In 2018, Patricia A. Davenport and Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld were the first women of African descent to be elected as synod bishops.

### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of LGBTQIA+ People in Committed & Monogamous Relationships, Now Called Marriage, in the ELCA**

The ELCA ordained LGBTQIA+ folks before this, but they could not be in a sexual relationship. Now they can be in such relationships as long as they're married.

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## What Does "LGBTQIA+" Mean?

- L Lesbian: Homosexual females.
- G Gay: Homosexuality, a homosexual person, or a homosexual male.
- B Bisexual: Refers to a person who is attracted to two sexes/genders.
- T Trans: Refers to a person whose identity and gender does not correspond with the gender assigned at birth.
- Q Queer/Questioning: all of those who are not heterosexual and/or cisgender. (Cisgender means a person identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth.)
- I Intersex: a person with indeterminate mix of primary and secondary sex characteristics.
- A Asexuality: a person with no or little sexual attraction to others.
- + All the other possibilities for sexuality, sexes, and genders not included above.

Peace, Pastor Lisa

[pastorlisa@stmarksmadison.org](mailto:pastorlisa@stmarksmadison.org)

## Straw Bale Garden: Who Knew?

Pastor Lisa and Alisa Toninato joined forces to plant this unique garden by the sidewalk on the Spruce Street side of our building. They were both extremely enthusiastic! They also both mentioned that they really didn't know much about gardening. Okay...

Well, a couple months later, we have a thriving garden with an abundance of green beans, tomatoes, peppers, carrots and kohlrabi. Who Knew?? What a great idea and what fun!

Pastor Lisa uses this garden as an opportunity to chat with neighbors and anyone walking by. It has been a wonderful success in many ways. Thanks Pastor Lisa and Alisa for this wonderful connection to our neighborhood!

*PS: If you would like some of the produce, please help yourself!*

## Like Us On Facebook!



St. Mark's has a new Facebook Page! Please "Like" our page and "Share" it with your Facebook Friends! The address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Lutheran-Church-1174929545990062>

## St. Mark's Culture at

Led by Rev. Walter Baires, Assistant to the Bishop, South-Central Synod of WI



**September 29**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Snacks Included**

We welcome back Rev. Walter Baires, our synodical Director for Evangelical Mission/DEM. Rev. Baires will lead this session that will guide us in learning more about the culture of our congregation. This will help us to be more welcoming to people of other cultures.

It will be very important to have as many people involved as possible in order to formulate a complete understanding of our congregational culture.

Please join Pastor Lisa Nelson, President Lisa Manion and others for this great opportunity to gain some new perspectives of how we can better interact with our community.



*Straw Bale Garden*

## Assemble Baby Care Kits Sunday, September 8 After Worship

All summer, we have been collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. Please join us after worship on September 8 to assemble the kits and prepare them for shipping.

Many thanks to Chris Scoville and Deb Thorp for their hard work on organizing this project. It would not happen without them!

# From Our President

Lisa Manion



During Synod Assembly in May, Pastor Lisa and I attended a lunch on the Lutheran congregations of San Jose in Beloit and Santa Maria in Madison to learn more about those Latin Lutheran congregations.

During the lunch, Father Gabriel talked about how the Santa Maria congregation, was not feeling as welcome as the San Jose congregation feels in Beloit. After the lunch, we approached Father Gabriel and I gave him one of our cards and told him about our Friday meal, which of-

ten is attended by many members of the Latin community.

Reverend Walter Baires, who has been leading us in culture training, reached out to Pastor Lisa about the possibility of the Santa Maria congregation moving St. Mark's. They like that we are Reconciling in Christ (the current location is not RIC). Also, St. Mark's is located in the same general area as many members of their congregation.

We're in the really early stages of the discussion. Rev. Baires suggests we move slowly and deliberately with his. There's no real timetable for this, so we'll keep you updated as things are more solidified.

Lisa

## Read Lessons and/or Serve Communion

### 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)

## Facility Updates

St. Mark's basement has remained dry this summer! We have continued to look for any areas that might cause concern. Cracks have been filled, and a cover has been built over the access pit that is next to the door off the parking lot.

Our yard has been kept mowed and weeded and looks very nice from the street. All the trees have been mulched, as well as areas in the court yard playground.

The Playground sees a lot of use by neighborhood children. It's fun to see them swinging and climbing on the equipment!



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

### We Need Your 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?

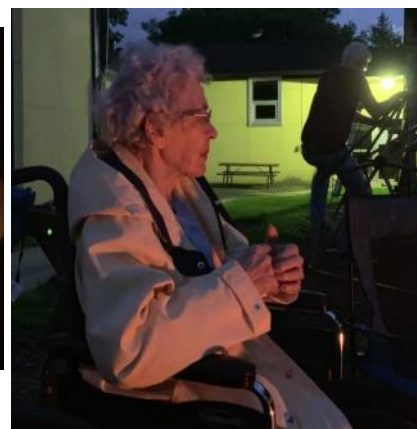
If you see something that needs to be repaired, cleaned, replaced, etc., please share your concern with President, Lisa Manion. Have an idea how to take care of the issue? Be sure to let us know how we can help! To leave a message at the church email [StMarks@StMarksMadison.org](mailto:StMarks@StMarksMadison.org).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



# Fire Pit Nights!!

**Tuesdays, September 10 & 24**

Join us for Fire-Pit Night! This is a blast! We hang out in the courtyard around our fire pit chatting with everyone who walks by, and petting dogs out walking their owners. These are social/fellowship events for the sole purpose of hanging out and being a part of our neighborhood. Enjoy the fire and conversation. Share treats & soft drinks. Mark your calendar!



## 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).

## Bay Creek Neighborhood Events

### BCNA Ice Cream Social: September 7, 1-3 pm

The annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, September 7, 1-3 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 8. Join us at the site of the sign across from the Goodman Pool between Olin and Van Deusen. There will be vanilla, chocolate and vegan ice creams. If the spirit moves you, feel free to bring a topping to share.



### Stay Informed About Bay Creek Neighborhood News!

You will find the Bay Creek Newsletter at <https://baycreekmadison.org/>

### Trick or Trot Run/Walk: October 13

GSAFE, a Madison-based nonprofit that works to create safe and inclusive schools for LGBTQ+ youth across Wisconsin, is once again organizing the annual Trick or Trot 5K Walk/Run which will take place on Sunday, October 13, winding through both the Bay Creek and Capitol View neighborhoods. Franklin Elementary School will act a staging location for the event which will feature a 5K walk/run as well as a kids dash. In order to lessen the impact of an early morning event for residents in both neighborhoods registration will open at 11:30AM with the race starting at 1PM and is anticipated to be completely done around 3PM. More information including early registration is available at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Madison/GSAFE>

*Events reprinted from the [Bay Creek Bulletin](#), August/September 2019; <https://baycreekmadison.org/>*



## Needed: Room to Rent

James is looking for a room to rent while he continues his search for a small apartment, preferable within walking distance of St. Mark's and the South Madison area. Please talk to Pastor Lisa if you have a room to rent, or know of something available in the area. James is a great companion! Quiet, funny, helpful and a joy to have around!



## Youth With a Mission

Thank you to Youth With A Mission of Madison WI, who worked tirelessly on July 25th at St Mark's, weeding the front flower gardens and clearing out the garden in back!



## South Madison Unite

### Discuss 4 Plans for Truman-Olson Site & South Park Street Supermarket



**Wednesday, September 4, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**St Mark's Lutheran Church, 605 Spruce St.**

South Madison Unite! invites all interested neighbors to an in-depth, community-based review of the 4 proposals submitted by Rule Enterprises, Maurer Markets, Habitat for Humanity, and Welton Enterprises. To see them online, go to:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/truman-olson-rfp/2773/>

South Madison Unite! 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/>

# Message on Behalf of Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld



August 12, 2019

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I wish you grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior.

I write to inform you that I have resigned as your bishop. It has been an honor to have served you. I thank you for the love, the kindness and support shown to me during my ministry among you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. If there is any way I have sinned against you, I ask your forgiveness. As I leave, I carry with me all

that I have learned here. I continue to believe that we are beloved community, church together in the ministry God has placed before each of us.

As I move on to new ministry opportunities, I will be returning to my beloved East Coast. I wish you well, praying you will continue to move toward beloved community, walking together in Christ. Soli Dei Gloria!

Blessings and Peace,

*Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld*

Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld

## 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!

## 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!

**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!*