

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428

stmarksconshy.org

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 13, 2019

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

“Wie Schoen Leuchtet”

setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who shines in glory,
clothes us in compassion,
and bears gifts of mercy for all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, wonderful counselor,
**we confess that we have turned from your gifts
and chosen our own way.**

**We have not made room for you
in our hearts or in our world.**

**We have lived in fear;
we have not welcomed the stranger;
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus
dwelling in and among us.**

Amen.

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior.
We are saved, not by anything we have done,
but by God's mercy poured out on us richly.
In the name of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Through the Spirit living in you,
God give you faith to trust Jesus,
who is Love born for you, now and always.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 308

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Wie Schon Leuchtet

Opening of the Congregational Meeting

The Secretary of council will certify the quorum count and then we assembly will open the meeting with the following dialogue:

As in one body we have many members,
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

I am there among them.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

**Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace,
and for mutual up-building.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people
by sending into us your Holy Spirit.

Direct us by the light of that Spirit,
that we may have a right judgment in all things

and rejoice at all times in your peace,
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

I declare this Congregational Meeting of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Assembly may be seated

Order of Annual Meeting

Approval of Agenda for the meeting (found on pages 15 and 16 of
this bulletin)

A motion is needed to approve

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes (found in Annual Report)

A motion is needed to approve

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

The First Reading is from the 43rd chapter of Isaiah:

¹But now thus says the LORD,

the one who created you, O Jacob,

the one who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 29



¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory
thunders;

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. R

Second Reading:

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

The Second Reading is from the 8th chapter of Acts:

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel as we sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke,
Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷With a winnowing fork is in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Children's Sermon

We invite our children forward for a lesson before either returning to their seats or heading off to the nursery.

Sermon

As the sermon today we'll be hearing from the people of St. Mark's reflecting on last year's ministry and mission.

A motion is needed to accept the pastor's report.

Key Ministry Area Reports:

Worship: Katie Colaneri

Evangelism Fellowship: Luciano Patruno

Faith Formation: Stephanie Conklin

Service: Aaron Moul

Hymn of the Day

ELW 305

The Assembly stands

When Jesus Came to Jordan

Council Member Election and Installation

Today we elect disciples from our community to serve on our church leadership team:

- Becca Casey
- Brooke Kenna
- Brooke Logan
- Liz MacNeal

And elect to a second term on Council:

- Kathy Pokalo

And those nominated from the floor.

The Assembly votes on those nominated for Church Council.

Those persons elected gather with the Presiding Minister and Council President at the baptismal font.

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In Baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share

in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

A reading from First Corinthians ...

The presiding minister continues.

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation:

The specific duties of those being installed as outlined in the constitution are read

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation.
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in
peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence is kept.

Each petition ends:

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

The prayers are concluded:

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Announcements

Announcements are made on behalf of the community

Offering

An offering is gathered to support the mission of the church. Funds gathered today will help sustain our ministry efforts at St. Mark's, support the wider national church and help those in need. You can also contribute electronically via our "Give+" giving app on your phone, available in the Apple Store and Google Play.

Musical Offering

Musical selections are offered to the glory of God. The conclusion of which gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts are brought forward

Jewels

setting by Gordon Young

End of Year Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer of the Congregation will present the end of year reports of all offerings and expenditures of the congregation during the 2018 year of ministry.

Matt Hoffman, Church Council Treasurer

A motion is needed to approve the treasurer's report

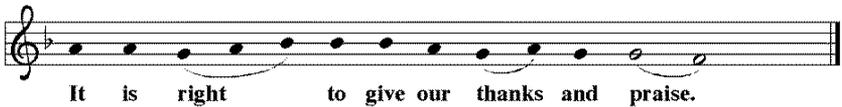
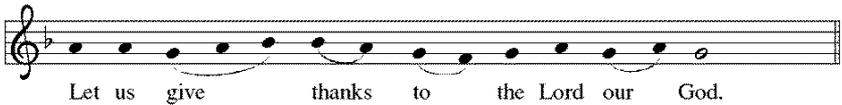
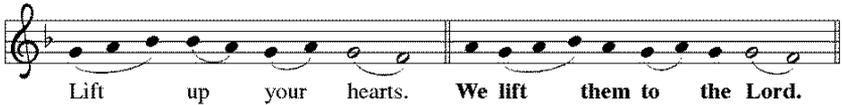
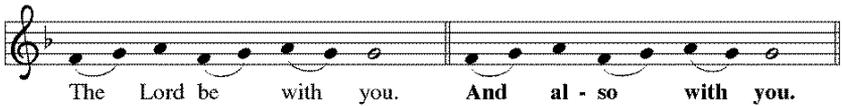
Offering Prayer

Holy God,

your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all to give thanks.



The presiding minister continues,

It is indeed right and our duty ... join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The great thanksgiving concludes:

We pray in the words our savior taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Here at St. Mark's we invite all people to the Lord's Table no matter where you are on your faith journey. This is Christ present for you – freely offered in bread and wine – all are welcome to commune.

Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!
The bread may be broken for the communion

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Communion

Today we will receive communion around the altar rail. At the direction of the usher you are invited forward to receive communion.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond -- Amen.

Communion Hymns

ELW 581 – *You Are Mine*

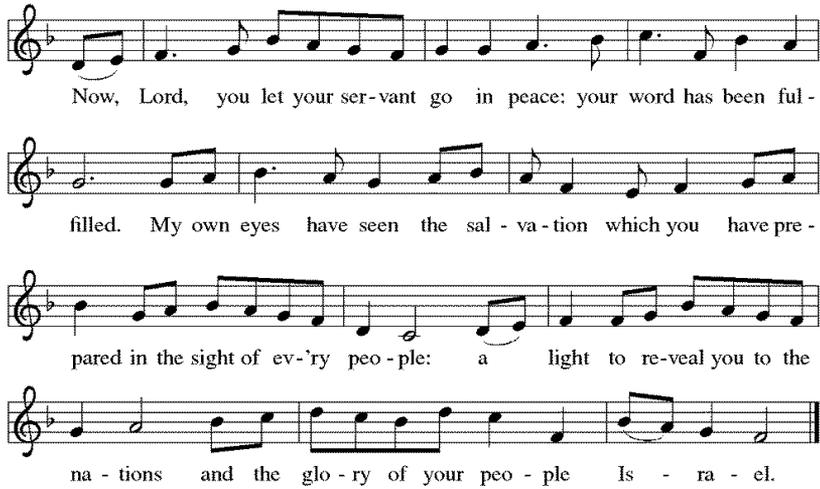
ELW 310 – *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Post Communion Blessing

The Assembly stands.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Prayer after Communion

God of wonder,
in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.
As you have come among us now,
send us out in joy,
hastening to share the good news of your love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.
Amen.

Sending

The Spirit sends us into the world to serve

New Business

Items for voting and discussion for the congregation

- Presentation of the 2019 Budget for mission
A motion is needed for the adoption of the 2019 budget

- Recognition of Council members whose terms are ending
- Reconciled in Christ (RIC) Process
- Synod Assembly

Blessing

May God the Creator who delights in you,
 Jesus the Savior who is born for you,
 and the life giving Spirit who shines on you,
 ✚ bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

ELW 453

Baptized and Set Free

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Ash Grove”

by Cindy Berry

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026440. Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense Annual License A-722951 New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda:

Official Congregational Meeting items for today

Quorum & Meeting Opened

Approval of Agenda for the meeting

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Administrative Reports

Secretary, President, Pastor, Treasurer

Presentations

- Review our work with key Ministry Areas
- Worship
- Evangelism/Fellowship

- Faith Formation
- Service
- Evangelism / Fellowship

New Business: Items for discussion and voting

Council Election

2019 Ministry spending plan (Budget)

A motion is needed to vote on the 2019 Budget

Recognition of Council Members whose terms are ending

Reconciled in Christ (RIC) Process

SEPA Synod Assembly

Leading us in Worship

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Bryan Penman	
Director of Music	Emily Ballentine Erb	
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Next Week</i>
Assisting Minister	Kathy Pokalo	Ava Ruggiero
Communion Asst.	Karly Sloan	Joanne Popowicz
Reader	Allison Fike	Brooke Kenna
Nursery	Matt Fiore	Matt Fiore
Acolytes	Theodora Morley	Stella Ruggiero
Altar Guild	Jen Ramsden	Kathys Bell & Turner
Ushers	Bill Portzer, Joe Dryburgh	Dolores Lush Joanne Copestick
Counters	LJ Kriebel Lauren Parkin	Susan Jacovino Pam Keebler
Offering Recorder	Nate Ramsden	Kathy Pokalo
Fellowship Hour	None- Cong Mtg	The Casey Family
Faith Formation	Allison Fike Gail Penman	Beth Patruno, Joe Ruggiero
Altar Flowers	Given by the Penmans. In honor	The Malentionio, Rodenbaugh and

Worship Ministry Announcements:

Ways we gather in praise of God

Dinner Church @ 6PM on Thursdays

You're invited to join us for "Dinner Church" on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm. Dinner Church is a very relaxed worship experience. Some come right from work, some right from the gym, some from just picking the kids up. No matter where you are on your faith journey you are welcome here at Dinner Church.

Faith Formation Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can deep your faith life

Faith Formation Classes after worship

We offer two faith formation opportunities after worship today, a class for young disciples and their families and an adult forum (for disciples young at heart!) Both classes meet following worship, our young persons' class begins following communion and the adult forum starts shortly after the fellowship hour.

Service Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can do God's work with your hands

2019 Offering Envelopes Available Now

Please pick up your 2019 Offering Envelopes as you leave church this evening. The boxes are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Special Collection Envelope: The Anti-Racism Team

"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people." -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Anti-Racism Team (ART) is available to help congregations understand racism as it exists in individuals, institutions, and societal structures, including our churches, and how to become allies with persons who live with this sin on a daily basis. The ART offers specific

training processes For more information, visit the SEPA Synod website at www.ministrylink.org (type 'anti-racism team in the search box) or send an email to antiracism@sepa.org.

MLK Day of Service opportunities – Monday, January 21st

It's become a nationwide tradition to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this upcoming national holiday by participating in service projects at local service organizations and houses of worship. There are two such service opportunities at local Lutheran churches:

St. John Lutheran Church

1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

(610) 277-1086 or www.stjohnbluebell.org

11:30 am – 1:00 pm Offering many service projects for all ages to do together.

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

203 N. Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333

(610) 688-0122 or www.stlukedevon.org

MLK Day of Service for Families (Adults and kids)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Capital Appeal: Pipe Organ Repairs

Our second phase of our Capital Appeal process is in full swing as we raise funds to rebuild and repair our Pipe Organ that is such an integral part of our worship experience. The cost of this work is \$53,000 and we hope to be able to raise the funds this year so that the work on the instrument may be completed in the summer of 2019. So consider giving a gift to your church by giving an extra gift to the capital appeal process.

Evangelism Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can share your faith with others

Easter Egg Industry Begins in January

Our annual Easter Egg Candy making fundraiser will begin production the week of January 14th. Volunteers will again be needed on Monday and Wednesday evening for candy making and chocolate coating as well as Friday mornings to assist with packing. This is St. Mark's largest fundraiser and we need lots of help to make the 101st year part of the longstanding Conshohocken tradition.

Monday Evenings 6pm – 8pm: Volunteers are needed to help roll / cut fondant centers. We are in special need of folks who can volunteer from 5pm – 7pm in the kitchen to assist with making the candy batches.

Wednesday Evenings 6pm – 8pm: Volunteers are needed to help coat the candies in dark chocolate, each candy is hand coated so we need lots of hands to help coat the candies!

Friday Mornings 9am – 11am: Packers are needed to help pack and weight the candies in boxes.

To place orders: you may order in person during production, fill out an order form and turn it into the church office, or you may contact our order coordinator Donna Kobi, or you may place an order using our website.

St. Mark's begins the process to become "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation

Reconciling in Christ" is a designation Lutheran communities can achieve recognizing them as LBGTQ friendly places.

This designation is provided by an organization called "Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation" who since 1974 has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.



In order to qualify for this designation the candidate organization or congregation must Write/approve a welcome statement for the church specifically naming "LGBTQ" or "people of all sexual orientations and gender identities" and apply to Reconciling Works.

Over 750 Lutheran Faith Communities specifically welcome LGBTQ people with their identity as "Reconciling in Christ (RIC)". On our journey as a congregation towards welcoming ALL people, we would like to start a discussion and explore applying for an RIC designation. Stay tuned for more information on this in the weeks and months ahead. Any questions can be directed to Joe Ruggiero.



Welcome to St. Mark's, we are so glad you are with us today!

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you have a place here. *This is Christ's Church. There is a place for you here.* We are a church that shares a living and daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person - questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Children are always welcome to participate in worship. To help our youngest worshipers, "Little Lutheran Activity Bags" are located in the rear of the sanctuary which have crayons and worship appropriate coloring pages. We offer a "Soft Space" for infants and toddlers to spread out a bit in during worship. Worshiping with children is important to us, and so we hope you find these things helpful so that you may worship together as a family.

Restrooms are located through the back left – exit the sanctuary, go up the stairs, through the first room to the end of the hallway. If you need assistance, please see the attendants (ushers) at the back of the sanctuary.

Cell phones and other electronic devices are welcome to be used to Post, Tweet and Instagram the "Good News" you hear today, but we kindly ask you to turn the sound off on them so that they do not cause a distraction to other worshipers.

Our team of ushers is available throughout the service to be of any assistance you might need. Assistive Listening devices are available. Please see an usher.

Are you new or visiting St. Mark's? If you would like to receive more information about St. Mark's, we have several methods where you can leave your information with us:

- Visitor books at the entrance to the sanctuary
- Yellow Visitor Cards in the pew backs, just drop them in the offering plate

We would be delighted to keep you informed about the many events and opportunities here at St. Mark's and hope you will join us again.