

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428  
stmarksconshy.org

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*August 11, 2019*

## Gathering

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

### Prelude

*Vocalise*

Rachmaninoff arr. Laura E. Watson

### Invocation

*The presiding minister begins*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by  
what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have  
not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our**

neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

*God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

ELW 400

CWM RHONDDA

## Greeting

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

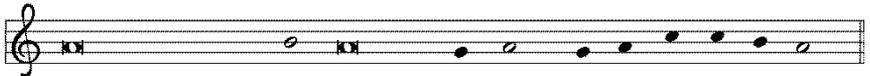
## Kyrie



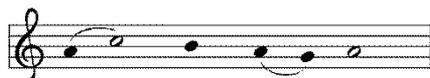
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



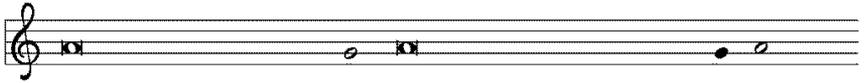
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



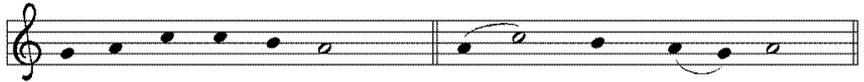
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## Hymn of Praise



Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.  
 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## Prayer of the Day

*The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray,

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# Word

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

## First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-6

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

A reading from the 15<sup>th</sup> chapters of Genesis:

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>The LORD brought Abram outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then the LORD said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And Abram believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let your lov - ing - kind - ness be up -  
 on us, as we place our hope in you.

- <sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!  
 Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!
- <sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks | down from heaven  
 and sees all | humankind.**
- <sup>14</sup>God sits firmly en- | throned and watches  
 all who dwell | on the earth.
- <sup>15</sup>**God fashions | all their hearts  
 and observes | all their deeds. R**
- <sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size | of the army,  
 nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.
- <sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain | hope for victory;  
 despite its great strength it | cannot save.**
- <sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,  
 upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup>**to deliver their | lives from death,  
 and to keep them alive in | time of famine. R**
- <sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,  
 our helper | and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,  
 for in your holy name we | put our trust.**
- <sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,  
 even as we place our | hope in you. **R**

## Second Reading:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

The Second Reading is from the 11th chapter of Hebrews:

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For Abraham looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered faithful the one who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance, they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind; they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## Gospel Acclamation

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Lesson:

**Luke 12:32-40**

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

The Gospel according to Luke, the 12th chapter:  
Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give the dominion to you. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If the master comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what

hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son-of-Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW 764

LITTLE FLOCK

## **Apostles Creed**

Together with the whole church let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. \***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation:

*A brief silence is kept. Each petition ends:*

God of Mercy, **Hold us in love.**

*The prayers are concluded:*

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## **Sharing of the 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**

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*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. If you give electronically, we invite you to take one of the green slips and place it in the offering plate as a way to include your electronic gifts in the offering time.*

## **Offertory**

*Little Flock*

setting Anna Krentz Organ

*Musical selections are offered to the glory of God. At the conclusion of the Offertory music, the gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts are brought forward, the congregation sings “Let the Vineyards be fruitful”*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,  
for the greening earth given for all,  
for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine.  
Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food  
and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

ELW p. 152

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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

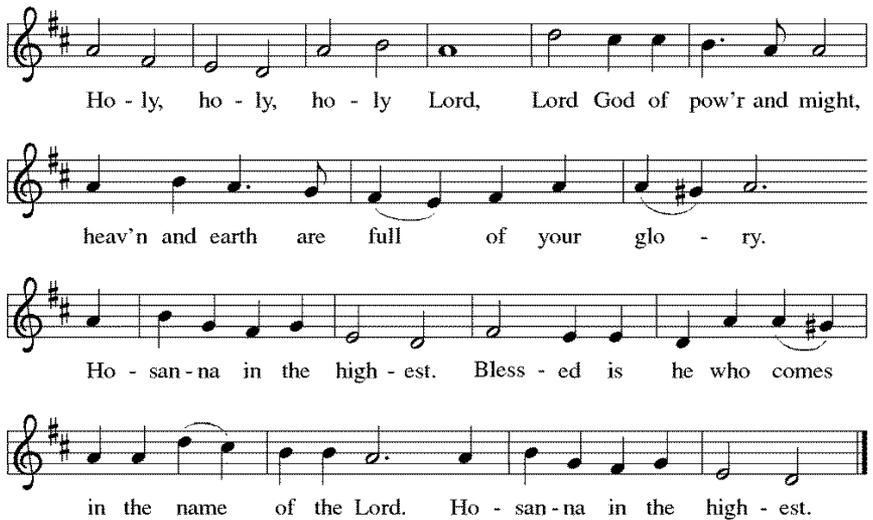
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

## Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy*

ELW p. 152



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

*The presiding minister continues*

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

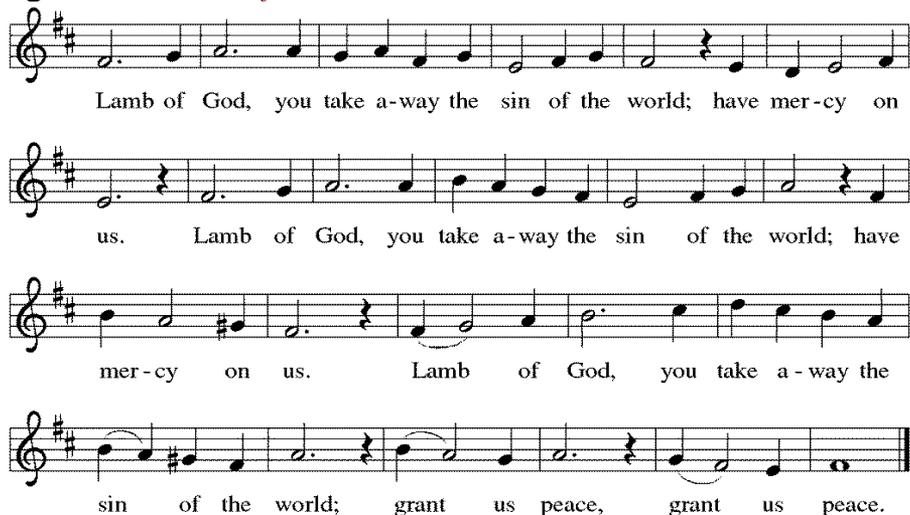
*Here at St. Mark's we invite all people to the Lord's Table no matter where you are on your faith journey. This is Christ present for you – freely offered in bread and wine – all are welcome to commune.*

God invites you to this table of bounty.

Come, the banquet is ready.

*The bread may be broken for the communion*

## Agnus Dei *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, 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 767 *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

SO NIMM DENN MEINE HANDE

ELW 837 *Many and Great, O God*

LAC QUI PARLE

## Post Communion Blessing

*When all have communed, the Assembly stands.*

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

## Prayer after Communion

O God, in this holy communion  
you have welcomed us into your presence,

nourished us with words of mercy,  
and fed us at your table.  
Amid the cares of this life,  
strengthen us to love you with all our heart,  
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,  
and honor the earth you have made;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Sending

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*God blesses us and send us in mission to the world*

### Blessing

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him,  
and abound in thanksgiving;  
and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God,  
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Song

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

ELW 771

HOLY MANNA

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is sending you.  
Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

*Holy Manna*

setting by Mary McDonald

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# Leading Us in Worship

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<b>Guest Preacher:</b>	The Rev. David Penman	
<b>Director of Music</b>	Emily Ballentine Erb	
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Next Week</i>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Ava Ruggiero	Sheldon Erb
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Karly Sloan	Jo Popowicz
<b>Reader</b>	Brooke Kenna	Meagan Moul
<b>Nursery</b>	The Holsts	The Fikes
<b>Acolyte</b>	Gavin Kriebel	Theodora Morley
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jennifer Schreiter	Pam Keebler
<b>Ushers</b>	Pam Keebler	Meagan Moul
	Joe Dryburgh	Joanne Copestick
<b>Counters</b>	Lauren Parkin	Pam Keebler
	Susan Dryburgh	Susan Jacovino
<b>Offering Recorder</b>	Pam Keebler	Jen Schreiter
<b>Fellowship Hour</b>	Donna Kobi	J.Schreiter/P. Keebler

**Altar Flowers** are given today by the Heffentreyer family in loving memory of our parents, H. Russell and Helen E. Heffentreyer Sr.

## **Worship Ministry:**

*Ways we gather in praise of God*

### **Dedication of New Hymnals:**

Our new hymnals will be dedicated during worship on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Because of the generous giving of our congregation members and friends, we were able to purchase 40 new Evangelical Worship (ELW) hymnals to use as we glorify and worship God through liturgy and song on Sundays and other occasions.

## **Dinner Church on Thursday**

Traveling this summer? Don't worry, there is still a chance to get your weekly worship fix by attending Dinner Church on Thursday's at 6pm! Over the summer we serve a meal of hot dogs and salad. We invite people to volunteer to make salads during the weeks over the summer and a sign-up sheet is located in sign up hallway.

## **Theology on Tap after Dinner Church @ 7:30pm**

This group meets to discuss theology informally at local restaurants in town to talk about faith and think theologically about various topics. No theology degree is required! This year we will be exploring the monthly themes from our program year "Thy Kingdom Come" as we look for ways that we work with Jesus to build the kingdom of God in our world.

## **Altar Flower Sponsorship**

We have an opening for Altar Flowers for the third Sunday in August and a few Sundays in September. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one. The Sign-Up sheet is in the hallway. The cost is \$40.00.

## **Faith Formation Ministry:**

*Ways you can deepen your faith life*

## **Get Ready for Rally Day – Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Faith Formation classes: will begin on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We offer two faith formation opportunities after worship, 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.

## **Service Ministry:**

*Ways you can do God's work with your hands*

## **Capital Appeal Update: Pipe Organ Repairs**

We continue to raise funds for our current Capital Appeal to renovate and refurbish our Pipe Organ. The results will be a refurbished pipe organ that will be brought back to its full potential.

Currently we've raised \$47,145 of the \$54,000 needed to complete this work—that's \$6,855 to go! We need your help to get us the rest of the way there!

We invite you to consider making a gift donation to help us with these much-needed repairs to our organ. Another family has agreed to match funds given to the Capital Campaign over the next few weeks. So, if you give, they will also give. Now is the time to give to our capital appeal process so we can pay the bill on refurbishing our Pipe Organ! Work continues installing the new racks and pipes!

### **Backpacks for School Kids**

St. Mark's is currently collecting solid colored backpacks for Colonial Neighborhood Councils school supply drive for families in need of a little help getting their kids off to school this year. We ask that backpacks be brought to the church no later than Sunday August 18th.

### **Food Collection Items Needed**

Our local food bank run by our friends over at Colonial Neighborhood Council is in urgent need of tuna, fruit, jelly and, as always, toilet paper. Baskets are located at the rear of the sanctuary to collect items that will be taken over each week to the food bank.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at St. Mark's on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 12Noon – 5pm in the Auditorium. To sign up to donate blood go <https://www.redcrossblood.org> or call 1-800-REDCROSS

### **St. Mark's Community Garden**

Now that the warmer weather is starting to roll in, it is time to start thinking about our St. Mark's community garden plot. As in years past, we are again tending a 10'x10' plot in the Conshohocken community garden located near Edwards Freeman Nut Company.

We donate all of the produce that we grow to Colonial Neighborhood Council as part of our Stewardship drive. In the coming weeks, we will start preparing the plot and doing our initial planting. Then over the duration of the summer, we need volunteers to help with weekly upkeep such as watering and weeding the plot. This project requires a great deal of time, so if you would be interested in helping, please reach out to Matt Hoffman

## Special Collection Envelope This Month: Silver Springs Martin Luther School

This month's special collection envelope is for Silver Springs Martin Luther School offers a holistic approach to improving the developmental, emotional, educational, spiritual, and social well-being of children and families through residential and community-based mental health services, special education, and foster family care. With locations in Plymouth Meeting and Philadelphia, Silver Springs is a Social Ministry Organization (SMO) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is non-denominational with regard to whom it serves.

### This Week at St. Mark's

<b>Monday</b> <i>Office Closed</i>		<i>6am Meals on Wheels</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>3pm – 7pm Office Open</i>	<i>7pm Church Council</i>	<i>6am Meals on Wheels</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>10am – 12N Office Open</i>		<i>6 am Meals on Wheels 8pm AA Group</i>
<b>Thursday</b> <i>3 – 7pm Office Open</i>	<i>6pm Dinner Church 7pm Theology on Tap</i>	<i>6am Meals on Wheels</i>
<b>Friday</b> <i>10am – 12N Office Open</i>		<i>6am Meals on Wheels 7 pm AA / Al-Anon 8:30 pm AA Group</i>
<b>Saturday</b>		<i>7 pm AA Group</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 Fellowship Hour</i>	<i>7 pm AA Group</i>

# Welcome to St. Mark's! We're 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 worshippers, "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 worshippers.

**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 or Yellow Visitor Cards in the pew backs which can be dropped 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.