

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428
stmarksconshy.org

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost *September 1, 2019*

Gathering

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

Prelude

Nocturne in C#

Posthumous Frederic Chopin

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

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

IN BABILONE

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.

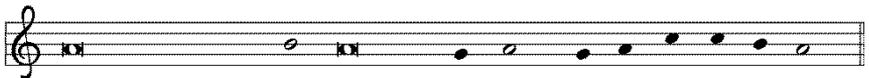
Kyrie



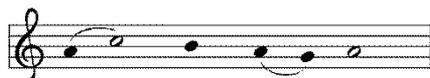
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



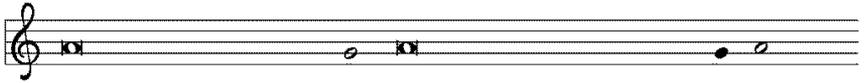
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



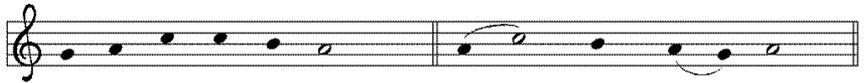
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading:

Proverbs 25:6-7

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

The First Reading is from the 25th chapter of Proverbs:

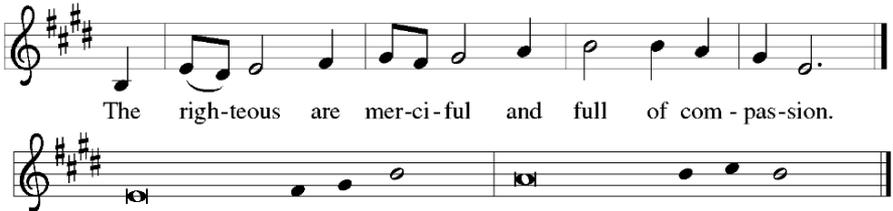
- ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the presence of a monarch
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalmody:

Psalm 112



The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com-pas-sion.

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R**

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

6For they will nev- | er be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. R

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.

8Their heart is established and | will not shrink,

until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands | fast forever;

they will hold up their | head with honor.

**10The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their
teeth and | pine away;**

the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

Second Reading:

Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

The Second Reading is from the 13th chapter of Hebrews:

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

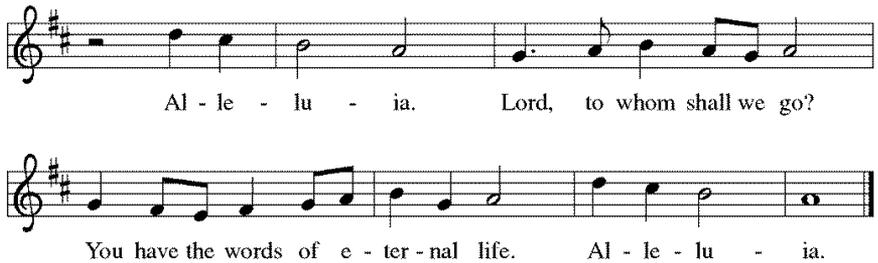
⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and

forever. ¹⁵Through Christ, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess God's name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.

The Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to

you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, your host may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite those who are poor, crippled, lame, and blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Gather Us In

ELW 532

GATHER US IN

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

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence is kept. Each petition ends:

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

The prayers are concluded:

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

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

Improvisation on Gather Us In

Emily Ballentine Erb

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



bles-sing. 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.

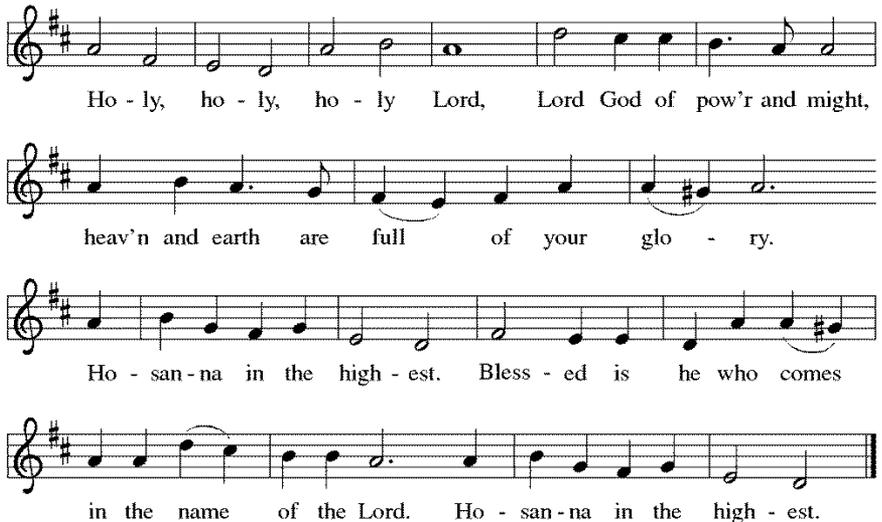
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.**

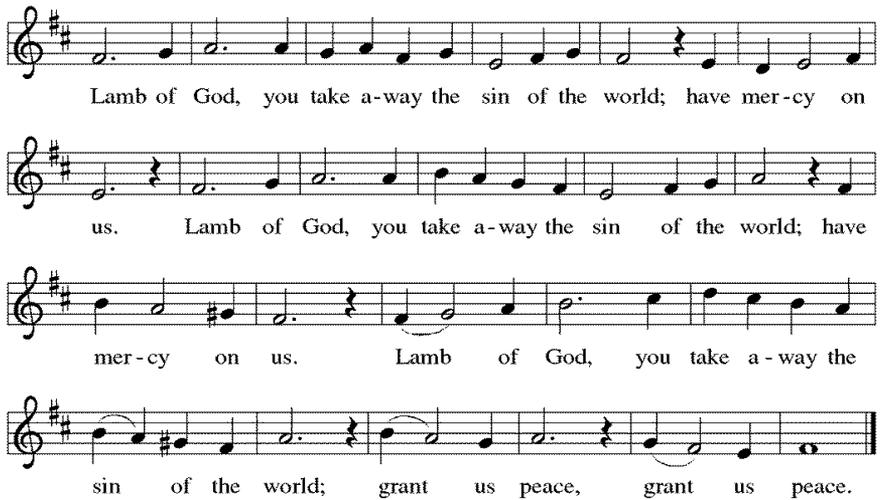
Invitation to Communion

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.

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come, take your place at the feast.

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 462 *Now We Join in Celebration*

SCHMUCKE DICH

WOV 778 *O Christ the Same* Hymn Insert

LONDONDERRY AIR

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

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the

one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

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

ELW 208

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Atkinson

setting by Jacob B. Weber

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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 | Kim Kriebel | Dave Penman |
| Communion Asst. | Karen Hanna | Nate Ramsden |
| Reader | Sheldon Erb | Dave Penman |
| Nursery | The Powells | The Ramsdens |
| Acolyte | Open | Brigette Schreiner |
| Altar Guild | Kathy Bell Kathy Turner | Stephanie Conklin Sandy Portzer |
| Ushers | The Penmans | Pam Keebler Dolores Lush |
| Counters | Rhea Moore Jen Schreiter | Lauren Parkin LJ Kriebel |
| Offering Recorder | Pam Keebler | Nate Ramsden |
| Fellowship Hour | The Holsts | The Penmans |

Worship Ministry:

Ways we gather in praise of God

Adult Choir and Bell Choir Rehearsals

Come, join the joyful noise of music ministry at St. Mark's! Both choirs offer special music at worship throughout the year. Anyone is welcome to join either choir; you do not need to know how to read music (although it is helpful). If you have any questions, or if you're interested in singing and ringing, please contact our Director of Music, Emily Ballentine Erb. (emily@stmarksconshy.org).

Adult Choir – Thursdays at 7:00pm

Bell Choir – Thursdays at 7:45pm

Dedication of New Hymnals:

Our new hymnals will be dedicated during worship on September 8th. 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.

Blessing of Backpacks

Children of all ages: Bring your backpacks to worship on Sunday, September 8th and we'll bless them during the service so blessing and encouragement will literally be upon the students who carry them throughout the school year ahead!

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.

Notice About Altar Flowers

This week we received notice that our florist, Hagues, will be going out of business. The owner has some very serious medical issues that will prevent her from continuing the flower business. Until Worship and Music has a change to figure out next steps, we will be suspending Altar Flowers. If you are scheduled for upcoming dates, please note that we will not be needing payment for those altar flowers. We will let donors know when Altar Flowers resume.

Faith Formation Ministry:

Ways you can deepen your faith life

Get Ready for Rally Day – Sunday, September 8th

Faith Formation classes: will begin on Sunday, September 8th. Join us for our first class of the new year as we explore more in depth the stories from worship. Each week we gather to read scripture, do an activity, sing, pray and dive deeper into our faith together. Children ages 4 – 5th grade are welcome to this class (and so are their parents, because bible learning is for all ages!)

diakonia™ Classes Starting this Fall

diakonia™ is a two-year adult theological education and discipleship program covering a range of topics from the Bible, Practical Ministries, Church History and Christian Teachings. Each class runs for five weeks. Participants can sign on for the entire year or take the courses individually as their schedules allow! For much more information about this program, endorsed by the both the SEPA Synod and the ELCA, go to (ministrylink.org under the leadership tab) or (www.diakoniausa.org). The group will meet at St. Mark's Lutheran, Conshohocken on Mondays 6:30-9:00 pm beginning on September 9th through April 16th Speak with Pr. Bryan or Email: Pr.Mary.Konopka@gmail.com for more info or to register.

Confirmation resumes

Confirmation classes will resume for the year with a new weekly class format. Confirmation will meet on Sundays during our Faith Formation hour following worship. Confirmation is for students in middle school ages. To find out more details about the program and about getting your child confirmed, please speak with Pastor Bryan.

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.

Currently we've raised \$51,525.19 of the \$54,000 needed to complete this work- that's **\$2,474.81** 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!

Thank You for Backpack Donations!

Thank you to all who brought in backpacks for Colonial Neighborhood Council's (CNC) school supply drive for families in need of a little help getting their kids off to school this year.

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.

Special Collection Envelope This Month: Cradles to Crayons

Childhood poverty is a serious nationwide issue. The average U.S. family in poverty, with two adults and two children, lives on less than \$24,000 a year. Consider these staggering statistics from our region where Cradles to Crayons currently operates:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate among the nation's ten largest cities. Nearly one in four Philadelphians, including 147,000 children, live in poverty.

Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth through age 12, living in homeless or low-income situations, with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school and at play. We supply these new or nearly-new items of clothing free of charge. The vision is that one day every child will have the essentials they need to feel safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued.

Lutheran Disaster Response Gearing Up to Assist Hurricane Victims

It's been two years since hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria swept through the United States and the Caribbean, causing widespread damage and interrupting the lives of millions. Two years later, Lutheran Disaster Response is still present bringing God's hope, healing and renewal to affected communities.

At this writing, Hurricane Dorian is a Category 1 storm heading for Puerto Rico and the Florida coast. Please hold the residents who will be affected, first responders, and emergency and disaster personnel in prayer as we go through the Labor Day holiday.

For more information or to donate: Online: www.elca.org – Lutheran Disaster Response in the search box By Phone: 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card.

This Week at St. Mark's

Monday

Office Closed

6am Meals on Wheels

Tuesday

*Office hours: 7pm Worship and Music Mtg
3pm – 7pm*

6am Meals on Wheels

Wednesday

*Office hours:
10am – 12pm*

*6 am Meals on Wheels
8pm AA Group*

Thursday

*6pm Dinner Church
Office hours: 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
3pm – 7pm 7:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal*

6am Meals on Wheels

Friday

*Office hours:
10am – 12pm*

*6am Meals on Wheels
7 pm AA / Al-Anon
8:30 pm AA Group*

Saturday

7 pm AA Group

Sunday

*9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Faith Formation
10:30 Fellowship Hour*

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 cyons 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.