

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

508 Harry Street | Conshohocken, PA 19428
stmarksconshy.org

Thirteen Sunday after Pentecost *September 8, 2019*

Gathering

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

Prelude

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

arr. Charles Callahan

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 name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

CRUCIFER

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.

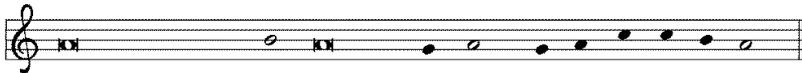
Kyrie



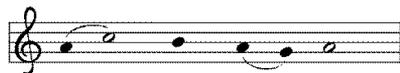
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



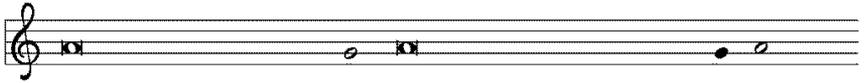
Lord, have mer - cy.



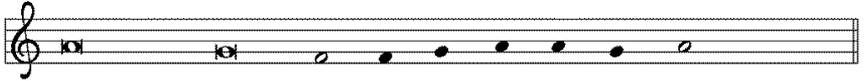
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



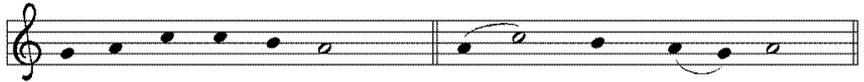
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



Word

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

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods

The First Reading is from the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in the LORD's ways, and by observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other deities and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying the LORD, and holding fast to your God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalmody:

Psalm 1

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text: "Their de - light is in the law of the LORD." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of the text: "Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!"

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R**

Second Reading:

Philemon 1:1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of Philemon:

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

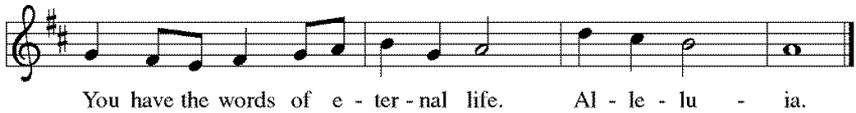
⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason Onesimus was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel Lesson:

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether there is enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when a foundation has been laid and the builder is not able to finish the building, all who see it will begin to ridicule the builder, ³⁰saying, ‘This person began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation

and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

TOMA MI VOLUNTAD

Dedication of New Hymnals

Those who sponsored hymnals are invited forward as we bless and dedicate our new hymnals to service in our sanctuary.

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

Come Follow Me Forever

by Johann Michael Haydn

Katie Colaneri and Hannah Knauss, Voice

arr. Patrick Libergen

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



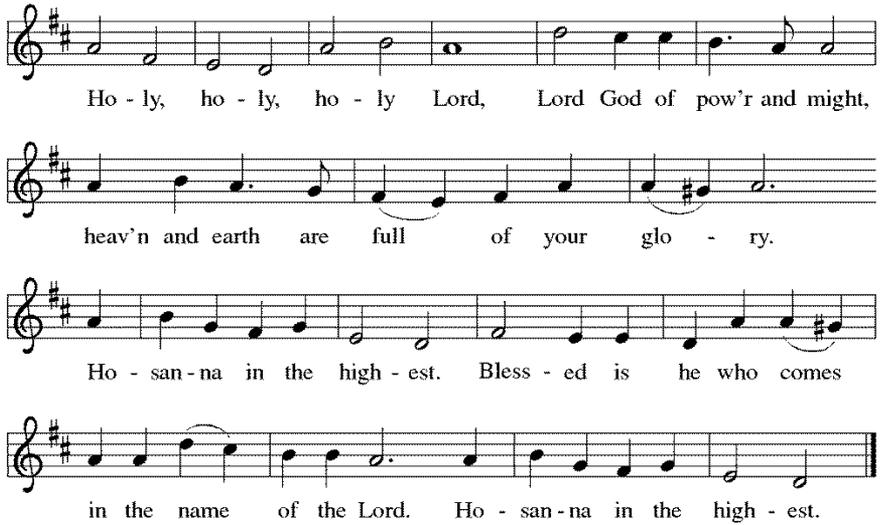
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble

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 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

LES PETITES SOEURS

ELW 814 *Oh, Take Me As I Am*

TAKE ME AS I AM

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

Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Almighty God ☩ bless you with grace, mercy, and peace,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

EVAN

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Trumpet Flourish

by Leon Nelson

Leading Us in Worship

Presiding Minister
Director of Music

The Rev. Bryan Penman
Emily Ballentine Erb

	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Next Week</i>
Assisting Minister	Dave Penman	Joe Jacovino
Communion Asst.	Nate Ramsden	Matt Powell
Reader	Rebecca Powell	Kathy Pokalo
Nursery	The Ramsdens	Matt Fiore
Acolyte	Brigette Schreiner	Connor Logan
Altar Guild	Stephanie Conklin Sandy Portzer	Erin Orekar
Ushers	Pam Keebler Dolores Lush	George Pokalo Kathy Pokalo
Counters	Dolores Lush Pam Keebler	Susan Dryburgh Matt Fiore
Offering Recorder	Nate Ramsden	Jen Schreiter
Fellowship Hour	Gail and Dave Penman	The Ruggieros
Faith Formation	Gail Penman Stephanie Conklin	Holly Holst Susan Inderbitzen

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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 – Thurs. @ 7pm / Bell Choir – Thurs. @ at 7:45pm

Dedication of New Hymnals

Our new hymnals will be dedicated today during worship. 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

Dinner Church is a very relaxed worship and fellowship experience. The Sign-Up to bring a main dish, soup or salad is in the “sign-up hallway” across from the McCarney room. No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here at Dinner Church.

Notice About Altar Flowers

Recently, we received notice that our florist, Hague's, 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 chance to explore other options, 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

Faith Formation Begins Today

Faith Formation classes begin today. 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. Participants can sign on for the entire year or take the courses individually as their schedules allow! For 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). Each 5 week course will meet on Mondays 6:30-9:00 pm beginning on September 9th. Speak with Pr. Bryan or Email: Pr.Mary.Konopka@gmail.com for more info or to register.

Confirmation Resumes Today

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.

Open Theological Conversation

We are going to try a new kind of Adult Forum this year in what Pastor is calling, “Open Theological Conversation.” Each month we will have an open and honest conversation about a particular topic. It’s intended to be an open and affirming space as we wrestle with difficult topics and try to seek God’s wisdom as people of faith by asking, “where do we see God in this?” Our first conversation will be following worship on Sunday September 29th as we explore the topics of Immigration and Refugees. We hope you will join us for the conversation.

Service Ministry:

Ways you can do God's work with your hands

Capital Appeal Update: Pipe Organ Repairs

We are in the final weeks of our Capital Appeal for repairs to the Pipe Organ. Work has been completed and we are soon to send off our final payment for the work that was done this summer. **We have \$382.00 to go** to finish up this \$53,000 appeal. We are planning a festival rededication of the Pipe Organ on

Sunday October 27th (It's also Reformation Sunday – fitting to celebrate the reforming work on the organ we think) so we hope you mark your calendars now for that festival celebration.

Upcoming Synod Training and workshops

- Anti-Racism Sept. 21st 9am – 5pm @ St. Luke Devon, Cost \$15 (Pastor is planning on going)
- Shaping Your Ministry to be Inclusive and Safe for LGBTQIA+ Folk October 12th 9am – 2pm @ Reformation, Media. Cost \$10 (Pastor is leading a workshop)
- Congregational Vitality Awareness Day November 9th 9:30am – 3pm @ United Lutheran Seminary, Cost \$15 (Pastor is planning this event)

Special Collection Envelope This Month: Cradles to Crayons

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.

Help for Hurricane Victims

Hurricane Dorian victims and rescue/aid workers continue to need financial and material assistance. Contact Lutheran Disaster Response: www.elca.org (put LDR in search box)

Evangelism / Fellowship Ministries:

Ways we share the Good News and connect with Christian Community

Joining St. Mark's

Are you new to St. Mark's? Are you interested in taking your faith a step forward by joining our congregation? If you are interested in finding out more about membership in our congregation, speak to Pastor after worship. We would love to add you to our growing community of disciples!

Conshohocken Beer Fest

Saturday October 12th from 1 – 5 is the annual Conshy Beer Festival. St. Mark's will again be present to pass out waters and meet folks in our community. If you would like to volunteer to be present at our booth – please see Joe Ruggiero or send an email to pastor.

St. Mark's Fall Block Party

Save the date for Saturday October 20th for our first St. Mark's Fall Block party and worship. Food, fellowship, pumpkin painting, kids can come in costume as we fellowship and spend some time together as a faith community.

This Week at St. Mark's

Monday <i>Office Closed</i>	<i>6:30pm diakonia™ Program</i>	<i>6am Meals on Wheels 7pm Boy Scouts</i>
Tuesday <i>Office hours: 3pm – 7pm</i>	<i>7pm Church Council</i>	<i>6am Meals on Wheels</i>
Wednesday <i>Office hours: 10am – 12pm</i>		<i>6 am Meals on Wheels 8pm AA Group</i>
Thursday <i>Office hours: 3pm – 7pm</i>	<i>6pm Dinner Church 7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</i>	<i>6am Meals on Wheels</i>
Friday <i>Office hours: 10am – 12pm</i>		<i>6am Meals on Wheels 7 pm AA / Al-Anon 8:30 pm AA Group</i>
Saturday		<i>7 pm AA Group</i>
Sunday	<i>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Faith Formation 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.