

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023**

in the 170^h Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



Please be aware:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

C = Congregation P = Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

PRELUDE Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring JS Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

C **Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Silence for reflection.

P Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all people.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ, the risen One,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven LBW, "Green", 549**

***THE GREETING**

P The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **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.



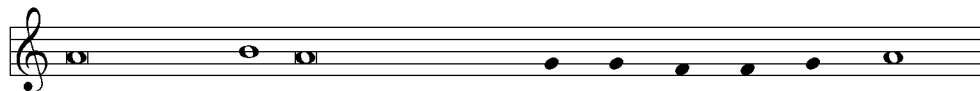
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty 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



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in

heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Acts 17:22-31

22Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

8Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.

**9Our God has kept us a- | mong the living
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

10For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

**11You brought us in- | to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

12You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

**13I will enter your house | with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—**

14those that I promised | with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

**15I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**

16Come and listen, all you | who believe,
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

**17I called out to God | with my mouth,
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

18If I had cherished evil | in my heart,
the Lord would | not have heard me;

**19but in truth | God has heard me
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

20Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Peter 3:13-22

13Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18For Christ

also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John 14:15-21**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter

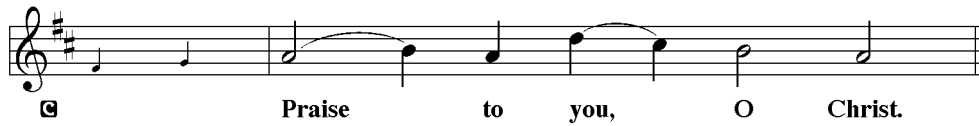
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;

and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN We Know That Christ Is Raised LBW, “Green”, 189**

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, “Risen Lord/Hear our prayer.”

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

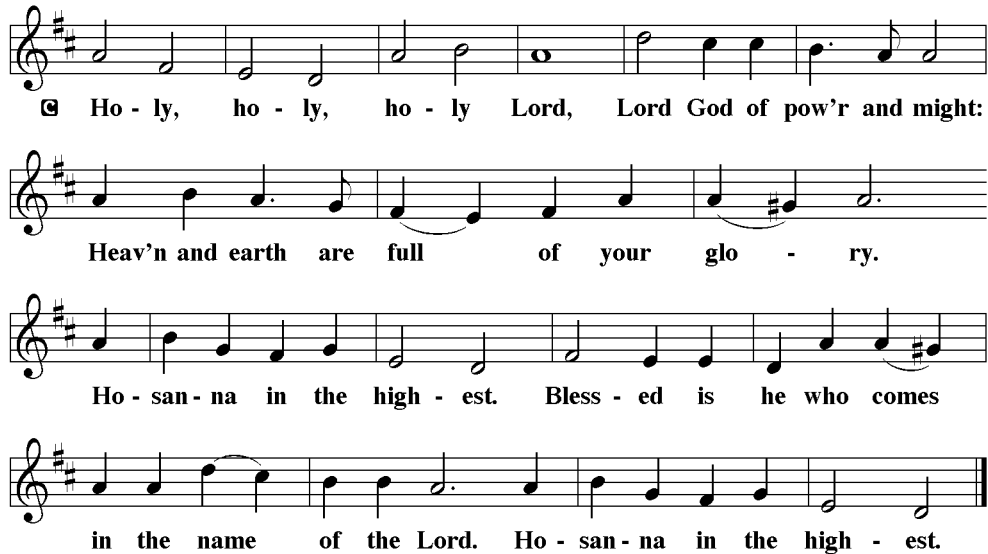
The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life. 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 which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord

offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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

C **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.**

*LAMB OF GOD



C 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.

ANTHEM

“If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Tallis set to music the text from the gospel for today: John 14: 15-21, where Jesus speaks to his disciples foretelling his own death and promising that God the Father will send to them the Holy Spirit (a Comforter). If Ye Love Me sounds like a simple 16-century motet, but it has subtle touches of color and movement which bring the hymn alive. Tallis' work is a beautiful work of art and is remembered as one of his most celebrated pieces of music.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *All Are Welcome to Receive.*

Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

P Come and dine with the Risen Christ!

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P The God of all,
who raised † Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN**

Bind Us Together

WOV, "Blue", 748

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord!

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* Jean Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny

Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Lou Kolb, Roxy Larson.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



-  Bunny Ditchfiel is now “back” at Williamsport Home
-  Roxy Larson is temporarily a resident at Ravine Ridge, Williamsport Home. Her address is:
Roxy Larson
1900 Ravine Road, Room 206
Williamsport Home, Williamsport PA 17701



May 14, 2023

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Leah Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	May	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



OUR STEWARDSHIP (5/7/23)

Regular Offering	\$4,385.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Sunday School Offering	6.00
Parish Life	42.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	120.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,573.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Honor of our Mothers, Judy Fortin and Ruth Ann Bigelow by Wanda and Matt Fortin and family.
+In Loving Memory of Shirley Miller by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
+In Loving Memory of Rosena Haines by Dan and Diana Zeigler



PLEASE JOIN US Saturday, May 27, 2023

Memorial Service for Harold and Joyce Hershberger, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 11 a.m. Reception to follow at the Williamsport Country Club (800 Country Club Drive). All are welcome!



Summer Hospitality!

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, s'mores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, **summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM. (Summer Schedule starts June 4, 2023)**

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

MY SOUL LONGS FOR YOU: MUSICAL SETTINGS OF PSALM 42

FRIDAY, MAY 19 AT 7:30PM
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tickets available at the door.

Adults: \$10

Children: \$5

Featuring:

*Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra
Samuel Robinson, conductor*

*Williamsport Youth Choir
Jaclyn Gilbert, conductor*



*AS THE DEER PANTS FOR THE WATER BROOKS,
SO PANTS MY SOUL FOR YOU, O GOD. MY SOUL THIRSTS
FOR GOD, FOR THE LIVING GOD.
WHEN SHALL I COME AND APPEAR BEFORE GOD?*





Monday, May 15, - Sunday, May 21, 2023

Monday, May 15	St. Mark's Council	Middle Lounge	6:00 p.m.
	Civic Chorus Board	Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.
	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir & Orchestra	Nave	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 16			
Wednesday, May 17	Property Committee	Middle Lounge	6:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir & Orchestra	Nave (rehearsal)	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 18	Chamber Choir & Orchestra	Nave (rehearsal)	7:00 p.m.
	Deadline for June "Lion"		
Friday, May 19	Chamber Choir & Orchestra	CONCERT	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 20			
Sunday, May 21	Holy Communion		8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>		

BIRTHDAYS

Jane Larson	May 15
Stephen Boone	May 18
Candace Dewar	May 19
Kenneth Schreckengast	May 19

ANNIVERSARY

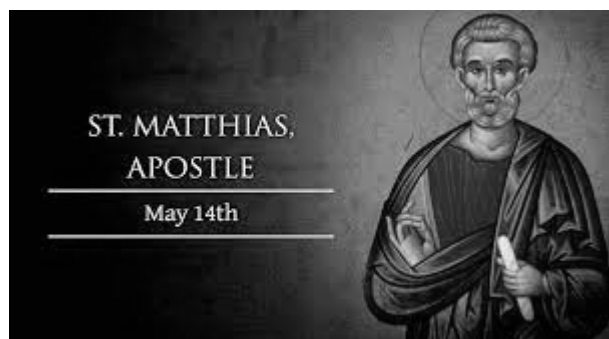
None this week

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, May 15	St. Mark's Council	Middle Lounge	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17	Property Committee	Middle Lounge	6:00 p.m.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week at Our Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

COMMEMORATIONS



Matthias, Apostle

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly

commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.



Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.