

## FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. King Street  
York, PA 17401-1307  
Phone: 717-843-8597



Fax: 717-699-1227

Website: [www.firststjohns.com](http://www.firststjohns.com)

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**DATED MATERIAL**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO



## PARISH VISITOR

FIRST ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WE ARE AN OUTREACH CHURCH

Be together at First St. John's - Your Community Church and Your Family in JESUS



**VOLUME 51 ISSUE 1**

Website: [www.firststjohns.com](http://www.firststjohns.com)

**JANUARY 2019**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

MATTHEW 2:1,2



Epiphany





## SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERVICE 11:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM

"Till all have heard! Thanks be to God!"

### REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS AND WORSHIP

<b>Sunday -</b>	11:00 AM Sunday Worship 9:00 AM Bible Study *
<b>Monday -</b>	PANERA BREAD DISTRIBUTION 9:30-11:00 AM
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 PM - Adult Choir
<b>Thursday</b>	6:30 PM - Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

### OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS:

[www.firststjohns.com](http://www.firststjohns.com)

### WELCOME

Our major objective is for all to know Jesus as Lord and be an effective magnet involving lives for Jesus Christ. Worship should always be focused on God, the time honored traditions of worship are observed here, we want worship to be glorifying to God, honoring to God and reminding us of the greatness and glory of God. People say that they have truly worshipped after our Sunday morning service.

We are a very welcoming church and we want to help you to know Jesus.

### Contact Us

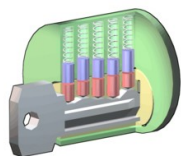
Phone 717.843.8597

E-Mail: [firststjohns@verizon.net](mailto:firststjohns@verizon.net)

First St. Johns Lutheran Church  
140 W. King St., York PA 17401

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New high security key-locks were installed on the front and back entrance doors of the church. The new key fits both locks. If you have the old entrance keys please discard them.



## SUNDAY SERVICES

Communion and Non-Communion, Services are held during the month, Prayer and Preaching Non-Communion services are held on the 5th Sunday of months with 5 Sundays.

We print bulletins in English (small and large print), and Chinese for morning worship. Please contact us in advance if you need a Spanish bulletin.

**PHONE: (717) 843-8597**



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter by email please contact the church office at (717) 843-8597 or send an email to [firststjohns@verizon.net](mailto:firststjohns@verizon.net).



If you or someone you know is a shut-in, has an illness or is unable to worship with us due to other circumstances, please call the church office.

The church phone number is: **717-843-8597**

**OR**

**EMAIL: [firststjohns@verizon.net](mailto:firststjohns@verizon.net)**



## STEWARDSHIP: JANUARY 2019

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35) and "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins, [a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to "take for me a contribution" and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up "the contribution for me."

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: "let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst." The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.





## EPIPHANY



The word "epiphany" means manifestation, and the root of the word was often used to describe the dawn, and the appearance of gods bringing help to men. The Epiphany was also called the Theophany, the Feast of the Manifestation, the Feast of Lights, the Feast of the Appearing Christ. The earliest manifestations commemorated on the Epiphany were the birth and baptism of Jesus. From its solstice date there developed an association with the rebirth of light, an echo of which still persists in the lesson for the festival. A further early association was with the changing of the water into wine at Cana, our Lord's first miracle and the subject of the traditional gospel for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany. This was probably consciously designed to sublimate the pagan festival of the wine-god Dionysus on January 5-6 which was popular in many parts of the Near East.

It was only after the adoption of December 25 as the date of Christmas that the Epiphany was restricted in the East to the celebration of the baptism of our Lord. The Western church, on the other hand, with the exception of parts of Gaul and Spain which were under Eastern influence, seems to have associated with the Epiphany, not our Lord's baptism, but rather the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. The reason for this association is obscure, but it may have been due to the transfer in the fourth century of the alleged relics of the Magi from Constantinople to Milan.

The visit of the Magi took place sometime after the birth of our Lord. (Matt. 2:10ff) When they reached Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary and the Infant Jesus were no longer in the stable, but in a house. Later, When Herod slaughtered the children in Bethlehem, hoping to eliminate Jesus among them, he set the upper age limit at two years. It is probable, therefore, that the visit of the Magi took place more than a year after the birth of Jesus. Even so conscienceless a ruler as Herod would hardly have made the age limit unnecessarily high.

The Epiphany was an important festival in Germany in the Middle Ages. The relics of the Magi were transferred from Milan to the Cathedral of Cologne and the day became one of great importance. All Lutheran orders of the sixteenth century kept it as a major festival. Under frontier conditions, and in 1743, when Epiphany fell on a weekday, Henry Melchior Mulenberg writes: "we celebrated the Festival of the Epiphany in Providence and I preached to the congregation again in the barn."

This information was taken from the book: The Christian Year, written by Edward T. Horn III c. 1957



*Ken Sanders*  
*Minister of Music*

**THE ADULT CHOIR:** Sharon Hennig, Karen Hildebrand, Lois Hollinger,  
Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh, Wally Smith, Quitao Zhang, Ding Wang,  
Maria Stankiewicz, Brian Stankiewicz



The special offering for the month of  
**JANUARY**  
Habitat for Humanity



## **JANUARY 2019 PARISH VISITOR**

**FEBRUARY 2019 DEADLINE**

Articles Due **January 18th - Friday**

Mail Date **January 24th - Thursday**



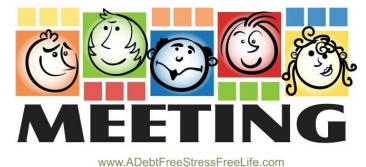
## **SERVICE TIME**



*Join us 11:00am Sundays!*



## **MEETINGS IN JANUARY**



**Worship Committee**  
**Church Council**  
**Future Committee**

**To be announced**  
**10th-Thursday-5:30 pm,**  
**Wednesday-9:00 am-(Fridays as needed)**

## **UPCOMING JANUARY SERVICES**

**January 6th, Non-Communion (Epiphany)**  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**January 13th, Communion (The Baptism of our Lord)**  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**January 20th, Non-Communion (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)**  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**January 27th, Communion (3rd Sunday after the Epiphany)**  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer





OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW JESUS  
Bible Study  
9:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Service  
11:00 AM

First St. John's Lutheran Church  
140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597  
For updates refer to Website calendar at  
JANUARY 2019

CHURCH OFFICE  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bible Study 9:00 am. Morning Worship starts at 11:00 am. The fifth Sunday of the month (months with five Sundays), will be a Prayer and Preaching Service.		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>3</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Epiphany NC/ White	<b>7</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>10</b> CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> The Baptism of our Lord C/ White	<b>14</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany NC/ Green	<b>21</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am Martin Luther King Day	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>24</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>28</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>31</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm		
		LAY READER	USHER		ALTAR GUILD	SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERINGS JANUARY Habitat for Humanity

BUILDING

New key locks on the outside doors were installed. This enhanced the church security as control of the keys is between the church and the key lock installer. The old entry keys were discarded.

Acquired a maintenance contract for HVAC. Routine filter cleaning or replacement is ongoing.

New LED lights were installed in the men’s and ladies bathrooms.

New LED lights in the sanctuary were installed. Proposed dimming capabilities will be addressed in 2019. We give thanks to Dick Sindlinger for helping Dale Reeve (the electrician) change the bulbs and perform maintenance on the fixtures.

New light switches and fixtures were installed in the sexton and storage closets.

LED bulbs and fixtures will be used as replacements for old ones.

A baseboard heater is approved and will be installed in the men’s room.

A pest control contract is in place.

Repairs were made to the handicapped commode in the ladies room.

The commode in the men’s room was replaced. The floor was repaired.

Carpets in the church were cleaned. A maintenance contract was put in place.

A contract proposal to repair the roof is under review.

Thank You!! To the church choir, the Abendschoen family, the LWML, and the Hennig family for providing the food for the Midweek Advent suppers.



**The future committee and church council identified many issues in 2018. A summary of completed or in process issues is listed:**

**CHURCH OFFICE**

A new broadband connection replaced a DSL connection in the church office. A new WIFI router was installed which improves the range, quality, and security of the network.

The entry doorbell was extended from the hallway into the church office. Previously it was difficult to hear the bell and respond to members, vendors and other visitors.

Old publications were discarded. New flyers and other publications will be forthcoming in 2019.

**WORSHIP**

The most important issue of pulpit coverage has been established through Easter of 2019. Coverage beyond Easter is being actively pursued. We will communicate our progress regularly.

We have begun using our hymnals for more than music during the church service. Our minister of music has been very active in the training of hymnal use and the meaning of service liturgy contained in it.

**CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH**

Outreach to our membership has begun by personal contact with those members who we have not seen for some time.

Our Shut-in members information is published in the newsletter and an encouraging outreach message was sent to the shut-ins.

We have advertised our church service and special services in 3 publications (Valpak, Community Courier, and Clipper magazine) to reach out to the community in a new way. The future committee will try different methods of monitoring to review the effectiveness of the advertising. Our new Holly and Ivy Concert (which replaced the Holly Tea Concert) was heavily advertised in the publications. The attendance was the best within the last three years.

**RADIO STATION**

The station went dormant at the end of September 2018. The church will make a decision in 2019 as to the ultimate future of the station.

*Sick & Shut-in*



**Bonnie Abendschoen**

138 Crown Pointe Drive  
York, PA 17402  
Birthday--September 30th

**Joyce Devan**

2408 Lovegren Court  
York, PA 17404  
Birthday--February 20th

**Dawn Frey**

382 West North Street  
York, PA 17401  
Birthday-April 21st

**Norma Null**

2235 Middle Street  
York, PA 17408  
Birthday-August 6, 1929

**Bill Hildebrand**

3530 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
Birthday--September 17th

**Gloria Whitekettle**

2361 Log Cabin Road  
York, PA 17408  
Birthday--November 23rd

**Ruth Hermann**

Lutheran Home Skilled Care  
Room 404A  
1801 Gladfelter Circle  
York, PA 17404  
Birthday--Feb 11th

**Williard Starnier, Sr.**

820 Gunnison Road  
York, PA 17404  
Birthday-June 4, 1938

*If you are aware of any changes with those on the list please contact the church office.*

We encourage you to drop a card or letter to our shut-ins to let them know that they are missed and a valued member of the congregation.

**Since the Epiphany falls on Sunday this year it will be celebrated as part of the regular service on January 6, 2019.**







### PRAYERS

Ruthetta Fogle  
 Christians especially in the Middle East—persecuted  
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving  
 Becky Lupp-illness  
 Angie Linebaugh-illness  
 Susan Null-Cancer  
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home  
 Marianne DeModena-Cancer  
 Patti Tripp-COPD  
 Christine Neal (Bonnie Abendschoen's cousin)-Flu.  
 Bill Stockwell-Heart Procedure  
 Brenton Allen-Needs new kidney and pancreas  
 Olivia Stankiewicz-Healing (Grand-daughter of Brian and Maria Stankiewicz)  
 Noel Van Sliedrecht-Accident  
 Beth Smith  
 For the people affected by Hurricane Michael  
 Gary  
 Nancy  
 Norma Null-Sprained Back  
 Lu Huan-Obtaining visa  
 Mary Sue Bottstein-Injured in car accident

### FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Anna vanDyk  
 Bill Hildebrand-Injured in fall/surgery  
 Julia

### SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen Dawn Frey Joyce Devan Norma Null  
 Gloria Whitekettle Bill Hildebrand Ruth Hermann Williard Starner, Sr.

### LEADERS

Church Pastor, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Nzinski, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso, Pastor Koontz, Pastor Merrell, Pastor Banach, Pastor Robertson, Pastor Schaefer. Sally Hiller, David Maack. District President John Denninger

### PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For all of God's Gifts  
 Wally Smith

### SPIRITUAL NEEDS

For all those who do not know Jesus as Lord  
 For our "action" committees/task forces  
 Our Community and Families

**We remember in prayer those who are in need of God's special presence in their lives due to special needs:**



**4th - Elizabeth Hernandez**  
**4th - Dezzaray Tanner**  
**7th - Hans Abendschoen**  
**15th - Lois Hollinger**  
**28th - Addesha Brady**  
**28th - Karen Hildebrand**



**Please Note - On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday service of the month** the birthdays for the month will be read. The Birthdays for the current month will be posted on the bulletin board

### Early February Birthdays

**2nd - Michelle Taylor**  
**5th - Edward Abendschoen IV**

### PRAYER LIST (cont.)



### MILITARY

Kevin Kuhn	U.S.C.G.
Lindsay Wood	U.S.A.F.
Dakota Kaufman	U. S. Army in Kuwait
Matthew Holland	U. S. Army
Chuck Barrows	U. S. Army
Megan Messersmith	U.S.A.F.
Krista McKenzie	U.S.A.F.
Jonathan Cosgrove	U.S.M.C.
James Bova	U. S. Navy
Dylan Moynihan	U. S. Navy
Tyr Abendschoen	U. S. Army

### POLICE

Jonathan  
 Jason Berger

## FREE BREADS AND DESSERTS



## DONATED WEEKLY BY: PANERA BREAD

to First St. John's Lutheran Church

140 W. King St., York, PA 17401

**EVERY MONDAY**

**From 9:30 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:30 AM**



**COFFEE CUPS / DEER TRACKS** are for sale. The cups have our church name on them and the deer tracks are a painted wooden cutout of the church. Call or leave a message on the church phone-(717) 843-8597.

Coffee cups are \$6.00



Deer tracks are \$12.00.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** \$35 per Sunday (Share a Sunday-1 vase \$ 18).

There are many dates open for 2019. *Palm Sunday, March 25th, is already taken.*

Please contact Nancy Hildebrand at (717) 292-4113 for the dates that are available and to schedule a date/s.



*Women's Care Center*  
**Pregnant?**

### WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

formerly Pregnancy & Family Resource Center

40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285

