

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

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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 2

Website: www.firststjohns.com

FEBRUARY 2019

Your Love

Your love out loves all earthly love.  
Your love loves the unlovable.  
Your love cries out to the sinner.  
It's done the unforgettable!

Words can not express your pure love.  
Men can not comprehend your love,  
Yet sinners can receive your love;  
Comforted by your holy dove.

Your love shines of rarest beauty.  
Your love was given at great cost.  
Through Love, you shed your perfect blood;  
And hung from that old rugged cross.

It was love that drove you to die;  
and brought life to that cold dark grave.  
Now, love is looking down from heaven;  
Seeks the souls of the lost to save.

Your love loves the unlovable.

Twas awesome Love, wonderfully shown;  
To helpless men lost in their sin.  
No greater love, there's ever been;  
Than God came down to die for men

Susan Y Nikitenko  
Treasure Box Poetry And Praise



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM

SERVICE 11:00 AM

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

### REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS AND WORSHIP

<b>Sunday-</b>	9:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Sunday Worship
<b>Monday-</b>	PANERA BREAD DISTRIBUTION 9:00-11:00 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 calling 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)

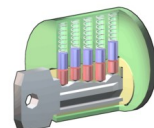
First St. Johns Lutheran Church  
140 W. King St., York PA 17401

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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

COME  
WORSHIP  
with us!



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)



GET IN TOUCH

## LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES 2019

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 6th

7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERVICES

Begin by having a light supper at 6:00 PM in the Kitchenette/  
Bible study room. Then join us there in a special series of sermons for  
Lent at 7:00 PM.

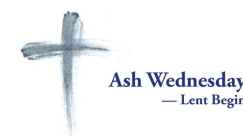
March 13th, 20th, and 27th

April 3rd, 10th

### PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, April 14th.

11:00 AM Morning Service



### MAUNDY THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE

Thursday, April 18th

7:00 PM



### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Friday, April 19th

12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, April 21st

7:00 AM Sunrise Service

Breakfast (Will be announced)

11:00 AM Morning Service



### GERMAN EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, April 28th

4:00 PM Afternoon Service

Light refreshments with a German theme will follow the service.

Ostergottesdienst





Music Notes



This year the season of Epiphany is the longest it can be. Starting with January 6, which was the actual day of Epiphany, through the end of February, it will be 8 weeks long. Transfiguration Sunday will end the Epiphany season and begin the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday will be on March 6. Easter Sunday will be on April 21, which is about the latest it can be.

Ash Wednesday will be in the church at 7 P.M. on March 6. The other mid-week Lenten services, starting on March 13, will be in the Bible Study / kitchenette rooms. We will start with supper at 6 P.M. with the service at 7 P.M.. Choir rehearsal will be right after the service.

The choir will provide the first Lenten supper on March 13. We will need other groups or families to sign up to prepare a supper for these dates: March 20 and 27, April 3 and 10.

The choir is again working on the music for the Good Friday Choral Tenebrae service. The service will focus on the seven words that Christ spoke from the cross. The service will get darker as the seven candles are extinguished and the lights are dimmed.



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

**FEBRUARY**

Joy El Ministries



**FEBRUARY 2019 PARISH VISITOR**

MARCH 2019 DEADLINE

Articles Due February 15th-Friday

Mail Date February 21st-Thursday

**Newsletter**



**Bible Study**



9:00 AM

**MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY**

**Worship Committee**

**To be announced**

**Church Council**

**14th-Thursday-5:30 pm**

**Future Committee**

**Wednesday-9:00 am-(Fridays as needed)**

**UPCOMING FEBRUARY SERVICES**

**February 3rd, Non-Communion (4th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**February 10th, Communion (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**February 17th, Matins, Non-Communion (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**February 24th, Communion (7th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

**February**



**CHURCH OFFICE**  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

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

**FEBRUARY 2019**

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bible Study-9:00 am. Morning Worship-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>
<b>3</b> 4th Sunday after the Epiphany NC/ Green	<b>4</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>7</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>11</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>14</b> CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 6th Sunday after the Epiphany Matins NC/ Green	<b>18</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 7th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>25</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Adult Choir 6:30 pm	<b>28</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm		
		LAY READER Ed Abendschoen	USHER	ALTAR GUID Lois Stambaugh		SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERINGS FEBRUARY Joy El Ministries

*Jesus, I love all people for you, but I love you for yourself. You are the Christ, the unique Son of God, and you are, singularly, my Beloved. You are good and faithful above all friends. For you and in you, I let my friends and my foes be dear to me and pray that they would come to know and love you.*

*I don't desire to be singularly commended or beloved, for that position belongs to you only Jesus – you are God and there is no one like you! Neither do I desire that the heart of any person would be set on me. Nor do I set my heart on the love of anyone. Jesus, my one consuming desire is that you would be in me and in every person who calls on you.*

*Yes, Lord Jesus, I long to be pure and free within, devoted entirely to you, and not entangled with any creature. Help me to carry my heart pure toward you so that I can be free from all worldliness and can see clearly how good you are.*

*Oh, to be drawn into you by your grace, to see your glory, to attain to that heavenly happiness, to be emptied of all but you, to take leave of all but your kingdom, to be with you alone Jesus and to be made one with you.*

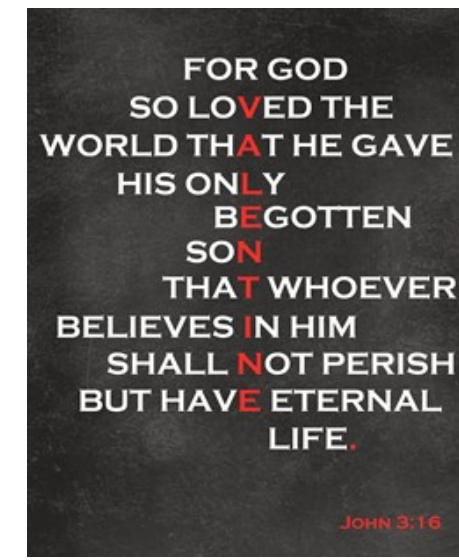
*Lord Jesus Christ, when your grace comes to me I am made strong and able for all things. But without your grace I am poor and weak and the best I can hope for is your discipline to re-awaken me to seek your face. And when I do need to be disciplined by you please help me not to be discouraged, but to stand with my thoughts fixed on you, enduring whatever hardship comes upon me for your glory.*

*Jesus, you know that I want always to be in the springtime of enjoying your love, but sometimes I need the winter season. Sovereign Lord, you have ordained the seasons, including those that don't feel good, and I love you for this too! Help me to remember that after winter comes spring, after night comes day, after the storm comes a great calm. More than that, help me to trust that all seasons are good when I live them with you Jesus.*

*I love you Jesus! You are the best Friend I could have!*

[Bill Gaultiere, Ph. D.](#)

Reprinted with permission from [SoulShepherding.org](#)



## A VALENTINE'S LETTER TO JESUS

Have you ever thought of writing Jesus a Valentine's letter? Could you or I love Jesus that much? I'm not talking about sentimental gush, but deep and thoughtful love from the heart.

For Valentine's Day people everywhere are giving cards and flowers and special words to those they love. But I'm afraid that Jesus may get forgotten, as is so often the case. I wanted Jesus to know that I was thinking of him with warm fondness and the highest regard so I set aside my work and projects to say, "Jesus I love you!"

There are many ways for us to tell Jesus we love him. Basically, that's what it means to worship the Lord, to refresh him with our adoration and Devotion. Recently I was re-reading some old and glorious words from Thomas A. Kempis (The Imitation of Christ, p. 75) and because they stoked the flames of my love for Jesus I kept returning to them again and again. I adapted and personalized these words into a prayer to write a Valentine letter to Jesus.

May this love letter to Jesus open your eyes to the intimacy with Jesus that is possible for you and may praying these words stir your heart to greater Devotion to the Lord...

*Dear Jesus, when you are present to me, all is good and nothing seems difficult; but when I forget you, all is hard and empty.*

*Jesus, your voice to me is the most precious sound in existence. If I don't hear you speaking inside my soul, all other comfort is worth nothing, but if you speak but one word to me I am greatly comforted. I recall that Mary rose immediately from the place where she wept, when Martha said to her: "The Master is come, and he calls for you" (John 11:28). Yes! What a happy moment it is – no matter how difficult my situation is – when you call for me!*

*Oh, how foolish I am when I go into any situation without having you on my mind Jesus. What vanity for me to desire anything outside of you. The world without you profits me nothing. To be without you is grievous hell; and to be with you Jesus is sweet Paradise. When you're with me no enemy can hurt me. To find you is to find the real treasure – the Good above all good – and to become the richest person on earth. But to lose you is to lose more than the whole world and to be left in abject poverty.*

*Oh, Jesus it is the greatest skill to know how to hold familiar conversation with you! Lord, teach me this skill! Oh, to know how to keep you in my consciousness at all times – this is the greatest wisdom! Please, dear Lord, tune my heart to your presence with me at all times. If only I would be humble and peaceable then Jesus you'll remain with me. If only I would be devout and quiet then you'll stay within me.*

*But I fear that I may soon drive you away Jesus, that I'll turn to outward things and lose the favor of your presence. If I turn from you and lose you Jesus, where will I go? Who else can I turn to as my friend? Without a friend I cannot live well and Jesus you are above all a Friend to me – my one Soul Friend – and without you beside me I'd be sad and desolate.*

*You are the One, Jesus, who I trust and rejoice in above all others! I'd rather have the whole world against me than to have you offended with me. Among all those who are dear to me you stand out Jesus. You are the One that I especially love.*



### 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*

### Williard Starner, Sr.

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



### 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*

*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.

## STEWARDSHIP: FEBRUARY 2019



The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

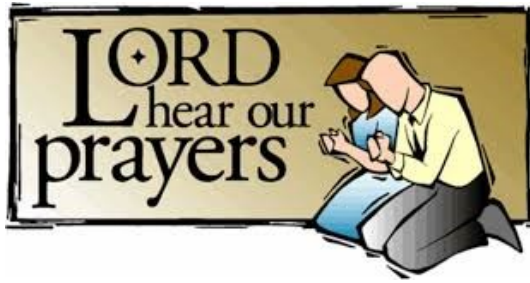
It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God's Word. It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), and again, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:14, 17-18, 26). Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

**In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:**

- ◊ "Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.
- ◊ "Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.
- ◊ "He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.
- ◊ "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.
- ◊ "And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.
- ◊ "And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools." (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.



**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)  
Beth Smith  
Gary  
Nancy  
Lu Huan-Obtaining visa  
Vanessa Cussack-Son died  
Anna vanDyk  
Bill Hildebrand-Surgery  
Julia

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

Pastor Jay Mazikas (Son-In-Law of Sylvia Barclay)- Severe Headaches

**SHUT-IN MEMBERS**

Bonnie Abendschoen Dawn Frey Joyce Devan 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  
Norma Null

**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:**



- 2nd - Michelle Taylor
- 5th - Edward Abendschoen IV
- 11th - Sylvia Barclay
- 11th - Ruth Hermann
- 12th - Michael Beck
- 15th - Lois Stambaugh
- 20th - Joyce Devan
- 28th - Ruth Strathmeyer
- 29th - Bryan Santini



**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 March Birthdays**

- 6th - Scott Dennis
- 7th - Jerry Allison
- 7th - Dane Smith

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

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM (Time changed)**



**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**

