

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)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
York, PA  
Permit # 260

DATED MATERIAL



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 3 Website: [www.firststjohns.com](http://www.firststjohns.com) MARCH 2019



40 Lent Scriptures  
TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD

- Day 1 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:8
- Day 2 "And he is the image of the invisible God." Colossians 1:15
- Day 3 "Come, all you who are thirsty." Is. 55:1
- Day 4 "And from them will flow streams of living waters." John 7:38
- Day 5 "He is the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1:15
- Day 6 "My ways are not your your ways, nor my thoughts your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8
- Day 7 "There is a way that seems right to a person, but in the end, it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12
- Day 8 "Arise and shine for your light has come." Isaiah 60:1
- Day 9 "And the people living in darkness have seen a great light." Matthew 4:16
- Day 10 "No servant is greater than His master." Matthew 10:24
- Day 11 "That he lays down his life for his friends." John 15:13
- Day 12 "In you, we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28
- Day 13 "I have set before you an open door which no man can shut." Rev 3:8
- Day 14 "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6
- Day 15 "In the beginning, God created." Genesis 1:1
- Day 16 "I looked and saw a great multitude, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the Lamb." Rev 7:9
- Day 17 "Weeping may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5
- Day 18 "There is no language where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:3
- Day 19 "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10
- Day 20 "You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14
- Day 21 "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14
- Day 22 "No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
- Day 23 "I am the beginning and the end." Rev 21:6
- Day 24 "According to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 3:11
- Day 25 "I was dead, and behold, now I am alive forever more." Rev 1:18
- Day 26 "I hold the keys to death and Hell." Rev 1:18
- Day 27 "There is no one who can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:18
- Day 28 "And we have put our trust in His love." 1 John 4:16
- Day 29 "And lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:24
- Day 30 "How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those that fear you." Psalm 31:19
- Day 31 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:3
- Day 32 "All who come after me must deny themselves, pick up their cross, and follow me." Luke 9:23
- Day 33 "In your light, we see light." Psalm 36:9
- Day 34 "But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life and only a few find it." Matthew 7:14
- Day 35 "There is no other name under heaven by which men must be saved." Acts 4:12
- Day 36 "Truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3
- Day 37 "If you seek me, you will find me, if you seek me with your whole heart." Jeremiah 29:13
- Day 38 "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." Romans 10:8
- Day 39 "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32
- Day 40 "When he found one very precious pearl, he sold all he had and bought it." Matthew 13:46





## 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)

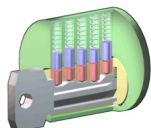
First St. Johns Lutheran Church  
140 W. King St., York PA 17401

Copyright © 2016 / All rights reserved.

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 SERVICE (Change)

Friday, April 19th

7:00 PM

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, April 21st

7:00 AM Sunrise Service

A light breakfast will follow the early service

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.

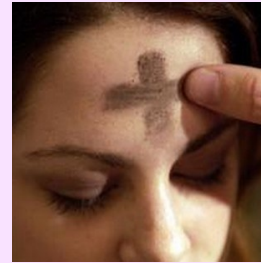
Ostergottesdienst







## Music & Worship Notes



The month of March begins with two special worship days that are back to back. Transfiguration will be celebrated on Sunday, March 3. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 6.

Transfiguration has been a major festival in the Eastern Church since the fourth century, and has been observed in the West since the ninth century.

In 1457, Pope Callixtus III assigned the Feast of the Transfiguration its present date of August 6 and made it an ecumenical festival.

In Lutheran use there has been a difference of dates. The Church of Sweden has continued the date of August 6, but many German orders of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries adopted the Transfiguration propers for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany. The Transfiguration was a spectacular manifestation of our Lord, and it was after this incident that Jesus set His face towards Jerusalem and the fulfillment of the plan of salvation.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is forty days before Easter. Sundays are not part of the forty day count. Ash Wednesday can occur on any date from February 4 to March 10. The addition of the four days preceding the First Sunday in Lent was made in six-century Rome, probably to bring the total number of days in the "fast" to forty, which coincides with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Ash Wednesday comes from the medieval custom of sprinkling ashes on the heads of persons under church discipline who wished to be reconciled to the church on Maundy Thursday. As the ceremony of the reconciliation of penitents fell into disuse, the practice arose of marking the heads of all the faithful with an ashen cross as a visible symbol of the penitential season which begins on Ash Wednesday.

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

# MARCH

Lutheran Hour Ministries



## MARCH 2019 PARISH VISITOR

APRIL 2019 DEADLINE

Articles Due March 22nd-Friday

Mail Date March 28th-Thursday

# Newsletter



# Bible Study



9:00 AM

## MEETINGS IN MARCH

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council

14th-Thursday-5:30 pm

Future Committee

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

## UPCOMING MARCH SERVICES

March 3rd, Non-Communion (The Transfiguration of our Lord)  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

March 10th, Communion (1st Sunday in Lent)  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

March 17th, Matins, Non-Communion (2nd Sunday in Lent)  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

March 24th, Communion (3rd Sunday in Lent)  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

March 31st, Prayer and Preaching (4th Sunday in Lent)  
Proclaimer-Pastor Stephen B. Schafer

# March

# Sunday<sup>+</sup> Services

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  
MARCH 2019

CHURCH OFFICE  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

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> The Transfiguration of our Lord NC/ White	<b>4</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Adult Choir after the service	<b>7</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time begins	<b>11</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Service Adult Choir after the service	<b>14</b> CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 5:30 PM N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent Matins NC/ Purple	<b>18</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Service Adult Choir after the service	<b>21</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 3rd Sunday in Lent C/ Purple	<b>25</b> Panera Bread 9:30-11:00 am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Service Adult Choir after the service	<b>28</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 4th Sunday in Lent Prayer and Preaching NC/ Purple		LAY READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Barb Klahold		SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERINGS March Lutheran Hour Ministries

BEHOLD THE MAN!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:1–3, 14

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyperspiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive, spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something other-worldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of her God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyperspiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodyless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!





**STEWARDSHIP: MARCH 2019**

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

"Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we "believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

"For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (The Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

**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.

## LENT

Lent is a solemn penitential season of the Church Year when we focus on the passion of our Lord and His sacrificial death and resurrection for the salvation of the world. The Lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday, a reminder of our beginning as dust from the earth. This Church season helps prepare our bodies and spirit through prayer, repentance and a contrite spirit as we look to the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord on the cross of Calvary.

### Credits

*The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy (pastorhardy@yahoo.com) is senior pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, McMurray, Pa., and bishop of the LCMS English District.*







### 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  
 Anna vanDyk  
 Bill Hildebrand-Surgery  
 Julia  
 Pastor Jay Mazikas (Son-In-Law of Sylvia Barclay)- Severe Headaches

### FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Susan Perego-Problems with knee surgery  
 Nancy Hildebrand

### 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:**



6th - Scott Dennis  
 7th - Jerry Allison  
 7th - Dane Smith  
 13th - Rebecca Lupp  
 18th - Ken Sanders  
 19th - John Pfeiffer, Sr.  
 20th - Lisa Crabtree  
 22nd - Kristin Myers  
 25th - Barbara Klahold  
 25th - Dave Stambaugh  
 28th - Orializ Sanabria



**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 April Birthdays

11th - Carlos Beck

### 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**



**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.



Altar Flowers

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

