

**FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



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

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**DATED MATERIAL**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO

**PARISH VISITOR**

**Newsletter**

**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 10**

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

**OCTOBER 2019**

# AuTumn Blessings

Autumn brings to the soul relief,  
 as hot Summer days slip to an end  
 God sent the season for weary hearts  
 to restore, repair, and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,  
 that shed their changing leaves  
 God sent the season for failing hearts  
 to adhere, embrace, and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,  
 there comes a new refreshing rain  
 God sent the season for fraying hearts  
 to increase, grow, and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb  
 and dips much earlier into the night  
 God sent the season for sleepy hearts  
 to rise, shine, and unwind in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,  
 so we could have a respite and rest  
 for it is the season for our beset souls  
 to see how much we are blessed!

~ Author : ©2012 Deborah Ann Belka  
 (Web author : [poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com](http://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com))

<http://Nubiagroup.blogspot.com>







## SUNDAY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM

SERVICE 11:00 AM

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

### REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS AND WORSHIP

**Sunday-** 9:00 AM Bible Study  
11:00 AM Sunday Worship

**Monday-** PANERA BREAD DISTRIBUTION 9:00-11:00 AM

**Wednesday** 6:30 PM - Adult Choir (September through May/June)

**Thursday** 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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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

At last meditating day and night,  
by the mercy of God, I began to  
understand that the  
righteousness of God is that  
through which the righteous live  
by a gift of God, namely by faith.  
Here I felt as if I were entirely  
born again and had entered  
paradise itself through the gates  
that had been flung open.

MARTIN LUTHER

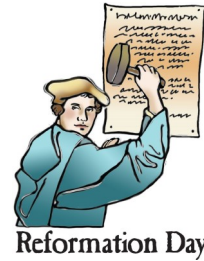
## The Reformation

- On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a Catholic monk, posted his criticism of the Catholic church on door of the castle church in Wittenberg. He openly criticized the church from within, as well as, provide new teachings to reform the Christian Church.





# REFORMATION



As I look around I see the evidence of God's beauty and grandeur in the season of fall. This time of year has so many wonderful colors, it is as if God used the earth as His canvass and painted a picture using the most vivid and wonderful hues as are portrayed in nature around us.

Right about now you are asking yourself, "What does this have to do with music?" Just as we can see all the artistic beauty our eyes can behold, so also can our ears hear the beauty that is in the music of the hymns we sing, the music the choirs sing, and the music that the instruments resonate forth. God has given us all kinds of music through the composers who write it and the musicians who perform it. It's kind of like God's "patch work quilt" of fall colors.

In the month of October, we celebrate one of the major festivals of the Lutheran Church. In fact, this festival is the "birth" of the Lutheran Church. Of course I am referring to the Reformation, which comes on October 31.

Martin Luther, the great reformer, wrote many of the hymns we sing in the worship service. One can hear the beautiful colors in the music and contemplate the colorful words of the texts of Luther's hymns. His hymns are great at teaching us Bible truths.

Look in the back of your hymnal where the indexes are and locate the author / composer section. Find Luther's name and read some of his hymns. Then be ready to sing with gusto on Reformation Sunday some of those hymns.



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

## OCTOBER

Lutheran Bible Translators



Bible Study  
9:00 AM

### OCTOBER 2019 PARISH VISITOR

NOVEMBER 2019 DEADLINE

Articles Due October 18th-Friday

Mail Date October 24th -Thursday

**Newsletter**

### MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

**Worship Committee**

**Church Council**

**Future Committee**

**To be announced**

**10th-Thursday-5:30 pm**

**1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month-9:00 am**



### UPCOMING OCTOBER SERVICES

October 6th, Communion (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

October 13th, Non-Communion (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

October 20th, Communion (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

October 27th, Non-Communion (Reformation Day)



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

CHURCH OFFICE  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bible Study- 9:00 am. Morning Worship-11:00 am.		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Future Com. Mtg.- 9pm Adult Choir- 6:30 pm	<b>3</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 17th Sunday after Pentecost C/ Green	<b>7</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 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> 18th Sunday after Pentecost NC/ Green	<b>14</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Future Com. Mtg.- 9pm Adult Choir- 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 19th Sunday after Pentecost C/ Green	<b>21</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<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> Reformation Day NC/ Green	<b>28</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Future Com. Mtg.- 9pm Adult Choir- 6:30 pm	<b>31</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm		
The fifth Sunday of the month (months with five Sundays). will be a Prayer and Preaching Service.		LAY READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Nancy Hildebrand		SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERINGS OCTOBER Lutheran Bible Translators

# CONGREGATIONAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

### CATERED LUNCHEON AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE

#### Two "50's"

As I gleaned through the archived materials pertaining to the formation of First Saint John's Congregation, I discovered that 1969 was also the beginning of German Language Christmas Service. In addition to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation, we will also be celebrating fifty years of the German Christmas Service.

February 1, 1969, First Saint John's began functioning as a regular Lutheran congregation. The congregation was officially incorporated in January, 1969, in the state of Pennsylvania. The members who worked on the incorporation were: Daniel Stetler, Gerald W. Beck, Irwin Daehnke, Emil K. Rottler, and W. H. Hespenheide. The buildings at 140 West King Street were sold to First Saint John's congregation in January of 1969 at a cost of \$50,000.00, as per a special voters meeting of Saint John congregation through a resolution that was passed.


The members of Saint John who preferred to become members of First Saint John's congregation, could make their request for a transfer after January 31, 1969. All this was carried out during the interim of the vacancy pastor, Rev. George Naumann, while Saint John was seeking a full time pastor. Pastor Naumann at this time was serving both congregations

The first worship service for First Saint John's was conducted by Pastor Herbert E. Plehn on February 2, 1969. A lot of firsts took place in February and the first half of 1969. Some of those firsts were: Feb. 10 - actual purchase date of the buildings from Saint John congregation; Feb. 15 - first marriage: William Worker to Carolyn Dennis by David Hakes; Feb. 17 - first congregational president, Daniel E. Stetler, along with the council members were elected; Feb. 22 - first baptism: Wayne L. Hildebrand III; April 13 - first funeral: Frederick A. Hespenheide; April 27 - dedication service led by David Hakes; May 25 - first confirmation: class members were: Paul T. Bachman, Deborah S. Dennis, Venitia M. Heilman, Keith D. Klahold, and Deborah Markey.

During this time the Reverend Stewart Burk was serving a vacancy pastor.

On July 20, 1969, a special vesper service was held to induct Pastor Raymond C. Huddle to serve First Saint John's. Then on June 7, 1970, Pastor Huddle was installed as the first "called" pastor of First Saint John's congregation.

There will be more historical "tidbits" about First Saint John's congregation in the future issues of this newsletter



Submitted by: Ken Sanders



## STEWARDSHIP: OCTOBER 2019

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words:

"We are all beggars. This is true."

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironical, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.



### 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

### 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.





### PRAYERS

Ruthetta Fogle  
 Christians especially in the Middle East– persecuted  
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving  
 Becky Lupp  
 Angie Linebaugh  
 Susan Null-Cancer  
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home  
 Marianne DeModena-Cancer  
 Patti Tripp-COPD  
 Brenton Allen-Needs new kidney and pancreas  
 Olivia Stankiewicz-Healing (Grand-daughter of Brian and Maria Stankiewicz)  
 Beth Smith  
 Anna vanDyk  
 Bill Hildebrand  
 Julia  
 Pastor Jay Mazikas (nephew of Sylvia Barclay)- Severe Headaches  
 Nancy Hildebrand  
 Rich Holen-Serious health problems (Son-In-Law) of Sylvia Barclay  
 Linda Mumford-Health issues  
 Marge Driskell-Health issues  
 Kathy Butts Oster-Health issues  
 Shannon Schwartzman-Health issues  
 Joyce Devan-Health issues  
 Aimee Walton-Health Issues

### FIRST TIME REQUESTS

### SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen Dawn Frey Joyce Devan Gloria Whitekettle  
 Bill Hildebrand Ruth Hermann

### 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  
 Norma Null  
 Marguerite Beck

### 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:**



1st - Cruz Rogue  
 4th - Donna D'Andrea  
 5th - Beth Smith  
 10th - Jose Montalvo  
 21st - Calvin Taylor  
 27th - Anna vanDyk



**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 November Birthdays

3rd - David Myers, Jr.  
 6th - Chase Abendschoen  
 6th - Graham Abendschoen  
 7th - Wayne Hildebrand III

### 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 - \$6.00

Deer tracks - \$12.00.



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

