

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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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 52 ISSUE 2 Website: [www.firststjohns.org](http://www.firststjohns.org) FEBRUARY 2020

Cupid vs. Christ: What love looks like, and what it truly is

By Kim Griffin

On this Valentine’s Day we can expect to see the cherubic yet mischievous Cupid poised with his bow and arrow adorning cards, chocolates and advertisements. Cupid comes from Roman mythology and was believed to be the son of Venus, the goddess of love.

Along with hearts, Cupid is one of the most popular symbols of love on Valentine’s Day. And although he’s undeniably adorable, Cupid represents a worldly interpretation of love that falls terribly short of Christ on the cross, the true symbol of love the world needs.

Cupid’s arrows signify the desires and emotions of love. People who have fallen in love are said to have been “struck by Cupids arrow.” As such, love is an experience that happens to us and is spontaneous. We fall victim to feelings of warmth and desire and we fall prey to a love that is uncontrollable.

This stands in stark contrast to the Christian model of love exemplified by Christ dying on the cross. We know from Scripture that Christ knew his enemies were coming to put him to death. Moreover, one could surmise he didn’t “feel” like making the ultimate loving sacrifice and yet, he did. We know from the Gospels that Jesus was in anguish preparing for what was to come. He cried out; “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want but what you want” (Mk 14:35-36; Mt 26:39).

So why was he willing to do God’s will anyway? Because even in his feelings of abandonment and turmoil he was dependent and committed to God first. Jesus made a moral choice to cooperate with God’s plan. This choice was given freely and not earned by anyone and is the ultimate display of self-sacrificial love.

But Christ on the cross isn’t an attractive image or a version of love that the masses are in a rush to emulate. Consider one of Hallmark’s top love quotes: “You are my everything. Everything else is just ... everything else.” This quote ironically encapsulates the limitations of worldly love.

This kind of love is exclusive and even oppressive and grants too much power to another person. Such a love has no higher authority than the individuals

Continued on Page 5



## 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.org](http://www.firststjohns.org)

### 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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### 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

### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY REVISION

First St. John's is ending the bulk mailing of the newsletter beginning with the March edition.

- ♦ **Active members will receive the newsletter in their church mail-boxes.**
- ♦ **Shut-Ins will continue to receive the newsletter by mail. Other requests for mailing the newsletters will be open to members only.**
- ♦ **Sending the newsletter by email will be continued and we encourage this method of delivery. Please notify the church office at (717) 843-8597 if you would like to receive the newsletter as a .PDF email attachment.**
- ♦ **Newsletters for the year (January through December), will be accessible in .PDF format on the church website.**

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

- ♦ **Extra printed newsletters will be available at the church.**

### GOD'S BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR.



**PLEASE REMEMBER!!**

**THIS IS THE LAST BULK MAILED NEWSLETTER.**



## Music & Worship Notes



February is considered to be the month of love. Valentine's Day is a money maker for the commercial world, especially when one considers the amount of money people spend on card, flowers, candy, and special dinner dates with your significant other. All of the money expended pales in comparison to the price that Jesus paid for our salvation.

Worldly items and relationships will pass away, but the love of Jesus will always be present, steadfast, and true!

When you consider the love month, (February), focus on how you can radiate Jesus' love to everyone you come in contact with. (your neighbor)

Lent begins at the end of the month. Wednesday, February 26. is Ash Wednesday. There will be a service at 7:00 pm that evening. The "imposition of ashes" will take place during the service. Midweek Lenten services will continue on Wednesday, March 4. We will again begin with a light meal at 6:00 and then worship at 7:00. The meal and service will take place in the Bible class room / kitchenette.

The series that will be used for the Lenten and Easter worship is: "Eyes on Jesus." It focuses on how the people view Jesus and his work of salvation.



**Ken Sanders,**  
Minister of Music



### THE ADULT CHOIR:

Karen Hildebrand, Lois Hollinger, Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh,  
Wally Smith, Ding Wang,

**The special offerings as we know them are being discontinued. Alternatives are being discussed**

### FEBRUARY 2019 PARISH VISITOR

MARCH 2020 DEADLINE

Articles Due

February 21st-Friday

Mail / Publication Date

February 27th -Thursday

**Newsletter**



**Bible Study**

9:00 AM

### MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

**Worship Committee**

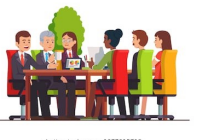
**To be announced**

**Church Council**

**February 13th (New time 6:00 pm)**

**Future Committee**

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



### UPCOMING FEBRUARY 2020 SERVICES

February 2nd, Communion (Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany)  
Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord.

February 9th, Non-Communion (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

February 16th, Communion (Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany)

February 23rd, Non-Communion (The Transfiguration of Our Lord)  
7th Sunday after the Epiphany

**FEBRUARY**



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

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 4th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>3</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Future Com. Mtg.- 9pm Adult Choir at 6:30 PM	<b>6</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany NC/ Green	<b>10</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Adult Choir at 6:30 PM	<b>13</b> CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 PM N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 6th Sunday after the Epiphany C/ Green	<b>17</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Future Com. Mtg.- 9pm Adult Choir at 6:30 PM	<b>20</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Transfiguration of our Lord NC/ White	<b>24</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM Adult Choir after the Service	<b>27</b> N. A. Mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
		LAY READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Lois Stambaugh		

**"Two Fifties" (continued from previous months)**

On June 11, 1977, Mrs. Frieda Shore, wife of Rev. Samuel Shore, Pastor emeritus of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Lancaster, passed away.

On July 3, at the 8:30 service, Jason Charles Markel, infant son of Barry Charles and Kay (nee Dennis) Markel, was baptized.

October 16, a rededication service was held, after extensive exterior renovation. Rev. Waldemar Rook of Baltimore was the preacher for the occasion.

August 20, 1978, a congregational seminar was organized by the committee of Marie Elnor Woltman, Michael Beck, Donald Klahold, and Edward Hollinger. t was held at the YMCA da camp near Mount Wolf. The guest speakers were Dr. Herbert Plehn, former vacancy pastor, Rev. Richard Benke, director of Religious Education at Baltimore Lutheran High School, and Pastor Edward Devan. The seminar topics were: "What is the Christian Church and what does it mean to me?", "Christian Education: Does it stop at Confirmation?", and "What is the Bible's answer to the major need of the church?"


On April 29, 1979, a tenth anniversary service was held at the church. Steve Herr was acolyte for the service. Greeters were Mr. and Mrs. Mummert and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stetler, Jr. Announcements included the death of Mrs. Grace Fogle (April 23, 1979) and the marriage of Patrick Gundel to Toni Di'Deglielmo on April 27th. It was also announced that the offering needs of \$984.50 weekly were only met by \$568.77.

On June 29, 1980, it was announced in the bulletin that Rev. Edward Oermann, brother of Vida Brown and Mrs. Ruth Thomas had passed away.

October 11was the date that the AAL sponsored a garage sale to benefit the Dan Sindlinger family.

November 9th, the 60th wedding anniversary of Henry and Louise Strathmeyer was celebrated with an open house and reception in the parish hall. In lieu of gifts, checks were requested for World Relief. Pastor Carl Koerber filled in for Pastor Devan as he attended the Great Commission Convocation. Nov. 6, a daughter was born to Jerry and Lynn Beck. On Nov. 9th it was announced that a daughter had been born to Thomas and Frances Rojahn. The Lord called Mrs. Earl (Eleanor) Kline to her eternal rest on November 14th. Memorial contributions were requested for The Lutheran Hour.

Submitted by, Ken Sanders



FEBRUARY 2020 STEWARDSHIP

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.



Bonnie Abendschoen

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

Joyce Devan

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

Ruth Hermann

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

Bill Hildebrand

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

Dawn Frey

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

***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.

Continued from front Page

involved. Regarding another person as one's “everything” makes a God of the other person and will end in disappointment and a damaged sense of self.

Conversely, the love of Christ is inclusive and offers freedom. Soren Kierkegaard explained it this way: “Only when it is a duty to love, only then is love eternally secured against every change, eternally made free in blessed independence, eternally and happily secured against despair.” Doesn't that type of love offer a better alternative to the picture-perfect worldly love that usually ends in divorce?

The difference between the world's love and Christ's love is the difference between appearances and truth. On this Valentine's Day let's pray that Christians strive to love “truly” like Jesus did rather than seek a love that satisfies fleeting desires and self-affirmation. Though we will never succeed in this life to love as perfectly as Jesus did we will have opportunities to love truly as he does.

This love may look unattractive. It may be taking care of an ailing elderly parent. It may be tirelessly caring for a child with autism. It may be working and going to school as a single parent. It may be feeding a stranger.

But loving this way will transform us the way Cupid's love never can. Rather than our hearts being “struck by Cupid's arrow,” our souls will be pierced by God's saving grace.

*Kim Griffin is a member of the Parish of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.*





### 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  
 Beth Smith  
 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  
 Ruth Strahmeyer-Health issues  
 Anna vanDyk  
 David Soter-Health issues

### FIRST TIME REQUESTS

### SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen Dawn Frey Joyce Devan  
 Bill Hildebrand Ruth Hermann (Need a valid address for Ruth).

### 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

### 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:**

Birthdays this month

FEBRUARY



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

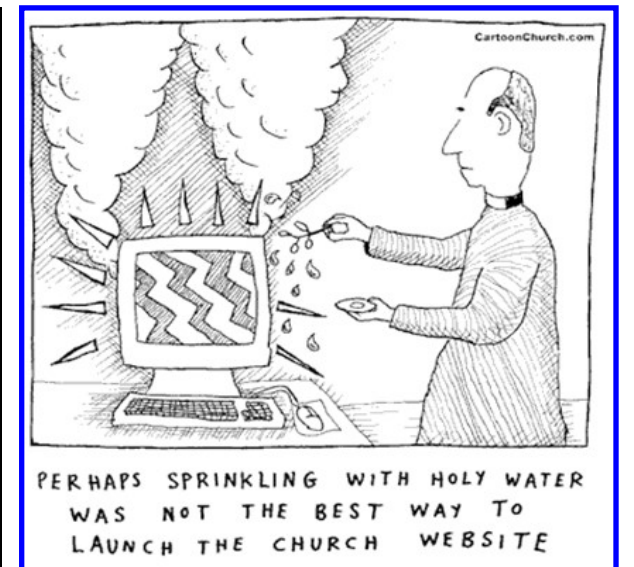
to First St. John's Lutheran Church

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**



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

