

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Website: 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



VOLUME 52 ISSUE 5

Website: www.firststjohns.org

MAY 2020

Jesus Ascended to Heaven

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.

Luke 24:50-53

Ascension
Day





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

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

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

Copyright © 2016 / All rights reserved.

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.



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



"Two Fifties" continued

In 1988, Gerald Beck was treasurer and reported that October's disbursements were \$7,982.73. The November 8th Parish Visitor included a "Thank You" from Theodora Carpenter for the prayers during the illness and death of her daughter, Georgia Massa. A stewardship note in the Visitor pointed out how much money was sent to TV evangelists. Laura Beck, Ed Hollinger, Jr. and Robert Barclay II were college bound. Lois and Nancy Hollinger installed a cork board in the center classroom. Clarence, Richard, and Randy Sindlinger cleaned the outside of the church property and Karl van Dyk and Don Klahold spent their Memorial Day holiday cleaning the area between the buildings. The VBS staff reported that there were 40 children enrolled. Stewardship Chairman, David Stambaugh, sent a letter to the congregation to quell the rumors that our church was "going out of business."

The 20th Anniversary Worship Service and the adoption of the "Mission Statement" took place on March 19, 1989. The office hymn for the service was "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty." Rebecca and Patricia Hildebrand were greeters. It was announced in the bulletin that an Anniversary Directory would be made.

May 4th of the same year, a joint Ascension Day service with Calvary, Good Shepherd, and First St. John's was held at our church. Offerings received at the service were used to support our seminary students through "Alive in Christ." The speaker for the service was Rev. John Gall.

In 1990, according to Elli Detter, First St. John's contributed \$210. To the Lutheran High School. Joyce and Gordon Moul celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on April 17th. Charles and Nellie Kolk were married for 50 years. It was announced that Beatrice Appel would turn 101 on May 10th. Elli Detter was song leader for VBS. The organ repair fund stood at \$7,000. The Ruth circle made 231 quilts in 8 months. Ruth Little was recovering at home after surgery.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 1991, the processional hymn was "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." The greeters were Margaret Foley and Theodora Carpenter. Audrey Hoffman and Norma Null served on altar guild.

On June 2nd of the same year, a glorious service was held honoring the one member of our congregation who would turn 100 years old, and nine other members over the age of 90. Pastor Raymond Huddle was the guest preacher. The theme was a country fair and was enjoyed by all who attended. Florence Ehrman, our centenarian, had an exciting year, being interviewed live on "Open Mic" on radio station WNOW, meeting Willard Scott from NBC and riding in a parade through York.

Look for more First St. John's history next month.

Submitted by,
Ken Sanders





Music & Worship Notes



If you are of the same mindset as I am, I am ready to get back to community worship in real time. The services that have been put on the internet by many different churches have been great, but it does not take the place of being in your own church, with your church family, worshipping our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I know that the Lord is in control, even now during this pandemic. One could dwell on all the bad negative things we hear through the mass media, or reflect on the good things that are happening because of it.

Do not get me wrong. I believe it is important to be updated on the virus. It is also important that we follow what the medical professionals are telling us for the safety of all.

Consider how things have changed in a good way. Families are having more time together. They eat together, play together and find ways of using technology to brighten other people's days. People are helping their neighbor more. Parents are finding ways to lift their children's spirits, especially for all the seniors who are missing out on the events that surround graduation.

God is in control! He, through this pandemic, has slowed us down to focus on what is truly important in our lives. Praise and thank Him for these small blessings. Have patience, like the Old Testament person, Job. Have faith! There is Light at the end of the tunnel.

Until we are back together physically, may our Lord Jesus Christ bless your days!

Above all clothe yourselves with

LOVE

which binds us all together in
perfect harmony.

-Colossians 3:12



**Ken Sanders,
Minister of Music**

*Let us not love
in word or talk
But in deed
and in truth*

THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



Heavenly Father, You are indeed my Lord and God, who has created me when I was but nothing. In addition, You have saved me through Your Son. Now You have appointed me to this official responsibility and set this work before me. It does not proceed according to my will, and it is so great that it would otherwise weigh heavily on me and cause me great fear, that I of my own ability could find neither counsel nor help. Therefore, let everything be commended unto You, give me counsel and help, and remain faithful in everything, as You have promised. Amen.

MAY 2020 PARISH VISITOR

JUNE 2020 DEADLINE

Articles Due

May 22nd-Friday

Mail / Publication Date

May 28th -Thursday

Newsletter



Bible Study

9:00 AM

Bible Study and Church Services are suspended until

MEETINGS IN MAY

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council

To be announced

Future Committee

To be announced



Notice from the leadership of First Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, York PA.

In light of recent events and in keeping with the advisement of our State and National Leadership, we have decided to suspend services, meetings and any other activity which would constitute a group of 10 or more persons through May 3rd.

Services on May 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st are tentative at this time. Members will be notified when a decision to resume services is made. We will begin with a traditional Easter Service at that time. **If feasible**, we would like to have a dinner after the service.

In making this decision we must consider the members of our congregation and society who are most at risk in the current situation. We thank you for your understanding and God bless.

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

MAY 2020

CHURCH OFFICE
Phone Number 717-843-8597

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All meetings and events will be announced at a later time.					1	2
3 4th Sunday of Easter C/ White	4 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	5	6	7	8	9
10 5th Sunday o Easter NC/ White	11 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	12	13	14	15	16
17 6th Sunday of Easter C/ White	18 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	19	20	21 Ascension Day	22	23
24 7th Sunday of Easter NC/ White	25 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	26	27	28	29	30
31 Day of Pentecost NC/ Red		LAY READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		

Ascension Day – What is it?

Ascension Day is the day celebrating the bodily ascension of Jesus Christ to heaven 40 days after His resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. This day falls on a Thursday, though many American liturgical churches (and others) celebrate on the following Sunday, the sixth Sunday following Easter. As such, the day is sometimes marked as Ascension Thursday or Ascension Sunday.

Several biblical passages are associated with this event. Standard Scripture readings for this Sunday include Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; and Mark 16:15-20.

The ascension held a special place of importance in the early church. Mentioned in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:49, and Acts 1:3-9, it is clear Jesus revealed Himself to His followers and others over a 40 day period following the resurrection before returning to heaven. Two angels appeared following Jesus' ascension, promising Jesus would return in the same way (Acts 1:9-11).

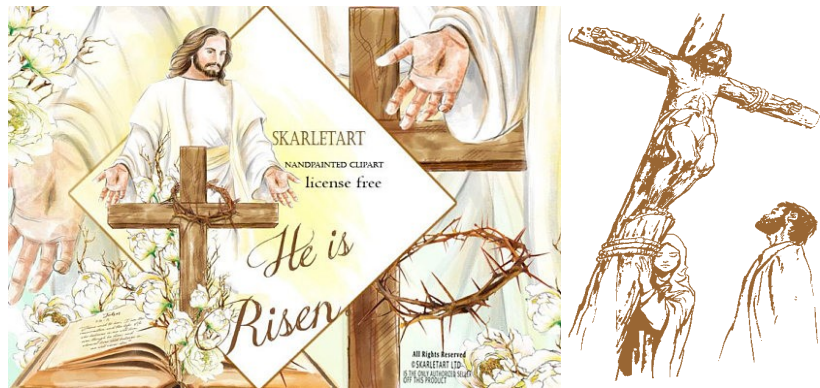
Augustine wrote that the apostles celebrated Ascension Day. While this claim is uncertain, it is clear the Ascension was included in the earliest Christian creeds. The Apostles' Creed, for example, notes, "He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

The Catholic Church includes the following prayer to mark Ascension Day: "Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who believe Thine only-begotten Son, our Redeemer, to have this day ascended into heaven, may dwell in spirit amid heavenly things. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen." This clear focus on Jesus as ascended Lord who reigns forever has served as an ongoing emphasis in Christian belief.

This doctrine clearly held importance in early Christianity. For Jesus to return in the future, He had to be in heaven now. For the resurrected Jesus to be in heaven, He had to ascend there rather than enter by death. The pattern of death, burial, resurrection, ascension, return is found in numerous biblical and church historical writings, including many church creeds.

Further, the Ascension points to our own entrance into heaven. First Thessalonians 4:13-18 speaks of Christ coming for His children. The dead in Christ will rise (ascend) first, followed by all living Christians going to be with the coming Lord forever. The chapter concludes by teaching, "encourage one another with these words" (verse 18).

The Ascension points both to the completed work of Christ as well as His yet unfulfilled coming work. In it believers discover the joy of the risen Lord and the anticipation of His return. This anticipation rightly leads to holy living as well as committed service and outreach to others who have yet to believe.



MAY 2020 STEWARDSHIP

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.) ”John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity.” (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God’s gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper. We should support the Lord’s work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Stewardship

*is the grateful response of a Christian disciple
who recognizes and receives God's gifts
and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.*

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.



25 MAY

© Can Stock Photo



QWM



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

Susan Peregoy-Health issues

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen	Dawn Frey	Joyce Devan
Bill Hildebrand	Ruth Hermann	

LEADERS

Church Pastor, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Nzinski, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso, Pastor Seifferlein (Replaced Adam 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
 Karl & Anna vanDyk
 Ryan Sanders

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

MAY



1st - Daniel Stambaugh
10th - Rodney Billet
29th - Rebecca Taylor



Please Note - On the 1st 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 June Birthdays

4th - Willard Starner, Sr.

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

**DURING THE CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY PERIOD
 SOMEONE WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR SELECTION.
 CHURCH PERSONNEL WILL HANDLE THE BAKED
 GOODS.**



FIRST ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES AND INFORMATION FROM THE LEADERSHIP AND CHURCH STAFF.

WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU DURING THIS TIME.

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

