

**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**

FIRST ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-WE ARE AN OUTREACH CHURCH



**VOLUME 52 ISSUE 7**

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

**JULY 2020**



“LORD, we beseech You Father for a reprieve from evil for America. Let the USA be a nation united in peace, undivided in devotion to principles of righteousness, justice, and truth. Be our guiding light. Set this nation upon the firm foundation, the Rock that is Jesus Christ. Purge all evil from our borders and set up angelic protection at every entry point; forbidding its re-entry. Expose, disclose, and dispose of all corruption and works of darkness. Let the United States be a nation of light and a light unto the nations. Let hope arise! Let faith arise! Let love arise! Establish Your Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. May we prosper and be in health even as our souls prosper, under the protection of the Almighty. Grant us humble and generous hearts to glorify You, and honor others as this prayer is answered. In Jesus' Name. Amen.”



## 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 (Suspended)

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)



### Visitation.

the visit, described in the Gospel According to Luke (1:39–56), made by the Virgin Mary, pregnant with the infant Jesus, to her cousin Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, the pregnant Elizabeth felt the infant St. John the Baptist leap in her womb, which, according to later doctrine, signified that he had become sanctified and cleansed of original sin. Mary then said the Magnificat (*q.v.*). The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church on May 31 (or, until 1969, on July 2).

### Saint Mary Magdalene's Story

Except for the mother of Jesus, few women are more honored in the Bible than Mary Magdalene. Yet she could well be the patron of the slandered, since there has been a persistent legend in the Church that she is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50. Most Scripture scholars today point out that there is no scriptural basis for confusing the two women. Mary Magdalene, that is, "of Magdala," was the one from whom Christ cast out "seven demons" (Luke 8:2)—an indication at the worst, of extreme demonic possession or possibly, severe illness.

Writing in the *New Catholic Commentary*, Father Wilfrid J. Harrington, O.P., says that "seven demons" "does not mean that Mary had lived an immoral life—a conclusion reached only by means of a mistaken identification with the anonymous woman of Luke 7:36." In the *Jerome Biblical Commentary*, Father Edward Mally, SJ, agrees that she "is not...the same as the sinner of Luke 7:37, despite the later Western romantic tradition about her."

Mary Magdalene was one of the many "who were assisting them [Jesus and the Twelve] out of their means." She was one of those who stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother. And, of all the "official" witnesses who might have been chosen for the first awareness of the Resurrection, she was the one to whom that privilege was given. She is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

### St. James the Greater

Nothing is known of St. James the Greater's early life, though it has been established that he is the son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of John the disciple.

The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to help distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater."

Saint James the Greater was one of Jesus' first disciples. James was fishing with his father and John the Apostle when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called for the fisherman, who were unable to catch any fish that day, to dip their nets in the water once again. When the fishermen followed Jesus' instructions, they found their nets full, and after emptying the fish on board, the boats nearly sank from their weight. Later, James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration, and when he and his brother wanted to call fire upon a Samaritan town, both were rebuked by Jesus.

Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom as well. He traveled and spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. It is said that one day, as he prayed, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did. Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. Saint James the Greater is known as the first apostle to die.

As he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, his remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers, who buried him. In the ninth century his remains were discovered and moved to a tomb in Santiago de Compostela. Today, his remains can still be found in the Cathedral of Santiago. Because Santiago de Compostela is the most frequently visited place pilgrims migrate to following Rome and Jerusalem, Pope Leo declared it a shrine.





## Music & Worship Notes



The month of July is the beginning of the second half of the year. It is a summer month, which means that many people's thoughts are on planning vacation time. Vacations are a time to relax, refresh and reboot our lives. One thing to note is that while we are vacationing, our Lord is not. His love, protection, and care for us does not stop. In all of our leisure time during the summer, we need to provide time to worship the Lord of Salvation.

As one looks the month of July on a calendar we see two celebrations listed - "Canada Day" on the first and "Fourth of July" on the fourth. As I look at a liturgical (church) calendar, I see a few religious commemorations listed. The Visitation (Mary visits Elizabeth) on July 2nd; St. Mary Magdalene on the 22nd; and St. James the Elder, Apostle on the 25th. These are not on Sunday this year. One can read about them in the New Testament on their specified day as a devotional reading.

Worship and the celebration of communion will continue in the way we have been doing it since the return to worshipping in the church, at least for awhile. We will still wear masks into and out of the church proper. While we are seated in the pew, if you feel comfortable in doing so, you may remove the mask. Masks will need to be in place when we move to the front to receive the Lord's Supper, lowering the mask to eat the bread and drink the wine.

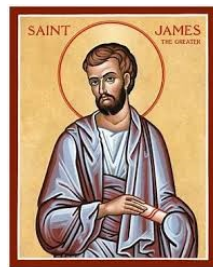
The offering will also continue to be received in the plate placed in the back of the church

We all look forward to the day when our service will return to what we are familiar with.

Stay safe, stay well, and pray daily.



**Ken Sanders,  
Minister of Music**



### THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah
- 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!



## Bible Study

9:00 AM

### JULY 2020 PARISH VISITOR

AUGUST 2020 DEADLINE

Articles Due

July 17th-Friday

Mail / Publication Date

July 23rd -Thursday

**Newsletter**

### MEETINGS IN JULY

**Worship Committee**

**To be announced**

**Church Council**

**9th at 6:00 PM**

**Future Committee**

**1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month**



### UPCOMING JULY 2020 SERVICES

**July 5th, Communion (Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 12th, Non-Communion (Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 19th, Communion (Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 26th, Non-Communion (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)**



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

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost C/ Green	6 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	7	8	9 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG 6:00 PM	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost NC/ Green	13 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	14	15	16	17	18
19 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost C/ Green	20 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	21	22	23	24	25
26 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost NC/ Green	27 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	28	29	30	31	
		LAY READER	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		

### Fourth of July

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.





## JULY 2020 STEWARDSHIP

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t mean it isn’t to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.

- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

*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

### Joyce Devan

2408 Lovegren Court  
York, PA 17404

### Ruth Hermann

Lutheran Home Skilled Care  
Room 404A  
1801 Gladfelter Circle  
York, PA 17404

### Bill Hildebrand

3530 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315

### Dawn Frey

382 West North Street  
York, PA 17401

***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.

### TIPS TO HELP YOU VACATION WITH JESUS:

- **Bring your Bible.** This one seems pretty simple, and technology makes it even easier. If you have a smartphone with an internet connection, you have access to hundreds of different Bible translations, Bible studies, and sermons. Nothing compares to *your* Bible, though. Bring *your* Bible along. If you don’t have one, buy one. It is still the most popular book in print, and it has the power to change you. I see evidence of this in my great-grandfather’s Bible. The words he has underlined and the broken binding reminds me of his faithfulness and how he put his Bible to use. Jesus won’t mind if you crease the cover of your Bible in your suitcase.

- **Schedule spiritual time.** You schedule a lot on vacation. Add spiritual time to your calendar. How else will you guarantee that it happens? You may have good intentions. You can bring your Bible, an inspirational book, and a journal, but if you don’t schedule the time, it will likely not happen. There are way too many things to do that will crowd out your time with Jesus.

- **Prioritize prayer.** Maybe you are used to praying every morning before work, but on vacation you sleep in. Or maybe it’s before you go to bed, but now you are staying up late around a campfire. Prioritize a time to pray. Pray before meals. Pray before you leave for the day with your vacationing partners. Make it a priority. You are probably with people you love deeply—what is more intimate and personal and loving than praying with these people? It might feel awkward to suggest praying on vacation, but you—and your whole family—will be glad you did.

- **Find a time to serve others.** Generally, our vacations and our time away can be self-serving. That is fine. You work hard; you have the right to relax too. Jesus said that He came to give us peace and rest for our souls (Matthew 11:28–30). So, if Jesus is coming along to give us peace and rest, is there a way that we can accompany Him to do the same? You’re already looking up the best restaurants, hotels, and entertainment. Try searching “food pantry,” “homeless shelter,” or “volunteer opportunities” as well. It might be the most memorable thing you do.

**Worship at a local church.** Yes, you have your home church, and nothing will replace that. But it is always good to be reminded that Jesus loves the whole world and there are Christians all across the planet. You can use this tool to find a local LCMS church.

Jesus is with us always and everywhere, even when we go on vacations. Practicing these things will help you know and feel that. No matter where you go, don’t forget to invite Jesus along!

Written by  
**Ethan Luhman**

Ethan Luhman is a pastor in New York, husband of Sherry, and father of three crazy and wonderful boys.







**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  
Susan Peregoy-Health issues

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

Wally and Beth Smith-Health concerns

**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

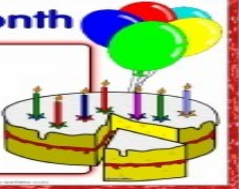
**SPIRITUAL NEEDS**

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**

**JULY**



- 1st - Nancy Hildebrand
- 9th - Linda Billet
- 12th - David Myers
- 20th – Ernesto Mercado
- 23rd - Carla Allison
- 28th - Alvin (Fred) Markey II
- 30th - Kristin Summers

**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 August Birthdays**

- 1st - Christina Lin
- 1st - Breana Wilson
- 6th - Norma Null
- 9th - Marguerite 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



**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**



**FIRST ST. JOHN’S MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.  
ENJOY OUR “LIVE” WORSHIP.



**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**

