

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Website: www.firststjohns.com

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THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO



PARISH VISITOR

Monthly
Newsletter



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

VOL 52 ISSUE 12

Website: www.firststjohns.org

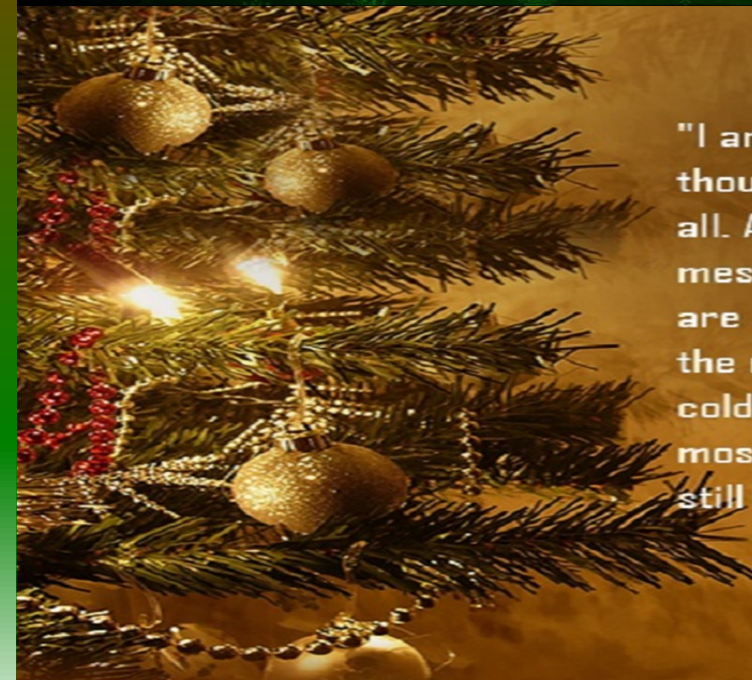
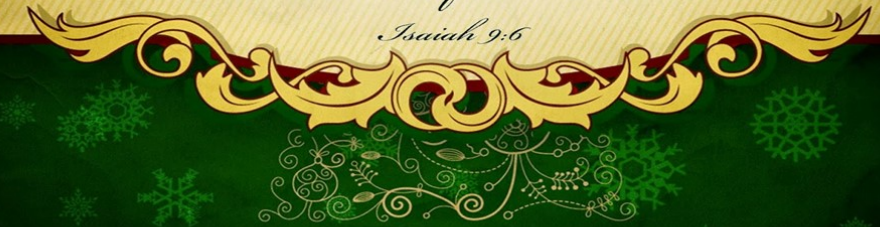
DECEMBER 2020



Jesus

*And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



"I am not alone at all. I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses."

- Taylor Caldwell



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

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

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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.



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



GET IN TOUCH

STEWARDSHIP - DECEMBER 2020

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

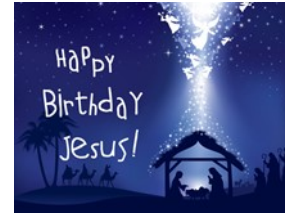
Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

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.



Music & Worship Notes

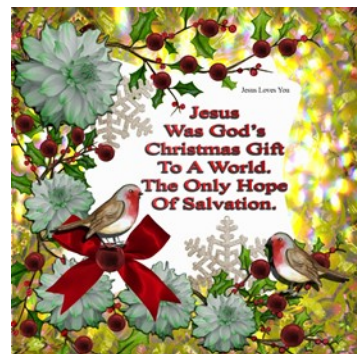


The choir will be helping to lead the “Lessons and Carols” service on the fourth Sunday of Advent. They will also provide some special music for Christmas Eve.

There will be three mid-week Advent suppers and worship services. The theme this year is: “The Jesse Tree.” We will have a chance to view a few people in Jesus’ family tree.

There will not be an LWML “Holly and Ivy Concert” this year due to the pandemic. The ladies of the LWML are considering the possibility of a spring concert.

The German Christmas Service will not be happening. However, there will be a virtual presentation that will include brass, The Hoby Chor men’s choir, scripture readings, and a sermon. The spoken and sung portions will be in the German Language. A link will be on the church’s web site that will take you to where you may view the presentation. The two online apps being considered for you to see and hear this presentation are: Face Book and You Tube. The audio portion will be put on the radio station – 106.1 FM.



**Ken Sanders,
Minister of Music**



THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH



ISAIAH 9:6

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Bible Study

9:00 AM

DECEMBER 2020 PARISH VISITOR

JANUARY 2021 DEADLINE

Articles Due

December 19th-Friday

Mail Date

December 23rd Thursday

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council

No Meeting in December

Future Committee

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month



UPCOMING DECEMBER 2020 SERVICES

December 6, Communion (Second Sunday of Advent)

December 13, Non-Communion (Third Sunday of Advent)

December 20, Communion (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

December 27, Non-Communion (First Sunday after Christmas)

DECEMBER



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

DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NO CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. THIS MONTH		1	2 Future Comm.Mtg. 9am Advent Evening Service 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday in Advent C/ Blue	7 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	8	9 Advent Evening Service 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service	10	11	12 H.O.B. Board Mtg. 2:30 pm
13 3rd Sunday in Advent NC/ Blue	14 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	15	16 Future Comm.Mtg. 9am Advent Evening Service 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday in Advent C/ Blue	21 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	22	23 CHRISTMAS EVE	24 CHRISTMAS	25	26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas NC/ White	28 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	29	30 New Years Eve	31 New Years Day		
		LAY READER Carla Allison	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		(

THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE!

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1)

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call “Advent” were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator. But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness that permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world.

It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity’s fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister Mary became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world.

No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness, for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world.

Every force of Satan would seek to put that light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do. The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light that began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.

This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse’s tree. He is the Root of Jesse’s tree. He is the Life of Jesse’s tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse’s tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, “To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth” (LSB 383).

CHRISTMAS EVE

A CAROL OF CAROLS

The hoar of Time where the frost's gray rime
In fantastic glamour lies;
A sheen of light on the gleaming white
That mirrors the spangled skies;
A great, cold star in the heavens afar
And a moon-trail on the hills;
The earth instilled with an awe fulfilled
And the night with music thrilled.

"Christ was born on Christmas Day!
Wreath the holly, twine the bay!
Christus natus hodie—
The God, the Lord forever!"

The carolers sing as the church bells ring,
While up in the organ loft
The sage owls croon as the calm, sweet tune
Comes, swelling, but ever soft.
The message flies through the changing skies,
By changing time and tongue,
But ever the same as the tale that came
The shepherd men among.

"Good Christian men, rejoice again,
Emmanuel!
As was foretold in days of old
By Gabriel!"

Where the mistletoe and the laurel bough
And the holly and the bay are twined,
Where the hearth-fire gleams as in ancient dreams,
One age is but one mind.
As in modern dreams the hearth-fire gleams,
So, under the casement still,
The carolers sing as the tower tongues swing
Man's Peace and God's Good-will.

"He was born to set us free!
He was born our Lord to be,
Ex Maria Virgine—
The God, the Lord forever!"

STEPHEN CHALMERS

New York Times (Dec. 24, 1904): 6.

Bonnie Abendschoen

138 Crown Pointe Drive
York, PA 17402

Dawn Frey

382 West North Street
York, PA 17401

Ruth Hermann

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

Joyce Devan

2408 Lovegren Court
York, PA 17404

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.

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

HARVEST OF BLESSING

is sponsoring a Christmas gift giveaway in December.

December 19th. 12:00-3:00 pm. Christmas gifts giveaway.

You must pre-register with Harvest of Blessings to receive a gift.

Parents must accompany children.

Harvest of Blessing

Attn Jural Toby .

339 South George Street York, PA 17401

Phone: (717).808.4209

The event will take place in the parking lot of First St. John's Lutheran Church.

140 W. King St.

York PA 17401





PRAYERS

Ruthetta Fogle
Christians especially in the Middle East– persecuted
Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving
Becky Lupp
Angie Linebaugh
Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home
Marianne DeModena-Cancer
Patti Tripp-COPD
Julia
Nancy Hildebrand
Kathy Butts Oster-Health issues
Shannon Schwartzman-Health issues
Joyce Devan-Health issues
Aimee Walton-Health issues
Ruth Strathmeyer-Health issues
Anna vanDyk-Health issues
Linda Mumford Harman-Surgery recovery
Wally and Beth Smith-Health issues
Dawn Yenez-Health issues (Aunt of Wally Smith)
Kim Thompson-Health issues
Joey Welsh-Health issues (Husband of Sylvia Barclay's niece)
Dave Snyder-Health issues
Susan vanDyk-Baum

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Ed Hanes (Nancy Hildebrand's brother)-Health issues

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
Joyce Devan
Dawn Frey
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

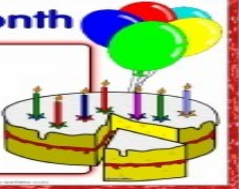
SPIRITUAL NEEDS

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

DECEMBER



- 3rd - Karl vanDyk
- 4th - Amy Williams
- 11th - Richard Sindlinger
- 13th - Gloria Sindlinger
- 19th - Wayne Hildebrand Jr.
- 20th - William Lupp
- 21st - Tammy Cahoon
- 22nd - Susan vanDyk
- 25th - Sheela Hernandez

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 January Birthdays

- 4th - Elizabeth Hernandez
- 4th - Dezzaray Tanner
- 7th - Hans Abendschoen

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

Formerly Pregnancy & Family Resource Center
40 South Richland Avenue
York, PA 17404
Phone: (717) 854-6285

