

**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

Monthly  
Newsletter



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

**53 ISSUE 2**

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

**FEBRUARY 2021**





## 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)



GET IN TOUCH

### STEWARDSHIP-FEBRUARY 2021

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.





## Music & Worship Notes

February! The "love" month! There was a real St. Valentine. Here is some information about him.

"The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern **day** of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named **Valentine** — on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of **St. Valentine's Day**.

He is the patron **saint** of lovers, epileptics, and beekeepers. By some accounts, **St. Valentine** was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus about 270. **Valentine's Day** as a lovers' festival dates at least from the 14th century.

On February 14, around the year 270 A.D., **Valentine**, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed. **Valentine** was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off.

The very brief vita of **St Valentine** states that he was executed for refusing to deny Christ by the order of the "Emperor Claudius" in the year 269. Before his head was cut off, this **Valentine** restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer."

February is also when Lent begins. This year, Ash Wednesday is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. There will be a service in the church that evening at 7 PM. During the service, those wishing to have the sign of the cross of ashes placed on their foreheads will be asked to come forward like we do for communion and receive them.

We will have mid-week services starting with a meal at 6 PM and worship at 7 PM. These Wednesday services will be held in the kitchenette / Bible Study room. They will start on Wednesday, February 24.

Maundy Thursday is on April 1 at 7 PM. We will remember our Lord's sharing of bread (His body) and the wine (His blood) with His disciples. The altar area will be stripped of all its adornments in preparation of Good Friday.

The choir is working on the music for the Choral Tenebrae Service on Good Friday. The service will be at 7 PM on April 2.

**Ken Sanders,**  
**Minister of Music**



### THE ADULT CHOIR:

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

### Scripture of the Month



Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. —[Romans 12:1-2 \(NIV\)](#)

## In Memoriam

**Ruth Edna Hermann**, entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. We commend her family and friends to the comfort and care of our Lord and Savior, who is the Resurrection and the Life.



## Bible Study

9:00 AM

**FEBRUARY 2021  
PARISH VISITOR**

**MARCH 2021 DEADLINE**

[Articles Due](#)  
[Mail Date](#)

-Friday, February 19th  
Thursday, February 25th

**Newsletter**

## MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

**Worship Committee**

**Church Council**

**Future Committee**

**To be announced**

**February 11th (Thursday)**

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



## UPCOMING FEBRUARY 2021 SERVICES

**February 7th, Communion (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**February 14th, Non-Communion (The Transfiguration of Our Lord)**

**February 21st, Communion (First Sunday in Lent)**

**February 28th, Non-Communion (Second Sunday in Lent)**

**Sunday  
Services**



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> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Future Comm. Mtg. 9am Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany C/Green	<b>8</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>11</b> CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> H.O.B. Board Mtg. 2:30 pm
<b>14</b> The Transfiguration of our Lord NC/White	<b>15</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Future Com. Mtg. 9am Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir after the Evening Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> The 1st Sunday in Lent C/Purple	<b>22</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir after the Evening Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> The 2nd Sunday in Lent NC/Purple						(



Pregnant?

**WOMEN'S CARE CENTER**

Formerly Pregnancy & Family Resource Center


40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404



Phone: (717) 854-6285

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

WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.  
ENJOY OUR "LIVE" WORSHIP.



Welcome  
to Our Church



**FREE BREADS AND DESSERTS**

**DONATED WEEKLY BY: PANERA BREAD**


**to First St. John's Lutheran Church**

**140 W. King St., York, PA 17401**

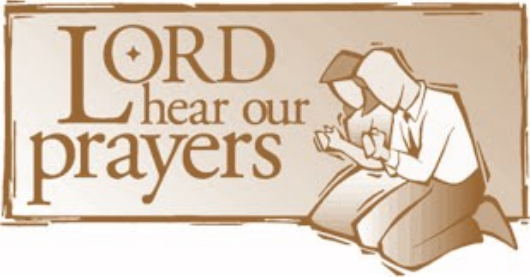
**EVERY MONDAY**

**From 9:00 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM**







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  
Ed Hanes (Nancy Hildebrand’s brother)-Health issues  
Karl vanDyk-Health issues  
Philip Rogers-Health issues

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen  
Joyce Devan  
Dawn Frey

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

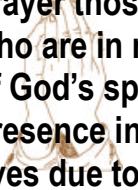
PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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:



- 2nd - Michelle Taylor
- 5th - Edward Abendschoen IV
- 11th - Sylvia Barclay
- 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



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



St. Matthias  
Apostle & Martyr (c. 80)  
Feast Day - 14 May

Father, you called  
St. Matthias to share in the  
mission of the apostles. By  
the help of his prayers may  
we receive with joy the love  
you share with us and be  
counted among those you  
have chosen. We ask this  
through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son who lives  
and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, for  
ever and ever. Amen.

-Collect Mass Prayer for the Feast of St. Matthias

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email: orders@CatholicPrayerCards.org





## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians. It is observed by Catholics in the Roman Rite, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Moravians, and Independent Catholics, as well as by many from the Reformed faith (inclusive of the Congregationalist, Continental Reformed, and Presbyterian traditions).

As it is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Eastertide.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants to either the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or the dictum "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.



## Feast of the Transfiguration



Christian commemoration of the occasion upon which Jesus Christ took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on a mountain, where Moses and Elijah appeared and Jesus was transfigured, his face and clothes becoming dazzlingly bright (Mark 9:2–13; Matthew 17:1–13; Luke 9:28–36). The festival celebrates the revelation of the eternal glory of the Second Person of the Trinity, which was normally veiled during Christ's life on earth. According to tradition, the event took place on Mount Tabor.

It is not known when the festival was first celebrated, but it was kept in Jerusalem as early as the 7th century and in most parts of the Byzantine Empire by the 9th century. It was gradually introduced into the Western Church, and its observance was fixed as August 6 by Pope Calixtus III in 1457 as a thank offering for the victory over the Turks at Belgrade on that day in 1456. In 2002 Pope John Paul II updated the meditations of the rosary with five "luminous mysteries," of which the Transfiguration is one.

In the Orthodox Church it has always been a major festival. In some churches it is celebrated on other dates. The Armenian Apostolic Church keeps it on the fourteenth Sunday after Easter, and some Lutherans on the Sunday after Epiphany.

