

**FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



Non Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 York, PA  
 Permit # 260

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO



# PARISH VISITOR

Monthly  
 Newsletter



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

V 53 ISSUE 3

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

MARCH 2021

## *A Prayer for Lenten Grace*

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.  
 Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and  
 solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace  
 of a prayer-full life.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those  
 in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace  
 of gratitude and generosity.

Help me to fast from those things that  
 threaten the well-being of body and soul,  
 remind me of the grace and simplicity.

May this season be grace-filled time to  
 rekindle my love for and faith in you.

*Amen.*

**LENT**

alamy stock photo



## 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

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](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-MARCH 2021

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

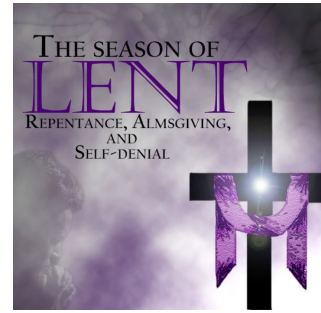
God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.







## Music & Worship Notes



We are in the middle of the Lenten season. We continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6 pm for a meal and stay for the service at 7 pm.

Pastor Merrell is conducting the services at both St. Paul's and First St. John's. He wrote the series we are using this year. The main theme is: "Who Needs a Crucified Savior?" The series looks at various people from scripture who were in need of a savior. Each Wednesday will look at a different person. The sermon focus for each mid-week is as follows:

Ash Wednesday: "Adam and Eve" (pride)

Mid-week 2: "King David" (egotism)

Mid-week 3: "Matthew" (greed)

Mid-week 4: "Barnabas" (jealousy for leadership)

Mid-week 5: "John Mark" (weak commitment)

Mid-week 6: "Mary Magdalene" (her failure unspecified)

Maundy Thursday: "St. Paul" (depression)

Good Friday: "St. Peter" (impulsive)



**Ken Sanders,**  
Minister of Music



### THE ADULT CHOIR:

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

### Scripture of the Month



#### Mark 1:12-13 -

<sup>12</sup>Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

<sup>13</sup>And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to

## In Memoriam

**John Pfeiffer, Sr.** entered his eternal rest on Wednesday, February 12, 2021. We commend his 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

**MARCH 2021  
PARISH VISITOR**

APRIL 2021 DEADLINE

Articles Due

-Friday, March 19th

Mail Date

Thursday, March 25th

**Newsletter**

### MEETINGS IN MARCH

**Worship Committee**

**To be announced**

**Church Council**

**March 11th (Thursday)**

**Future Committee**

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



### UPCOMING MARCH 2021 SERVICES

**March 7th, Communion (Third Sunday in Lent)**


**March 14th, Non-Communion (Fourth Sunday in Lent)**

**March 21st, Communion (Fifth Sunday in Lent)**



**March 28th, Non-Communion (Palm Sunday)**




<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW JESUS</b> Bible Study 9:00 AM Sunday Morning Service 11:00 AM			<b>First St. John's Lutheran Church</b> 140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597			<b>CHURCH OFFICE</b> Phone Number 717-843-8597		
			<b>MARCH 2021</b>					
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 Lenten Service 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir after the Evening	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>7</b> The 3rd Sunday in Lent C/ Purple	<b>8</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir after the Evening	<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 4th Sunday in Lent NC/ Purple	<b>15</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Future Comm. Mtg. 9am Lenten Service 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir after the Evening	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>		
<b>21</b> The 5th 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	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>		
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday NC/ Red		LAY READER Carla Allison	USHER	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison				




**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**

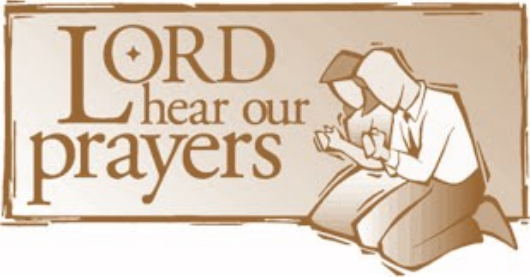
**FIRST ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS AND GUESTS**  
 WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.  
 ENJOY OUR "LIVE" WORSHIP.



**WOMEN'S CARE CENTER**  
**Formerly Pregnancy & Family Resource Center**  
**40 South Richland Avenue**  
**York, PA 17404**  
**Phone: (717) 854-6285**







**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**

Family of John Pfeiffer, Sr. who went to be with the Lord  
Martha-Health Issue

**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:**



**6th - Scott Dennis**  
**7th - Jerry Allison**  
**7th –Dane Smith**

**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 April Birthdays**

**11th - Carlos 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



**Bonnie Abendschoen**

138 Crown Pointe Drive  
York, PA 17402

**Dawn Frey**

382 West North Street  
York, PA 17401

**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**



**MK 15:1-39**

As soon as morning came,  
the chief priests with the elders and the scribes,  
that is, the whole Sanhedrin held a council.  
They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.  
Pilate questioned him,  
"Are you the king of the Jews?"  
He said to him in reply, "You say so."  
The chief priests accused him of many things.  
Again Pilate questioned him,  
"Have you no answer?"  
See how many things they accuse you of."  
Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them  
one prisoner whom they requested.  
A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion.  
The crowd came forward and began to ask him  
to do for them as he was accustomed.  
Pilate answered,



## The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ To the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the first chapter of Luke we read how the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Christ, and how Mary answered, "Here I am, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me as you have said." It is reasonable to suppose that Our Lord was conceived immediately after this. Accordingly, since we celebrate His birth on 25 December, we celebrate the Annunciation nine months earlier, on 25 March.

For many centuries most European countries took 25 March, not 1 January, as the day when the number of the year changed, so that 24 March 1201 was followed by 25 March 1202. If you had asked a Christian of that time why the calendar year changed so awkwardly partway through a month, he would have answered: "Today we begin a new year of the Christian era, the era which began X years ago today when God was made man, when He took upon Himself a fleshly body and human nature in the womb of the Virgin."

The following paragraph is from Chapter 14 of the book *Miracles*, by [C S Lewis](#).

...ONE of those features of the Christian story which is Repulsive to the modern mind. To be quite frank, we do not at all like the idea of a "chosen people". Democrats by birth and education, we should prefer to think that all nations and individuals start level in the search for God, or even that all religions are equally true. It must be admitted at once that Christianity makes no concessions to this point of view. It does not tell of a human search for God at all, but of something done by God for, to, and about Man. And the way in which it is done is selective, undemocratic, to the highest degree. After the knowledge of God had been universally lost or obscured, one man from the whole earth (Abraham) is picked out. He is separated (miserably enough, we may suppose) from his natural surroundings, sent into a strange country, and made the ancestor of a nation who are to carry the knowledge of the true God. Within this nation there is further selection: some die in the desert, some remain behind in Babylon. There is further selection still. The process grows narrower and narrower, sharpens at last into one small bright point like the head of a spear. It is a Jewish girl at her prayers. All humanity (so far as concerns its redemption) has narrowed to that.

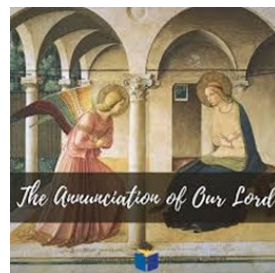
The following quotation is from Martin Luther's sermon "On the Magnificat" (the Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55).

"For He that is mighty hath done great things for me, and Holy is His Name." (Luke 1:49)

The "great things" are nothing less than that she became the Mother of God, in which work so many and such great good things are bestowed upon her as pass man's understanding. For on this there follows all honor, all blessedness, and her unique place in the whole of mankind, among whom she has no equal, namely, that she had a child by the Father in Heaven, and such a child.

She herself is unable to find a name for this work, it is Too exceedingly great; all she can do is break out in the fervent cry: "They are great things," impossible to describe or define. Hence men have crowded all her glory into a single word, calling her the Mother of God.

No one can say anything greater of her or to her, though He had as many tongues as there are leaves on the trees, or grass in the fields, or stars in the sky, or sand by the sea. It needs to be pondered in the heart, what it means to be the Mother of God.



## Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord

All that we know of Joseph we learn from the first two chapters of [Matthew](#) and of Luke. Otherwise he is mentioned only in passing in Luke 3:23; John 1:45; John 6:42 as the supposed father of Jesus. (Mark does not mention him at all.)

In the face of circumstances where a man of lesser character might have reacted very differently, Joseph graciously assumed the role of Jesus' father. He is well remembered in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy Jesus, and for his tender affection and care for Mary, during the twelve years and more that he was their protector.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. (The Gospels use the Greek word Tekton, which means "builder," as in "architect." It has been suggested that he may have been a mason or a metalworker, or a building contractor. In favor of the traditional translation, we have a remark in the writings of [Justin Martyr](#), who was born in Palestine, probably around 100, and who tells us that he has seen plows and ox-yokes still in use which were said to have been made in the carpenter-shop at Nazareth. We may not believe that the particular claims were all accurate, but they are testimony to what the Christians of Palestine in the early second century believed that Joseph's occupation had been, and this may be an idea continuously handed down in the community there since the early first century.) Because of the silence of the Gospels, and because Jesus entrusted Mary to the care of John, it is generally believed that Joseph died a natural death after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:41-51), but before the Baptism of Jesus when He was thirty. Joseph's influence during those early years must have been tremendous. When Jesus spoke of God as being like a loving Father, He was using a word that he had first learned as a child to apply to Joseph. Joseph stands as a testimony to the value of simple everyday human things, and especially that human thing called "fatherhood."

