

## 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



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

# PARISH VISITOR

Monthly Newsletter



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

VOL 53-ISSUE 7
Website: [www.firststjohns.org](http://www.firststjohns.org)
JULY 2021



## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

...and wherever  
the Spirit of  
the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

—2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT



CELEBRATE  
OUR FREEDOM  
IN CHRIST THIS

## Independence Day

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE. GAL. 5:1 NIV





## 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



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

# St. Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest saints of the Bible and a legendary example of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels.

Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute or sexually immoral in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did.

The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner. Jesus cast seven demons out of her when he met her. After this, she told several women she associated with and these women also became followers.

There is also debate over if Mary Magdalene is the same unnamed women, a sinner, who weeps and washes Jesus' feet with her hair in the Gospel of John. Scholars are skeptical this is the same person.

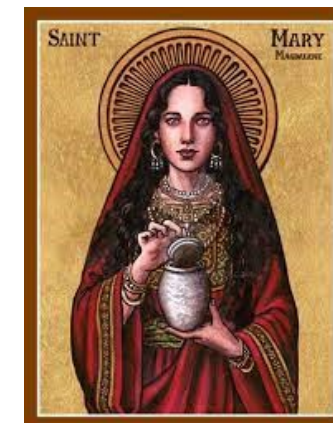
Despite the scholarly dispute over her background, what she did in her subsequent life, after meeting Jesus, is much more significant. She was certainly a sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God.

During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him, part of a semi-permanent entourage who served Jesus and his Disciples.

Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry. Mary was present when Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him. She was the first witness to His resurrection.

After the death of Christ, a legend states that she remained among the early Christians. After fourteen years, she was allegedly put into a boat by Jews, along with several other saints of the early Church, and set adrift without sails or oars. The boat landed in southern France, where she spent the remaining years of her life living in solitude, in a cave.

St. Mary Magdalene's feast day is July 22. She is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, sexual temptation, pharmacists, tanners and women, and many other places and causes.





## Music & Worship Notes



With the beginning of July comes the second half of the year, 2021. Can you believe that half of the year has passed? Before you know it, we will be decorating the church for Christmas, snow will be falling, and we will be wearing heavy coats. Nice thought, isn't it? It almost seems as if time is passing us by. Does not seem to be constant, this time thing.

Good news! There is something that is constant in the midst of all of this. The Love of God! He is there 24/7-52. Take some time each day to pause and look around you. You will see God in His handiwork in the world. Yes, even in each other. Take a moment to read your favorite Bible passage or your favorite hymn. Have a conversation with your Heavenly Father. He is always near and listens to His children. Sit in the Sonlight and feel the warmth of his love. Then consider this: no matter my status in life, whether I am rich or poor in worldly goods, I am always rich in the love of God!

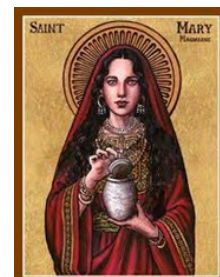
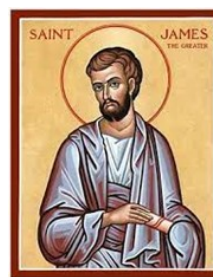
I will be on vacation from July 10 to July 24. The two Sundays that I am gone, July 11 and 18, Fred Markey will be playing the organ for the services. He is a son of the congregation. Also, on those two Sundays, Bible class will **NOT** be held.

The first Sunday of July is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The music for this day will be more patriotic in nature. We will have a trumpeter to enhance the music.

The other special days to recognize in the month of July are: The Visitation; St. Thomas, the Apostle; St. Mary Magdalene; St. James the Elder, Apostle.

### THE ADULT CHOIR:

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

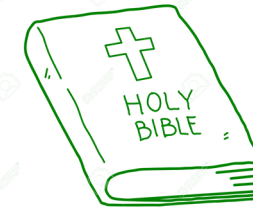


Ken Sanders,  
Minister of Music

## Scripture of the Month

Psalms 33:12-15

- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.
- <sup>14</sup> From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth;
- <sup>15</sup> He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.



## Bible Study

9:00 AM

**JULY 2021  
PARISH VISITOR**

**AUGUST 2021 DEADLINE**

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

**Friday, 23rd**  
**Thursday, 29th**

## Newsletter

## MEETINGS IN JULY

**Worship Committee**

**Church Council**

**Future Committee**

**To be announced**

**8th (Thursday)**

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



## UPCOMING JULY 2021 SERVICES

**July 4th, Communion (6th Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 11th, Non-Communion (7th Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 18th, Communion (8th Sunday after Pentecost)**

**July 25th, Non-Communion (9th 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 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 6th Sunday after Pentecost INDEPENDENCE DAY C/ Green	5 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	6	7 Future Com.Mtg. 9am	8 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING. 6:00 PM	9	10 H.O.B. Board Mtg. 2:30 pm
11 7th Sunday after Pentecost NC/ Green	12 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am Flag Day	13	14 Adult Choir 6:30 pm	15	16	17
18 8th Sunday after Pentecost C/ Green	19 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	20	21 Future Com.Mtg. 9am Adult Choir 6:30 pm	22	23	24
25 9th Sunday after Pentecost NC/ Green	26 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	27	28 Adult Choir 6:30 pm	29 ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison	30	31



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.





**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  
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home  
 Joyce Devan-Health issues  
 Ruth Strathmeyer-Health issues  
 Kim Thompson-Health issues  
 Susan vanDyk-Baum  
 Ed Hanes (Nancy Hildebrand's brother)-Health issues  
 Philip Rogers-Health issues  
 Bruce Blankenstein-Wife's Health issues

### FIRST TIME REQUESTS

### SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen  
 Joyce Devan  
 Dawn Frey  
 Kim Thompson

### 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  
 Pastor Gene Merrill-Healing

### 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:**



**1st - Nancy Hildebrand**

**9th - Linda Billet**

**12th - David Myers**

**20th – Ernesto Mercado**

**23rd - Carla Allison**

**28th - Alvin (Fred) Markey II**

**30th - Kristin Summers**

### Early August Birthdays

**1st - Christina Lin**

**1st - Breana Wilson**

**6th - Norma Null**

**9th - Marguerite Beck**

### PRAYER LIST (cont.)

#### MILITARY

Sgt. 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

### Kim Thompson

30 South Beaver 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.

The next three months (July-September) Alms collection will go towards First Responder's Organizations. .



### STEWARDSHIP-JULY 2021

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*



# St. James the Elder

Nothing is known of St. James the Elder'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 Elder" 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 Elder."

Saint James the Elder 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.

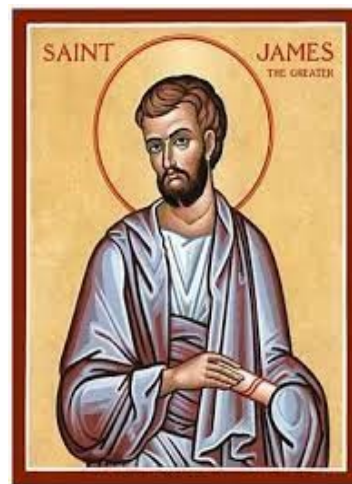
It is said that one day, as he prayed, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did.

Later, James returned to Jerusalem but was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. Saint James the Elder 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.

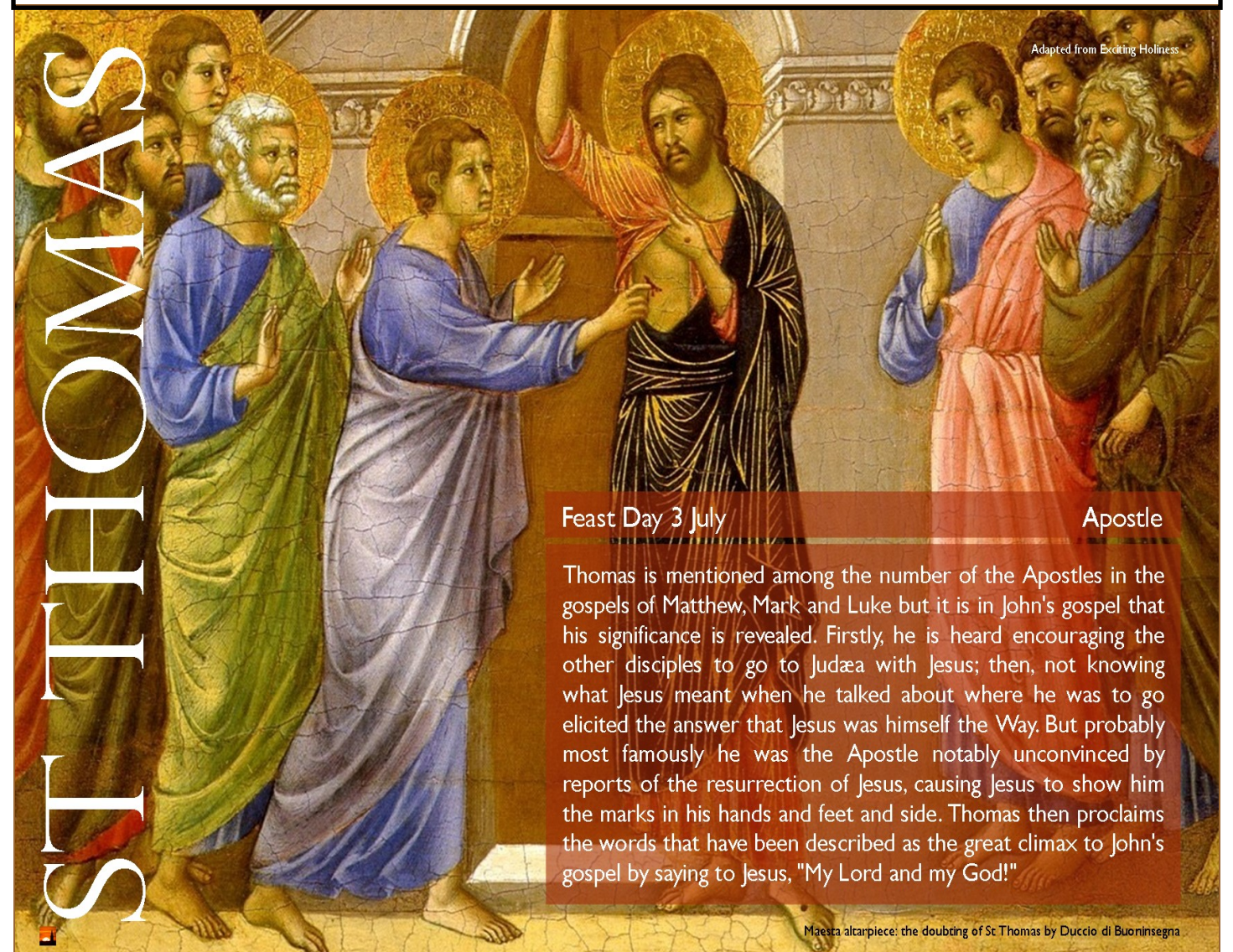
Because Santiago de Compostela is the most frequently visited place pilgrims migrate to following Rome and Jerusalem, Pope Leo declared it a shrine.



**MEMORIAL LUNCHEON** A memorial luncheon will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 through 3:30 PM at St. John Lutheran Church, 2580 Mt. Rose Ave., to commemorate the life and work of Sharon Hennig, who died on July 23, 2020. Friends and former students are invited to attend.

*Memorial*

**A graveside internment ceremony** for John Pfeiffer, Sr. will be held on Thursday, July 22nd, at 2:00pm. The ceremony will be held at Prospect Hill Cemetery in York (enter off Pennsylvania Avenue). Everyone in the church community is welcome.



Feast Day 3 July

Apostle

Thomas is mentioned among the number of the Apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke but it is in John's gospel that his significance is revealed. Firstly, he is heard encouraging the other disciples to go to Judæa with Jesus; then, not knowing what Jesus meant when he talked about where he was to go elicited the answer that Jesus was himself the Way. But probably most famously he was the Apostle notably unconvinced by reports of the resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to show him the marks in his hands and feet and side. Thomas then proclaims the words that have been described as the great climax to John's gospel by saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Maesta altarpiece: the doubting of St Thomas by Duccio di Buoninsegna