FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. King Street York, PA 17401-1307 LUTHERAN CHURCH Missest Sprod

Phone: 717-843-8597

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Website: www.firststjohns.com

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THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO



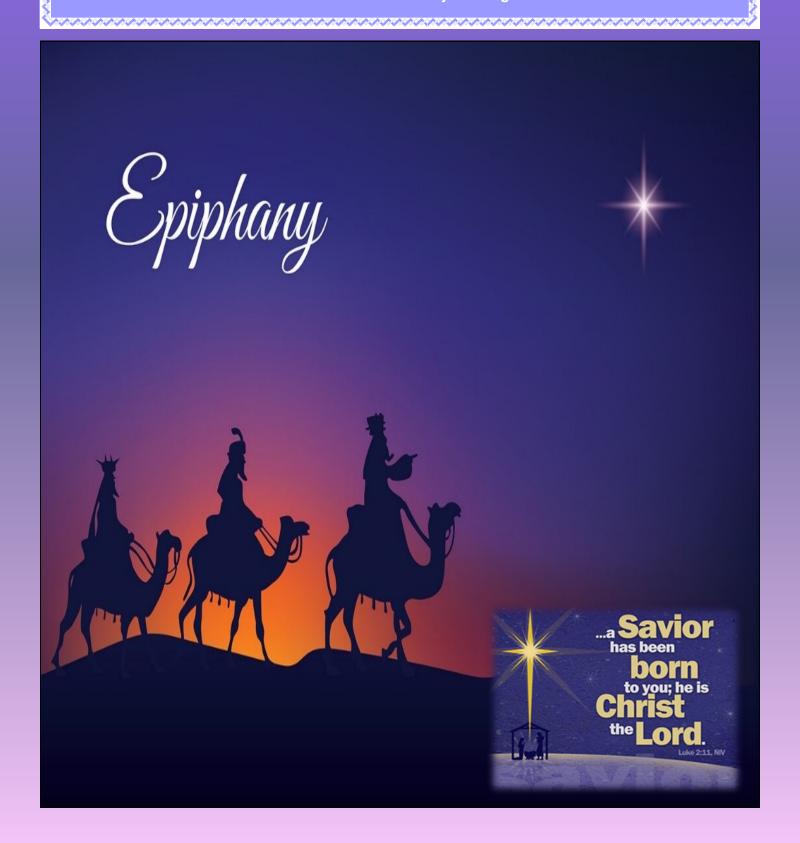
PARISH VISITOR



VOL 54-ISSUE 1

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JANUARY 2022



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

<u>Wednesday</u>

6:30 PM - Adult Choir (September through May/June)

<u>Thursday</u>

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, 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.

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.

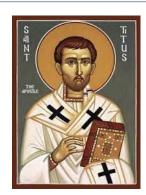
The church phone number is: 717-843-8597

OR

EMAIL: firststjohns@verizon.net



Saint Titus



Titus was a Greek, apparently from Crete who is said to have studied Greek philosophy and poetry in his early years. [4] He seems to have been converted by Paul, whereupon he served as Paul's secretary and interpreter. In the year 49, Titus accompanied Paul to the council held at Jerusalem, on the subject of the Mosaic rites.

Towards the close of the year 56, Paul, as he himself departed from Asia, sent Titus from Ephesus to Corinth, with full commission to remedy the fallout precipitated by Timothy's delivery of 1 Corinthians^[6] and Paul's "Painful Visit", particularly a significant personal offense and challenge to Paul's authority by one unnamed individual. During this journey, Titus served as the courier for what is commonly known as the "Severe Letter", a Pauline missive that has been lost but is referred to in 2 Corinthians.

After success on this mission, Titus journeyed north and met Paul in Macedonia. There the apostle, overjoyed by Titus' success, wrote 2 Corinthians. Titus then returned to Corinth with a larger entourage, carrying 2 Corinthians with him. Paul joined Titus in Corinth later. From Corinth, Paul then sent Titus to organize the collections of alms for the Christians at Jerusalem. Titus was therefore a troubleshooter, peacemaker, administrator, and missionary.

Early church tradition holds that Paul, after his release from his first imprisonment in Rome, stopped at the island of Crete to preach. Due to the needs of other churches, requiring his presence elsewhere, he ordained his disciple Titus as bishop of that island, and left him to finish the work he had started. Chrysostom says that this is an indication of the esteem Paul held for Titus.

Paul summoned Titus from Crete to join him at Nicopolis in Epirus. Later, Titus traveled to Dalmatia. The New Testament does not record his death.

It has been argued that the name "Titus" in 2 Corinthians and Galatians is nothing more than an informal name used by Timothy, implied already by the fact that even though both are said to be long-term close companions of Paul, they never appear in common scenes. The theory proposes that a number of passages—1 Cor. 4:17, 16.10; 2 Cor. 2:13, 7:6, 13–14, 12:18; and Acts 19.22—all refer to the same journey of a single individual, Titus-Timothy. 2 Timothy seems to dispute this, by claiming that Titus has gone to Dalmatia. The fact that Paul made a point of circumcising Timothy but refused to circumcise Titus would indicate that they are different men, although certain manuscripts of Galatians have been taken (by Marius Victorinus, for example) to indicate that Paul did circumcise Titus.

STEWARDSHIP-JANUARY 2022

'TIS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

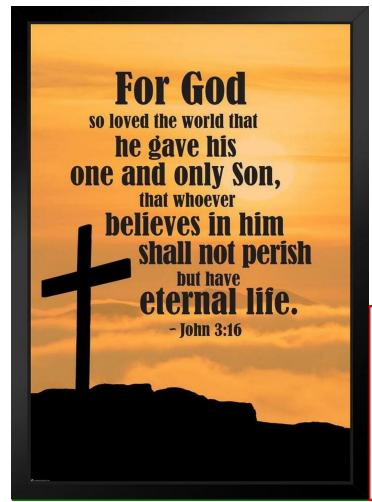
It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and lifegiving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.









9:00 AM

JANUARY 2022 PARISH VISITOR

FEBRUARY 2022 DEADLINE

Articles Due Send Date

Friday, January 21st Thursday, January 27th



MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Worship Committee Church Council

Meetings will be announced 13th. Thursday at 6:00 PM



UPCOMING JANUARY 2022 SERVICES

January 2nd, Communion (2nd Sunday after Christmas)

January 9th, Non-Communion (The Epiphany)

January 16th, Communion (Baptism of Our Lord)

January 23rd, Non-Communion (3rd Sunday After the Epiphany)

January 30th, Non-Communion (4th Sunday After the Epiphany)





Phone Number 717-843-8597

CHURCH OFFICE

2022

JANAURY

140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597 First St. John's Lutheran Church

OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW JESUS

11:00 AM

Sunday Morning Service

SATURDAY 9 9 FRIDAY 200 ALTAR GUILD Nancy Hildebrand **THURSDAY** Group 6:00 PM N. A. Group 6:00 PM N. A. Group 6:00 PM N. A. Group 6:00 PM 000 27 Ä. 0 **WEDNESDAY** Adult Choir 6:30 PM Adult Choir 6:30 200 D LAY READER Dick Sindlinger TUESDAY 0 MONDAY 42 10 31 3 C/ White C/ White NC/ Green NC/ White 4th Sunday after the Epiphany NC/ Green 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany after Christmas SUNDAY Baptism of Our Lord nd Sunday

The Conversion of St. Paul

St. Paul, known as the Apostle to the Gentiles, was born in the city of Tarsus, a Roman city, thereby giving him Roman citizenship. At his circumcision, he was given the Hebrew name Saul. At a young age his parents sent him to Jerusalem to be instructed in the Mosaic Law under the greatest Rabbi of his time, Gamaliel.

Saul was an excellent student and as a Pharisee was respected for his great intellect and zeal for the Jewish faith and traditions. Because the Jews had a rule that their children should learn a trade along with their studies, Saul learned to make tents. This is a trade that provided him with the finances he needed later in his life to travel and evangelize. Because of Saul's great zeal for Jewish law and traditions, he was very upset about his Jewish brethren who were following the New Way, as Christianity was first called. So, thinking that he was serving God, Saul became the worst enemy of Christians. He hunted them down and dragged them out of their homes, imprisoning them and even having them killed. In fact, Saul was a witness to the stoning of the first Christian martyr, St. Stephen. Because Saul was a leader, he stood by and watched as those stoning Stephen laid their cloaks at his feet. It's very likely that Saul ordered Stephen to be stoned.

Saint Luke's recording of this story in his book of Acts is not merely an historical account. While drawing his last breath, Stephen called out to God to forgive those that were stoning him. St. Augustine later declared that had Stephen not prayed, the Church would have never had the great Apostle Paul. For it was Stephen's prayer that planted the seed which later helped Saul on his path to conversion.

Saul's conversion occurred when he was on his way to the city of Damascus. He had gone to the high priest and the Sanhedrin for a commission to allow him to go where he knew there were many new Christians, to arrest them and take them back to Jerusalem for trial. The journey to Damascus took about two days by horseback. When he and his men were very near the city, they were suddenly surrounded by a light so bright that it knocked Saul to the ground. The account of what happened then is related in the book of Acts, chapter 9. "They heard a voice from heaven that said: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' And Saul said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground and when his eyes were opened he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

"For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. There was a disciple there named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Here I am, Lord.' And the Lord said to him, 'Rise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying. And he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight. But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name.'

"So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me that you may regain you sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately, something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized, and took food and was strengthened." From that time forth, Saul went on to preach about Christ. Because he was so well-known as a Pharisee and was now evangelizing for Christ, Saul began being persecuted by his Jewish brethren in the same way he had been persecuting the Christians. At some point he decided to start using his Roman name, Paul.

After spending some time with the disciples of Christ in Damascus, God called Paul to Arabia where he spent at least two years or more in the desert. It is believed that this is where Paul had visions much like the vision St. John writes about in his book of Revelation. The Lord prepared Paul to teach the Gospel, and when Paul returned from the desert, after a short stay in Damascus, he went directly to Jerusalem where he met with Peter, our first pope, and some of the other Apostles, to receive Peter's blessing before he started on his ministry. Paul spent the rest of his life traveling and spreading the Gospel of Jesus, establishing churches and teaching others to lead in his absence. Paul's epistles to the churches that he established make up over one-fourth of the New Testament. He truly is the greatest missionary in Church history.

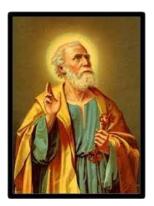
The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle

When Simon Bar-Jona confessed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus responded, "You are Peter, and on this rock will I build my church." This rough fisherman and his brother Andrew were the first disciples called by Jesus. Peter figures prominently in the Gospel accounts, often stumbling, impetuous, intense, and uncouth. It was Peter who attempted to walk on the sea, and began to sink; it was Peter who impulsively wished to build three tabernacles on the mountain of the Transfiguration; it was Peter who, just before the crucifixion, three times denied knowing his Lord.

But it was also Peter who, after Pentecost, risked his life to do the Lord's work, speaking boldly of his faith in Jesus. It was also Peter, the Rock, whose strength and courage helped the young Church in its questioning about the mission beyond the Jewish community. Opposed at first to the baptism of Gentiles without their first submitting to circumcision, he had the humility to admit a change of heart, and to baptize the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household. Even after this, Peter had a continuing struggle with his Jewish conservatism; for Paul, writing to the Galatians, rebukes him for giving way to the demands of some Jewish Christians (the "Judaizers") to dissociate himself from table fellowship with Gentile Christians.

Though the New Testament makes no mention of it, the tradition connecting Peter with Rome is early and virtually certain. According to tradition, Peter suffered martyrdom during the persecution under Nero. He is said to have been crucified head downwards, because he told his executioners that he was not worthy to be crucified as his Lord was.

As we watch Peter struggle with himself, often stumble, love his Lord and deny him, speak rashly and act impetuously, his life reminds us that our Lord did not come to save the godly and strong but the save the weak and the sinful. Simon, an ordinary human being, was transformed by the Holy Spirit into the "Rock", and became the leader of the infant Church.



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.



"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

~ Matthew 2:1-2 KJV

The York Twinning Association's 12th Night Annual Holiday Tour will be featuring The Historic Churches of Downtown York on Sunday January 9, 2022 2—6 pm

Tickets are \$20.00 pp and are available the day of the tour at Traditions Bank, corner of N. George and W Phila. Sts, on Small Biz Saturday, Nov. 27th & First Friday, Dec. 3 @ "Pardon My French" 33 N. Beaver St and in Central Market first three Saturdays in December

The following churches will be participating:
First Moravian Church of York
First Presbyterian Church of York
Trinity United Church of Christ
Christ Lutheran Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
First St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
Heidelberg United Church of Christ.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION'S STU-DENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ARLES, FRANCE AND LEINFELDEN-ECHTERDIGEN, GERMANY. THE EXCHANGE IS OPEN TO ALL YORK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.



FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS (New Year's Day)

Numbers 6:22–27

Galatians 3:23–29

Luke 2:21

The Lord Jesus Comes in the Flesh to Fulfill the Law for Us and Save Us from Our Sins

Circumcision is the covenant God made with Abraham and his seed. It sealed God's promises and blessings in the flesh, but it also signified the burden of the Law. When the Lord Jesus came in the flesh to redeem His people, He subjected Himself to the Law, in order to fulfill the Law and release all men from its captivity. "He was called Jesus" (Luke 2:21) because He came to save His people from their sins. He would shed His blood on their behalf, as He did already when "he was circumcised" (Luke 2:21). As He also sacrificed Himself upon the cross, you are "justified by faith" in His blood (Gal. 3:24). Therefore, "you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29), not by the circumcision of your flesh, but in the flesh and blood of Christ Jesus, the true seed of Abraham. "Baptized into Christ," you belong to Him and are clothed and covered by His righteousness (Gal. 3:27). Holy Baptism is the true circumcision made without hands, by which the Lord Jesus puts His name on you and blesses you (Num. 6:22, 27).











Merry Christmas! Yes, you read that right. Christmas continues through January sixth, Epiphany. This year there are seven "Sundays after Epiphany." Then Transfiguration Sunday happens. Lent comes next, but I will discuss those times in a later edition.

THANK YOU! There are many people to thank for all that took place during the Advent/Christmas season. First for those who made and served the dinners during Advent: Adult Choir, the Stambaugh family, and the LWML. Thank you. The food was delicious! The next thank you goes to all those who helped decorate the church: The Stambaugh family, Lois Hollinger, Gloria Sindlinger, Jane and Geoff Abendschoen, Wayne and Nancy Hildebrand. The sanctuary looks beautiful! Then we have those who helped with the German Language Christmas Service. The LWML, and Jane A. for preparing and serving the refreshments. Dan Stambaugh, Ding Wang, and Nancy Hildebrand for setting the room up. Ding W., Geoff A., Pierre-Paul R. for assisting with the processional and gathering of the offering. Dan S. for providing music before and after the services well as taking care of the sound for the service.

A special thank you to the Adult Choir for helping to lead worship with the "Lessons and Carols" service, as well as their musical contribution to the Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to Dave Stambaugh for his solo at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Christmas Eve.

A special thank you to Bill Lupp, office manager for all his time and talent in preparing all the bulletins during Advent and Christmas season.

If I have missed thanking anyone for you "gift of time", I apologize. First St. John's Church is truly blessed to have members who are willing to share their time and talents. They have not only served the church, but have been in service to God!

BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

Ken Sanders, Minister of Music

THE ADULT CHOIR:

Karen Hildebrand, Lois Hollinger, Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh, George Card, Beverly Card, Ding Wang. 7

Saint Timothy

Timothy became St Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and coworker in preaching. In the year 52, Paul and Silas took Timothy along with them on their journey to Macedonia. Augustine extols his zeal and disinterestedness in immediately forsaking his country, his house, and his parents, to follow the apostle, to share in his poverty and sufferings. [16] Timothy may have been subject to ill health or "frequent ailments", and Paul encouraged him to "use a little wine for your stomach's sake".

When Paul went on to Athens, Silas and Timothy stayed for some time at Beroea and Thessalonica before joining Paul at Corinth. Timothy next appears in Acts during Paul's stay in Ephesus (54–57), and in late 56 or early 57 Paul sent him forth to Macedonia with the aim that he would eventually arrive at Corinth. Timothy arrived at Corinth just after Paul's letter, 1 Corinthians reached that city.

Timothy was with Paul in Corinth during the winter of 57–58 when Paul dispatched his Letter to the Romans (Romans 16:21). According to Acts 20:3–6, Timothy was with Paul in Macedonia just before Passover in 58; he left the city before Paul, going ahead of him to await Paul in Troas (Acts 20:4–5). "That is the last mention of Timothy in Acts", Raymond Brown notes. [18] In the year 64, Paul left Timothy at Ephesus, to govern that church. [16]

His relationship with Paul was close. Timothy's name appears as the co-author on 2Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1Thessalonians, 2Thessalonians, and Philemon. Paul wrote to the Philippians about Timothy, "I have no one like him" (Philippians 2:19–23). When Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend Timothy for a last farewell.

That Timothy was jailed at least once during the period of the writing of the New Testament is implied by the writer of Hebrews mentioning Timothy's release at the end of the epistle. Hebrews 13:23

Although not stated in the Bible, other sources have records of the apostle's death. The apocryphal Acts of Timothy states that in the year 97 AD, the 80-year-old bishop tried to halt a procession in honor of the goddess Diana by preaching the Gospel. The angry pagans beat him, dragged him through the streets, and stoned him to death.



PRAYER

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 van Dyk-Baum

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

Bruce Blankenstein-Wife's Health issues

Jeanne Noll-Health issue

Ed Abendschoen-Health issues

Nancy Hildebrand-Health Issues

Benjamin-Grandson of Mary Homsher (Twinning Assoc., we will

participate in their tour)-Health issues. Very critical.

Karl vanDyk-Health issue

Ed Benedick-Health issue (friend of Ed Abendschoen)

Jon Van Sliedrecht-Health issue

Ken Linebaugh-Recovering from surgery

Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues

David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Aquanya Jahkimm Wright went to be with the Lord (Niece of Bill & Denise Harding).

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen

Jovce Devan

Dawn Frev

Kim Thompson

<u>LEADERS</u>

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

Geoff and Jane Abendschoen

Dan, Dave and Lois Stambaugh

We remember in prayer those who are in need of God's special presence in their lives due to special needs:



4th - Elizabeth Hernandez

4th - Dezzaray Tanner

7th - Hans Abendschoen

15th - Lois Hollinger

28th - Addesha Brady

28th - Karen Hildebrand



Early February Birthdays

2nd - Michelle Taylor

5th - Edward Abendschoen IV

PRAYER LIST (cont.)

SPIRITUAL NEEDS

For all those who do not know Jesus as Lord For our "action" committees/task forces Our Community and Families



MILITARY

Sgt. Tyr Abendschoen

U. S. Armv



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



