

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO

PARISH VISITOR

VOL 54-ISSUE 6

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JUNE 2022



Trinity Sunday
 CELEBRATING FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT



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, 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

A Message From Heaven

Perhaps you aren't ready yet
to have to say good-bye...
Perhaps you've thought of things
you wish you'd said--well, so have I.
For one thing, I'd have told you
not to worry about me...
I'm with the Lord in Heaven now--
you knew that's where I'd be.
I'm sorry that you're feeling sad,
for I'm so happy now...
I've asked the Lord to ease the hurt
and comfort you somehow.
It's hard at the beginning,
but I know you'll make it through.
I hope it helps to know
that I'll be waiting here for you.

Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,

In your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless those fathers who have taken upon themselves, the responsibility of parenting. Bless those who have lost a spouse to death... or divorce who are parenting their children alone. Strengthen them by your love that they may be and become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be.

Grant this through
Christ our Lord.

Amen

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

God, bless all the fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models
and loving to all their children.
Help them to be a father like You are.
Give them grace and patience
to handle situations in a loving way.

Amen! HEART TOUCHING



Fathers everywhere,
We honor you and
wish to say!! May
God's blessings be
with you in a special
way today & always
Type Amen to claim this prayer

...a husband who's thoughtful and kind,
who lives each day with his family in mind.
A husband who asks for guidance with prayer,
planning the future with wisdom and care.
A man who touches my heart each and every day
with your wonderful smile and the sweet things you say.
I'm so thankful you're my best friend,
and that I have a loving husband,
to help me enjoy the best things in life,
and I'm so happy and honored to be called your wife.

Happy Father's Day

STEWARDSHIP-JUNE 2022

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us



Doris Jean Rugh, entered her eternal rest on Wednesday, April 26, 2022. We commend her family and friends to the comfort and care of our Lord and Savior, Who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Williard N. Starner, Sr. entered his eternal rest on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. 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

**JUNE 2022
PARISH VISITOR**

JULY 2022 DEADLINE

Articles Due

Friday, June 17th

Send Date

Thursday, June 23rd

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN JUNE

Worship Committee

Church Council

Meetings will be announced

14th at 6:00 pm



UPCOMING JUNE 2022 SERVICES

June 5th Communion (The Day of Pentecost)

June 12th Non-Communion (The Holy Trinity)

June 19th Communion (2nd Sunday after Pentecost)

June 26th Non-Communion (3rd Sunday after Pentecost)



OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW

JESUS
Bible Study
Sunday Morning Service

9:00 AM
11:00 AM

First St. John's Lutheran Church

140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597

JUNE 2022

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone Number 717-843-8597

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Adult Choir 6:30 PM Last rehearsal for summer	2	3	4
5 The Day of Pentecost C / Red	6 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	7	8	9	10	11
12 The Holy Trinity NC / White	13 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	14 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 2nd Sunday of Pentecost Father's Day C / Green	20 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	21	22	23	24	25
26 3rd Sunday of Pentecost NC / Green	27 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am Memorial Day	28	29	30		
		LAY READER Dick Sindlinger	USHER Bill Lupp	ALTAR GUILD Lois Stambaugh		

VICAR REPORT

May 2022

The CTSFW Spring semester on “Christian Mission in Today’s Society” commenced on March 14 and will conclude on May 19th.

Pastor C. and I continue to connect on Thursday mornings to reflect on the current coursework.

My first season of Lent and Holy Week was pleasantly peaceful and fulfilling. Everything fell into place, praise God. It was a joy to go back to St. John Lutheran as well as to have the opportunity to connect with the congregation of Redeemer Lutheran in Parkton, Md. I look forward to continuing this rotation in the future if possible.

I presided over my first funeral helping out P. Cosgrove who was out of town and could not be pre-sent. It was a small graveside service that provided a soft entrance into this new role. Walter Wilt-schek, who has attended services the past couple of weeks, was the companion of the deceased, Mar-garet Norbeck. Please welcome him and offer your condolences. He may be in the process of mov-ing away from the area in the near future.

Even with some challenges occurring from inevitable changes in life, we still found our way through the German Easter Service. We will look to tighten this up for Christmas and see if we can more broadly advertise the event to the community.

I.... finally... had a meeting with Thrivent, after about a year of silence, to discuss where things are for both parties. We agreed to let things play out status quo until November 1st, 2022. This will pro-vide me a runway to determine what I feel I can commit to Thrivent. It will in essence mark one year of “real-time” being in the role of Vicar. In the meantime, I will share a portion of my book with a new advisor from Columbia, PA to help launch his career and also ensure that all clients are being attended to. I will look to have a final decision on my future with Thrivent by late 2022.

I was asked by Pastor C. if I would be open to sharing devotions at St. John Lutheran every so often at the compassion center should there be adequate interest. These devotions were suspended because of Covid, but they are hoping to restart and are gauging interest. I would be sure to keep my partici-pation at an acceptable level so as not to interfere with existing commitments. He feels it would also benefit him to observe from a mentor role.

I want to put it on the record that I strongly feel that certain parts of the service be discussed/ reinstituted. First, I support the churches in reinstituting the standard offerings and tithes portion of the service where we physically have the collection. Both St. John and Redeemer have been doing this and I see no reason for this suspension to continue. It is important to go through the tithing to remind us of what it is we are doing, not just habitually dropping an envelope into a plate on the way into service. Secondly, I believe we should reconsider moving communion back to a gathering at the Altar at FSJ. I am not familiar with how SP has conducted Holy Supper but am open to suggestions from the leader(s) as to how to proceed at SP. The second part of this I the use of the common cup. Discussion on these topics is welcomed under new business if that suits.

Lastly, I will be on vacation and miss the Sundays of May 29th and June 5th, 2022. Proper notice was provided months ago so I am confident that we have the Sundays handled?

Respectfully submitted,

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen



Bible Study - Psalms: Prayers and Praise

In this study of the Psalms, we see that we are studying more than religious poetry. The psalms express far more than personal or congregational prayers. They proclaim Jesus Christ – His mission and Passion, His Resurrection and return.

Each session of this study focuses on one psalm as an example of other psalm “types” (wisdom psalms, psalms of ascent, penitential psalms, praise psalms, laments, historical psalms, and royal psalms). This study starts with psalms that are easier to understand and progresses to investigate some of the most difficult passages in the Bible.

Each session is outlined as follows:

Introduction

Interpretation

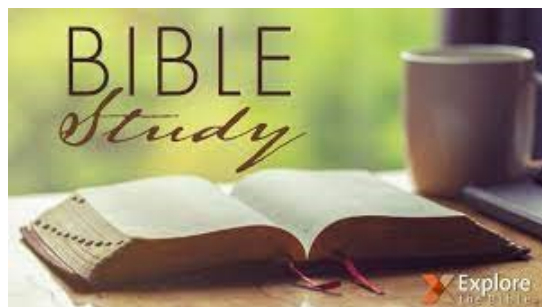
Law and Gospel Application

As we progress through the study, there will be charts and visuals to help you to understand and remember God’s message for us.

There are ten psalms that will be covered in this study. We do not do a new psalm every week. We thoroughly discuss the psalm using the questions that come with the study and some of our own.

The way the study is set up, one can join the class at any time. Come and fellowship with us and learn about God’s word at the same time.

Ken Sanders



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

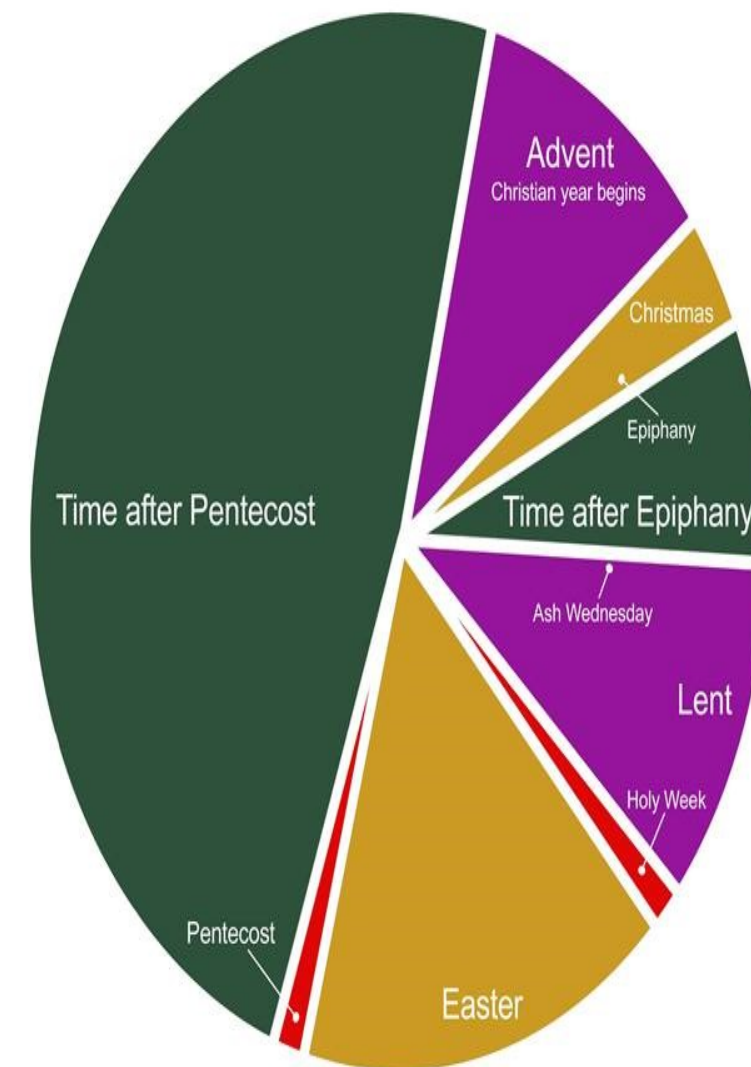
Kim Thompson
30 South Beaver Street
York, PA 17401

Norma Null
2235 Middle Street
York, PA 17408

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 Christian Year



Colors of the Christian Year

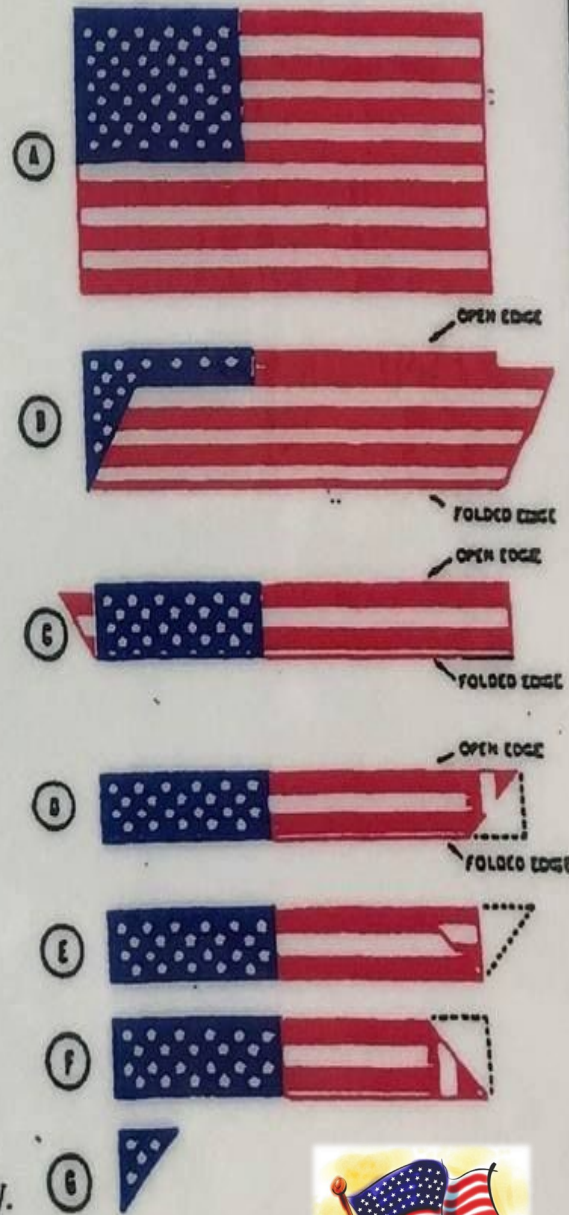
The colors express visually what is happening in the life of the church. Each color symbolizes the nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

- Advent – purple or blue
- Christmas – gold or white
- Ordinary Time – green
- Lent – purple
- Holy Week – red
- Easter – gold or white
- Pentecost – red
- Ordinary Time – green



★ Did You Ever Wonder Why Our Flag is Folded in a Triangle?

- 1st Fold To the symbol of life
- 2nd Fold The belief in Eternal life
- 3rd Fold In honor and remembrance of the veteran being commemorated
- 4th Fold For Divine Guidance
- 5th Fold In tribute to "our country"
- 6th Fold Our Pledge to the Flag
- 7th Fold Tribute to our Armed Forces
- 8th Fold In honor of the Mothers of veterans
- 9th Fold Tribute to Womanhood for their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion to veterans
- 10th Fold Tribute to the Fathers who gave their sons and daughters to the Armed Forces
- 11th Fold In the eyes of the Hebrew citizens, the seals of Kings David and Solomon
- 12th Fold In the eyes of Christian citizens, it represents the Emblem of Eternity.



When the Flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."



Many are ready to give a polite nod of some sort to Jesus of Nazareth. Most honor him as a great moral teacher. Many even confess him as Savior. But the Incarnation of the Eternal God? Second person of the Holy Trinity? God can't be one and three at the same time. Such a notion is at worst illogical, at best meaningless. "This was all invented by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 313 AD," scoff a motley crew ranging from the Jehovah's Witnesses to the fans of the Da Vinci Code.

Of course this charge has no historical leg to stand on. St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote seven brief letters around 110AD in which he called Jesus "God" 16 times. True, the word "Trinity" is not in the bible. But everywhere the New Testament refers to three distinct persons who seem to be equally divine, yet one (see 2 Cor. 13:13). So over 100 years before Constantine, a Christian writer named Tertullian coined the term "Trinity" as a handy way to refer to this reality of three distinct, equal persons in one God. It stuck.

But if the doctrine of the Trinity is authentically biblical, is it relevant? Does it really matter?

If Christianity were simply a religion of keeping the law, the inner life of the lawgiver would not matter. But if Christianity is about personal relationship with God, then who God really is matters totally. Common sense tells us that some supreme being made the universe and that we owe Him homage. But that this creator is a trinity of persons who invites us to intimate friendship with Himself—this we never could have guessed. We only know it because God has revealed it.

God is love, says 1 John 4:8 (see too John 3:16). If God were solitary, how could he have been love before he created the world? Who would there have been to love? Jesus reveals a God who is eternally a community of three persons pouring themselves out in love for one another. The Father does not at some moment create the Son and then later, through the Son, create the Spirit.

No, the Father eternally generates the Son. And with and through the Son, this Father eternally "breathes" the Spirit as a sort of personalized sigh of love. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be." That's what the conclusion of the Glory Be really means, that the self-giving of the three divine persons did not begin at a moment in time, but was, is, and is to come.

If we are truly to "know" our God, we must know this.

But if we are ever to understand ourselves, we must also know this. For we were made in the image and likeness of God, and God is a community of self-donating love. That means that we can never be happy isolated from others, protecting ourselves from others, holding ourselves back selfishly from others. Unless we give ourselves in love, we can never be fully human. And unless we participate in the life of God's people, we can never be truly Christian either. Because Christianity is about building up the community of divine love which is called the Church. If God is Trinity, then there really is no place for free-lance, lone-ranger Christians.

The family, the domestic Church, is a reflection of trinitarian love – the love of husband and wife, distinct and very different persons, generates the child who is from them but is nonetheless distinct from them, indeed absolutely unique.

And that is the final point. One of the greatest treasures of Western culture is the concept of the uniqueness and dignity of the individual person. You really don't find this idea in the ancient societies of Greece and Rome or in other great world religions, such as Islam.

The concept of the irreplaceable uniqueness of each person came into Western culture straight from the doctrine of the Trinity, three who possess the exact same divine nature but who are yet irreplaceably unique in their personhood.

The irony? As it progressively abandons the triune God, the Western world is undermining the very foundation of personal dignity, individuality, and freedom.

So yes, the Trinity does matter.

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Music & Worship Notes

THANK YOU THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to thank the member of the choir for their fine service in sharing the Word of God in music with the congregation during this past year: Bev and George Card, Karen Hildebrand, Lois Hollinger, Dave and Lois Stambaugh, and Ding Wang.

Liturgy After Pentecost Sunday, June 5, we will start using the LSB hymnal for the liturgy. We will use Divine Service, setting three, found on page 184 and following. The titles of the different parts of the liturgy will be printed in the bulletin with the corresponding page number listed. This service is the same as was in the old 1941 hymnal that we all grew up with. This would begin on Sunday, June 12.

We will also go back to passing the collection plate on that day during the regular offering section in the service. We will still have an offering plate on the back table for the Alms Fund.

When we have communion on June 19, it will be done the way it was pre-pandemic.

**Ken Sanders,
Minister of Music**



THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



WHAT IS PENTECOST?



- 50th day after Easter
- The “birthday” of the Church
- Acts of the Apostles chapter 2:
 - Story of the original Pentecost
 - Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast.
 - On that Sunday, ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord, the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary were gathered in the Upper Room, where they had seen Christ after His Resurrection:
 - Christ had promised His Apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit, and, on Pentecost, they were granted the gifts of the Spirit.
 - The Apostles began to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke, and about 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day.

The Significance of Pentecost

A. The Feast of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost was one of three pilgrimage festivals held each year in Jerusalem (Exodus 23:17; 34:22-23). It originally was known as the Feast of Weeks because it occurred after the passing of seven weeks, or forty-nine days, after the offering of the firstfruits on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.



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 vanDyk-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 Health issues.
 Karl vanDyk-Health issue
 Ed Benedick-Health issue (friend of Ed Abendschoen)
 Jon Van Sliedrecht-Health issue
 Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues
 David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen)
 Carl Flandermyer-Health issues
 Karen Hildebrand-Health issues
 Fran Shoff-Health issues
 Tom Gibson-Health issues
 Tammy Cahoon-Health issues

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Joyce Devan
 Dawn Frey
 Kim Thompson
 Norma Null

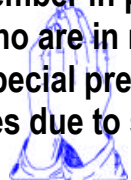
LEADERS

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso, Pastor Seifferlein, 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
 Lois Hollinger

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



10th - Jaime Rohrbaugh



Early July Birthdays

1st - Nancy Hildebrand
9th - Linda Billet

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. 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.



I was glad when
 they said...Let us go into
 the house of the Lord.
 Psalm 122:1

*Women's
 Care Center*
Pregnant?

WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

**Formerly Pregnancy & Family
 Resource Center**

40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285

