

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

Be together at First St. John's - Your Community Church and Your Family in JESUS



VOLUME 52 ISSUE 4

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

APRIL 2020

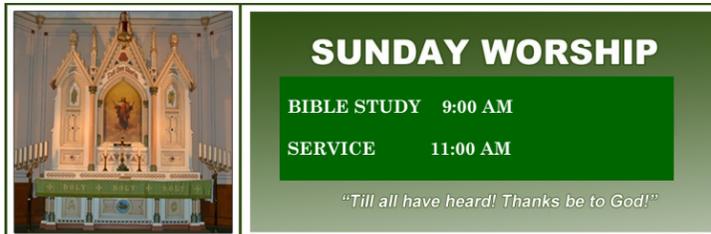
His Love

God sent His Son to take the punishment  
For all the thoughtless, sinful things we do;  
Jesus gave his life because He loves us;  
His love is boundless, sweet, forever true.  
On Easter morn He showed He is our Savior;  
His resurrection proves He is our Lord.

That is why we tell you,  
"Happy Easter!"  
He secured our heavenly reward!



By Joanna Fuchs  
[Poemsource.com](http://Poemsource.com)



### **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** Adult Choir No meetings in April

**Thursday** - N. A. Mtg. No meetings in April

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)



### **"Two Fifties continued"**

In 1985, it was announced by letter to the congregation that as of July 7, the time of worship on a Sunday morning would change to 10:30 and that Sunday School and Bible study would be at 9:15. This was to combine two services into one. Through a previous question put to the congregation concerning this change, 83% were in favor of it.

January 19, 1986, sympathy was extended to Sylvia Barclay on the death of her father, Mr. Earl Rudisill. On February 9th, a new piano was purchased for the parish hall. At the same time it was announced the Jeanne Noll would be the new office secretary. Raymond Moul, grandson of Joyce and Gordon Moul, was baptized on March 16th. The death of Helena Brinkmann, wife of Fred, was published on April 20th. Congratulations were extended to Mark and Deborah Devan on the April 7th birth of twin boys. On September 21, Fianna Sindlinger was reported to be hospitalized in room 114 of Memorial Hospital.

In 1987, the annual congregational picnic was held at the Hollingers in Mount Wolf on July 12th. In August 23rd's bulletin, the death of Karl H. C. van Dyk, on July 25th was announced. On August 23rd, a farewell service was held at 4 PM at Good Shepherd for, Mark Leucke, son of Pastor and Mrs. Gerhard Leucke, who received his first call to Holy Cross in Madison, Ohio. September 5, Russell E. Miller and Mary Jane Staub were married. September 8th, Eugene and Beulah Smith celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. November 8th at 3 PM, York Lutheran High School on Mount Rose Avenue was dedicated. A piano recital was held by John Pfeiffer on Wednesday, November 4th, at 8 PM. A reception followed. The Holly Tea was held on December 13th with a free will offering designated for the Dan Sindlinger family.

More to come-Ken Sanders



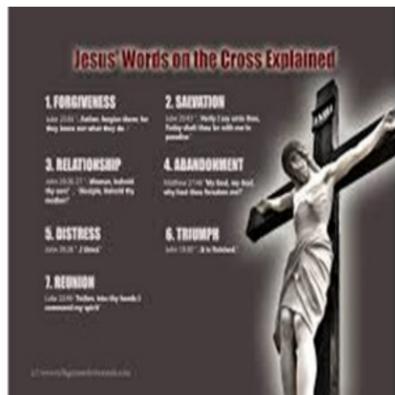
### **Notice from the leadership of First Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, York PA.**

In light of recent events and in keeping with the advisement of our State and National Leadership, we have decided to suspend services, meetings and any other activity which would constitute a group of 10 or more persons for the remainder of the month of April.

Easter Service will be held on the first Sunday that we are allowed to hold services.

In making this decision we most consider the members of our congregation and society who are most at risk in the current situation. We thank you for your understanding and God bless.

**PLEASE NOTE**



# Music & Worship Notes



The month of April brings with it both sad and joyous worship moments. We start with Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday, where we see Jesus entering Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. There is a joyous crowd welcoming him with palm branches and shouting "Hosanna, hosanna to the king!" Then our service takes on a somber feel as we read the passion account together. As we progress to the end of Holy Week, we recount the day Jesus died, Good Friday, the day our "light" was taken away. As New Testament Christians, we know that it is only for a fleeting moment in time and that the "Light" will return in a glorious fashion know as the Resurrection - Easter Sunday, when the joy returns.

If we are allowed to again congregate for worship in April, we will celebrate Palm / Passion Sunday on the 5th. Then on the 12th we will join with all Christians around the world in the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. We will have a trumpeter that morning to accompany our resounding hymns of joy.

I would at this time thank all the people who have helped during the Lenten season. Those who provided the meals for the mid-week worship: the adult choir; the Stambaugh family; and those who volunteered for meals: LWML; Art & Sharon Hennig; the Men's Network. Thank you even if you did not get to prepare and serve a meal.

Thanks to all of you for keeping First St. John's Church family in your prayers.

My prayer for you, my church family, is that you stay healthy and well until we can again worship together.



**Ken Sanders,  
Minister of Music**

### THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



### Psalms 91: 1-4 "My Refuge and My Fortress"

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

### APRIL 2020 PARISH VISITOR

MAY 2020 DEADLINE

Articles Due: April 17th-Friday

**Newsletter**



**CANCELLED**

### Bible Study



9:00 AM

### MEETINGS IN APRIL

**Worship Committee**

**NO meeting in April**

**Church Council**

**NO meeting unless tele-meeting can be arranged**

**Future Committee**

**NO meetings in April**



# All Church Services in April have been cancelled due to the Corona Virus.

# APRIL



**CHURCH OFFICE**  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

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

**APRIL 2020**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW JESUS**  
Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 AM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Due to the Corona Virus all services, meetings and events are cancelled for the month of April.			<b>1</b> No Adult Choir until further notice	<b>2</b> No N. A. Meetings in April	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Palm Sunday NC/ Red	<b>6</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM	<b>10</b> Good Friday Service 7:00 PM	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter C/ White	<b>13</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter C/ White	<b>20</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 3rd Sunday of Easter NC/ White	<b>27</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>28</b> LAY READER	<b>29</b> USHER	<b>30</b> ALTAR GUILD Wally & Beth Smith		



**THE EASTER SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST SUNDAY THAT WE RESUME CHURCH SERVICES.**

**Due to concerns about the Corona Virus there will be no German Easter Service this year.**



## APRIL 2020 STEWARDSHIP

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.



### Bonnie Abendschoen

138 Crown Pointe Drive  
York, PA 17402  
*Birthday*--September 30th

### Joyce Devan

2408 Lovegren Court  
York, PA 17404  
*Birthday*--February 20th

### Ruth Hermann

Lutheran Home Skilled Care  
Room 404A  
1801 Gladfelter Circle  
York, PA 17404  
*Birthday*--Feb 11th

### Bill Hildebrand

3530 Fox Run Road  
Dover, PA 17315  
*Birthday*--September 17th

### Dawn Frey

382 West North Street  
York, PA 17401  
*Birthday*--April 21st

***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.

**From Rev. Don Schaefer,**

### **SED Mission Engagement Facilitator**

1 John 4:18 “ *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear*”

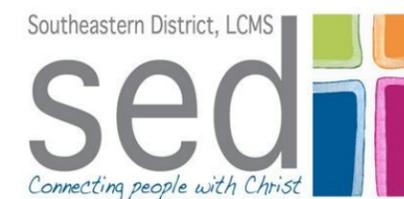
“Don’t be afraid”, well-meaning people say to us. Having a fearful heart however is part of the human experience. It paralyzes, makes us hesitant, and stifles joy. Fear clouds our days and haunts our nights. While we are never free of fear completely, we can learn to live with it without being overcome by it.

With the increased connectivity between people in our crowded and busy world, the coronavirus brings fear to all of us. It is subtle in its approach making us feel uneasy. While it is important to exercise due caution, it is equally important to not let fear darken our hearts. Our faith here is our strong ally.

Christians are not naïve, nor are we wishful thinkers. Instead we find our courage in the gospel we profess. Some of the first words surrounding both the birth of Christ and His resurrection are the encouragement to not be afraid. Jesus backed up his words with his loving willingness to go the cross.

Gods deep love for us in Christ means that God is present in our lives. We are bold to believe that love can overcome our deepest fears. Through Christ, we know whose we are, why we are here and where we are going. That identity as beloved child of god provides a courage to stand against our fears.

It is Christ’s “perfect love” that can cast out our deepest fears. Please live in that “joyful awareness” so that fears live in your shadows instead of controlling your heart. Thanks be to God!





**PRAYERS**

Ruthetta Fogle  
 Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted  
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving  
 Becky Lupp  
 Angie Linebaugh  
 Susan Null-Cancer  
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home  
 Marianne DeModena-Cancer  
 Patti Tripp-COPD  
 Beth Smith  
 Bill Hildebrand  
 Julia  
 Pastor Jay Mazikas (nephew of Sylvia Barclay)- Severe Headaches  
 Nancy Hildebrand  
 Rich Holen-Serious health problems (Son-In-Law) of Sylvia Barclay  
 Linda Mumford-Health issues  
 Marge Driskell-Health issues  
 Kathy Butts Oster-Health issues  
 Shannon Schwartzman-Health issues  
 Joyce Devan-Health issues  
 Aimee Walton-Health Issues  
 Ruth Strahmeyer-Health issues  
 Karl & Anna vanDyk  
 David Soter-Health issues

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

Pray for relief from the Corona Virus

**SHUT-IN MEMBERS**

Bonnie Abendschoen	Dawn Frey	Joyce Devan
Bill Hildebrand	Ruth Hermann	

**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:**



- 11th - Carlos Beck**
- 16th - Summer Myers**
- 18th - Elaine Montalvo**
- 21st - Dawn Frey**
- 27th - Amy Stambaugh**



**Please Note - On the 1st 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 May Birthdays**

- 1st - Daniel Stambaugh**

**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



Psalms 23: [The LORD Is My Shepherd A Psalm of David.](#)

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**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**

**DURING THE CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY PERIOD SOMEONE WILL HELP YOU WITH YOUR SELECTION. CHURCH PERSONNEL WILL HANDLE THE BAKED GOODS.**






*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

