

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. King Street
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 Phone: 717-843-8597



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THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO



THE
LUTHERAN
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PARISH VISITOR

Monthly Newsletter

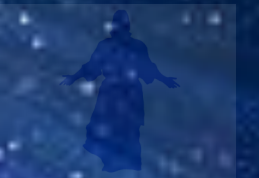


FIRST ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-WE ARE AN OUTREACH CHURCH

VOL 53 ISSUE 1

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JANUARY 2021



Epiphany





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, 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.



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

STEWARDSHIP - JANUARY 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

Who are you?
To whom do I give?
And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2);
Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.





Music & Worship Notes



This year has been very different, as we all have experienced. Many of the traditional celebrations were cancelled. We all had to begin to think outside of the box. The LWML "Holly and Ivy Concert" was one of the items cancelled. In place of the traditional "German Language Christmas Service" took on a different form. It became a virtual presentation of music and the word. A prelude and postlude were played by some brass and the organ. The Christmas Gospel from Luke chapter 2 was read in German and a sermon was preached in German. All of this was recorded both as audio and video files. The audio will be placed on the radio station: WYCO 106.1 FM. The video with audio will be on line either on You Tube or Face Book or both. A link will be available on the church's web site: www.firststjohns.com.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all who provided special music for our Christmas celebration: the Adult Choir for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve music, Dave Stambaugh for his solos on Christmas Eve, and Bruce Tittel with the Riggins family for providing the brass accompaniment to the hymns. Thanks also to Geoff Abendschoen for leading the service as well as delivering the message.

As you can see, the Lord has blessed both First St. John's and St. Paul's congregations in the midst of a pandemic. With the Lord, nothing is impossible!

The month of January has many special days to commemorate. Jan. 1 is the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. The Epiphany, visit of the Magi, is on Jan. 6. The confession of St. Peter comes on Jan. 18, while St. Timothy, pastor and confessor is on the 24th. The 25th is the Conversion of St. Paul, and commemoration of St. Titus, pastor and confessor on the 26th.

Only the Epiphany will be celebrated in church. That will take place on Sunday, January 3, since the 6th is on a Wednesday.



THE ADULT CHOIR:

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



Ken Sanders,
Minister of Music

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH



Bible Study

9:00 AM

JANUARY 2021 PARISH VISITOR

FEBRUARY 2021 DEADLINE

Articles Due

-Friday

Mail Date

Thursday

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council

Future Committee

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month



UPCOMING JANUARY 2021 SERVICES

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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

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Joyce Devan
 Dawn Frey
 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:



4th - Elizabeth Hernandez
4th - Dezzaray Tanner
7th - Hans Abendschoen
15th - Lois Hollinger
28th - Addesha Brady
28th - Karen Hildebrand

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 February Birthdays

2nd - Michelle Taylor
5th - Edward Abendschoen IV

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

Ruth Hermann

Lutheran Home Skilled Care
 Room 404A
 1801 Gladfelter Circle
 York, PA 17404

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

Service on January 10, 2021



The **Feast of the Circumcision of Christ** is a Christian celebration of the circumcision of Jesus in accordance with Jewish tradition, eight days (according to the Semitic and southern European calculation of intervals of days) after his birth, the occasion on which the child was formally given his name.

The circumcision of Jesus has traditionally been seen, as explained in the popular 14th-century work the *Golden Legend*, as the first time the blood of Christ was shed, and thus the beginning of the process of the redemption of man, and a demonstration that Christ was fully human, and of his obedience to Biblical law.

Since it was a feast of Christ and related directly to Scriptural passages (notably Luke 2:21), the Feast of Circumcision was retained by churches of the Lutheran Reformation. It remains on most Lutheran liturgical calendars to this day, although there has been a general move to call it "The Name of Jesus."[[] Martin Luther preached at least one notable sermon on this feast day which is still available in his Church Postils, and up until the late 1970s, Lutheran hymnbooks would contain several hymns relating to this subject.



In Christianity, the **Confession of Peter** (translated from the Matthean Vulgate Latin section title: *Confessio Petri*) refers to an episode in the New Testament in which the Apostle Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Christ (Jewish Messiah). The proclamation is described in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30 and Luke 9:18-20. Specifically, Peter declares, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

The proclamation of Jesus as Christ is fundamental to Christology; the Confession of Peter and Jesus' acceptance of the title "Messiah" form a definitive statement in the New Testament narrative regarding the person of Jesus Christ. In this New Testament narrative, Jesus not only accepts the titles Christ and *Son of God*, but declares the proclamation a divine revelation by stating that his Father in Heaven had revealed it to Peter, unequivocally declaring himself to be both Christ and the Son of God.

In the same passage Jesus also selects Peter as the leader of the Apostles, and states: "Upon this rock I will build my church." Most Christian denominations agree that the statement applies to Peter, but they diverge on their interpretations of what happens after Peter.



Timothy (Greek: Τιμόθεος; *Timótheos*, meaning "honouring God" or "honoured by God"^[4]) was an early Christian evangelist and the first Christian bishop of Ephesus, who tradition relates died around the year AD 97.

Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor, born of a Jewish mother who had become a Christian believer, and a Greek father. The Apostle Paul met him during his second missionary journey and he became Paul's companion and missionary partner along with Silas. The New Testament indicates that Timothy traveled with Paul the Apostle, who was also his mentor. Paul entrusted him with important assignments. He is addressed as the recipient of the First and Second Epistles to Timothy.



Titus (/ˈtaɪtəs/ *TY-təs*; Greek: Τίτος; *Títos*) was an early Christian missionary and church leader, a companion and disciple of Paul the Apostle, mentioned in several of the Pauline epistles including the Epistle to Titus. He is believed to be a Gentile converted to Christianity by Paul and, according to tradition, he was consecrated as Bishop of the Island of Crete.

Titus brought a fundraising letter from Paul to Corinth, to collect for the poor in Jerusalem. Later, on Crete, Titus appointed presbyters (elders) in every city and remained there into his old age, dying in Gortyna, near the city of Candia (modern Heraklion).

The **conversion of Paul the Apostle** (also the Pauline conversion, Damascus conversion, Damascus Christophany and The Road to Damascus event), was, according to the New Testament, an event in the life of Paul the Apostle that led him to cease persecuting early Christians and to become a follower of Jesus. It is normally dated to AD 34–37.

