

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
FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 55-ISSUE 2

Website: www.firststjohns.org

FEBRUARY 2023

It's All About God's Love!



*The
Season
of
Lent*





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)

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



Holy Week

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

There will be three opportunities to worship the "suffering Savior."

Palm / Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 11:00 A.M.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday

Friday April 7, 7:00 P.M.

This evening worship will be a choral Tenebrae service. The "Seven Words from the Cross" will be the focus.



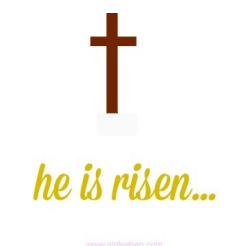
EASTER WORSHIP

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 11:00 A.M.

German Easter Worship

Sunday, April 16, 4:00 P.M.



Light refreshments with a German theme will follow the service.



LENTEN WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings

Come, worship with us and hear about our Savior's ultimate gift of love for us on Sunday mornings at 11:00 A.M.

February 26

March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26



Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, 7:00 P.M.



Wednesday Evenings

Begin by having a light supper at 6:00 P.M. in the fellowship room. Then join in a special series of sermons for Lent at 7:00 P.M.

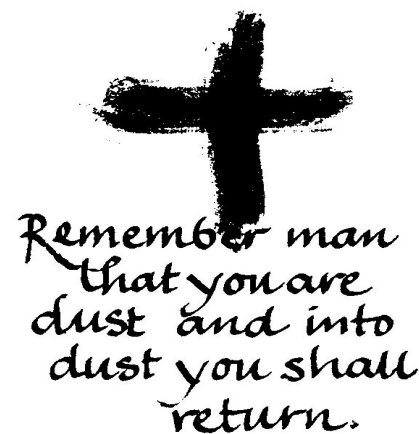
March 1

March 8

March 15

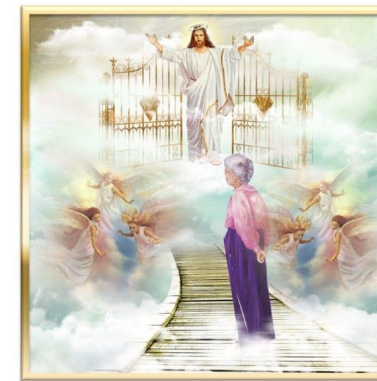
March 22

March 29



IN MEMORIAM

Ruth P. Strathmeyer. entered her eternal rest on Thursday, November 10, 2022, We commend her family and friends to the comfort and care of our Lord and Savior, Who is the Resurrection and the Life.



Welcome Home My Child



Bible Study



9:00 AM

**FEBRUARY 2023
PARISH VISITOR**

MARCH 2023 DEADLINE

Articles Due Friday, February 17th
Send Date Thursday, February 23rd



MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Worship Committee

To be determined

Church Council –

Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00 pm



UPCOMING FEBRUARY SERVICES

February 5th- Communion (5th Sunday of Epiphany).

February 12th-Non-Communion (6th Sunday of Epiphany).

February 19th-Communion (The Transfiguration of Our Lord).

February 26th-Non-Communion (1st Sunday in Lent).



Sunday Services

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

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

CHURCH OFFICE
 Phone Number 717-843-8597

FEBRUARY 2023

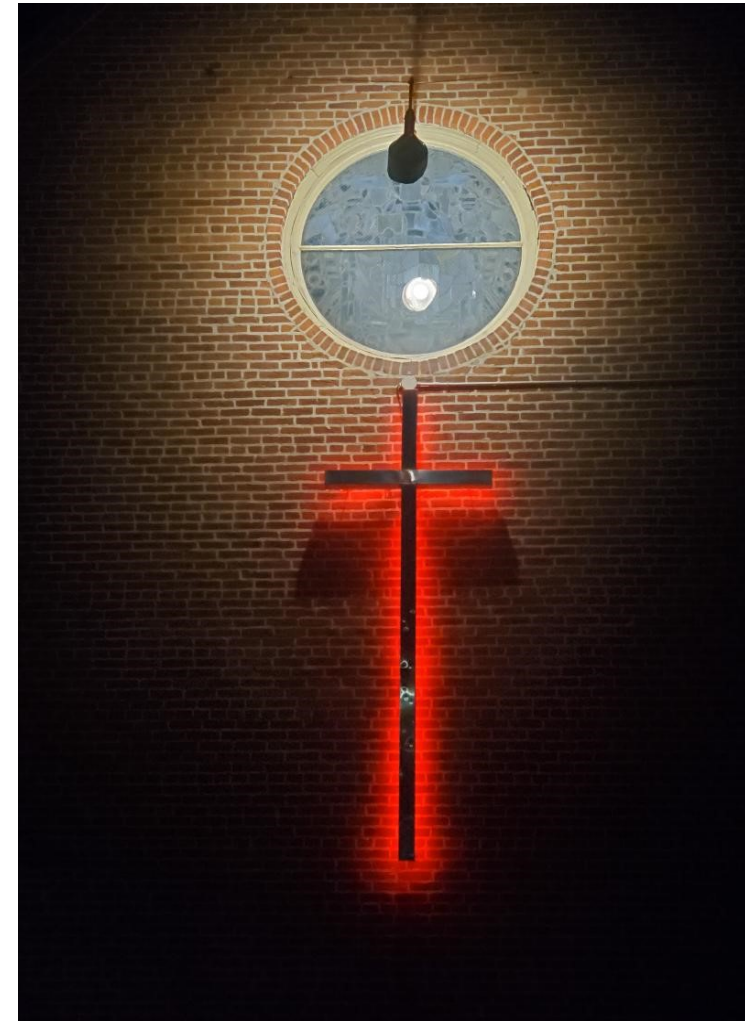
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	2	3	4
5 5th Sunday of Epiphany NC / Green	6 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	7	8 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	9	10	11
12 6th Sunday of Epiphany C / Green	13 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	14 Valentine's Day	15 Adult Choir 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19 The Transfiguration of our Lord NC / White	20 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	21 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Adult Choir after the Evening Service	23	24	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent NC / Purple	27 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	28		ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		
		LAY READER Carla Allison	USHERS Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp			



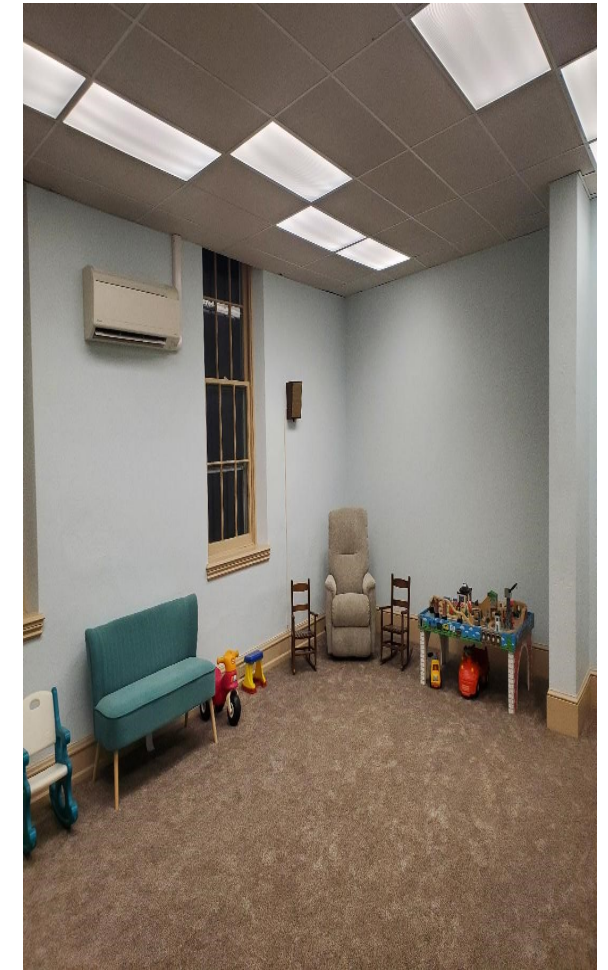
New outside sign and lighting on the back of the church



New outside sign on the front of the church



New cross lighting on the back of the church



Remodeled Nursery Room

Trustee report, prepared by Richard Sindlinger for February newsletter

Projects completed at First St. John's

1. Thousands of pounds of trash and junk removed from Church and Parish Hall basements.
2. Many old steam radiators and pipes removed from first floor of Parish Hall.
3. Refurbished old sign on front of church with new permanent lettering.
4. A new church sign and solar light on the back of the Parish Hall was installed in October.
5. The entire sidewalk and front of Parish Hall and Church were power washed.
6. The carpets in the kitchen and bible study rooms were steam cleaned in November.
7. The broken outside sacristy door has been repaired.
8. A new rubber roof was installed under the church AC to stop leaking roof damage.
9. The Parish Hall basement water proofing project was completed on December 1, 2022.
10. New wiring and LED lights were installed in the Parish Hall hallways.
11. The overhead ceiling fans in the church are now working again with new wiring.
12. The Pastor's office was emptied out before walls and woodwork were painted.
13. The nursery room floor was repaired and walls and woodwork painted.
14. K& M Home Center installed new carpet on December 12th in the nursery.
15. The broom closet storage room and the old broiler room areas were repaired and painted.
16. The storage room to the left of the Altar has a new plywood floor and walls were painted.
17. Installed new floating floor (with trap door) in storage room next to the Altar.
18. 17 more layers of brick on the old boiler chimney were deteriorated and removed.
19. A new rubber roof cap is now on the chimney.
20. The cross on the back of the church is now shining bright with LED strip lights.
21. New digital timing controls installed for the cross and the church front door lights.
22. A new threshold was installed at the outside door to the mailbox.
23. The attic windows at the back of church were repaired with PVC and frames painted.
24. Slate roofs were repaired as necessary.

Future projects to be completed

1. Move the eternal light to the side of the Altar as approved by Church Council.
2. Install inside light to shine on Rose window (need approval from Church Council).
3. Repair and paint (or epoxy) the old boiler room floor.
4. Install the new janitor sink and shutoff controls.
5. Purchase and install window well covers for front and side of Parish Hall.
6. Reinstall and close in the water heater in basement kitchen.
7. Discuss replacing kitchen sink(s) and refrigerator.
8. Repair deteriorated plaster around windows in Parish Hall basement.
9. Remove unneeded items in Parish Hall basement and clean floor and stairs.
10. Remove all non church items on second floor of Parish Hall and reorganize records.
11. Discuss options to repair and renew the outside church entrance steps.

Church Trustees


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.

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness.

Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name, I pray. Amen.





PRAYERS

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.
 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)
 Karen Hildebrand-Health issues
 Fran Shoff-Health issues
 Tom Gibson-Health issues
 Tammy Cahoon-Health issues
 Lois Stambaugh-Health issues
 The Christian Church in Northern Nigeria
 Bonita Bollinger-Undergoing treatment for breast cancer
 Our prayers are with the hurricane Ian victims
 Ron Mumford-Health issues
 Mark Parent-Husband of Candy Parent (Bill Lupp's niece)-
 Heart transplant
 Anna vanDyk-Health issue
 Gloria Sindlinger-Heart issues
 Vicar Geoff Abendschoen-Health issue
 Karl vanDyk-Health issue
 Lois Stambaugh-Health issue

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Family of Ruth Strathmeyer-Who went to be with the Lord

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Joyce Devan
 Dawn Frey
 Kim Thompson

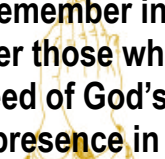
LEADERS

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay
 Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso,
 Pastor Seifferlein , Pastor Merrell, Pastor Banach, Pastor Robert-
 son, Pastor Schaefer. Sally Hiller, David Maack. District President
 John Denninger

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For all of God's Gifts

**We remember in
 prayer those who are
 in need of God's spe-
 cial presence in their**




- 2nd - Michelle Taylor**
- 5th - Edward Abendschoen IV**
- 11th - Sylvia Barclay**
- 12th - Michael Beck**
- 15th - Lois Stambaugh**
- 20th - Joyce Devan**
- 29th - Bryan Santini**



Early March Birthdays

- th - Scott Dennis**
- 7th - Jerry Allison**
- 7th - Dane Smith**

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



For God
 SO LOVED THE WORLD
 THAT HE GAVE HIS
 ONLY
 BEGOTTEN
 SON SO
 THAT WHOEVER
 BELIEVES
 IN HIM SHALL
 HAVE EVERLASTING
Life
 John 3:16



jesus
 I S M Y
 valentine



DON'T REPLACE "AND" WITH "OR"

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.



The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.



Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.



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.




Pregnant?

WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

Formerly Pregnancy & Family
 Resource Center

40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285



Music & Worship Notes



December has passed. It was a month of many worship opportunities. Mid-week Advent, Sundays of Advent, Lessons and Carols service, German Christmas Service, Christmas Eve and Day services. Now we enter into a new calendar year and fewer opportunities to worship. All of the services will be on Sunday morning. New Years Day, the first Sunday, begins the month. The second Sunday will be focused on the Epiphany. The following Sundays continue the season of Epiphany. We learn many things about our Savior's early years.

A big **Thank You** to all the people who helped to make worship in December, meaningful. The Choir, The instrumentalists, The Liederkrantz-Hoby Chor, The people who provided the meals for the Wednesday evening services. The ladies of the LWML for serving the food at the reception after the German Christmas Service. The members of the congregation for decorating the church. All of you helped to make the services and events in December special.

The day and time to un-decorate the church is Friday, January 13 beginning at 6:00 pm

The Choir has begun working on music for the Lent and Easter season. They will again help to lead the Choral Tenebrae Service on Good Friday.

Thank You!

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**Ken Sanders,
MINISTER OF MUSIC**

**ADULT
CHOIR**

Lois Hollinger, Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh, Beverly Card, Ding Wang, Zihong (Andy) Su.



AMAZING GRACE WORSHIP SERIES FOR LENT



In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace," this worship series for Lent by theologian Michael Hoy ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ's disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God's mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior's death and resurrection.

The people from the Bible that the series will focus on for the mid-week Lenten services are:

- David (Psalm 51:1): We find comfort that King David confessed his sins to God and received amazing grace in God's forgiveness and a connection to Jesus, the Savior.
- Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7): We see God's amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God's people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant.
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32): We hear of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father's lavish compassion toward us.
- The Blind Man (John 9:24): We witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all.
- The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14): We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity..
- Paul (1 Timothy 1:15): We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

