

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

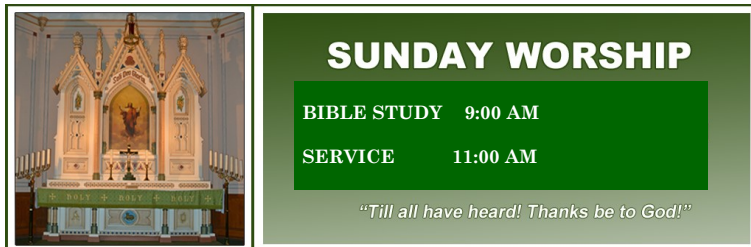
PARISH VISITOR
FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 55-ISSUE 6

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JUNE 2023





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



One of the most compelling pieces of evidence for a late fifth-century date is that it discusses a controversy that wasn't around Athanasius' life: the *Filioque*. Filioque means "son" in Latin. It refers to the Nicene Creed's line, "Who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is Glorified." The Filioque changes the creed to "Who proceeds from the Father and the Son." This was one of the main controversies that led to the Great Schism (the separation between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Churches).

Why Did the Church Fathers Write the Athanasian Creed?

The Athanasian Creed is the most comprehensive of the early church creeds, likely because it was written so late. It was designed to battle the theological controversies that plagued the church. Against Arius' followers, Athanasius and other early church fathers insisted that Christ was begotten, not created.

These heresies and many others continued into the fourth and fifth centuries. The ideas in the Creed were critical for believers to express the important points of the faith concisely. A short defense of the faith enables believers to quickly articulate their beliefs and identify against what they don't stand for.

What Important Creeds Came Before the Athanasian Creed?

The first creed developed by the early church was the **Apostles' Creed**, which was likely created in the early second century. It was much shorter than the Athanasian Creed. The Apostle's Creed was a simple defense of the faith, still used in many churches today.

The main precursor to the Athanasian Creed was the **Nicene Creed**. The Nicene Creed fleshed out the Doctrines of God the Father and Christ. It was more specific in defining who Christ is and who God the Father is. The Nicene Creed uses more specific language because the early church was then dealing with heresies like modalism (the idea that God chooses which member of the Trinity to reveal himself to the believer at different times).

The doctrine of the nature of Christ was crystallized further in the Chalcedonian Creed. This creed declares that Christ has two distinct natures (human and divine) to combat a prevalent heresy in eastern churches. The heresy, eutychianism, was a branch of a larger group of heresies called monophysitism. Like all forms of monophysitism, eutychianism argues that Christ had only one nature. In the eutychian view, Jesus's human and divine natures were blended, and his divine nature overcame his human nature. To understand this view, think of something like the computer game agar.io, where one organism swallows up another. In the eutychian view, that happened with Christ's humanity—it was exposed to the divine nature and swallowed whole.

Why Is the Athanasian Creed Still Important Today?

The Athanasian Creed is key to Christian theology because it is the early church's most comprehensive picture of the Trinity. So many popular illustrations of the Trinity come directly from the Athanasian Creed. This robust defense of the Trinity is still used today in many denominations, including Lutheranism, Roman Catholicism, Methodism, and Anglicanism. Each of these groups affirms the Athanasian Creed's validity and thoroughness in helping to understand this mysterious doctrine.

Understanding the Trinity is critical for Christians in our day as well. It will help them defend their faith against different religions, which misunderstand the Trinity as three distinct Gods rather than one God in Trinity. Using the distinctions made by the Athanasian Creed can help believers understand their beliefs and avoid common errors.



What Makes the Athanasian Creed So Important?

Ben Reichert

The Athanasian Creed is an ancient creed that the early church used. All of the creeds were statements about what Christians believed to combat misconceptions or false ideas that cropped up. The Athanasian Creed's main function was to combat the trinitarian heresies common throughout the early church. These include heresies claiming that Jesus was only a man or that he was only God wearing human flesh. The creed also addresses the heresy of Arianism, which says that Jesus is God's first and greatest creation.

Why Is It Called the Athanasian Creed?

The creed's namesake, Athanasius, was a staunch defender of Christ's divinity and humanity. He staunchly defended this belief at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and other events. He frequently fought against people promoting Arianism, a belief named after the heretic Arius, who insisted that Christ was the first and greatest creation of the Father.

Athanasius went against many powerful people who promoted Arianism, including emperor Constantine's son. Athanasius often felt alone, like it was him against the world. Despite the isolation, he stuck up for the truth of the faith. That is likely why the creed is named for Athanasius, despite not being written by him.

The Athanasian Creed differs from the other early church creeds because only the western church quoted and affirmed it. This points to the idea that it was written in the late 400s after Augustine's ideas became prominent. In fact, the Athanasian creed has strikingly similar language to Augustine's book On the Trinity, published in 415 AD. Based on the similarities, scholars believe the Athanasian Creed borrows from Augustine's work. While the creed is named for Athanasius and promotes ideas that he valued, someone else must have written it. Athanasius was alive in 325 AD, not in the 400s when Augustine became popular in the western church.

What Does the Athanasian Creed Say?


The Athanasian Creed's defining factor is that it is more comprehensive in addressing the trinitarian controversies that were commonplace in the early church. It also addressed the controversies about Christ being both God and man and what that means about his nature.

The first half of the Creed refers to controversies around the Trinity. It begins by saying that God is three in one but that Christians do not worship three Gods. The Creed lists many attributes of the Trinity, including His eternity, His almighty power, His Divinity, and His lordship. Next, the Creed goes into the idea that each member of the Trinity is distinct from the other. The image of the Trinitarian Shield (also called Scutum Fide) comes from this section of the Creed, which says that while each member of the Trinity is God, they are not the same. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

The second half of the Creed discusses Christ's nature, dispelling many popular Christological heresies. These included Docetism, which says that Jesus didn't come in the flesh but was simply an illusion or spiritual hologram that projected a form of himself on earth. It addresses controversies prevalent before and after the Council of Nicaea because it argues that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. It also discusses how his human and divine nature interact, a controversy that caused the Council of Chalcedon to form.

When Was the Athanasian Creed Written?

While the Athanasian Creed was written sometime after Augustine's On the Trinity, the exact date is controversial. The Creed was only attributed to Athanasius in the Middle Ages. Critics have noted that Athanasius never mentioned writing the Creed, nor was it mentioned in any ecumenical councils. The Athanasian Creed isn't mentioned in writing until the 600s. Most scholars agree that it was first published in France in the late fifth century (the 400s).



FIRST RESPONDERS

**2nd quarter Alms
Donations will benefit
First Responders of
York, PA**

Join Us Sunday Morning
at 11:00 A.M.
for
SERVICE & WORSHIP



Bible Study



9:00 AM

**JUNE 2023
PARISH VISITOR**

JULY 2023 DEADLINE

Articles Due

Friday, June 23rd

Send Date

Thursday, June 29th

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN JUNE

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council –

Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 pm



UPCOMING JUNE SERVICES

June 4th-Communion (The Holy Trinity).

June 11th-Non-Communion (2nd Sunday after Pentecost).

June 18th-Communion (3rd Sunday after Pentecost).

June 25th-Non-Communion (4th Sunday after Pentecost).



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

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

CHURCH OFFICE
Phone Number 717-843-8597

JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 The Holy Trinity C / White	5 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	6	7	8	9	10
11 2nd Sunday after Pentecost NC / Green	12 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	13 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM	14 Flag Day	15	16	17
18 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day C / Green	19 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24
25 4th Sunday after Pentecost NC / Green	26 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	27	28	29	30	
		LAY READER Carla Allison	USHERS Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		

PSALM 23

HARD
Solution on page 26

ACROSS

1. "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the _____ of righteousness for his (63-Across sake (verse 3, KJV)
6. "____, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (verse 4, KJV)
9. Gaffe
14. Prince Valiant's wife, in the comics (anagram of A TALE)
15. Sort
16. Beverage order request, perhaps
17. Make the final point, in an argument
20. Cockers and springers
21. Be about to fall
22. Chicago govt. official
23. Actress Lohan of 2003's "Freaky Friday"
24. Convict
28. Sensed
29. "I haven't the foggiest"
30. Latin pop superstar Julio [fun fact: his last name means "churches" *en español*]
35. "The _____ is my shepherd..." (verse 1a, KJV)
36. "What should I _____?"
38. "...I shall not _____." (verse 1b, KJV)
39. Scottish city that lent its name to a cattle breed
41. Just one small bite
43. Airport takeoff estimates, for short
44. Some toy trucks
45. Nihilists (anagram of RAN CASH)
49. "You betcha!"
50. Biblical prophet rebuked by his donkey, in Numbers 22
51. Equestrian (one of four in Revelation 6)
56. What the "valley of the shadow of death" represents, in verse 4
58. "Score" of a unanimous Supreme Court decision
59. Police alert, for short
60. Muslim worship leaders
61. "He maketh me to (62-Across) down in _____ pastures..." (verse 2a, KJV)
62. "He maketh me to _____ down in (61-Across pastures..." (verse 2a, KJV)
63. "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the (1-Across) of righteousness for his _____ sake (verse 3, KJV)

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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DOWN

1. Oom-_____ (tuba sounds)
2. "Take _____!" (track coach's order)
3. Sandal brand (anagram of A VET)
4. Coordinate in the game Battleship
5. Fill up and then some
6. Triangular road sign
7. 90-degree pipe joints
8. Letters before an alias
9. International alliance
10. Propelled a canoe
11. Prison disturbances
12. Plant-stem sheath (anagram of A CORE)
13. Put back on the clothesline
18. With 19-Down, a visual representation of verse 2b (KJV)
19. See 18-Down
23. Toy block brand
24. Where I-5 crosses I-10
25. Beginner, in gamer slang
26. Bog down
27. It might end in a ZIP code: Abbr.
28. Helsinki natives
31. The Ugly Duckling, eventually
32. "All _____ of You" (song from "The Phantom of the Opera")
33. Architectural pier (anagram of A TAN)
34. Divisions of office bldgs.
37. Massive British ref. documents
40. 10-sided figure
42. Type of "English" on a tennis ball or ping-pong ball
45. Go out with _____ (end dramatically)
46. Absolute low point (54-Down's opposite)
47. "Pick _____!" (shout to a meandering freeway driver, perhaps)
48. Rajah's partner
49. "Could _____ more specific?"
51. Arizona tribe whose land is surrounded entirely by the Navajo Nation
52. Town just outside Buffalo, NY (anagram of MALE)
53. Cowboy-to-lady address
54. Absolute high point (46-Down's opposite)
55. Scottish loch with a supposed monster in it
57. "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-_____" (Irish)

Trinity Sunday - What is it?

Trinity Sunday (also called Holy Trinity Sunday) is a day commemorated on the Sunday following Pentecost to emphasize the [Trinity](#)—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the Western church calendar, this Sunday occurs on the eighth Sunday following Easter (since [Pentecost Sunday](#) falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter) in May or June of each year.

Though the term Trinity is not mentioned in the Bible, the doctrine is found throughout Scripture, especially in the New Testament. Readings used in the church on Trinity Sunday include [Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40](#); [Psalm 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22](#); [Romans 8:14-17](#); and [Matthew 28:16-20](#).

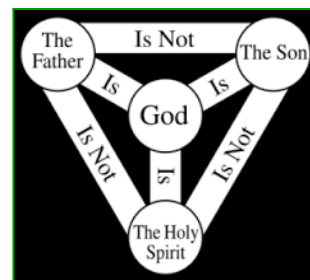
Trinity Sunday originated in the fourth century. It was in part a response to the erroneous teaching of Arius that taught Jesus was a created being and thus denied the deity of Christ. The famous Council of Nicaea in 325 affirmed the biblical view of Jesus as both fully God and fully human, as well as the belief in the Triune God. Though celebrated for some time prior, Trinity Sunday was officially added to the church calendar by Pope John XXII (1316-1334).

In addition, the [Athanasian Creed](#) has served as part of the reading in some mass ceremonies in the past, though this is not common today. It reads, in part, "We venerate one God in the Trinity, and the Trinity in oneness; neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance; for there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit; but the divine nature of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one, their glory is equal, their majesty is coeternal."

When Jesus gave His Great Commission, we read, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 28:19](#)). He emphasized one baptism into one name—Father, Son, and Spirit. While God the Father is affirmed clearly throughout the Old Testament and the entire Bible, the New Testament clearly affirms the deity of Jesus ([John 10:30](#)) and the Spirit by referring to each as God ([Acts 5:1-4](#)).

Early in Paul's writings, we also find clear references to all three Persons of the Triune God together. [Second Corinthians 13:14](#) shares, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." [First Thessalonians 1:3-5](#) adds, "remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction."

Trinity Sunday helps the church to emphasize the proper understanding of Father, Son, and Spirit, and reminds us that God exists in both perfect oneness and community. He is perfect in every way, transcending all creation, sending Jesus to live among humanity, and empowering believers by the Spirit today.



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

Becky Lupp
1180 Ruxton Rd.
York, PA 17403

Marguerite Beck
285 Hillside Terrace
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.

My Father Is A Christian

*My father is a Christian;
He leads our household well;
With instruction from the Bible,
Right behavior he'll compel.*

*Yet he steers us with compassion;
His gentle love is true;
He conforms to our Lord Jesus,
So we know just what to do.
He teaches us with purpose,
Guides us in all Godly ways,
So we will take the right path,
And serve our Lord with praise.*

*I'm glad you're a Christian, Dad;
You help me see things clearly.
I'll always look up to you,
And love you very dearly.*

Happy Father's Day

Catherine A. Herbert RAW 05/29/2012



PRAYERS

Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home
 Joyce Devan-Health issues
 Kim Thompson-Health issues
 Susan vanDyk-Baum
 Jeanne Noll-Health issue
 Ed Abendschoen-Health issues
 Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues
 David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen)
 Fran Shoff-Health issues
 Tom Gibson-Health issues
 Bonita Bollinger-Undergoing treatment for breast cancer
 Mark Parent-Husband of Candy Parent (Bill Lupp's niece)-
 Heart transplant
 Anna vanDyk-Health issue
 Vicar Geoff Abendschoen-Health issue
 Karl vanDyk-Health issue
 Lois Stambaugh-Health issue
 Dave Stambaugh-Health issue
 Candy Parent-In hospital with cancer (Bill Lupp's niece)
 Dawn Frey-Health Issues
 Pierre-Paul Rodriguez
 George Card-Health issues

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Joyce Devan
 Dawn Frey
 Kim Thompson
 Becky Lupp
 Marguerite Beck

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 Bill Harmon

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For all of God's Gifts

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

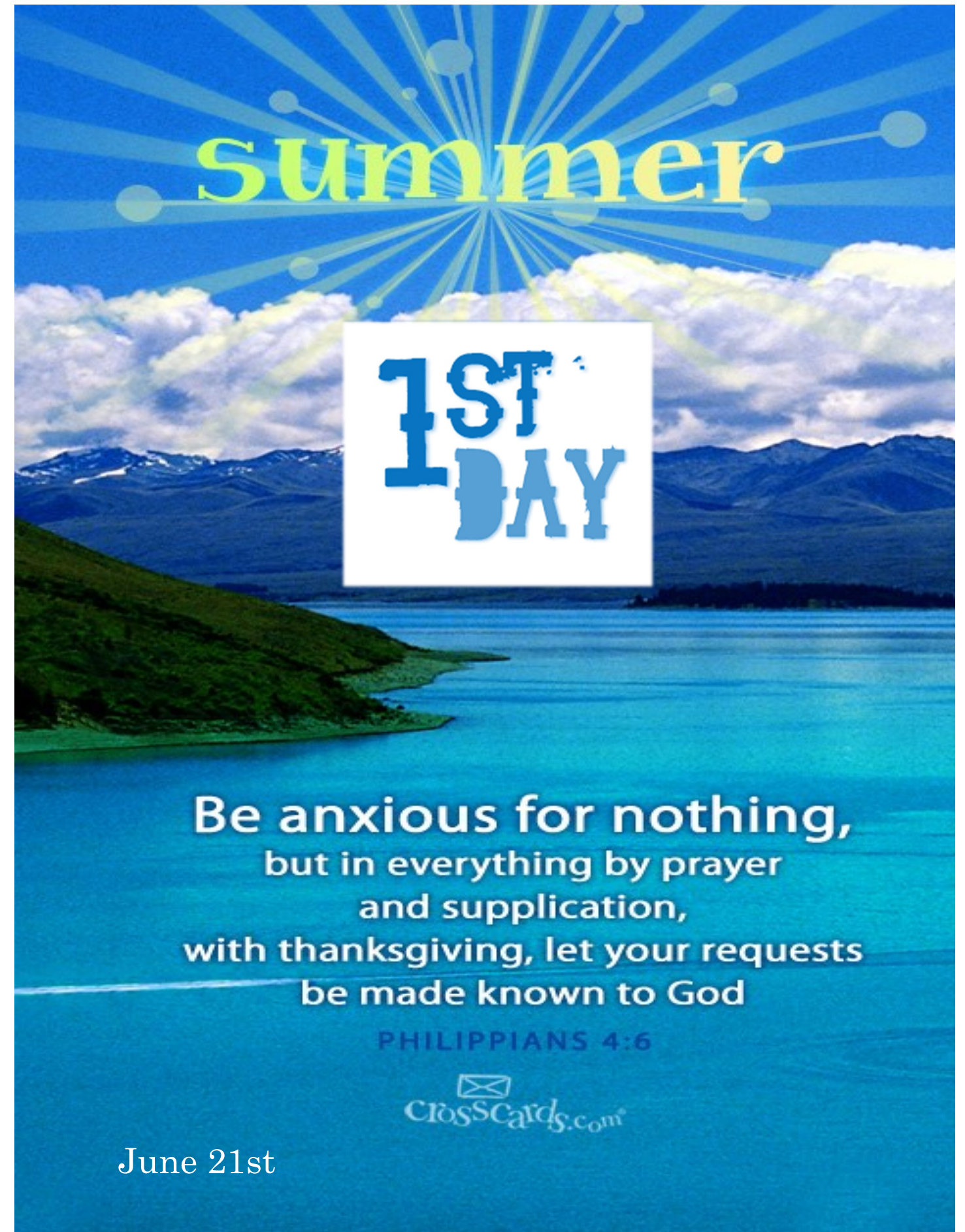


MILITARY



POLICE

Jonathan



What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



**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
Pregnant?

WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

**Formerly Pregnancy & Family
Resource Center**

40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285



The first Sunday of June is Trinity Sunday. This is a minor festival that honors the Triune God of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. More information about Trinity Sunday can be found on another page in this newsletter. On this Sunday, we say the Athanasian Creed. Since it is so long, we say it responsively between the Vicar and the congregation. Read the background information on this creed found on another page in this newsletter.

Father's Day comes on the third Sunday of June. We remember our fathers, whether still with us or wearing their crown of glory in Heaven. Our earthly fathers tend to our physical needs as we grow. They also guide us in the way we should go as our Heavenly Father guides them. We rely on our Heavenly Father for our spiritual needs. We ask Him to lead and guide us along the road that leads to our Heavenly Home. We verbally talk to our earthly fathers seeking their advice. We talk to our Heavenly Father, through prayer, seeking His help in all we do.

So, when you do special things for Dad on Father's Day, remember to also pray to your Heavenly Father and thank Him for all the blessings He has showered on you.

**Ken Sanders,
MINISTER OF MUSIC**



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

Flag Day

June 14

The Pledges



PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



PLEDGE TO THE BIBLE

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.



PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.