

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 9

Website: www.firststjohns.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Labor Day Blessing

*Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:16
(KJV)*



*Have a Blessed
and Safe Labor Day!*



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



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



THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

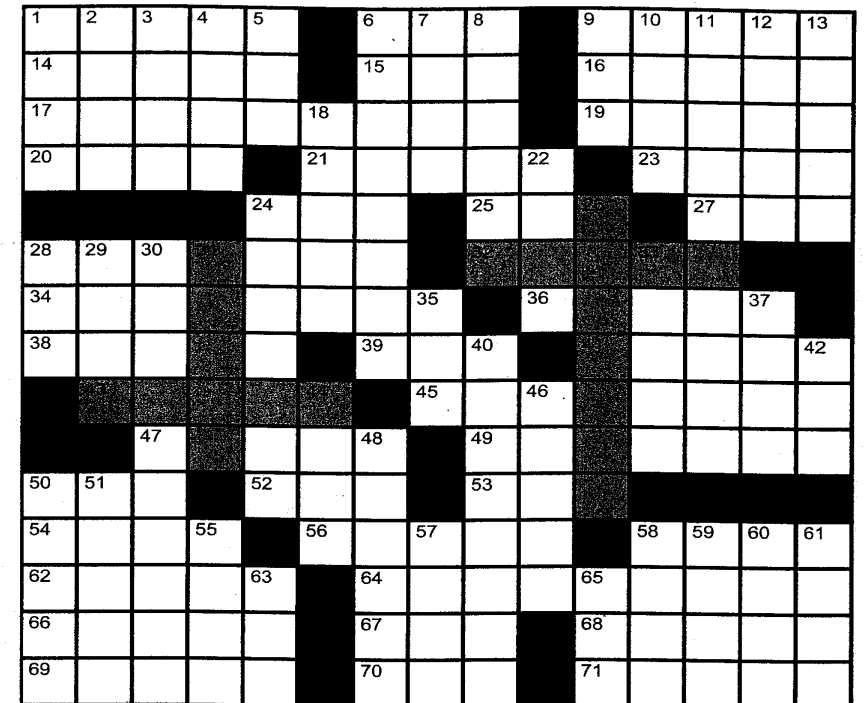
EASY
Solution on page 22

ACROSS

1. Bookcase part
6. Class older than jrs.
9. Hero's mission
14. Musical toy
15. Trim the lawn
16. "Yikes, that's an image burned into my retinas can't ____ that!"
17. Nationality of 31-Down, or the army he represented in a famous biblical battle
19. Gradually faster, in music (abbr.)
20. See 64-Across
21. Stomach trouble
23. King of the 31-Down army, who promised his daughter in marriage to the soldier who could kill 26-Down
24. "Sprechen ____ Deutsch?"
25. So-ugly-it's-cute pooch
27. Boris Johnson and Theresa May, for short
28. "Best In Show" recipients at Westminster Kennel Club competition [Fun fact: a 25-Across named "Chucky" won in 1981!]
32. Projectile from 31-Down's 43-Across, which struck 26-Down in the forehead to kill him (in this puzzle, it hits him smack-dab in the "O"!)
34. Citizen of a Caribbean country (Sidney Poitier is perhaps the most famous one)
36. Feeds the pigs
38. Suffix with form- or inform-
39. "Singin' in the Rain" dance style
41. Runs in neutral
43. 31-Down's weapon, which sent a 32-Across hurtling toward 26-Down
45. Chimpanzee, gorilla or orangutan
47. Utopian
49. Country north of Latvia
50. Used to be
52. International commerce assoc.
53. Speedometer letters
54. ____ and crafts
56. Mandel of "America's Got Talent"
58. Horse's intermediate gait
62. What a plea bargain makes unnecessary
64. With 20-Across, 26-Down's height in a famous biblical battle (about 9 ft, 9 in)
66. Pacific nation near Fiji
67. Barely scrape (by)
68. December mall attraction
69. Sugary
70. Accomplished
71. Intense devotion

DOWN

1. Winter gear for Park City, UT
2. Gate hardware
3. Book before Nehemiah
4. Mortgage, e.g.



5. 26-Down to 31-Down (and vice versa)
6. Favors with a grin
7. Campus military org.
8. Beats 4-0 in the World Series, e.g.
9. Sine ____ non (essential condition — from the Latin for "without which, nothing")
10. Aunties' husbands
11. Way out of danger — which 31-Down didn't need against 26-Down, as "The battle is the LORD's" (1 Sam. 17:47)
12. No-____ (gnat)
13. Spills the beans
18. Mario's Nintendo video-game brother
22. Boring routines
24. "Don't go trying ____ fashion, don't change the color of your hair" (lyrics from Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are")
26. Loser of a famous biblical battle
28. Letters on a schedule meaning "We'll let you know"
29. Breakfast grains
30. Nationality of 26-Down, or the army he represented in a famous biblical battle
31. Victor in a famous biblical battle (although it was he that said, "The battle is the LORD's" 1 Sam. 17:47)
33. Signal, silently

35. Pester
37. Day after Aug. XXXI, perhaps?
40. Blended together ahead of time, as dry concrete or cake dry ingredients
42. "Shining" place in "America the Beautiful"
44. Home town of 26-Down
46. Particularly: Abbr.
48. "He hath ____ the fateful lightning..." ("The Battle Hymn of the Republic" lyrics)
50. Power usage of a typical refrigerator is about 500 of these
51. Cupid's weapon
55. Wise one
57. Collaborative reference website
58. Winter conveyance in Park City, UT
59. Cantaloupe cover
60. Cleveland Browns Hall-of-Fame quarterback Graham
61. Bygone Russian ruler
63. Back muscle, for short
65. 2019 Women's World Cup winner

THE NAVIGATORS

**BIBLE PUZZLE
FOR SEPTEMBER**

Answers for August Puzzle on page 3.

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we embrace these autumn months, May the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the brevity of this earthly life. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life. May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds remind us that you call us to follow your will. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



ANSWER TO AUGUST PUZZLE

1	A	2	M	3	P	4	L	5	E	6	V	7	I	8	T	9	E	10	I	11	C	12	E	13	D
14	D	Y	E	15	O	N	E	M	A	N	16	L	O	V	E										
17	A	R	K	18	S	C	O	P	E	D	19	K	N	E	W										
20	P	R	O	21	P	E	R	22	B	O	S	23		24	C	R	Y								
25	T	H	E	S	T	O	26	R	Y	O	F	27	T	H	E										
				29	S	O	A	V	E			30	I	E	R	E	31	I							
33	A	34	M	35	B		36	C	L	A	37	P	38	E	R	N	I	E							
39	J	E	R	40	I	C	H	O		42	R	O	B	B	E	R	S								
44	A	S	O	D	D		45	T	W	O	A		47	D	E	T									
48	B	A	U	E	R		49	T	E	X	50	A	51												
				52	G	O	O	D	S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N								
58	O	59	H		60	M	R	T		61	C	A	M	E	R	A									
62	O	P	T	63	S		64	O	A	65	T	B	A	R		67	P	E	N						
68	Z	E	T	A		69	O	R	G	A	N	A		70	I	N	N								
71	E	C	O	N		72	P	R	I	E	S	T		73	D	A	Y								



Bible Study



9:00 AM

**SEPTEMBER 2023
PARISH VISITOR
OCTOBER 2023 DEADLINE**

[Articles Due](#) Friday, September 15th
[Send Date](#) Thursday, September 21st

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Worship Committee To be announced
Church Council – Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 pm.



UPCOMING SEPTEMBER SERVICES.

September 3rd-Communion (14th Sunday after Pentecost).
September 10th-Non-Communion (911 Remembrance Service) Columbia, PA
September 17th-Communion (16th Sunday after Pentecost).
September 24th-Non-Communion (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

September

**Sunday
Worship**

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 14th Sunday after Pentecost C / Green	4 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10 9/11 Remembrance Service At St. Paul's Lutheran Church- Columbia, PA No service at First St. John's NC / Green	11 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	12 Church Council Meeting 6:00 PM	13	14	15	16
17 16th Sunday after Pentecost C / Green	18 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	19	20	21	22	23
24 17th Sunday after Pentecost NC / Green	25 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	26	27 USHERS Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	28 ALTAR GUILD Lois Stambaugh	29	30
		LAY READER Dick Sindinger				

Labor Day: 8 Biblical Principles of Work

Some people hate to do it. Some love to do it. Some go to great lengths to avoid doing it. Some do it too much. While there are many different attitudes toward work, one thing remains constant: work must be done. Since the Garden of Eden everyone has worked or depended on someone else's work for their survival. Work sets a person's lifestyle—where you live, when you sleep and eat, the time with family, even your dress.

Another constant about work is the fact that God has a clear perspective on it, and we are to align our thoughts with His. As you reflect on your own attitude toward work, consider the following 8 principles that outline God's view of work:

1) Work is ordained by God. It was His creative invention from the beginning. The Bible declares that God worked ([Genesis 1](#)). By working we resemble God. Like God, you have the ability to work, make plans, implement them, and be creative. Additionally, God gave us the task of ruling over and taking care of His creation (Gen. [Genesis 1:28](#), [Genesis 2:15](#)).

2) Work is for a lifetime. *By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground* ([Genesis 3:19](#)). God intends that humans are to work as long as they live. Meaningful activity plays a critical role in being a human being - whether paid or volunteer. The magical age of 65 shouldn't end meaningful, purposeful work.

3) Work is not a punishment. God did not create work as drudgery, but as a gift of fulfillment to life. A human being *can do nothing better than...find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment* ([Ecclesiastes 2:24-25](#))?

4) Work has three purposes: to provide money or resources to supply the necessities of life; to provide for a quality of life in the satisfaction of doing a job well; and to serve God.

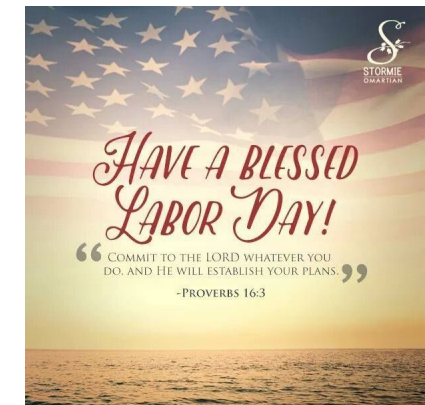
5) Work calls for obedience. Even when the boss isn't looking, a good worker is consistent and diligent to the task and loyal to the organization ([Colossians 3:22](#)). The real boss is Jesus Christ. See your job as service to Him - not simply your employer. Employers should treat employees with respect and fairness.

6) Work should be done with excellence. You are to *render service, as to the Lord, and not to men* ([Ephesians 6:6-7](#)); not to be men-pleasers but God-pleasers. God's standard of excellence needs to be the human standard.

7) Work is honorable. All professions and all kinds of work, assuming they are legal and biblically ethical, are honorable before the Lord. There is no dichotomy between sacred and secular work. All work brings glory to God and fulfillment to you, if it is done to God's glory ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)).

8) Work provides an opportunity for witness. You manifest a powerful message, both verbal and nonverbal, of a supernatural approach to work. The world today needs this powerful witness to the reality of Christ and the difference that He makes in His followers. ([Matthew 5:16](#))

From [Christian Ethics in a Postmodern World](#) by James P. Eckman. Copyright [Evangelical Training Association](#), Wheaton, Ill. Used by permission. **James P. Eckman** is president and professor in theology, ethics, and history at Grace University Omaha, Neb. He holds a Th.M. from [Dallas Theological Seminary](#) and a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. An ordained minister, James hosts a weekly radio program, *Issues in Perspective*, and lectures widely on postmodern era implications for the Christian community. He is married and the father of two children.



SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

WHAT: 9/11 Remembrance and Honor of First Responders

WHEN: Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 10:00 AM

WHERE: Locust Street Park, Columbia, PA (across the street from St. Paul's Lutheran Church)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Chairs will be provided, but if you wish to bring a lawn chair, you may. The entire service will be printed in the worship folder, including the words for the hymns. Lunch will be provided after the service



ORDINATION / INSTALLATION

WHAT: The Ordination and Installation of our vicar, Geoff Abendschoen

WHEN: Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 4:00 PM

WHERE: First St. John's Lutheran Church, 140 West King Street

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The service will include two distinct rites. First, the ordination will take place. This is when our vicar will become an ordained pastor. Then the installation will take place. As an ordained pastor, he will be installed to serve both St. Paul's and First St. John's congregations. This service will include communion. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Refreshments will be served at that time.



Bonnie Abendschoen
138 Crown Pointe Drive
York, PA 17402

Dawn Frey
Pleasant Acres Nursing
& Rehabilitation Center
118 Pleasant Acres Rd
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.



alms

**3rd Quarter Alms will go to
Veterans Helping Hands.**



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

Sandra Hinkle-Health issues
Jolene Schoff

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 Robert-son, 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:



13th - Helen Wu
30th - Bonnie Abendschoen



Early October Birthdays

4th - Donna D'Andrea

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



Vicar Report

August 2023

The SMP Program summer course: "Teaching the Faith" is winding down but quite busy. The focus has been on living the Christian faith in our daily lives. Now in the role of Catechist, we are gaining experience in the different dynamics and questions in unique group settings. We just completed learning about Christian education, beginning with the Reformation and including the present times. Our final two course projects, accounting for 40% of our grade, are in full swing as we wrap up the last two weeks.

School tuition is paid to date and current. Medical benefits are paid through August 2023, and all personal expenses for books, etc., have been reimbursed to date as well. ☺

Pastor C. and I continue to connect on Thursday mornings to reflect on the current coursework. In addition, we share in a devotional group every other Thursday at 6:30 am focusing on the book of Matthew.

The next Winkel meeting will occur in the fall of 2023 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Parkton, Md.

Ken and I are working to send a revised letter for Ordination/Installation service. The new time is yet to be determined, but it appears that January 2024 will be the month.

As a reminder, I will be away on the Sundays of August 27 and September 3 - coverage TBD. (Based on the summer semester structure, my last Sunday off is yet to be decided).

The Fall 2023 semester begins on Tuesday, September 5th. The SMP Intensive Week will be September 18th-22nd. As previously mentioned, I will need to be on campus for my Theological Interview on Sunday, September 17th. I will need pulpit coverage for the Sundays of September 17th and 24th as a result.

As a reminder, the 9-11 service in the park is quickly approaching. We will have one service on September 10th in Columbia as a result. (Ken has details)

Respectfully submitted,

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen



The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us



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



Music & Worship Notes

September is typically the month when programs begin again after having a break during the summer. School begins, sports like football and basketball start up. Vacations are usually over, so it is back to the work grind.

So also do the programs that churches have start up again after the summer break. For us that would be Choir, which begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 pm. For other churches, there would be confirmation instruction and various social groups resuming after the summer break.

There are special events and worship opportunities that also dot the calendar pages.

This month, one of those worship opportunities would be the 9/11 Remembrance Service on Sunday, September 10 at 10:00 am in the Locust Street Park in Columbia. With this service, we remember those who lost their lives that fateful day in 2001 when the Twin Towers fell, the Pentagon was attacked, and the plane crash in Shanksville, PA. We also honor all of our First Responders.

We remember in this service that God is still in control in the midst of this horrific world we live in. This is what is important to remember!

When the service is over, there will be a luncheon served in the park. This service is for all who wish to attend, not just Saint Paul's and First Saint John's churches. It is open to the community.



ADULT CHOIR

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

**Ken Sanders,
MINISTER OF MUSIC**

9/11 REMEMBRANCE AND HONOR SERVICE

This year's service will be on Sunday, September 10, at 10:00 A.M. in the Locust Street Park, Columbia, PA.

First St. John's, as they have done in the last couple of years, will join with St. Paul's of Columbia to remember the first responders who unselfishly gave of themselves to save the people from the attacks on the World Trade Center in NYC, the Pentagon in Washington DC, and in Shanksville, PA. We will also honor the first responders and the armed forces that are presently serving and keeping us safe.

Pastor Brian Rosenkoetter will give the message that day. Our own Vicar, Geoff Abendschoen will lead the worship. Bruce Tittel will be the trumpeter and Robert Barclay will be playing the bagpipes. Beverly Card will be singing a solo that morning.

If it should happen to rain that morning, the service will be held inside St. Paul's Church.

There will be a picnic lunch served after the service.

No Bible Class or worship at First St. John's that morning.

