

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

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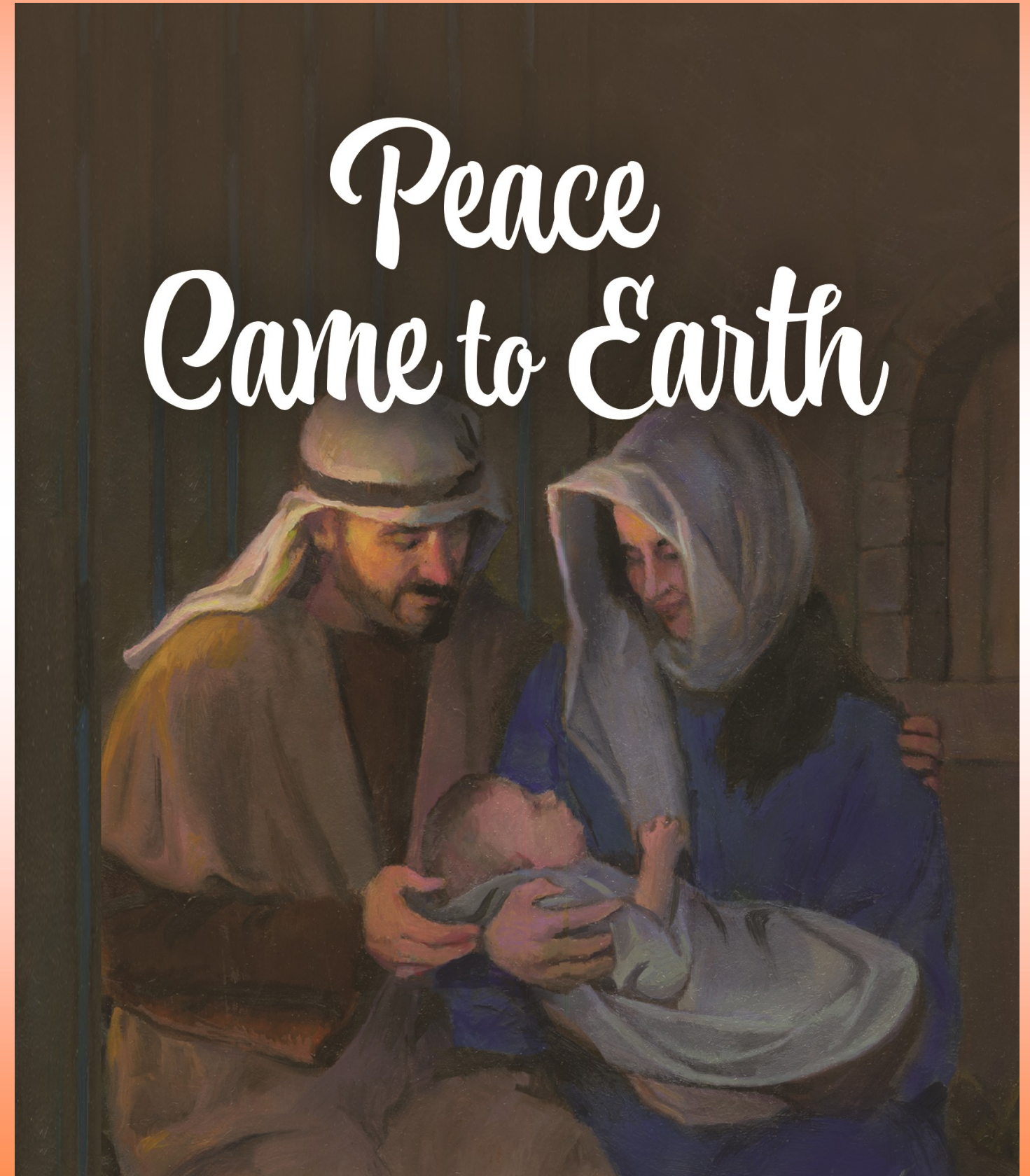
FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 55-ISSUE 12

Website: www.firststjohns.org

DECEMBER 2023

Peace
Came to Earth





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

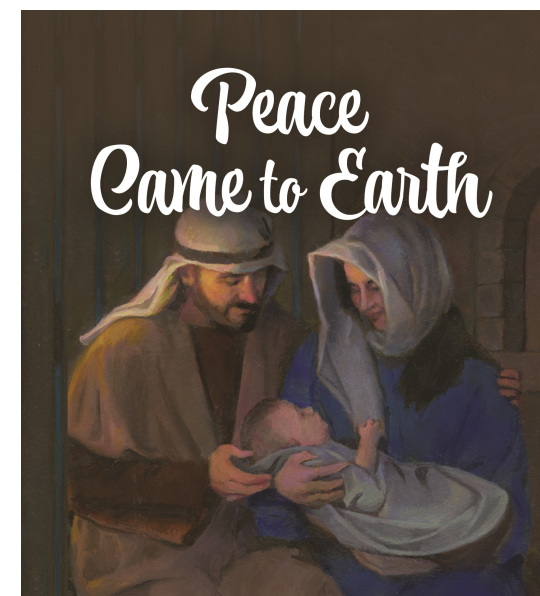
OR

EMAIL: firststjohns@verizon.net



Since the five-point star will guide our journey, picture yourself drawing such a star. Start in the bottom left corner and draw up to the top center point. Stop and draw downward to the bottom right corner, then upward to the middle of the left side. Draw across to the right, and back to the bottom left corner, eventually reaching each point. Every point goes a certain distance but then is stopped. In the same way, each of our paths to peace could go on and on, never being fulfilled. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace. But as we seek peace in these many ways, God intersects us with a peace that both passes our understanding and yet meets our needs. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace.

In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.





PEACE CAME TO EARTH



Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season.

Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should. These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled.

To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long journey ended with the blessing of a lasting peace. Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. This won't be a useless journey that never ends. We will find that God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we are seeking.

ANSWER TO NOVEMBER PUZZLE

The Problem

1	W	2	R	3	A	4	T	5	H	6	N	7	A	8	N	9	E	10	B	11	A	12	N	13	S
14	A	S	F	A	R	15	A	D	O	16	R	A	N	A	T										
17	S	T	A	V	E	18	D	E	P	19	R	A	V	I	T	Y									
20	T	U	N	E	21	P	A	L	A	U	22	A	M	U	L										
26	27	28	R	H	U	B	A	R	B	25	R	A	R	E											
26	27	28	T	U	R	N	E	D		29	30	S	T	I	L	E	S								
31	O	S	C	A	R	32	G	O	D	I	V	A													
35	Z	O	A	36	37	O	U	R	S	I	N	S	38	39	40	A	T	V							
44	45	46	A	P	I	E	C	E		47	R	O	M	A	N	S									
48	S	E	M	A	49	50	A	L	51	52	E	N	T	E											
53	T	R	A	C	54	S	O	R	T	A	55	A	R	C	H										
59	R	I	G	H	60	T	E	O	U	S	61	A	G	A	Z	E									
62	U	S	E	M	E	63	I	B	E	64	N	O	R	A	D										
65	T	H	R	E	E	66	E	S	Q	67	G	L	O	R	Y										



Bible Study
9:00 AM

**DECEMBER 2023
PARISH VISITOR
JANUARY 2024 DEADLINE**

[Articles Due](#) **Friday, 22nd**
[Send Date](#) **Thursday, 28th**

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Worship Committee **To be announced**
Church Council – **No Church Council Meeting in December.**



UPCOMING DECEMBER SERVICES.

- December 3rd-Communion (1st Sunday In Advent).
- December 10th Non-Communion (2nd Sunday In Advent).
- December 17th-Communion (3rd Sunday In Advent).
- December 24th Non-Communion (4th Sunday In Advent).
- December 31st Non-Communion (1st Sunday After Christmas).



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

CHURCH OFFICE
Phone Number 717-843-8597

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

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
No Church Council Meeting in December					1	2
3 Advent 1 - Morning Service C / Blue	4 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	5	6 Advent Service 1 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 Advent 2- Morning Service NC/ Blue	11 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	12	13 Weds Service 2 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 Advent 3 - Morning Service Lessons & Carols C / Blue German Christmas Service 4:00 PM	18 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	19	20 Weds Service 3 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Service 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 Advent 4 - Morning Service / NC/Blue Christmas Eve Service 8:00 PM	25 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	26	27 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	28	29	30
31 First Sunday after Christmas NC/White		LAY READER Carla Allison	USHERS Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		

ADVENT WORSHIP - Sunday Mornings

Come and worship with us and hear about the coming of the promised Messiah on Sunday mornings at 11:00 A.M.

December 3rd

December 10th

December 17th (Lessons and Carols).

December 24th



ADVENT WORSHIP - Wednesday Evenings

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

December 6th

December 13th

December 20th



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

There will be an opportunity to worship the "New Born Baby" on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 8:00 P.M.



GERMAN CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17th, 4:00 P.M.

Light refreshments with a German theme will follow the service.



Walk a Christmas Mile-Columbia, PA

Monday, December 18, 7 PM. Salem UCC, Holy Trinity RCC, ST. Paul's LCMS, Locust Street

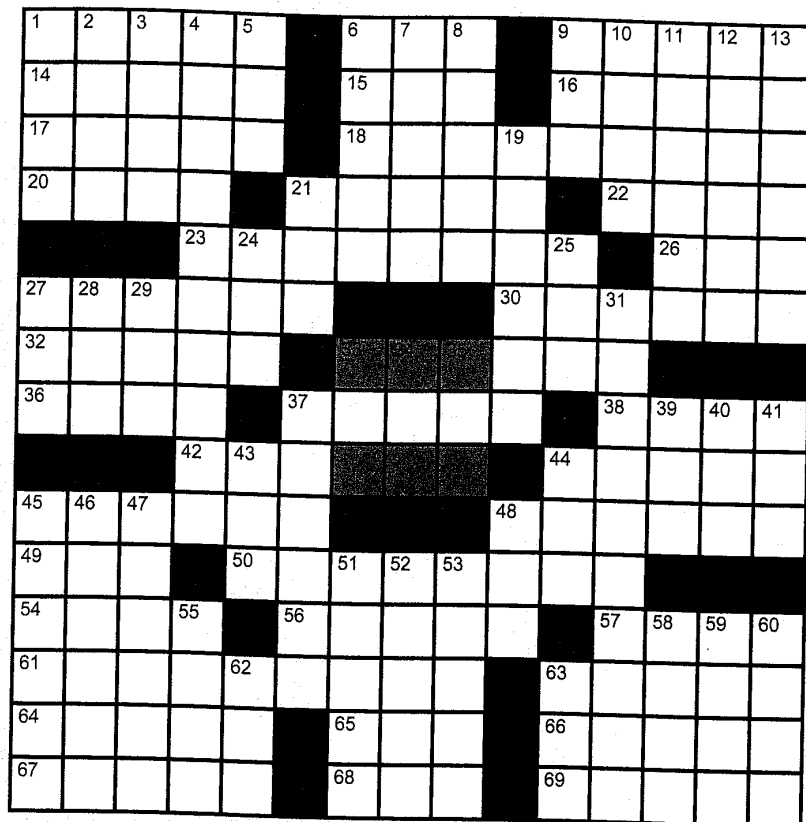
Park Gazebo, St. John's ELCA are the places we will visit.



DECEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1. Turkish title of old
- 6. Mail-order abbr.
- 9. Herringlike fishes
- 14. Thespian
- 15. Grand ___ Opry
- 16. 1996 Olympic gold medalist Strug, or 2004 Olympic gold medalist Walsh
- 17. Its capital is Santiago
- 18. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings ___ to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile" (Romans 1:16 NIV)
- 20. Mysterious: Var.
- 21. Piece of microfilm
- 22. "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the ___ of glory" (Colossians 1:27 NIV)
- 23. Cooking, as onions
- 26. Wee, to a Scotsman
- 27. "For in the ___ the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (Romans 1:17 NIV)
- 30. Go ___ (deteriorate)
- 32. ___ Ababa, Ethiopia
- 33. Legendary Lady
- 36. "So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an ___" (Galatians 4:7 NIV)
- 37. According to 1 Timothy 2, the one Mediator between the shaded letters above this answer and the shaded letters below this answer—because He is 100% of both of them
- 38. Repeatedly scolds
- 42. He "cometh" in a Eugene O'Neill play
- 44. Brownish-yellow
- 45. Group of seven
- 48. Director's "start!"
- 49. LA-to-Albuquerque dir.
- 50. Football's Vince, for whom the Super Bowl trophy is named
- 54. Ocean eagle
- 56. Immunologist Dr. Anthony
- 57. Autumn
- 61. "God presented Christ as a ___ of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith" (Romans 3:25a NIV)
- 63. Tinker Bell, for one
- 64. Biased against seniors: Var.
- 65. Nasdaq, e.g.: Abbr.
- 66. Where Dr. King and John Lewis marched
- 67. Paintball mementos
- 68. ___ Canals, Michigan/Ontario separator
- 69. Utopian



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DOWN

- 1. Walk nervously back and forth
- 2. Painful throb
- 3. Blend, as batter
- 4. "When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised ___, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:13b-14 NIV)
- 5. Exist
- 6. Put forward, as a theory
- 7. "And if I go and prepare a ___ for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3 NIV)
- 8. Indian metropolis
- 9. Jamaican genre
- 10. Eighth Hebrew letter (the "H" in "Hanukkah")
- 11. Melodious (anagram of I AROSE)
- 12. "___ a line" ("I'd like to hear from you")
- 13. O'Connor who sang the 1990 #1 hit "Nothing Compares 2 U"
- 19. Large Starbucks orders
- 21. Suffix with glee- or sorrow-
- 24. Two-time presidential loser to DDE in the 1950's
- 25. Statehouse VIP
- 27. Exasperated cry
- 28. Praiseful poem
- 29. US "Star Wars" antimissile program, for short
- 31. "To the church of God in Corinth, to those ___ in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people..." (1 Corinthians 1:2 NIV)
- 33. Jewel
- 34. She-bear, in Seville
- 35. Pester for payment
- 37. Fly, on the spur of the moment
- 39. Sushi-bar tuna
- 40. Miracle-___ (plant food)
- 41. One of 100 in DC: Abbr.
- 43. Cartoon collectible
- 44. Neurotic condition, for short
- 45. Teeter-totter
- 46. Infuriate
- 47. Tentatively schedule, with "in"
- 48. The D-Backs, on scoreboards
- 51. Really injures
- 52. Pal o' mine
- 53. Vinegar: Prefix
- 55. Lead-in to -while
- 58. Connector to a pair of wheels
- 59. Capital of Peru
- 60. Faithful, to a Scotsman (anagram of ELLA)
- 62. "___ Not Unusual" (Tom Jones 1965 hit)
- 63. Tire gauge meas.

THE NAVIGATORS

Bonnie Abendschoen
138 Crown Pointe Drive
York, PA 17402

Kim Thompson
30 South Beaver Street
York, PA 17401

Dawn Frey
Pleasant Acres Nursing
& Rehabilitation Center
118 Pleasant Acres Rd
York, PA 17401

Becky Lupp
1180 Ruxton Rd
York, PA 17403

Joyce Devan
2408 Lovegren Court
York, PA 17404

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.

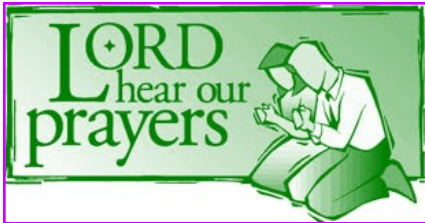
THE EPIPHANY of the LORD

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

— The Gospel of St. Matthew 2:11

January 7, 2024 Service






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
 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
 Dawn Frey-Health Issues
 Pierre-Paul Rodriguez
 George Card-Health issues
 Sandra Hinkle-Health issues
 Jolene Schoff
 Amy Stambaugh (Williams)
 Carl Flandermyer
 Ken Linebaugh-In hospital
 Carla Allison-Prayer for comfort
 Mark Reeve-Health issue. Pray for Mark, wife and children

We remember in prayer those who are in need of God's special presence in their lives due to special needs:



FIRST TIME REQUESTS

Jerry Allison-Health issues, recovery from surgery
 The Family of Candy Parent, who went to be with the Lord (Bill Lupp's niece)
 Austin Shroud-Health issues, name corrected
 The Family of Delores Rehmeier-who went to be with the Lord

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Dawn Frey
 Becky Lupp

Joyce Devan
 Kim Thompson
 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



- 3rd - Karl vanDyk
- 11th - Richard Sindlinger
- 13th - Gloria Sindlinger
- 19th - Wayne Hildebrand Jr.
- 20th - William Lupp
- 22nd - Susan vanDyk-Baum



Early January Birthdays

- 4th - Dezzaray Tanner
- 7th - Hans Abendschoen

PRAYER LIST (cont.)

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

MILITARY

POLICE

Jonathan



First St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Vicar Report

November 2023

The SMP Program: The Winter 2023 course "Prophets-Christ & His Mission Foretold" will commence on November 27th.

CTSFV Vicarage debriefing will take place this Thursday, with Dr. Peperkorn.

School tuition billing for the Winter semester is not yet available.

The SED informed me they sent both congregations the Google link to complete the paperwork for the Ordination/Installation on October 12, 2023. Update?

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 a.m., focusing on the book of Matthew.

The next Winkel meeting will be in December 2023 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Parkton, Md.

Each local LCMS church will conduct its own Advent services for 2023. (No rotation).

St. Paul's will once again participate in the Christmas "Walk-A-Mile" taking place on Monday, December 18, 2023. It is a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and worship. Hope to see you there!

I am collaborating with Betty Lou to set up visits with St. Paul shut-ins and plan on visiting Joyce Devan this week as well.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen

VICAR REPORT



THE MEASURE OF OUR GENEROSITY

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8-11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?



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



**4TH QUARTER
ALMS**

**WOMEN'S CARE
CENTER**



Music & Worship Notes



The choir has been working hard on the music for the Lessons and Carols service for the third Sunday of Advent, which is on December 17, during the morning worship. They will lead the congregation at St. Paul's at 9:00 am that day. Then the choir will lead First St. John's congregation at 11: am. Because the choir and I will be at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 17, Bible class will not be in session that day.

The choir has also been working hard on the music for Christmas Eve. They and I will be at St. Paul's at 5:00 pm for their Christmas Eve service. Then we will be at First St. John's at 8:00 pm for Christmas Eve worship. I am hoping to have a trumpeter for both services.

Reminder! The German Language Christmas Service will be at 4:00 in the afternoon on Sunday, December 17. Come and join in worshipping as the founding fathers of FSJ would have worshipped. Then stay for some refreshments and fellowship.

Walk a Christmas Mile This is a yearly event that happens with the churches in Columbia, of which our dual parish partner church, St. Paul's, takes part in. Enjoy singing carols and hymns of the season as we visit each of the five churches on the walk. Then, at the last church, enjoy some seasonal goodies and fellowship. The walk takes place on Monday, December 18, at 7:00 pm. More information is in the tri-fold calendar of events.

**Ken Sanders,
MINISTER OF MUSIC**

**ADULT
CHOIR**

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



John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Star of Christmas Is Shining

**The star of Christmas is shining;
It's shining for all to see.
Follow it's light to the Savior;
Find Him, in faith bow the knee.**

**He's no longer in a manger;
Nor upon a cruel tree.
Death could not keep Him in a
grave;
His love won eternally.**

**A Christmas wreath hangs from the
cross;
A bow on the manger bed.
An evergreen tree is now standing;
Below the star up ahead.**

**In Jesus we live forever;
Our sins are all washed away.
God gave us a gift from heaven;
That astounding Christmas day.**

**The star of Christmas is shining;
From pages of love and truth.
The greatest gift ever given;
Was written in blood for you.**

**Susan Y Nikitenko
December 14th, 2012**