

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. KING STREET
YORK, PA 17401-1307
PHONE: 717-843-8597



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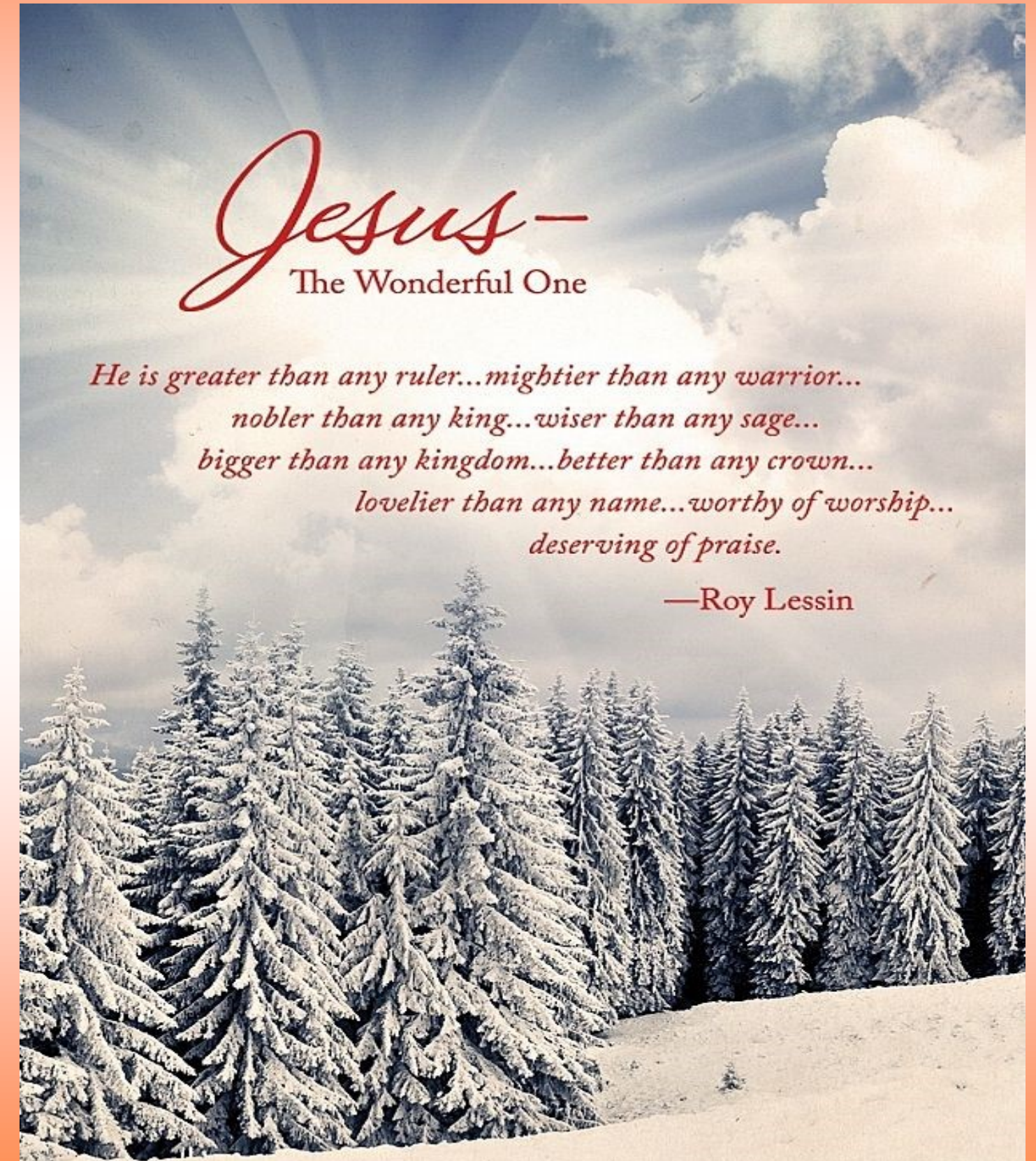
PARISH VISITOR

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 56-ISSUE 1

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JANUARY 2024



Jesus—
The Wonderful One

*He is greater than any ruler...mightier than any warrior...
nobler than any king...wiser than any sage...
bigger than any kingdom...better than any crown...
lovelier than any name...worthy of worship...
deserving of praise.*

—Roy Lessin



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



What was King's legacy?

- King led a campaign of non-violent protests and civil disobedience in the struggle to end discrimination, including racial segregation, in the US in the 1950s and 1960s.
- He pushed for social and economic improvements for African Americans while also fighting for legal equality.

"King was a critical force in bringing the anti-Black, racist struggles facing Black Americans to the communities, living rooms and dinner tables of white Americans who had long had the privilege of overlooking and denying its existence," journalist Jenn M Jackson [wrote](#) for Al Jazeera in 2021. "He did this while sacrificing his own safety and the safety of his family."

- Speaking about his legacy, Taylor Branch, his biographer, told Al Jazeera in 2018: "We were on the mission to redeem America from the triple scourge of racial bigotry, of war and poverty for a largely invisible minority, [and] to have that ambition is just stunning."

Race was at the heart of this struggle, but the impact [was also economic](#). Black people earned far less than white people, and King wanted to highlight that.

- His long-term goal, according to Branch, was to launch a Poor People's Campaign, a multiracial effort to eradicate poverty.
- King led a non-violent movement. His strong beliefs in civil rights and non-violence also made him a fierce opponent of America's participation in the Vietnam War.

King's ideas and work made him increasingly unpopular during his lifetime. In 1966, 63 percent of Americans had an unfavourable view of King, up from 37 percent in 1963, according to a [Gallup poll](#). Today, he is one of the most respected people in the country.

The theme for MLK Day in 2024

The theme for MLK Day in 2024 is "Shifting the cultural climate through the study and practice of Kingian Nonviolence." King's work showed that Kingian Nonviolence is a sustainable solution to injustice and violence in the world, according to The King Center.

What is Martin Luther King Jr Day and how did it come to be a holiday?

- Martin Luther King Jr Day is a federal holiday in the United States that takes place on the third Monday in January. It honors the life and legacy of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.
- Each year, the celebration takes place on the Monday closest to his birthday, which is on January 15. This year, it is held on his birthday, January 15.
- Sunday would have been King’s 94th birthday. He was assassinated in 1968 at the age of 39 in Memphis, Tennessee.
- In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law, and it was first observed on January 20, 1986. The first time all states observed it was in 2000.
- Reagan said the holiday was meant to remember King and “the just cause he stood for”. “America is a more democratic nation, a more just nation, a more peaceful nation because Martin Luther King Jr became her pre-eminent non-violent commander,” Reagan said in 1983.
- According to the White House, only three people in the US have a holiday observed in their honour: Christopher Columbus, George Washington, and King.
- Banks and stock markets are closed on Monday, and generally, public schools observe the federal holiday too.



ANSWER TO DECEMBER PUZZLE

1	P	2	A	3	S	4	H	5	A	6	P	7	P	8	D	9	S	10	H	11	A	12	D	13	S
14	A	C	T	O	R	15	O	L	E	16	K	E	R	R	I										
17	C	H	I	L	E	18	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N										
20	E	E	R	Y	21	F	I	C	H	E	22	H	O	P	E										
					23	A	U	T	E	I	N	25	S	M	A										
27	G	O	S	P	E	L						30	T	O	S	E	E	D							
32	A	D	D	I	S					33	G	O	D	I	V	A									
36	H	E	I	R		37	J	E	S	U	S	38	N	A	G	S									
					42	I	C	E	M	A	N	44	O	C	H	R	E								
45	S	E	P	T	E	T						48	A	C	T	I	O	N							
49	E	N	E			50	L	O	51	M	B	A	R	D	I										
54	E	R	N	E		56	F	A	U	C	I		57	F	A	L	L								
61	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E			63	P	I	X	I	E								
64	A	G	I	S	T					65	M	K	T			66	S	E	L	M	A				
67	W	E	L	T	S					68	S	O	O			69	I	D	E	A	L				



Bible Study

9:00 AM

**JANUARY 2024
PARISH VISITOR
FEBRUARY 2024 DEADLINE**

Articles Due Friday, January 19th
Send Date Thursday, January 25th

Newsletter

MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Worship Committee

To be announced

Church Council –

Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00 PM



UPCOMING JANUARY SERVICES..

**January 7th-Communion (1st Sunday After Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord).
Celebrate the Epiphany.**

January 14th-Non-Communion (2nd Sunday After Epiphany).

January 21st-Communion (3rd Sunday After Epiphany).

January 28th-Non-Communion (4th Sunday After Epiphany).



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

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	4	5	6
7 Epiphany C / White	8 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	9	10 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	11	12	13
14 Baptism of Our Lord NC / White	15 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16	17 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	18	19	20
21 3rd Sunday After The Epiphany C/Green	22 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	23	24 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	25	26	27
28 4th Sunday After The Epiphany NC/Green	29 Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	30 <u>LAY READER</u> Nancy Hildebrand	31 Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM			
			<u>USHERS</u> Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Lois Stambaugh		

You can't mistake what Jesus does with a name like "The Lord Saves!" His name doesn't mean "Save yourself" or "He's a really great guy to get to know" or "He'll be your best friend." No. The Lord saves – and that's what Jesus means and that's what He does. Just like the angel said, "He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)."

And that means He's your Savior. He's got it covered with His life, death and Resurrection; by Baptism, Word, and His body and blood offered in the Sacrament. That's how He does His saving thing. Oh, those things may not look like much to the unbelieving world, but then neither did the Baby lying in a manger so many years ago. Looks can often be deceiving.

And at a time when many will make resolutions about all the things they want to try to change, take comfort in this: Your unchanging Savior resolved, before you were even born, to come into this world to be your Savior. And while the resolutions of men normally fade quickly and are all-to-often soon forgotten, your Savior shed His blood so that you might be forgiven and so that you might be made a child of God. A child made holy by the blood of the Lamb, the Babe in the manger. Because of Him, Jesus' heavenly Father is your Father, and He has resolved to love you and forgive you, and to give you everlasting life. Now that's a resolution that counts and matters! And that's a resolution you can believe and trust.

On the day the world's New Year begins, rejoice that in Christ, and because of His blood, you have already been given a new birth and a new life in Him. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING OF JESUS



“And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb (Luke 2:21).”

I love how the world is preparing for the new year, but in the Church our “new” year began with Advent in early December. By the time Jan. 1 rolls around, we will have traveled through Advent and gotten a good start on Christmas. I find it a nice little reminder of how the world and the Church march to a different drummer.

And Jan. 1 falls eight days after we celebrated Jesus’ birth, and so in the Church that means it’s time for the Christ Child to be circumcised and formally named. On that day so many years ago, when He was just a week old, Jesus first spills His blood for sinners as He is circumcised. And by doing so, He begins fulfilling the Law for us by submitting to the Law’s pain and blood. He will do so again, in even grander form, some 30 plus years later, on Calvary as He is nailed to a cross. There, under the Law, paying the wages of all mankind’s sin, He will shed His blood for sinners to save them.

And that’s what His name, Jesus, means, you know: “The Lord saves.” And that name given to the infant Christ Child means you don’t save yourself - God does. And He does so by His only-begotten Son being born in the flesh, being circumcised and baptized, tempted and tortured, crucified, dead AND risen.

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

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Kimberly S. Thompson

Condolences and prayers are extended to the family of **Kimberly Thompson**, who was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 10, 2023. We commend her family members and friends to the comfort and care of our Lord and Savior, Who is the Resurrection and the Life

We also mourn the passing of former members

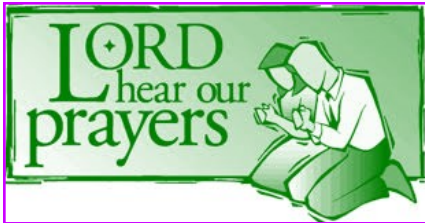
Marge Driskell

Condolences and prayers are extended to the family of **Marge Driskell**, who was called home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Delores Alma Rehmeyer

Condolences and prayers are extended to the family of **Delores Rehmeyer**, who was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 23, 2023.





PRAYERS

Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted
 Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving
 Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home
 Joyce Devan-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 Reever-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

Family of E. Lois Lupp (Mother of Bill Lupp), who went to be with the Lord.

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen
 Dawn Frey
 Becky Lupp

Joyce Devan
 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



4th - Dezzaray Tanner
7th - Hans Abendschoen



Early February Birthdays

2nd - Michelle Taylor
5th - Edward Abendschoen IV

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

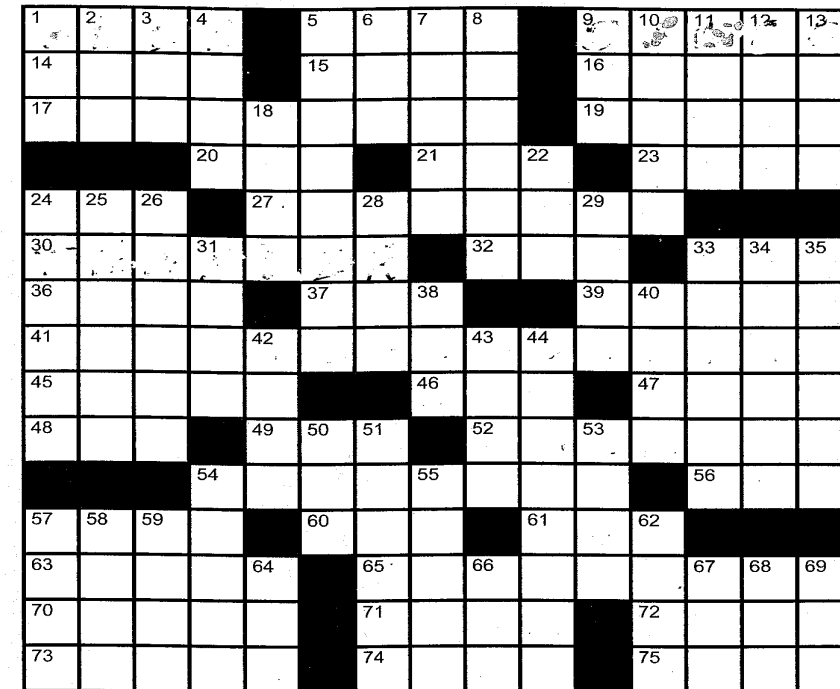


JANUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Above All EASY ■ Solution on page 22

ACROSS

1. George Beverly ____, who popularized the classic hymn at the heart of this puzzle, during Billy Graham crusades
5. "Put a tiger in your tank" gas brand, from back in the day
9. From the chorus of the classic hymn at the heart of this puzzle: "Then ____, my soul, my Savior God to thee"
14. Throw hard
15. Cross through
16. Pleasant scent
17. From verse 4 of the classic hymn at the heart of the puzzle: "When Christ ____ with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart"
19. Maritime
20. Golden Rule ender
21. Bullring cheer
23. Sherman or Panzer
24. Entertainment for GI's
27. In recent memory
30. From verse 1 of the classic hymn at the heart of the puzzle: "I hear the rolling ____; Thy power throughout the universe displayed"
32. Gold, to Guillermo
33. Obesity meas.
36. Comedian Johnson of "Laugh-In"
37. Former telecom giant, or 1101 in Roman numbers
39. Love of money ("a root of all kinds of evil", according to 1 Timothy 6:10)
41. Classic hymn written in Sweden in 1885, and recorded over 1700 times—with Carrie Underwood's version hitting #1 on iTunes Top Gospel Songs in 2011
45. Dispatch boat
46. Yes, to Yves
47. Suffix with ranch-
48. Volleyball court divider
49. Matterhorn or Mont Blanc
52. From verse 3 of the classic hymn at the heart of the puzzle: "That on the cross, my burden gladly ____, He led and died to take away my sin"
54. How a loving couple often walks
56. Lean-____ (simple shelters)
57. Tidy up, as a mustache
60. Second Amendment supporting org.
61. Friend, to François
63. Asian city with a monument to John McCain
65. From verse 4 of the classic hymn at the heart of the puzzle: "Then I shall bow in humble ____, and then proclaim..." (see 41-Across)
70. Not abridged, as a movie
71. Baby powder component
72. Monk's hood
73. From verse 1 of the classic hymn at the heart of the puzzle: "...consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the ____"



74. "In the Valley of ____" (2007 film whose title refers to the real place in Israel where David killed Goliath)
75. Stuart K. ____, the missionary who translated the classic hymn from Russian to English, and added 2 verses of his own
28. Killer whale
29. For takeout
31. Darkroom images, for short
33. Grin's partner, in a stoic expression
34. Fine Spanish wool, or the sheep that gives it
35. Luggage ownership markers
38. OJ Simpson judge Lance
40. One who regrets
42. Sound from Simba
43. Hefty horn
44. High religious leader (anagram of HER CHAIR)
50. Three in a row, before O
51. Captain Jack Sparrow, for example
53. Palindromic abbess or spiritual mother
54. Love, to Lafayette
55. Rafael whose 20 Grand Slam singles titles are an all-time record, shared with Roger Federer
57. As a result
58. Go on a tirade
59. Ancient Andean
62. What comes after a mosquito bite, often
64. Word before "a bird", "a plane" and "Superman!"
66. Suffix with pay-, Motor- or Cray-
67. Number of Disney Dalmatians (if you squint a bit!)
68. Admit, with "up to"
69. Washington Nationals' division, for short

THE NAVIGATORS

BIBLE PUZZLE FOR JANUARY

Answers for Puzzle on page 3.

THE CHIEF STEWARDS OF HUMANITY: MOM AND DAD

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.



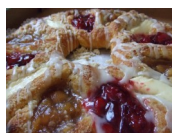

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



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
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



Advent and Christmas have come and gone. December was a very busy month. Mid-week services began on the first Wednesday with a supper. Thanks to the Choir, LWML, and the limited men's group for providing the meals.

Thank you to all the members who came out on the first Friday to help decorate the church for Christmas. It looks beautiful.

Thanks goes also to the choir for sharing their gift of music with both congregations as they led the service of Lessons and Carols and providing beautiful music for The Christmas Eve services at both churches.

A big thank you goes to our office manager for all the hard work he put forth in putting together and printing the bulletins for all the services during the month of December. There were a lot of them!

Last, but not least, thanks goes out to you, the congregations of St. Paul's and First St. John's for their support of the staff and the many events that took place in December.

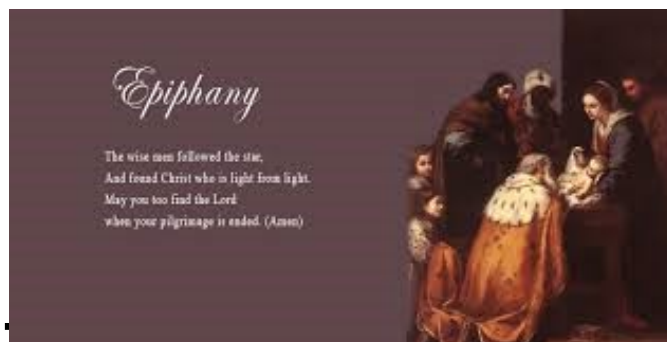
The first Sunday of January, we will celebrate the Epiphany, which focuses on the star and the Magi (Wise Men) who came from the East to worship the newborn king with their special gifts.

The choir has begun working on the Choral Tenebrae for Good Friday. Yes, you heard that right. Lent is knocking at the door. Ash Wednesday is February 14. Easter is Sunday, March 31.

As you think about the new year, 2024, make sure that Jesus is at the center and you church is part of the new year!



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



**Ken Sanders,
MINISTER OF MUSIC**

JANUARY 6 -TWELFTH NIGHT OR EPIPHANY

The Wise men (Magi) are supposed by some to have reached Bethlehem with their gifts. This is called "Old Christmas" in some sections of the United States and the gift giving of the Season observed, as it is in some sections of Europe.

On this day Christmas greens are burned in the fireplace in England at the Twelfth Night party, creches are dismantled in Italy and other countries and the Christmas season officially closed.

In Italy, Saint Beffania rewards good children on this day by putting sweets in their stockings, while bad children receive only stones in their stockings.

In France, the Twelfth Night Cake, known as La Galette du Roi (the cake of the king) with a broad bean baked in it, is the center of interest. The one receiving the bean becomes "king" or "queen" and retains the title until Candlemas Day (February 2) in some localities and for the year in others. Actions and remarks of the "king" or "queen" form the subject for much merriment and joking for the remainder of the evening. Often the one receiving the bean has the pleasure of providing the next party held on Candlemas or the Twelfth Night party the following year.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" was written for a Twelfth Night celebration, though the plot has nothing to do with the legends of the day. Some think this is the date of the Baptism of Christ and of the first miracle of Christ at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

