

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 56-ISSUE 2

Website: [www.firststjohns.org](http://www.firststjohns.org)

FEBRUARY 2024

LENT



Forgiveness



Peace

LENT



Trust



Hope

LENT



Love



Perseverance



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:firststjohns@verizon.net)



## Guided to the Cross

Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, the services in this series reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Ash Wednesday, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Week 1 of Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls and minds through Christ, who brought peace between us and God by the cross.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Week 2 of Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to deepen our trust. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of trust in God, who entrusted his Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sake.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Week 3 of Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive hope. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of hope as we remember that Christ went to the cross to save us forevermore.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Week 4 of Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive love. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of love in response to the love Christ showed us on the cross.

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Week 5 of Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.





ANSWER TO JANUARY PUZZLE

Above All ,

1	S	2	H	3	E	4	A	5	E	6	S	7	S	8	O	9	S	10	I	11	N	12	G	13	S		
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17	S	H	A	L	18	L	C	O	M	E	19	N	A	V	A	L											
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36	A	R	T	E	37	M	C	I	38				39	G	40	R	E	E	D								
41	H	O	W	G	42	R	E	A	T	43	T	H	O	U	A	R	T										
45	A	V	I	S	O					46	O	U	I	47	E	R	I	A									
48	N	E	T	49	A	L	P	50		51		52	B	E	A	R	I	N	G								
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73	S	T	A	R	S	74	E	L	A	H	75	H	I	N	E												



**Bible Study**

9:00 AM

**FEBRUARY 2024 PARISH VISITOR MARCH 2024 DEADLINE**

Articles Due Friday, 23rd  
Send Date Thursday, 28th

**Newsletter**

**MEETINGS IN JANUARY**

Worship Committee To be announced  
Church Council – Tuesday, February 13th at 6:00 PM



- February 4th-Communion (5th Sunday After Epiphany).
- February 11th-Non-Communion (The Transfiguration Of Our Lord).
- February 18th-Communion (1st Sunday In Lent).
- February 25th-Non-Communion (2nd Sunday In Lent).





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

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

CHURCH OFFICE  
Phone Number 717-843-8597

**FEBRUARY 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 5th Sunday After The Epiphany C/Green	<b>5</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Transfiguration Of Our Lord NC / White	<b>12</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday Serv. 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir Rehearsal after Service 6:30 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 1st Sunday In Lent C/Purple	<b>19</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am President's Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lenten Service 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Adult Choir Rehearsal after Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 2nd Sunday In Lent NC/Purple	<b>26</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lenten Serv. 6:00 PM - Dinner 7:00 PM - Service Choir Rehearsal after Service	<b>29</b>		
		<b>LAY READER</b> Lois Hollinger	<b>USHERS</b> Dave Stambaugh Bill Lupp	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Carla Allison		

**VICAR REPORT**  
**JANUARY 2024**

The CTSFW SMP Program: The Winter 2023 course "Prophets-Christ & His Mission Foretold" has reconvened as of January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
School tuition for the Winter semester has been remitted, and medical premiums are paid through April 2024.

Ordination/Installation update - Discuss under old business.

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 day at 6:30 a.m., focusing on the book of Matthew.

The next Winkel meeting will be in February 2024 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Bel Air, Md.

Advent mid-week services were well attended. It was a good time of worship and fellowship. Thanks to all who volunteered to provide lunch and dinner at each church respectively.

The December "Walk-A-Mile event in Columbia, PA, was successful, with fellowship, worship, and singing at various churches, and participants enjoyed warm drinks and cookies in a delightful post-journey gathering. St. Paul's church actively contributed to the event as one of the host churches.

Over the Christmas break, I visited church members who were either hospitalized or homebound.

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**





## CARING FOR MY NEIGHBOR

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.



### 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

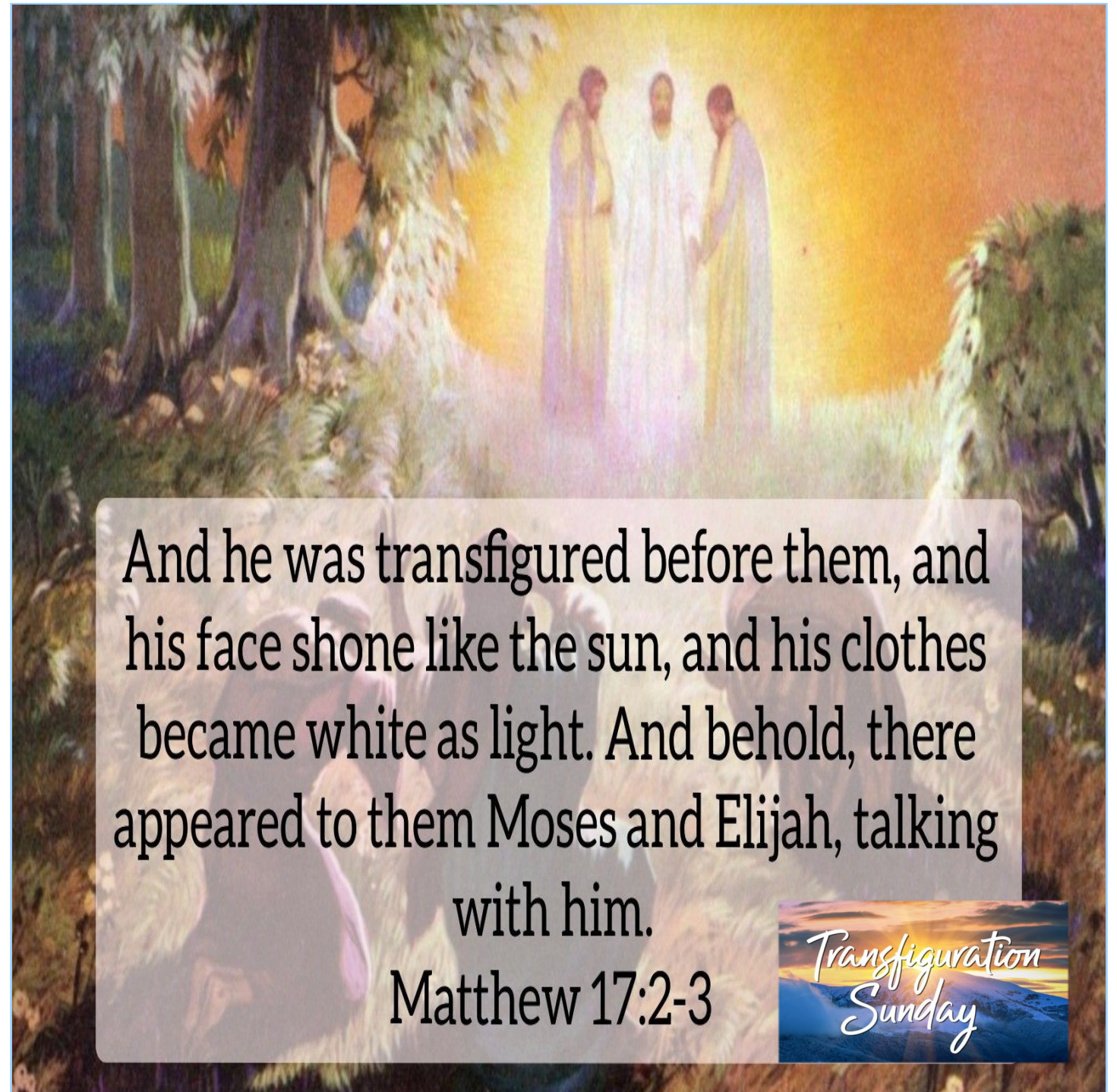
1180 Ruxton Rd  
York, PA 17403

### 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.

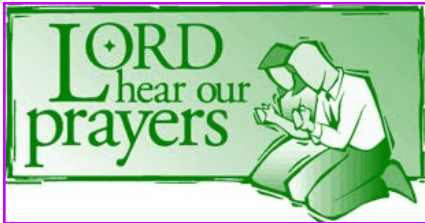


And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Matthew 17:2-3







**PRAYERS**

Prayers as of February 4, 2024

**CONTINUING NEEDS**

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 Trans-  
 plant recovery  
 Anna vanDyk-Health issues  
 Vicar Geoff Abendschoen-Health issue  
 Karl vanDyk-Health issue  
 Lois Stambaugh-Health issue  
 Dave Stambaugh-Health issue  
 Dawn Frey-Health issue  
 Pierre-Paul Rodriguez-Health issues  
 George Card-Health issues  
 Sandra Hinkle-Health issues  
 Jolene Schoff  
 Amy (Stambaugh) Williams  
 Carl Flandermyer  
 Jerry Allison-Surgery recovery  
 Austin Shroud-Health issues. \*name corrected  
 Carla Allison-Prayers for comfort  
 Mark Reeve-Health issue. Pray for Mark, his wife and children  
 Ken Linebaugh-Health issues  
 Nancy Hildebrand-Health issues  
 Karen Hildebrand-Health issues-in hospital  
 Janet Heath-Health issues  
 Edward Hanes-Health issues  
 Talmadge Hanes-Health issues  
 Geoff Abendschoen-Health issues

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

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

**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



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



**Early March Birthdays**

- 7th - Jerry Allison**
- 7th - Dane Smith**
- 13th - Rebecca Lupp**

**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



**LENTEN WORSHIP-FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday Mornings**

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

- February 18
- February 25
- March 3
- March 10
- March 17



**Ash Wednesday** Feb. 14, 7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday Evenings**

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

- February 21
- February 28
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20



**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

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

**Palm / Passion Sunday**

Sunday, March 24, 11:00 A.M.

**Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 P.M.

**Good Friday**

Friday March 29, 7:00 P.M.

This evening worship will be a choral Tenebrae service. The hymn, "Were You There" will be the focus.

## LENTEN WORSHIP-ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Sunday Mornings

Come, worship with us and hear about our Savior's ultimate gift of love for us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M.

February 18

February 25

March 3

March 10

March 17

**Ash Wednesday** Feb. 14, 12:00 P.M.

### Wednesday Noon

Begin in the sanctuary for worship at 12:00 P.M. Then, have lunch in the fellowship hall.

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

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

#### Palm / Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 9:00 A.M.

#### Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 12:00 P.M.

#### Good Friday

Friday March 29, 12:00 P.M.



**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



**1ST QUARTER  
ALMS**

**CHURCH  
ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM**





# Music & Worship Notes



The Lenten season starts this month with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 PM. The title of this year's series is "Guided to the Cross." Please read the article, elsewhere in this newsletter, that gives more information about the series. Also, check out the information on the whole Lent/Holy Week/Easter schedule provided in this newsletter.

There are three pastors and our vicar that will be rotating and preaching at First St. John's/St. Paul's, Good Shepherd, St. John, and Redeemer.

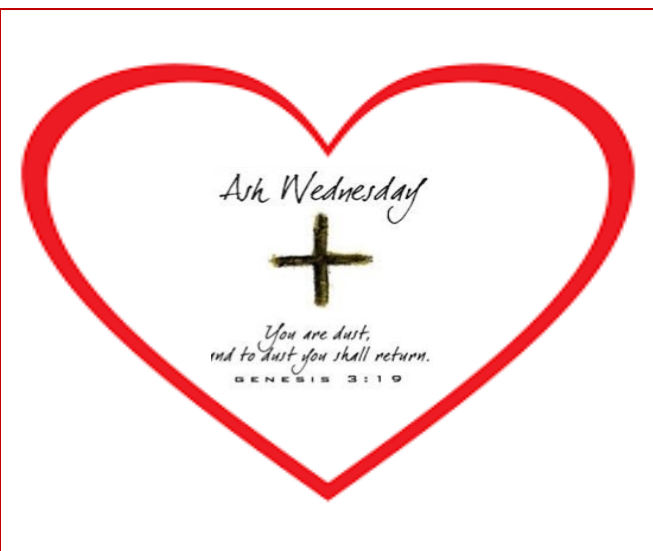
There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church concerning the suppers before each mid-week Wednesday night service. The choir will make and serve the first one on Wednesday, February 21. Any of the groups in our church or individual families are welcome to sign up to make and serve one of the meals.

During the season of Lent, the Bible class will be using the accompanying study for the series we are using, "Guided to the Cross." It is six sessions long. If you would like to see what Bible class is like, come and be a part of the Lenten study. Remember, only six sessions. We start at 9:00 AM with fellowship, coffee, and a variety of "goodies." Then we get into the study from 9:30 to 10:30.



**Ken Sanders,  
MINISTER OF MUSIC**

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



## The Greatest of These... HARD ■ Solution on page 27

A "rebus" puzzle is one where you need to write a symbol into a box, instead of the usual letter—you might think of it as an emoji in a crossword puzzle. This puzzle contains six rebus squares. Enjoy!

- ACROSS**
- "\_\_\_\_\_ because He first..." (1 John 4:19a NIV)
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ Whoever lives in..." (1 John 4:16b NIV)
  - School grp. for moms and dads
  - Bird: Prefix
  - Norway's patron saint (anagram of OF ILIA)
  - "The greatest of these", according to 1 Corinthians 13:13—and the word found in six places in this puzzle, rebus-style
  - Large sinks, e.g. those found in laundrettes
  - Nickname of a three-time American League Most Valuable Player in the 2000's
  - Easy \_\_\_\_\_
  - Opera's Dame Kiri \_\_\_\_\_, whose performances earned two 1980's Grammys (anagram of AWAKE ANT)
  - Give \_\_\_\_\_ on the wrist
  - What Jesus turned water into, in John 2
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart" (Proverbs 3:3 NIV)
  - "For whoever \_\_\_\_\_ their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot..." (1 John 4:20b NIV)
  - "The Greatest" heavyweight boxer
  - Blue, *en español*
  - Ice-cream company co-founder William, whose name still graces the product
  - Caught some Z's
  - Funnyman Conway or Allen
  - Catching some Z's
  - Basic beliefs
  - "\_\_\_\_\_, the herald angels sing..."
  - Large coffee dispenser
  - Radioactive hydrogen isotopes (anagram of TRIM SUIT)
  - Hardly a little angel
  - Spanish custard
  - "A Room With \_\_\_\_\_" (1985 film nominated for eight Academy Awards)
  - Go over, before a performance
  - Toss, as a Frisbee
  - Voting coalition
  - "Nukes", as a frozen dinner
  - Separate, as laundry
  - Where many people worked, in 2020
  - Classic record label
  - "Do everything \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 16:14 NIV)
  - "And over all these virtues \_\_\_\_\_, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Colossians 3:14 NIV)
  - They're "Red" in Boston and "White" in Chicago (except in 1919, when they were "Black"!)
- DOWN**
- Toddler's drink request
  - Longoria and Perón
  - "\_\_\_\_\_, (9-Down). It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud" (1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV)
  - "Lonesome George" of early television (anagram of GLOBE)
  - Ending with pay-, Motor- or Rock-
  - "Law and Order" figures, for short
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ ain't broke..."
  - Bone/muscle connectors
  - "(3-Down), \_\_\_\_\_, It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud" (1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV)
  - Inhabited with orbiting bodies, as our solar system (anagram of END PLATE)
  - When said three times, a 1970 film about Pearl Harbor
  - Openly profess
  - Child-care expert and author LeShan
  - "But God shows \_\_\_\_\_ for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 ESV)
  - Arctic jacket
  - Woodworking tool
  - Mope
  - Like Z, alphabetically
  - Vogue competitor
  - The youngest of Job's friends, and the last to speak (not until chapter 32)
  - "Husbands, \_\_\_\_\_, just as Christ..." (Ephesians 5:25a NIV)
  - Notable Hun
  - Book before Nehemiah
  - Landlord's income
  - "But \_\_\_\_\_ drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment" (1 John 4:18b NIV)
  - Character whose bed was too soft, in "Goldilocks and the Three Bears"
  - Guide to studying the night sky
  - 1952 Bible translation, for short (forerunner of 2001's English Standard Version)
  - As originally found (from the Latin for "in position" or "on site")
  - Actor Lugosi, best known for 1931's "Dracula"
  - "No one has ever seen God; but \_\_\_\_\_ one another, God lives in us..." (1 John 4:12a NIV)
  - Jim Brown and Emmitt Smith, for short
  - Aramaic word repeated twice by Jesus in Mark 15:34, meaning "My God"
  - Trombone or trumpet
  - Genuine, in German (anagram of ETCH)
  - Pixar's "Finding \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Group of the largest EU member states, until the UK dropped out in 2020—leaving just five
  - Kanga's little one, in the Hundred Acre Wood
  - Every, in a prescription (anagram of NOM)

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	67					68						69		

**BIBLE PUZZLE FOR FEBRUARY**      Answers for Puzzle on page 3.