

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



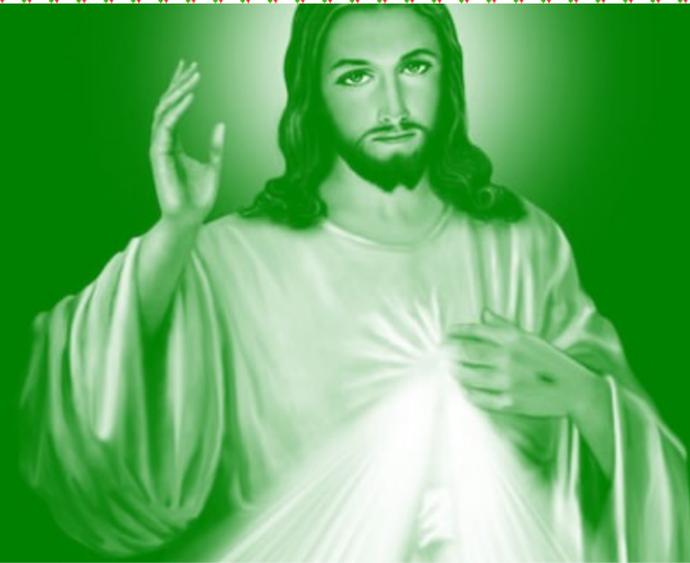
PARISH VISITOR



VOL 53-ISSUE 12

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

DECEMBER 2021



The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents  
but in *His*   
presence



## 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)

#### Thursday

6:30 PM-Narcotics Anonymous Meeting (Suspended)

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)



### What is Advent?

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (**Matthew 2:1**), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (**John 1:29**), and his first miracle at Cana (**John 2:1**). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (**Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2**), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

O come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.



## STEWARDSHIP-DECEMBER 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "if I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

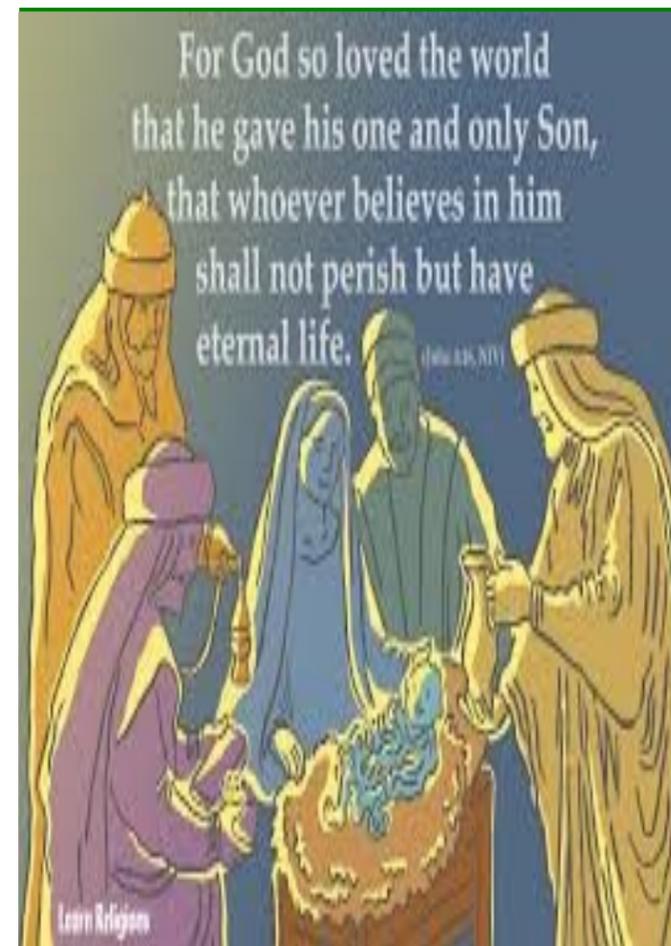


**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### VOTER'S MEETING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE.**

**VOTING ON CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2022.**



**Bible Study**



9:00 AM

**DECEMBER 2021  
PARISH VISITOR**

**JANUARY 2022 DEADLINE**

Articles Due  
Send Date

**Friday, December 23rd**  
**Thursday, December 30th**

**Newsletter**

### MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

**Worship Committee**  
**Church Council**

**Meetings will be announced**  
**No meeting in December.**



### UPCOMING DECEMBER 2021 SERVICES

- December 5th, Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**
- December 12th, Non-Communion (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent)**
- December 19th, Communion (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent)**
- December 26th, Non-Communion (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas)**



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

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Evening Service Adult Choir after evening Advent service	<b>2</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> First Sunday in Advent Voter's Meeting after the Morning service C/ Blue	<b>6</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Evening Service Adult Choir after evening Advent service	<b>9</b> NO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> H.O.B. Board Mtg. 2:30 pm
<b>12</b> First Sunday in Advent NC/ Blue	<b>13</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Evening Service Adult Choir after evening Advent service	<b>16</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> First Sunday in Advent GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE 4:00 PM C/ Blue	<b>20</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>23</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS
<b>26</b> First Sunday after Christmas NC/ White	<b>27</b> Panera Bread 9:00-11:00 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Adult Choir 6:30 PM	<b>30</b> N. A. Group 6:00 PM	<b>31</b>	
		LAY READER	USHER Bill Lupp	ALTAR GUILD Carla Allison		

**LENTEN FEATURE**

## ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Known as 'the Beloved Disciple', he was the son of Zebedee and St Salome, and together with his brother St James the Great, was an Apostle of Jesus. At the Lord's Crucifixion, John alone among the Apostles stayed near Jesus at the foot of the cross alongside the Virgin Mary and the other women disciples. He outlived the remaining apostles and was the only one not to die a martyr's death.

catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

## ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

*Feast Day: July 3*

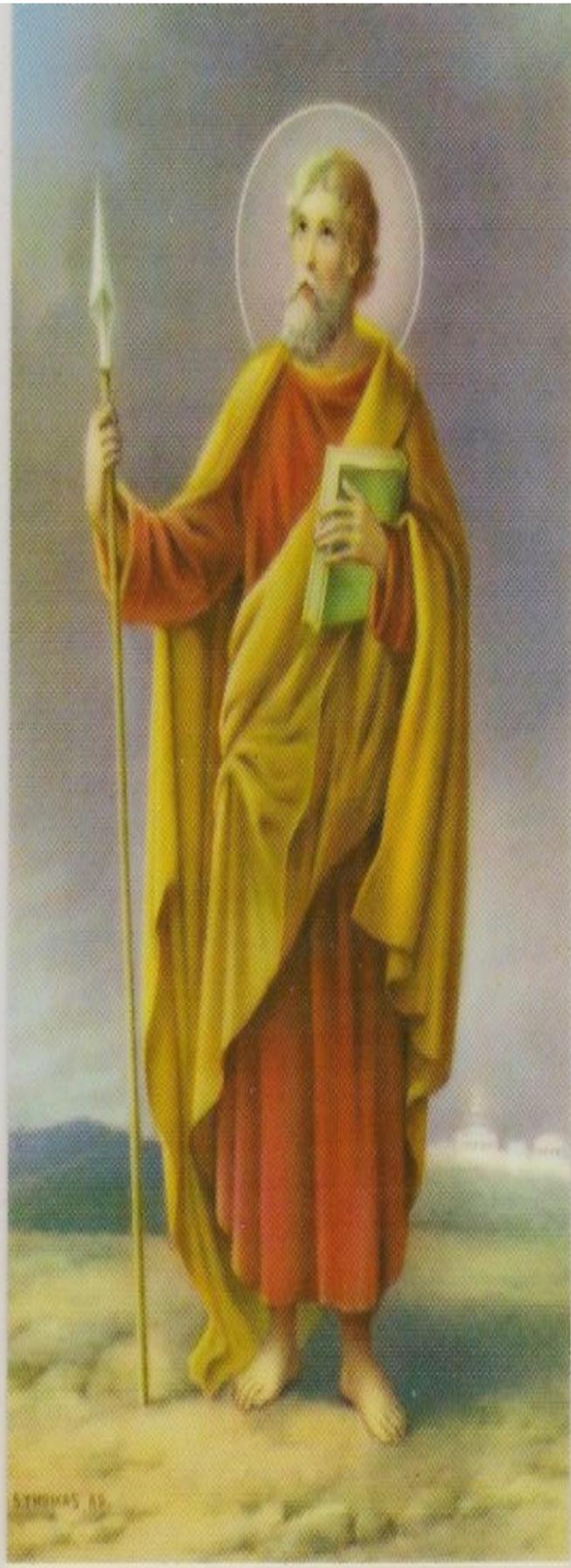
*O Glorious St. Thomas,*  
your grief for Jesus was such that it would not let you believe He had risen unless you actually saw Him and touched His wounds. But your love for Jesus was equally great and it led you to give up your life for Him. Pray for us that we may grieve for our sins which were the cause of Christ's sufferings. Help us to give ourselves in His service and so earn the title of "blessed" which Jesus applied to those who would believe in Him without seeing Him.

*Amen.*

GAN #198

20291

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### 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

***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.

### 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 5th**

**December 12th**

**December 19th (Lessons and Carols).**



### 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 8th**

**December 15th**



### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

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

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Friday, December 24th, 7:00 P.M.**



### German Christmas Worship

**Sunday, December 19th, 4:00 P.M.**

Light refreshments with a German theme will follow the service.



The York Twinning Association's 12th Night Annual Holiday Tour will be featuring The Historic Churches of Downtown York on Sunday January 9, 2022 2—6pm

Tickets are \$20.00 pp and are available the day of the tour at Traditions Bank, corner of N. George and W Phila. Sts, on Small Biz Saturday, Nov. 27th & First Friday, Dec. 3 @ "Pardon My French" 33 N. Beaver St and in Central Market first three Saturdays in December

The following churches will be participating :

First Moravian Church of York  
 First Presbyterian Church of York  
 Trinity United Church of Christ  
 Christ Lutheran Church  
 St. Mary's Catholic Church  
 St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
 First St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
 Heidelberg United Church of Christ.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION'S STUDENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH ARLES, FRANCE AND LEINFELDEN-ECHTERDIGEN, GERMANY. THE EXCHANGE IS OPEN TO ALL YORK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.



## Title The Holy Innocents, martyrs



The **Massacre of the Innocents** is the incident in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew (2:16-18) in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. The Catholic Church regards them as the first Christian martyrs, and their feast - Holy Innocents' Day (or the Feast of the Holy Innocents) - is celebrated on 28 December. A majority of Herod biographers, and "probably a majority of biblical scholars," hold the event to be myth, legend or folklore.

### Biblical narrative

*The Magi visit Jerusalem to seek guidance as to where the king of the Jews has been born; King Herod directs them to Bethlehem and asks them to return to him and report, but they are warned in a dream and do not do so. The massacre is reported in Gospel of Matthew:*

*When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.-Matthew 2:16*

*This is followed by a reference to and quotation from the Book of Jeremiah: "Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:17-18).*

### History and theology

*A majority of Herod biographers, and "probably a majority of biblical scholars," hold the event to be myth, legend or folklore inspired by Herod's reputation. It is found in no other gospel, nor in the surviving works of Nicolaus of Damascus (who was a personal friend of Herod the Great) and Josephus makes no mention of it in the Antiquities of the Jews, despite recording many of Herod's misdeeds including the murder of three of his own sons. It appears to be modeled on the Pharaoh's attempt to kill the Israelite children in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 1:22), and more specifically on various elaborations of the original story that had become current in the 1st century. In that expanded story, Pharaoh kills the Hebrew children after his scribes warn him of the impending birth of the threat to his crown (i.e., Moses), but Moses' father and mother are warned in a dream that the child's life is in danger and act to save him. Later in life, after Moses has to flee, like Jesus, he only returns when those who sought his death are themselves dead. The story of the massacre of the innocents thus plays a part in Matthew's wider nativity story, in which the proclamation of the coming of the Messiah (his birth) is followed by his rejection by the Jews (Herod and his scribes and the people of Jerusalem) and his later acceptance by the gentiles (the Magi). The relevance of Jeremiah 31:15 to the massacre in Bethlehem is not immediately apparent, as Jeremiah's next verses go on to speak of hope and restoration.*





## Music & Worship Notes



**REMINDER:** The Mid-week Advent services will begin with a meal at 6:00 pm followed by the service at 7. It will be held in the Bible study room. The dates of the services are:

December 1, 8, and 15.

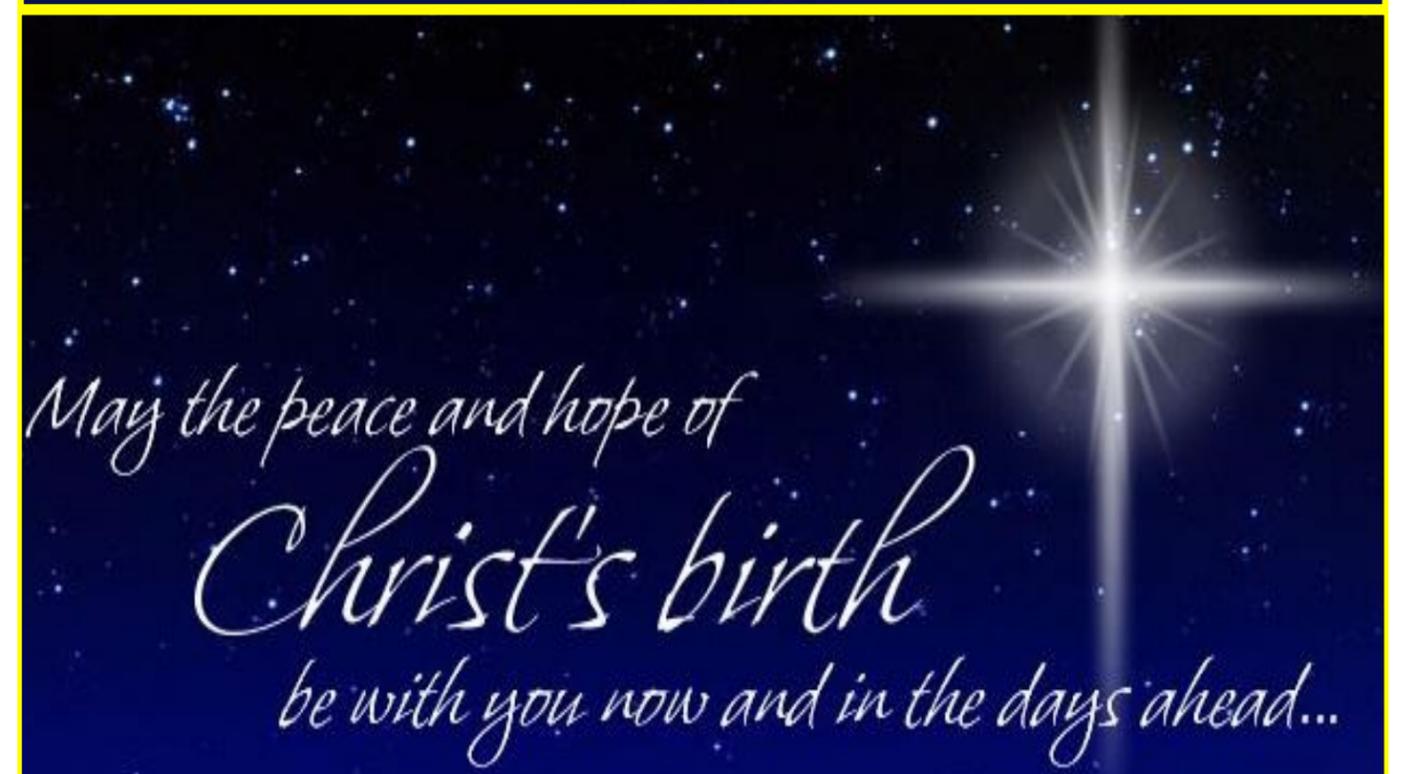
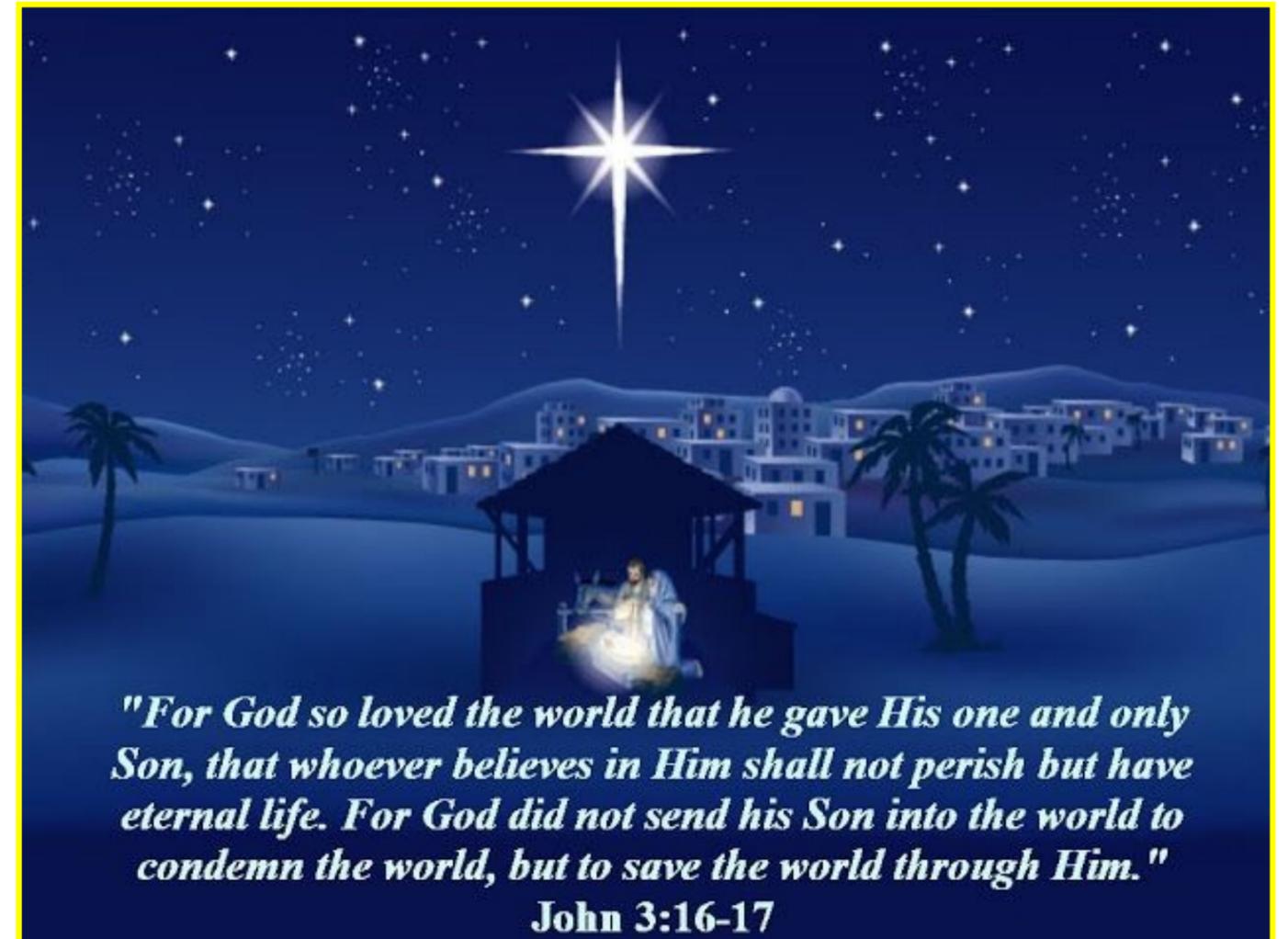
Choir rehearsal will take place after the service at 8:00 pm. As in the past, the choir will again lead the service of Lessons and Carols on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19. They will also sing at the Christmas Eve Service, December 24, at 7:00 pm. They are preparing a special anthem for then.

The annual German Christmas Service will take place this year on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm. The Hoby Chor will be singing. The brass accompaniment will be provided by the Tittel family. Paul Tittle, Sr. will be the proclaimer for the service. There will be refreshments following the service.

**Ken Sanders,  
Minister of Music**

### THE ADULT CHOIR:

**Karen Hildebrand,  
Lois Hollinger,  
Lois Stambaugh,  
Dave Stambaugh,  
Ding Wang.**





**PRAYER**

Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted  
Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving  
Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home  
Joyce Devan-Health issues  
Ruth Strathmeyer-Health issues  
Kim Thompson-Health issues  
Susan vanDyk-Baum  
Ed Hanes (Nancy Hildebrand's brother)-Health issues  
Bruce Blankenstein-Wife's Health issues  
Jeanne Noll-Health issue

**FIRST TIME REQUESTS**

Family of Phillip Rogers (son of Pastor Ray & Linda Rogers), who went to be with the Lord.  
Family of Ruthetta Fogle who went to be with the Lord.

**SHUT-IN MEMBERS**

Bonnie Abendschoen  
Joyce Devan  
Dawn Frey  
Kim Thompson

**LEADERS**

Church Pastor, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Nzinski, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso, Pastor Seifferlein (Replaced Adam Koontz), Pastor Merrell, Pastor Banach, Pastor Robertson, Pastor Schaefer. Sally Hiller, David Maack. District President John Denninger

**PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING**

For all of God's Gifts  
Geoff and Jane Abendschoen  
Dan, Dave and Lois Stambaugh

**SPIRITUAL NEEDS**

For all those who do not know Jesus as Lord  
For our "action" committees/task forces  
Our Community and Families

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

Birthdays this month

**DECEMBER**



**3rd - Karl vanDyk**  
**4th - Amy Williams**



**Early January Birthdays**

**4th - Elizabeth Hernandez**  
**4th - Dezzaray Tanner**  
**7th - Hans Abendschoen**

**PRAYER LIST (cont.)**

**MILITARY**

Sgt. Tyr Abendschoen U. S. Army



**POLICE**

Jonathan



**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**

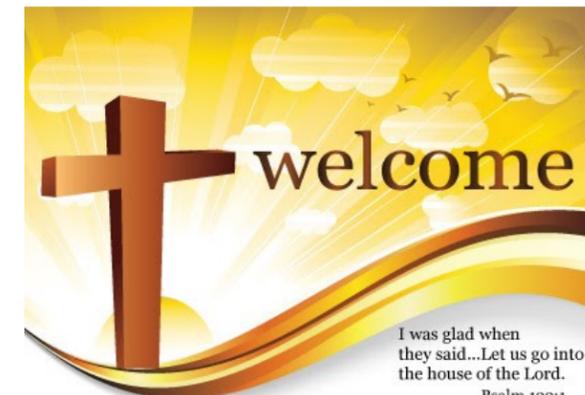
**From 9:00 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM**



**FIRST ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.  
ENJOY OUR "LIVE" WORSHIP.



I was glad when they said...Let us go into the house of the Lord.  
Psalm 122:1

*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

